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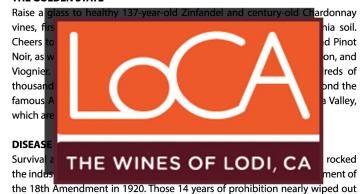
Travel

HARVEST TIME 2013 AT HISTORICAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA VINEYARDS

By: Laurie Jo Miller Farr - Sep 19, 2013

September is California Wine Month. The evenings are becoming cooler, nightfall is creeping in earlier, and the harvest moon is rising over California wine country, where ripe grapes may be picked at night by hand or machine. Floodlights pulled along by tractors illuminate vines heavy with grape bunches clipped and collected in the wee hours before dawn. Cool to the touch with bright fruit flavors, these grape clusters boasting ideal sugar levels and crisp acids are delivered to the winemakers.

THE GOLDEN STATE



the state's production, leaving only 140 wineries in operation. Today, California acres planted under vine

acres planted under vin accounting for 90 percent Italy, and Spain.

JUDGMENT OF PARIS

Since the surprise results of tasting test 30 years later, California wines beating ou reputation, 21st-century Cal

GOLD RUSH DAYS

A small stone fountain at the Well, marks the spot where a grateful bunch of bandits 16 a drink, it served as a hiding Robin Hood or "El Zorro" b biographical interpretations soil provide a hospitable trenowned Bordeaux winer



Vines planted before 1960 are classified as old by the Historical Vineyard Society. At Bechthold Vineyard in **Lodi, California**, an unusual 95 percent of the vines are 127 years old. They produce Cinsault, which is one of the more unusual varietals from the northern portion of Central Valley, 90 miles east of San Francisco and famous for its sustainable farming methods. As Camron King of the Lodi Winegrape Commission points out, "Temperatures typically vary by as much as 45 degrees from daytime highs above 90 F to nighttime lows around 50 F" in the historically rich Lodi region.



CRAZY FOR WINE

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Harvesting at night, Murrieta's Well is part of Wente Family Estates, America's oldest continuously operated, family-owned winery.

2013 grapes receiving very good comments from the winemakers.