

Nevada City Winery wins with cabernet

STRIKING GOLD



Photos for The Union by John Hart

Mark Foster, the winemaker at Nevada City Winery in downtown Nevada City, shows off his 2007 cabernet franc, which won the Best of California award for the variety at the California State Fair Wine Competition.

BY MARK FOSTER
Special to The Union

For the second year in a row, Nevada City Winery has won a Best of California award for wine in the California State Fair Wine Competition.

And for the second time, it's for the winery's cabernet franc; this year's winner is the 2007 vintage.

The victory — a score of 95 out of a possible 100 — marks the winery's 30th anniversary.

Cabernet franc is a classic, red Bordeaux grape used mainly to bring complexity to the big Bordeaux blends. In most appellations in California, it displays an earthy and peppery character.

But wine from grapes grown in Nevada County demonstrates a wonderful fragrance of violets and milk chocolate.

This grape, along with syrah, has a long history of winning gold medals in big national competitions. The elevation and soil unique to this county bring out the best in the grape.

Yet the quality of the grapes and the wine-making in this county are just being discovered.

The winery gives me a great deal of freedom to create and play. I think that is the formula for creating great wines year after year — and lots of reasons to celebrate this successful year.

The 2007 Cabernet Franc is not released yet, but the 2006, which won the Best of California and a Double Gold Medal at the West Coast Wine Competition, is available at many local stores and, of course, at the winery.

Mark Foster is the winemaker at Nevada City Winery, at 321 Spring St., downtown Nevada City. Contact him at (530) 265-9463.

