

Oklahoma wineries sprout along Mother Road

By Traci Chapman
Contributing Writer

A drive on historic Route 66 provides a mixture of the best of Oklahoma – beautiful scenery, interesting history and friendly people.

For those interested in wine, winemaking and vineyards, it can offer even more, arguably among the best of the state's winery's lie along the historic thoroughfare. Some of these are just a short drive from the Oklahoma City metro area, and include:

Stable Ridge Vineyards

Featuring a restored 1902 Catholic Church tasting room, Stable Ridge has become a staple at special events across Canadian County. Located near the Rock Café, one mile west of downtown Stroud, the vineyard was the center of Stroud after the 1889 land run; the town was moved to its current site when the railroad was situated at that site.

Two tornadoes actually spurred Stable Ridge Vineyards' developments, owners Don and Annetta Neal said. The May 1999 tornado hit the Neal's home and an adjoining property, which they

purchased and where they first planted grapes in 2000. After a 2003 tornado destroyed the couple's downtown warehouse, they built the new winery at the Route 66 location.

Stable Ridge Vineyards is located at 1916 W. State Highway 66 in Stroud. The winery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

For more information, call 918-968-9568.

Tres Suenos Winery and Vineyard

For almost 20 years, Tres Suenos Winery and Vineyard owner Richard Kennedy has refined his craft, while making the winery a gathering place for special events. Those events include things like the August grape harvest and stomp, held three Saturdays in August and including grape stomping, lunch and wine tasting and Nouveau Wine Festival, and Oct. 1 event featuring live music by Edgar Cruz and Pirates of the Plains, a celebration of the vineyard's new wine and a catered meal.

Visitors are also encouraged to come to the vineyard during the

year, as the vines grow and at harvest, during the fall color change or to get grapevines that can be used to make wreaths and other craft projects.

Tres Suenos is located at 19691 E. Charter Oak Road in Luther and is open from noon until 6 p.m. Saturdays or by appointment.

For more information, call 405-554-8577.

Sparks Vineyard and Winery

French immigrant Leon Fouquet created a winery near Sparks before Route 66 was even a thought. By early 1910s, Fouquet had 14 acres of grapes and 100 acres of fruit trees at his Dreamland Fruit Farm.



While wineries withered for a time, in recent years they have regained their popularity, leading to the establishment of Sparks Vineyard and Winery. Its tasting room opened in 2001; recent improvements

include new 1000-gallon custom tanks in an ongoing winery expansion that features more vines. The winery's tasting room includes an art gallery that features Oklahoma artists.

Sparks Vineyard and Winery is located at 351310 E. 970 Road in Sparks.

For more information, call 918-866-2529.

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