

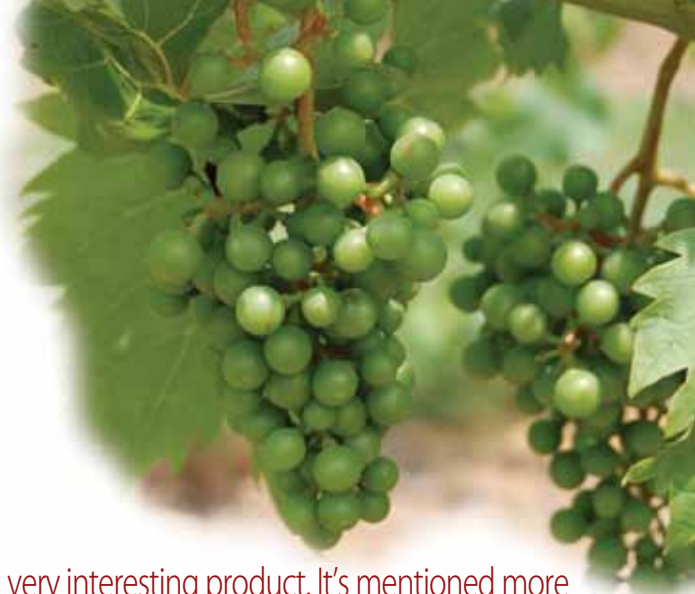
HAVRE DE GRACE CELEBRATES 1ST WINERY SINCE JOHN ADLUM!

Ellie Mencer

Some 200 years ago Havre de Grace's John Adlum had a dream. He wanted to free America from dependence on importing European wine. After all, during colonial times there was no refrigeration or water filtration for communities. Havre de Grace was a new and exciting community being considered as the nation's capital. John Adlum selected fertile soils along the shores of the Chesapeake as the place to fulfill his dream of cultivating grapes and making fine American wines. Adlum's dream was further inspired by none other than President Thomas Jefferson whom advised Adlum that his vineyard produced a fine wine, "comparable to a Chambertin." Jefferson further encouraged Adlum to "pursue cultivation and forget about foreign vines." John Adlum adhered to Jefferson's advice and continued to cultivate his Havre de Grace soils ultimately establishing America's first commercial vineyard.

Adlum's legacy is now retold at Havre de Grace's second commercial winery in 200 years. The Winery at Mt. Felix is a place where history is poured with each glass of wine. Mary and Peter Ianniello's inspiration for their wines is to create messages on each bottle that will inspire people by retelling tales of our local history. Peter loves the stories of unsung heroes that he hopes will give us a love of our local history while inspiring us.

When you visit this beautiful location situated on the Mount Felix hillside just outside of Havre de Grace, off Route 155, your senses will delight in the view of the vineyards overlooking the Upper Chesapeake Bay and the grand Georgian federal style manor (circa 1830s) of over 9,000 sq. ft., 11 fireplaces, expansive windows, and a roof-top terrace. You'll be entertained by wonderful conversation as you savor



"Wine is a very interesting product. It's mentioned more than 4,000 times in the Bible... it's a collision of many disciplines ... you'll never in one's lifetime learn all there is to know about making wine or growing grapes for wine production. If you're interested in lifelong learning, wine making will continue to fascinate you." *Peter Ianniello*

the wine tasting. In five short years with his wife, Mary, and their children, they have accomplished many renovations, planting a producing vineyard, and completed their wine production barn and a beautiful tasting room.

TRADITION

A perfect beginning to their wine harvest was the Skipjack Martha Lewis carrying 2,000 pounds of Chambourcin grapes from Mount Felix's first harvest in fall 2007 to St. Michael's Winery. This voyage recreated a long-time tradition on the Chesapeake Bay when the bay boats moved agricultural products from one area to another. The voyage was celebrated in June 2008 when the skipjack pulled in to the Tidewater Grille dock for a wine tasting during the Main Street, Inc.'s First Friday event.





VIN FIZ

This year Peter and Mary will celebrate their 5th year at Mount Felix and their third grape harvest. In researching the Mount Felix history, Peter learned of the epic flight of the Vin Fiz Flyer in 1911. This first crossing of America by air was a challenge created by publisher William Randolph Hearst, dangling a \$50,000 carrot for the first flyer to cross America in 30 days or less. Without ruining the great story that Peter shares, we will tell you that Calbraith Perry Rodgers did not win the money but he most certainly did make history with this amazing feat. To make this point, note that a replica of the Vin Fiz flyer hangs in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Vin Fiz was a new grape-flavored soft drink created by the Armour Company. The logo was emblazoned on the wings of the plane and also on the railroad cars that carried Cal's family, support crew (including a chief mechanic who had worked for

the Wright Brothers) and parts. The plane followed the train across the country. The distance actually covered according to the NASM site was 4,321 miles in 82 hours, 4 minutes, averaging 51.5 mph. But the actual trip, including crashes, broken planes, and injuries took 49 days!

What ties this neatly to Havre de Grace history is the fact that The Rodgers and their descendants - the most decorated family in U.S. Naval history - owned the lands of Mt. Felix at one time. Sion Hill still resides within the Rodgers family as the Green's now live on the property. Cal Rodgers lived in Havre de Grace and was also related to Oliver Hazard Perry, "Hero of Lake Erie" during the War of 1812.

There's so much to share about this exciting story. Stopping by the Mount Felix Guesthouses, Vineyards and Winery will bring you up to date on these exciting connections. While the Vin Fiz historic flight will celebrate its 100 birthday in 2011, Peter and Mary Ianniello are preparing for this historic event with a spring release of a wine, Vin Fiz, in honor of Cal Rodgers and his fantastic feat of daring, leading up to the 2011 event.

MOUNT FELIX

This event is more than enough reason to visit the Mount Felix Winery. Add to these the ties to John Adlum - the Father of American Viticulture, Thomas Jefferson, Lafayette, and the O'Neill family. With the release of Vin Fiz, there will be 8 wines available from Mount Felix. The wines are wonderful; the stories fascinating; the history exciting.

Don't miss an opportunity to enjoy a night - or a week - in their guest villa and rooms. Enjoy beautiful countryside, a warm and friendly host family, and the fine wines. The location is majestic. The history in stories and on the specialty labels accomplishes his dream. The wines, well, you decide! Salute!

RESOURCES:

www.MountFelix.com; www.MarylandWine.com
www.nasm.si.edu and search for "Vin-Fiz"