

Culture of the grape, and wine making

Moore, Wilstach, Keys & Co - TSHA



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The culture of the grape, and wine

By 1977 experimental plantings of several hundred wine-grape varieties showed that a number of vinifera cultivars could be recommended for the South Plains and Trans-Pecos Texas. Texas vineyard acreage expanded rapidly from less than ninety acres in 1970 to 974 acres in 1978, and to more than 3,000 acres in 1982. Subsequent travelers often called attention to the productive vineyards of the El Paso valley, which continued as a leading grape-growing and wine-producing area until the early twentieth century.

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Three were located west of Fort Worth in north central Texas, one in south central Texas near Bryan, seven in the Hill Country and along the margins of the in Central and Southwest Texas, two on the South Plains near Lubbock, and two in Trans-Pecos Texas.

The Origins and History of Wine Making

In the 1870s Munson and a Missouri colleague were credited with saving the wine industry of Europe by shipping carloads of phylloxera-resistant native rootstocks to France and other vineyard regions threatened by lice.

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After the demise of their vines and after learning the technique of adding large amounts of sugar during fermentation, they turned to making wine from the abundant wild mustang grapes. Two thousand years later, the seeds of what became the European winemaking tradition began in western Asia. European grapes flourished in California's mild climate, launching an industry.

The culture of the grape, and wine

Thus, vintners can pick traits they like and, as long as the vines are kept on the same hillside, they need not worry about cross-pollination changing next year's grapes. Sites outside of the normal range for grapes with early evidence of grapes and grape processing in western Asia include Lake Zeriber, Iran, where grape pollen was found in a soil core just before around 4300.

Details

The history of viticulture in Texas spans three centuries and precedes the introduction of wine grapes to California by almost a century. The South Central Texas region consisted of counties in the strongly German region between Houston and San Antonio, including Harris, Guadalupe, Caldwell, Bastrop, Fayette, Colorado, and Gonzales counties. But the evidence for domesticated grapes is later than that of East Asia, although similar to that of the western Asia grapes.

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One of the most significant advances in winemaking was the introduction of pure starter strains of Mediterranean *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* commonly called brewer's yeast in the 1950s and 1960s.

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