

Delta bridges honored through wines

Visit Grand Island Vineyards

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Just cross the Paintersville Bridge at Courtland, turn left and go a short distance, cross the Steamboat Slough Bridge and you'll find Grand Island Vineyards – is how Lorraine Scribner describes the way to Grand Island Vineyards.

Lorraine and her husband Mark own Scribner Bend Vineyards, which is located on River Road near Elk Grove, CA. Lorraine is excited about the new winery adjacent to the picturesque Delta waterways, Grand Island Vineyards.

Affectionately referred to as GIV, Grand Island Vineyards is profound. Owned by Enver Salmon (son of Joe Salmon, who planted the grapes in 1969), GIV evokes awe. It is truly grand in breadth with its scenery of vineyards and the Delta, its family history, architectural scope and immediate landscape.

Wines are poured Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and for special occasions, one in which they host the second Friday of every month called, "GIV After Dark."

GIV is a wonderful complement to all the other famous Delta offerings, from the exquisite Grand Island Mansion (only three miles away), Steamboat Landing Deli, Eatery and Bakery at the bridgehead, Clarksburg's Old Sugar Mill, Julietta Winery, The Bogel Family Winery and Scribner Bend Vineyards, roughly 10 miles north.



Upon visiting Grand Island Vineyards, you'll encounter a brief staircase or ramp that takes you to the expansive grounds of manicured lawns bordered with walkways; you feel on vacation, with that resort ambiance.

All brick pathways with sporadically placed benches – which lead to the tasting room threshold – invite you to commune with the vineyards at arm's length. Chairs, benches and tables immediately outside, allow peace with your wines and food *all'aperto*.

Entering the tasting room, there are immediately options for tasting the wines other than just at the main counter. Well-appointed seating areas tucked away in a boutique and out in the open room beckon you to relax with your wine. Framed artworks of local artists to study and admire adorn the walls.

Grand Island Vineyards honors the Steamboat Slough Bridge, especially the massive cement counterweight structure at the bridgehead itself, which was built in 1924. The esteemed bridge is seen from their tasting room and is featured on some of their wines labels designed by a local artist, Dan Harris of Courtland.

View Dan's work at www.danharrisdraws.blogspot.com.

GIV's wine offerings include Bridgehead Rose, Fiano, Symphony, Riesling, Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc, and Sutter Island Red Blend. Collaboration production of the wines is done through Estate Crush in Lodi and more locally, with Scribner Bend.