

Harvest 2020 Highlights Idaho's Resiliency to Change

Idaho winemakers and grape growers are feeling hopeful about 2020's harvest

November 11, 2020 – As Idaho winemakers and grape growers wrap up the 2020 harvest season, excitement is in the air about what this year's fruit yield will bring. Significant spring rainfall in Northern Idaho allowed for leafy vine canopies to form – and while heavy June rainfall and summer wildfires tested the resiliency of Southern Idaho vines, the grapes produced were balanced and picked at peak perfection.

"The quality is amazing this year. I mean, amazing," said Coco Umiker of [Clearwater Canyon Cellars](#). "It's the best, the vineyards and the fruit have ever looked coming into harvest. It makes my job as winemaker super easy."

Idaho winemakers and grape growers are skilled at reacting to the many curveballs Mother Nature throws their way during the growing season each year.

"The late-year smoke from the fires delayed sugar accumulation in September, so we [were] about two weeks later than normal. The vines are healthy, and we don't appear to have any negative impacts from the smoke," said Scott Smith of [Sol Invictus Vineyard](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic also required wineries to adapt. Staffing challenges and lower occupancy tasting rooms plagued wineries across the state, but wine sales and industry support remained solid.

"We have experienced a year like no other," said Mike Williamson of [Williamson Orchards and Vineyards](#). "The big take away that I have seen is a level of resourcefulness, cooperation, and have witnessed neighbors helping neighbors in amazing ways."

"The Idaho wine industry has adapted and overcome many obstacles none of us saw coming this year," said Moya Dolsby, Executive Director of the Idaho Wine Commission. "We are so thankful for Idahoans who have supported the industry by buying Idaho wine and lending a hand at the wineries or vineyards when needed. We were fortunate to have a great harvest – I can't wait to try the wines!"

What's next for Idaho wines? Many winemakers and growers are fermenting and bottling their upcoming releases for 2021 and 2022. Winemakers and growers recommend keeping an eye out for Malbec, Syrah and Sangiovese from this year's yield.

Learn more about what wineries have been up to during harvest in this [new video](#) from the Idaho Wine Commission.

Winery Thanksgiving Update: There are several ways to celebrate Thanksgiving with Idaho wine this year—visit tasting rooms for Thanksgiving weekend events, join a wine club, or pick up Idaho wine for your Thanksgiving feast at home. Visit the Idaho Wine Commission’s [event page](#) for more information on special barrel tastings, wine and chocolate pairings, and much more!

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The [Idaho Wine Commission](#) is dedicated to marketing and promoting all Idaho wineries and growers. There are more than 60 wineries and 1,300 vineyard acres planted. Visit www.idahowines.org for more information about wineries, vineyards, and events in Idaho.