

# Virginia WINE GAZETTE

VWG-Online.com

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January 2011: Editor Laura A. Rydin of *Virginia Wine Gazette* is pleased to announce several exciting changes to the Commonwealth's long-established quarterly publication devoted to the wines of Virginia. Rydin has restructured the *Virginia Wine Gazette's* electronic edition to make it lively, interactive and timely. "As a quarterly publication, we've always focused more on feature stories and in-depth profiles of wineries and influential individuals in Virginia wine. [VWG-Online.com](http://VWG-Online.com) will allow us to cover breaking news and to provide a wealth of information on related subjects such as food and travel. Readers will have instant access and, we hope, want to share their personal experiences with our growing wine community."

"We're also welcoming two new members to our staff," she states. "Long-time contributor Mary Ann Dancisin is coming on board as On-Line Editor and Richard Leahy is our Advertising Services Director." Dancisin's role is to ensure that each winery's story is communicated to both existing consumers and to those who have yet to discover Virginia wines. Leahy, as advertising liaison, will guide decision-makers to the appropriate placement and positioning for optimum impact.

Mary Ann Dancisin brings over 20 years of experience in the fine wine trade to [VWG-Online.com](http://VWG-Online.com). While on staff with three major importers based in Manhattan, she worked with many of the world's premier wine and spirits brands. In 2006, she relocated to Amissville, VA, and began exploring the burgeoning Virginia wine scene. She feels the time is right for the wines of VA to take a more prominent place in world wine discussions. "Everyone in the wine trade here has a unique and passionate story about falling in love with the grape. I hope *VWG-Online* will prove a valuable tool in getting these stories out to a wider audience," Mary Ann says. Her background in marketing, web content management, and graphic arts made her the perfect candidate to develop *VWG-Online.com*.



Richard Leahy has been writing about wines of Virginia since 1986. In 2007 he organized the Virginia Wine Experience in London which brought top Virginia wines to the attention of leading British wine media and trade. He was a regional editor for Kevin Zraly's *AMERICAN WINE GUIDE*, and Mid-Atlantic and Southern Editor for the *OXFORD COMPANION TO THE WINES OF NORTH AMERICA*. Richard acted as East Coast Editor of *Vineyard & Winery Management* and coordinated the seminar program for Wineries Unlimited for over ten years. He also wrote the inaugural issue of the *Virginia Wine Gazette* in 1997. He is a member of the Society of Wine Educators and the Circle of Wine Writers. Richard leads "Virginia Wine Expert" guided tours of Monticello AVA wineries, consults for wineries and wine regions and has a website and blog focused on wines of the East at <http://www.richardleahy.com>.

Nancy Knowles Parker, publisher of *Virginia Wine Gazette* as well as the *New England* and *Finger Lakes Wine Gazettes*, feels the time for on-line expansion is ripe. Virginia's current number of wineries has risen to 180+, with more players coming onto the stage every year. "The importance of the wine industry to Virginia was certainly validated by last year's funding increase to the Virginia Wine Marketing Board. Annette Ringwood Boyd and her staff are doing an excellent job advocating for our farm wineries, and we expect increased growth in the coming years," Parker says. "It's a great time to be a part of the Virginia wine scene. In this new era of 'stay-cations', Virginia has it all and wineries can provide a perfect getaway experience that is fun and affordable."

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