**Nevada Wine Facts**

**Brief Facts**

Nevada climate similar to or better than Washington State

Washington State has 61,000 acres of grapes

Washington State’s grape and wine production is valued at 214 million dollars

Impact on the Washington State economy is more than 2.4 billion dollars

**Why Not Nevada?**

Promising varieties include:

- Gewurztraminer
- Riesling
- Lemberger
- Cabernet Sauvignon

“The UNR program is an outstanding educational experience!”

Bill Patterson- Former VP of Instruction and Research, Foothill Community College

“Visiting the experimental winery at UNR is a must”

- Barbara Keck, WineBizNews and Mountain High Wines

**Nevada Wine, great potential!**

G’day fellow Nevadans,

We are struggling with hard economic times and this only brings to point that we need to diversify our economy. I believe we have great potential to develop a grape and wine industry here in Nevada. We have successfully grown grapes and made excellent wines here in Northern Nevada since 1995. It is a multi-billion dollar industry in this country. Do you have an entrepreneurial spirit? Will you join us in this great adventure? Now is the right time!

Grant R. Cramer
Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**Nevada Wine Research at UNR**

We began a wine research program in 1995. Initially, the research program started off small with a simple varietal trial investigation into whether or not it was possible to grow quality wine grapes in Northern Nevada. One development from that program was the discovery that regulated-deficit irrigation improves grape quality without significant loss of production. Regulated deficit irrigation has reduced water usage by 80% compared with previous years and significantly improved the quality of grape musts and wines, producing more intense flavors, colors and fruity aromas. One clear threat to a successful Nevada viticultural industry has been obvious: cold temperatures. The region is susceptible to the occasional spring frost or a severe arctic cold front in the middle of winter. Recent UNR research has led to the discovery of a grape gene that improves cold tolerance in grapes. Deficit irrigation also has improved winter survival of the vines and increased the quantity of human-health compounds in grapes.

We are currently investigating ways to improve drought tolerance in grapes. We are sequencing the Cabernet Sauvignon genome and developing Omics technologies for cutting-edge plant biology research. We are studying and developing markers to identify when is the optimum time to harvest grapes. This work has been supported by the J. Lohr winery. We are also studying the affects of water deficit on resveratrol metabolism in different grape varieties. Resveratrol is a compound that has significant benefits for human health.

We established an experimental winery at UNR in January, 2004. This has been a huge success. We hold weekly/monthly wine tastings at the winery or at other venues in the area. In addition, we hold classes and workshops to teach interested people in the local practices necessary for successful viticulture in our area.

Our grape and wine research has also been important at the national and international levels. We have received approximately 9 million dollars for grape research in the last 8 years. We organize the Annual Grape Research Coordination Network meetings, the last one being held at Lake Tahoe. Dr. Cramer is the Chair of the Steering Committee of the International Grape Genome Program and regularly speaks to others about grapes at meetings all over Europe, Australia and China.

To get more information see [www.ag.unr.edu/cramer](http://www.ag.unr.edu/cramer) or [wineatunr.blogspot.com](http://wineatunr.blogspot.com)