

12 years at Tongue River Vineyard & Winery

**How a hobby became a modest
commercial venture.**

2004: first 4 rows of Trellis



First Vines Planted: June 2004



2004: Evidence of Expansion Dreams



This is hard work!



Center aisle visible between H-braces for the two sides of the vineyard.



Overview of First Year's work



2005: Mulching the new plants



2005: 1/3 of the Vineyard planted!



August 2005: Vineyard showing promise!



Oct 2005: Burying tender vines



2006: Cuttings of Swenson Red



2006: Rooted cuttings, irrigation main



July 2006: First unripe grapes!



Late August 2006: first harvest!



Spring 2007



2007 August: Overhead Netting



Aug 2007: Swenson Red



May 2008: Ready for 400 more plants!



2009: Building the Winery!



2009: Framing up!



Dec, 2009: Josh putting up siding



2009: Double stud wall: R40 insulation



Sheetrocking in December 2009



July 2010: Main floor finished!



July 2010: Basement finished!



Aug 2010: Ready for Business!



First big crops



2011: First Public tastings



2011 Harvest!



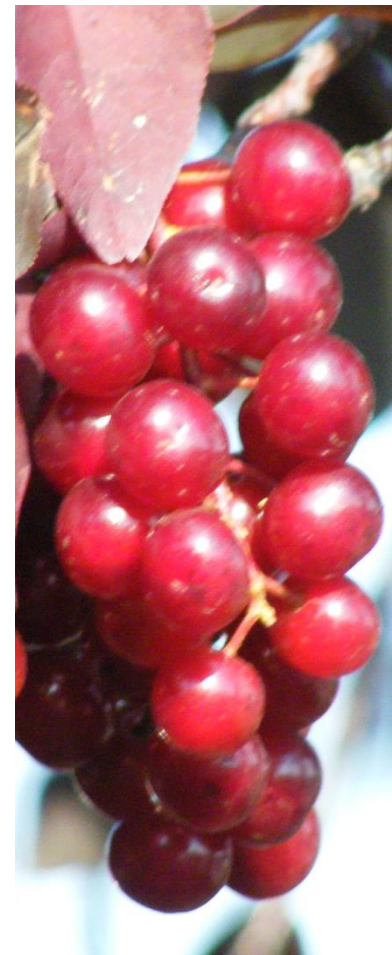
Bird netting winter prep



Dec 2011: Winter Welcome!



Variety of Wines Offered



Fruit shredder in action



Fall at the Vineyard



Dec 2012: Josh bottling red currant wine



Spring 2013: Shredding canes



2013: First haskap & cherry crops



Frontenac gris with mutation



June 2014: rhubarb; planting yellow raspberries in a high tunnel



Nov 2014: Apple Ice Wine



2014
Display at
Reynolds
Grocery in
Miles City.
We keep it
well stocked
every since!



Display at Buy MT Store



A few of our medals



2015 Marquette Harvest



June 2016: Haskaps on bushes



Harvesting Haskaps



2016: Preparing for harvest again



Thirsty Tongue River Winery Visitors



A Few Facts

1. TR Winery has sold over 35,000 bottles of wine throughout Montana & 35 other states.
2. It takes approx. 13 lbs of grapes for a gallon of wine, or 5 bottles of wine.
3. On a good year we harvest 10,000 lbs of grapes and 2000-3000 lbs of other fruit.
4. A good year we process 20,000 lbs of fruit.
5. We are the only MT winery refusing west coast fruit.
6. Birds, bitter cold and late frosts are the worst problems.
7. Tongue River Winery has won over 30 medals.
8. Bob serves as VP for the ND Grape and Wine Association and is on the board for the MT Grape and Winery Association.

Regional Wine Industry

1. Approximately a dozen licensed wineries in Montana.
2. Over 40 small vineyards, less than a half dozen of commercial size (acre or more.)
3. ND & SD have approx 15 licensed wineries.

Montana growers and Wineries



Vineyard Zinnias, Oct 2016



The Rainbow Promise: Tongue River Winery 2016

