

Week of 04-19-09

Red Bag Clues:

“In your Austrian homeland you conduct business in some lofty circles. Your handsome dark appearance and jovial nature has garnered you well deserved respect. Though you tried valiantly to expand your portfolio in the North American market, you have run into a serious advertising dilemma. It seems consumers can’t seem to get past your unfortunately pungently cheesy name. You are a victim of poor packaging rather than any lack of quality. You have carved out only small niche markets in Washington State and the Finger Lakes.”*¹

Grape?

Blue skins. Its name in its homeland refers to this.

Called the Pinot Noir of the East.

Cross between Weißer Heunisch and an unidentified variety (could be - Blauer Silvaner however.)

Region?

Grape came here via Canada in the 1940s.

Grown within this areas first AVA.

This sub AVA was formed a year after this was bottled.

Highest vineyards are in this hilly region.

Vineyards are located 850 – 1600 feet above sea level.

Known as a Hill, Mountain and a Ridge.

Producer?

Their vineyard was named for their great grandma.

Moved to their present area in 1908.

Farmed the land since 1954.

Owned and operated by a couple of brothers.

Planted the land with grapes in 2000.

First Vintage was in 2002.

There are four “Wine Dogs” – Bentley, Gus, Rudy and Stoli.

Year?

New AVA was formed in this year. It holds some of the largest and oldest vineyards.

116,760 tons harvested.

Called a record year - Warm summer months, cool autumn temperatures and a mild winter.

Winemakers reported small grape clusters with intense color, balance and ripe flavors.

Answer – Two Mountain Winery 2005 Lemberger

¹ <http://wine.appellationamerica.com/grape-varietal/Lemberger.html>

Blafränkisch wines have aromas of dark ripe cherries and dark berries, are spicy, have medium tannin levels and sometimes very good acidity. Young wines are deeply fruity and become more velvety, supple and complex with age.