

## THORPE VINEYARD CELEBRATES “TWENTY WITH 20”

*Wolcott, New York (November 22, 2008)*- THORPE VINEYARD, known by many as “The Little Winery on the Great Lake”, is having one great year. Not only are they celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> year of winemaking, but this year has delivered that same magical number of awards for their stellar wines. Yes, twenty awards in their twentieth year!

For Fumie Thorpe, owner and winemaker at Thorpe Vineyard, it is a nice recognition of years of dedication. What started out as a small barn on the shores of Ontario Lake has now turned into a full-fledged production site for some wonderful New York State wines. Recent wine critics are now hailing New York State as one of the hottest up-and-coming wine regions of the world, so Fumie had great instinct when she set up house. Having a college degree in meteorology probably didn't hurt either, as the key to growing good grapes has a lot to do with weather patterns and temperature swings.

With vineyard locations near the lake, you get the benefit of warmer weather into the fall to ripen the grapes, and cooler weather in early spring to prevent bud-break. This, combined with Fumie's natural instinct for chemistry, and a passion to create has resulted in one of New York's best kept wine secrets.

Well, the secret is now out, and Fumie has received 20 awards for her wines just this year. Yet, she remains quite humble, referring to her portfolio as “fine wines without a dress code”. Standouts in the white category include an unoaked Chardonnay, a crisp Vidal Blanc, a refreshing Riesling, a stunning Cayuga White, and a semi-sweet blend called Fialka which has delivered the most medals of all.

For her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Fumie released a special edition dry Traminette, a hybrid white wine which has become a favorite in the region. Tooley's Traminette is named after her beloved golden retriever, Tooley, who has “a sweet look with attitude”. You can see Tooley on the label, and it is an especially easy wine to spot on the shelf, especially for dog lovers. This wine garnered a well-deserved gold medal at the New York Wine and Food Classic of 2008, which brought a big smile to Tooley's face.

Thorpe Vineyard also produces two outstanding blush wines. One is on the drier side (Evening Glow), and one is a semi-sweet (Bunny Blush). The red wines range from quite dry (Pinot Noir and Chancellor) to those for sweeter palates (Hunter's Moon and Red Duck). You could say that Fumie has something in her line-up for everyone.

You can check out Thorpe Vineyard new website at <http://www.thorpevineyard.com>. For added convenience, there is even a shopping cart so you can order the wines on-line. But if you really want the full effect, a road trip to the bluffs of Wolcott on the lake is not to be missed. The breathtaking view, the fresh lake air, and the chance to visit Thorpe's charming tasting room make it all the more worthwhile!