

THORPE VINEYARD OFFERS TWO LOCATIONS TO ENJOY

Indulge Magazine by the Finger Lakes Times September 2010

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WOLCOTT- Like tourist trails on the shores of the Finger Lakes, there's a Lake Ontario Wine Trail, too, and its stops include bed and breakfast lodging, a gift shop, a farm market, a gallery and a half-dozen wineries. At a thousand cases of wine per year, Thorpe Vineyard is a small winery, but it now has two tasting rooms. Thorpe Vineyard on the Lake, right on the shore of Lake Ontario east of Sodus Bay, has offered wines for 22 years. A few weeks ago, Thorpe Vineyard on the Ridge made its debut during a grand opening celebration at the new North Rose location, about 6 1/2 miles away. A native of Tokyo, Japan, Thorpe learned the arts of grape growing and winemaking from two amateur winemakers, one of whom was the previous owner of her small vineyard of French hybrid grape varieties. Academically, Thorpe studied meteorology and astronomy. Some components of that education have come in handy in the wine business. "A lot of people don't realize that there's a lot of chemistry, physics and calculus in meteorology and that helps in winemaking," explained Thorpe. Besides the math, a background in meteorology helps a grower stay on top of weather trends that affect grapes. After advice from local growers, Thorpe's education in viticulture has been furthered by classes offered by Cornell University's Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva. Thorpe sounds like other area vintners when asked which of her 12 wines she likes the most. "I like everything, but I drink wine with meals so I like dry wines," she said.

For a small producer, Thorpe offers an impressive variety of wines that have racked up significant awards from early on. In addition to blends, there are chardonnay, Vidal, Pinot Noir, Riesling, Cayuga white, Marechal Foch and chancellor.