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## Lamorinda AVA Virtual Wine Tasting event a prelude to tasting room opening

*Submitted by Amy Schofield*

One of America's newest Agriculture Viticultural Areas (AVA), Lamorinda, will host a virtual wine tasting in collaboration with the Orinda Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m. Nov. 19. The virtual tasting is open to the public and highlights award-winning local wines, both red and white, from local producers including Thal Vineyards, Los Arabis Vineyards, Raisin d'Etire Vineyards, Deer Hill Vineyards, and Meadow View Wineries. Thomas D'Amato, president of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce says, "The Orinda Chamber of Commerce is always looking for fun member events that highlight the diversity of our member organizations. COVID has encouraged the Chamber to think creatively on how to bring many of our in-person activities online. We are fortunate to live in the Lamorinda AVA region and so a virtual wine tasting event highlighting local wines was a natural choice."

"Lamorinda has a rich history in wine making with the first grapes grown in the region over 150 years ago," says president of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, Daniel Howsepian. "Lamorinda has continued to foster the growth of micro wineries and quality wines. Growing grapes in urban areas has seen many growers adopt a more environmentally conscious approach to grape growing and wine making with a focus on minimal intervention and water conservation practices. We are proud to showcase our wines and thankful that we don't need to go to Napa for good wine!"

The Lamorinda Wine Growers Association announced that the Lamorinda AVA Wine Center was approved by the Lafayette Planning Commission and should open in 2021 in the former location of Napa Auto Parts on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. The LWGA considers this a crucial step in highlighting the quality and availability of local wines. The facility will contain a winery and a public tasting room.

Tasting wineries at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce virtual tasting are bonded members of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association. Membership is open to growers, makers, and supporters. Attendees to the tasting event will have the option to purchase additional wines at a discount after the event.

Tickets to the virtual wine tasting are limited and are available to purchase via Eventbrite:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/orinda-chamber-of-commerce-virtual-wine-tasting-tickets-126370725241](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/orinda-chamber-of-commerce-virtual-wine-tasting-tickets-126370725241)

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