



The view at Lewis Grace Winery, outside Placerville.
PHOTO BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

WINE-derlust celebrates El Dorado

Placerville hosts huge event Sept. 7

“The idea behind WINEderlust is to celebrate all things El Dorado County. That’s why the theme is ‘El Dorado Rules!’”

That’s El Dorado Winery Association director Kara Sather speaking about the next big party coming to downtown Placerville. After two years near Coloma, the wine-art-music festival has moved to Hangtown, and everybody’s jazzed.

“There’s so much excitement and energy already,” Sather said. “People can bring their own lawn chairs and set them up in the street to watch the concerts and dance.”

Much of Main Street will be closed Saturday to accommodate 25-plus wineries and six breweries, food trucks, arts-and-crafts vendors and homegrown rockers Island of Black and White, Achilles Wheel and Patrick Walsh.

VIP ticket-holders are invited to a pre-event party at 1 p.m., and access to private

venues, food-wine pairings and more during the festival.

Participating in the fest will be the family-operated Lewis Grace Winery, just outside of town. It may be small (3,000 cases a year), but the diversity is huge, thanks to the foothills’ microclimates.

“We produce almost 20 types of wine, just to keep people interested,” said winemaker Tyler Grace. Most of the single-variety grapes are estate-grown, but the winery also sources from other Sierra foothills vineyards.

“Our flagship reds are cabernet sauvignon, tempranillo and syrah, but we also make (whites such as) pinot gris, viognier and torrontés,” Grace said. “We just bottled a mourvèdre-grenache-syrah blend.”

One indicator is the impressive display of medals and ribbons on view in the comfy tasting room. The winery’s tempranillo won a Golden Bear “best of show” award in the 2015 California State Fair competition, and recently did the same with its Fashionably Late dessert wine.

Do sip the remarkable Fashionably Late as part of your six-taste flight (\$5). The blend of late-harvest pinot gris and muscat of Alexandria is a steal at \$25. The place to be is on the patio overlooking the incredible view.

Lewis Grace, 2701 Carson Road, Placerville; 530-642-8424, www.gracepatriotwines.com. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays.

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

WINEDERLUST

4-9:30 p.m. Sept. 7; tickets and details at www.eldoradowines.org. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/eldoradowinecountry>

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