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RAISE A GLASS



A group of friends try a flight of wine samples at the Gilmanton Winery and Vineyard on April 28. Elizabeth Frantz photos / Monitor staff » [Buy this Image](#)



By ELIZABETH FRANTZ (/byline?byline=By.ELIZABETH FRANTZ.)

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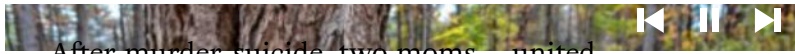
Published: 5/5/2018 11:00:22 PM

Since Marshall Bishop planted his first grape vines in the front yard in 2007, it's been hard to miss his Meadow Pond Road property in Gilmanton. What started as a hobby is now a full-time job for Bishop and his wife, Sunny, and it keeps growing.

"We've been out-growing ever since we started," said Sunny Bishop.

Gilmanton Winery & Vineyard is now up to about 850 vines and currently has 19 wines on their tasting menu.





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From their Green Apple Riesling to Raspberry Chocolate, Girls Night Out to Cran has the Blues, the menu is full of catchy names and concise descriptions. Tasting flights are offered in different sizes and visitors can sit and enjoy their samples both indoors and out on the front porch overlooking sections of the vineyard.

The winery has picked up a few silver and bronze awards at the Finger Lakes International Wine Competition and other events in past years. Some winners include Grace’s, which is a balance of bright, tart Seyval grapes and sweet Concord grapes, and Jack the Ripper, a Carmenere wine with deep cherry and peppery flavors.

In addition to tasting wine, the winery also includes a small restaurant that offers weekly Sunday brunches and five-course dinners on select dates throughout the year. The dinners are reservation only, as are holiday brunches such as next week’s Mother’s Day meal. Parties and weddings are also reserved at the winery.

The Gilmanton Winery is open Thursday to Saturday yearround from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., with longer hours in the summer.

On Sundays, brunch is served from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and tastings are available from 1:30 to 5 p.m. More information can be found at gilmantonwinery.com.

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