Temecula Wineries are coming on!

We have been visiting Temecula for over 10 years and we have seen a lot of changes. The area is definitely growing and the quality of the reds are definitely stepping up. We get there about twice a year and we can't keep up with all of the new places.

We won't mention any names but we have, in the past, had some Temecula wine experiences that were not up to par. We have visited some places that were very stuffy and thought their wines were all that and more but, in our humble opinion, were barely drinkable.

This trip we visited a few wineries on the De Portola Wine trail that were very good. Our 1st stop was Robert Renzoni Winery. The winery has been in existence since 2008. They have a small number of red wines to taste but that is not a criticism. We believe it is best to focus on a small number of wines and get them right, rather than try making many and getting nothing right! Renzoni had some good wines! We bought a bottle of their Sangiovesse and took it to the picnic area. They have a grassy picnic area at the top of the property and at the time we were there, they also had entertainment. Jason Weber played the sax for us as we enjoyed our wine and our picnic. He played a mixture of his music off of his latest CD and jazz tunes we knew.

Our next stop was Oak Mountain. Oak Mountain is a very eclectic winery. They house both Oak Mountain and Temecula Hills Winery under the same roof. They have a ton of wines available to taste and buy. They also had a retro rock band that entertained us with some good tunes!

The next winery we went to was Leonesse. The place was packed! We got there around 3 in the afternoon and we found plenty of attractive people tasting wine. There was a guy singing the blues, Sugaray, and he was good. The 1st song we heard was a BB King tune and we thought it could have been BB performing the song! It definitely seemed like the place to be on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. They had a Merlot that was given 90 points by Wine Spectator that they were proud to show off. We enjoyed sampling that wine as well as others that they were pouring.

The De Portola wine trail is going to be having an event on the first weekend of April. On April 3rd, for $40 you can pick up a glass and enjoy any or all of the 9 wineries on the De Portola Wine Trail. They are calling it their "Big Red Fest". Here is a link to the De Portola Wine Trail website.

If the 3 wineries we visited are any indication of the quality of the De Portola Wine Trail, they have it going on! We will be back.