

SOURCE: Volcano Wine Company

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Volcano Wine Company: From Whine to Wine

Bend, Oregon, 24 July 2006 – The Volcano Wine Company, home of the Bend, Oregon-based micro-winery Volcano Vineyards, offers an unusual tasting room experience – a kid-friendly atmosphere, complete with toys, books plus pint-sized chairs and tables.

Owners Scott and Liz Ratcliff, parents of two children under the age of 5, made sure the Volcano Wine Company Tasting Room welcomed families. The Volcano Wine Company's OLCC license allows for minors when accompanied by a parent. To ensure that parents and children feel welcome in the Volcano Wine tasting room, the Ratcliffs provide a family-friendly atmosphere. "We have seating for children and lots of toys that keep kids interested long enough for their parents, or even their grandparents, to enjoy a taste or two," explained Liz.

One parent who found solace in the cool tasting room compared it to a port in a storm. "After an hour at the Farmers' market, my kids were done," said Aimee Jones. "As I herded them, screaming, down Brooks Street, we spotted the mini chairs and table (with umbrella!) outside the Tasting Room." Once inside, Aimee said, "It was a great hide-out, so we could all regroup."

The Volcano Wine Company Tasting Room also provides a measure of security for parents' piece of mind. The Ratcliffs added bells on the front door and keep a safety gate on hand. "Just in case any of the kids are aspiring escape artists," quips Liz. "Fortunately, we haven't had to use it yet."

In keeping with a family-friendly atmosphere, the Volcano Wine Company Tasting Room provides kiddie cups and straws so kids can wet their whistle (with water) while mom and dad enjoy tastes of Volcano Vineyards' award-winning wines.

Adults also enjoy the atmosphere at Volcano Vineyards. The tasting room is rustic and cozy. The bar top was hand-made by a Bend craftsman from a vintage redwood wine tank and it rests on retired French oak barrels. Additional features include an intricately stained, patterned hardwood floor, exposed brick walls, and Riedel stemware for the tastings.

The Volcano Wine Company Tasting Room is located at 930 NW Brooks Street between The Pine Tavern and The Mirror Pond Gallery in downtown Bend, Oregon. They feature the wines of Bend-based Volcano Vineyards and other artisan producers by the taste, flight or glass. Bottle and case sales are also available. The Volcano Wine Company Tasting Room is open Tuesday through Saturday and is available for special events. Please call 541.617.1102 for more information.