

## PREFACE

This literary journey through the adult beverage industry began back in 2012 with the challenge to find answers to rather simple questions about Michigan wineries and wines. The result was a book in 2013 called MICHIGAN'S HOLY WATER: The Great Lakes Wine Bible.

Of course, Michigan also was in the midst of another boom - in the craft beer industry. If Michigan has a holy bible for wines, there surely must be a need for a holy beer bible. Ask and ye shall receive. In 2016, MICHIGAN'S HOLY HOPS: The Great Lakes Beer Bible was published. And in 2018 with the emergence of the relative new craft distillery industry came MICHIGAN'S HOLY SPIRITS: The Great Lakes Distillery Bible.

So much has changed in the Michigan wine industry since those interviews nearly a decade ago - more good things than bad, more fun and interesting than sad.

On the good side, Michigan wines continue to improve and continue to impress wine connoisseurs around the world. Michigan wineries are still winning international competitions and are being recognized as a destination for tasting high quality whites, reds and sparkling wines.

On the bad side, global warming is not the issue but Mother Nature has been a significant factor when it comes to several devastating cold winters and wet springs. Many Michigan wineries have lost large tracts of grapevines with almost the entire crop of Syrah grapes being destroyed and several other vinifera nearly disappearing. Another casualty of budget cuts was the Michigan Wine and Grape Council. They were absorbed into the newly created Michigan Craft Beverage Council, which also includes craft beer and the distillery industry. Several wineries banded together and formed the Michigan Wine Collaborative to take up the slack.

Sadly, we lost several Michigan wine industry pioneers including Len Olson at Tabor Hill and Baroda Founders, David Braganini at St. Julian, Bernie Rink at Boskydel and Mark Johnson at Château Chantal. The patriarch of Forty-Five North, Steve Grossnickle, and Norm Moffatt of Sandy Hill Crane wineries have passed as well as the matriarch of Chateau Chantal, Nadine Begin.

New ownership has taken charge of 2 Lads, Bel Lago, Black Star, Hickory Creek, L. Mawby, Modern Craft, Shady Lane, Silver Leaf and Tabor Hill. Some wineries have closed their doors including Boskydel, Gills Pier, Krolczyk, Longview and Wolcott.

But on the interesting side, since 2013 the number of commercial wineries in Michigan has grown to over 150, increasing more than 50%. It has become a \$5.5 billion industry with over 47,000 jobs. There are over 3,000 acres of wine grapes in the state producing 3 million gallons of wine annually.

And on the fun side...well, if you haven't tried any Michigan wines or visited a winery you're missing out on a LOT of fun. If you already have, go back for more because they're getting better with every vintage.