

Iconoclast vintner: Finding the poetry of the vine

"Be kind to the grape, but mean to the vine." – Virginia Carter, vintner

This contrary advice sums up the contradictions and paradoxes of winemaking – the key is to embrace opposites and find the balance between extremes.

Such was the counsel and has been the experience of vintners Virginia Carter and her husband Paul Kranowski who in 2000, took to heart the hilltop view out the window on top of Barnett Hill Road in Walpole. Virginia recalled looking down the hillside and saying, "If this land were anywhere else in the world, it would be a vineyard."

Truth be told, last Saturday, when I showed up as a Harvest Day volunteer, to pick La



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Crescent White and Frontenac Gris, as a cool breeze wafted in and out of sun-baked vines set against cotton candy fog hovering over Stratton Mountain in the distance, I could almost imagine I was in Tuscany.

Walpole Mountain View Winery is the only "estate winery" in the state, a



Photo by D. QUINCY WHITNEY

The view atop Barnett Hill, wine barrel venue from Walpole Mountain View Winery, in Walpole, New Hampshire.