



Off-Site Permit allows wineries to attend farmers' markets statewide

Effective June 1, 2013, Maryland Class 4 wineries may apply for a new Off-Site Event Permit, which replaces the Winery Special Event Permit. Under the new permit, wineries may attend any farmers' market in Maryland to which they are invited, provided the market is listed in the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture's Farmers' Market Directory.

Info about the Off-Site Permit:

- Class 4 wineries must have the Off-Site Event Permit in order to attend a market.
- Any market listed in the Dept of Agriculture's Farmers' Market Directory may invite a Class 4 winery to participate.
- The Off-Site Permit allows wineries to sample their wines, sell wines in sealed bottles for customers to take home. No sales by the glass are permitted at markets. Local restrictions still apply. For example, if your town does not allow alcohol to be sampled or sold at a market, the more restrictive law prevails.
- The law has shifted the burden of alcohol server certification to wineries. Wineries—not market managers—must hold the alcohol server certification.
- There are no limits to the number of markets (or market days) a winery may attend. The new law removes the county-by-county restrictions and limits.
- Under the new permit, market managers and property owners are no longer required to file/sign paperwork for wineries to attend a farmers market; wineries do it all!
- Wineries must report which markets they plan to attend by the 20th of the prior month. So, if a winery wishes to attend a market in July, the winery must report it to the Office of the Comptroller by June 20. Wineries can access all forms via MWA's member site.

Wineries should call the MWA for info about the permit/forms/deadlines.

For information about farmers' markets, contact:

Shelby Watson
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Maryland Department of Agriculture
410-841-5776
shelby.watson@maryland.gov
Farmers' Market Directory: www.marylandsbest.net

For information about wineries/law, contact:

Kevin Atticks
Executive Director
Maryland Wineries Association (MWA)
410-252-9463
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Listing of wineries: www.marylandwine.com/wineries