



MARGRAVE CELMINS

October 2019 Newsletter

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ARIZONA WINE COUNTRY



(Alcantara Estate Vineyards in Cottonwood)

When considering the great wine grape growing regions of the world, Arizona probably doesn't make a blip on the radar, but those who understand viticulture know it's all about microclimates. Stretching from north to south, Arizona boasts an impressive number of

vineyards and wineries to suit every taste. The Sedona Wine Festival, the Arizona Wine Growers Festival, the Grand Wine Festival, the Willcox Wine County Fall Festival and the Verde Valley Wine Festival—these are just a few of the wine festivals that take over Arizona in the fall and early spring. Due to the early seasons in Arizona, grape harvesting generally takes place in September, making fall the ideal time to take a wine tour through Arizona.

Vineyards were first planted in Arizona in the 17th Century by Franciscan missionaries, and there are now over 110 wineries, vineyards and cellars throughout the state. There are three growing regions, and you'll find a concentration of wine tasting rooms in those areas.

The oldest region in the state is the one in the Sonoita/Elgin area in southern Arizona. The second and largest growing region is in the southeast in and around Wilcox. The third region is the newest in the north-central part of the state in the Verde Valley.

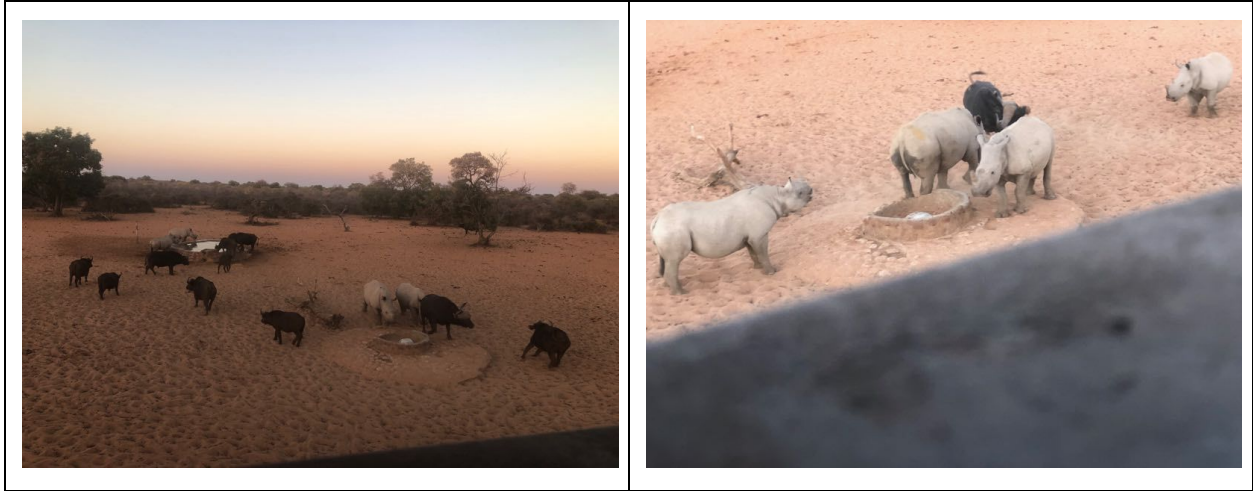
A guided tour is a good choice for safe transportation and insight into the industry. There are enumerable choices to be made in each of these specified areas: different kinds of tours, which vineyards, number of stops, number of samplings, with or without lunch/dinner, etc. Take time to savor the wines and be patient with those who are pouring. With van tours going from winery to winery, the tasting rooms can get temporarily crowded. Some packages include hotel pick-ups and drop-offs, or you can arrange your own tour at your own pace over several days and hopefully avoid the crowds.

Patty Copeland, Editor

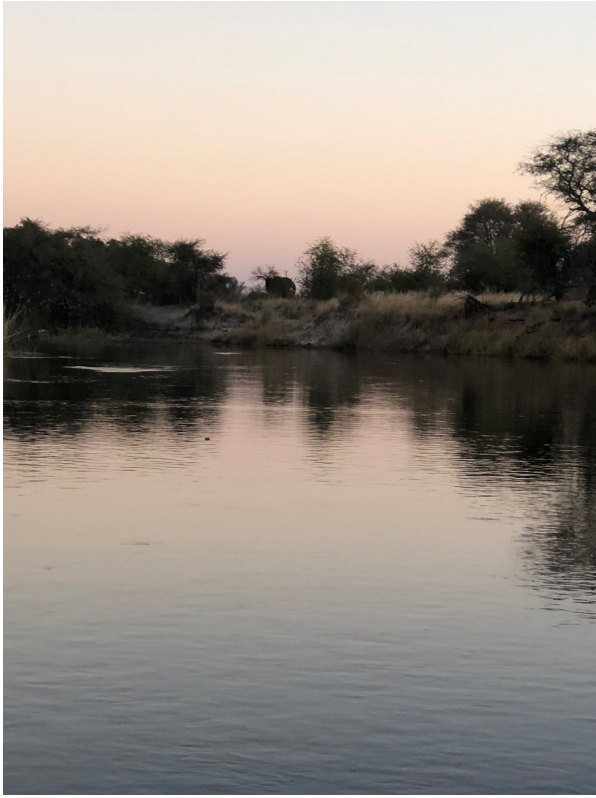
pcopeland@mclawfirm.com

IN THE NEWS

Michael visited Namibia this summer, specifically both the Waterberg Plateau and the Caprivi Strip. Following are some of his highlights:



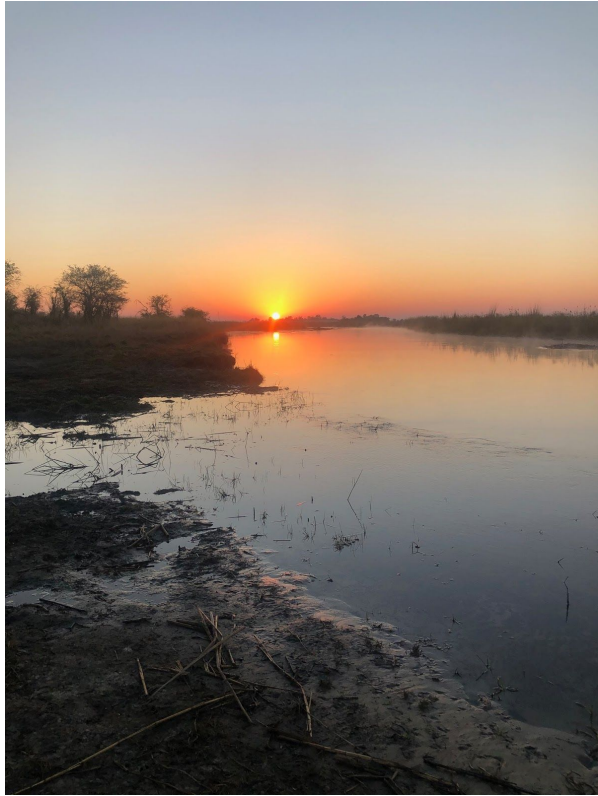
"Watching the white and black rhinos interact between the two species and Cape Buffalo was amazing." - Michael Margrave



Michael at three corners: alignment where the borders of Angola, Zambia and Namibia converge. “This marker shows the country names used by two of the countries before attaining independence. So it probably dates back to the 1950s or earlier.”



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Sunrise on the Kwando River



Roughing it at Camp Kwando dinner. From the left Reinhardt Bronner, Chef Fernando and Kabous Gunschloss.



Last night in Kwando Camp with professional hunter Kabous Grunschloss with a couple of single malts.

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