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Festival Fever hits Queensland's Granite Belt

While neighbouring Warwick has been afflicted with Equine Flu, the Granite Belt is relishing the onset of its annual Spring Wine Festival season.

The six week party celebrates the new release vintages and begins on Friday 28 September in the Queensland wine capital, Stanthorpe.

- Celebration number one is *Tastes of the Granite Belt* a black tie dinner at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism on Friday 28 September at 6.30pm. This six course dinner showcases the region's finest wines matched to fabulous food. Bookings essential 4685 5050.
- Celebration number two is the **Wine Fiesta** al fresco at the College on Saturday 29 September. Wine and food stalls plus live entertainment from 10am to 6pm. Tickets \$10/person on arrival and includes commemorative wine glass.
- Grape education – join the **Wine Master Class** to find out why Granite Belt wines are still so cool in an age of global warming. Join four winemakers and compare cool and warm climate Chardonnay, Merlot, Verdelho and Durif matched with chef's finger food. Saturday 29 September from 2.30pm at the College – bookings essential 4685 5050.

Visit, taste, celebrate and be educated: Most people think Queensland is too hot to make good wine, but our vineyards are amongst the highest altitude plantings nationally and internationally. The 2007 Granite Belt Spring Wine Season includes sixty events held over six weeks. *Expect to be surprised!*

See www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au for full list of all events or phone 1800 SO COOL.

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1. The history of the Queensland wine industry dates back to the 1860s - and like all good wines it has developed with age.
2. 35% of Queensland's 1500 hectares of wine grapes are on the Granite Belt. It is also the largest of the ten wine regions in the state.
3. 64% of Granite Belt plantings are of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot with an increasing number of plantings of alternative grape varieties proving popular.
4. The Granite Belt is home to approximately 50 wine cellar doors, the state's most awarded winemakers, plus the Queensland College of Wine Tourism - the first of its type in the world.