



## **BUSINESS**    Casual

### **Texas wine rated jolly good**

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Katherine Yung

WHITEWRIGHT – If Bob White gets his way, the British could soon learn to appreciate wines from the Lone Star State the way they do a chardonnay from Napa Valley.

In January, the Whitewright winemaker traveled to London to participate in the first tasting of Southeastern U.S. wines in Britain. His wines, particularly his Whispering Willow Chenin Blanc, drew praise during the tasting, which attracted about 80 sommeliers, wine importers and members of the trade press.

During the visit, Mr. White, 52, learned that the only U.S. wines sold in British supermarkets came from California, and they were selling at either high or low prices.

"There was nothing in the middle, where I could see Texas wines fitting," he said. The native Texan is now trying to export his wines to Britain. Next month, he plans to attend the London International Wine & Spirits trade show to meet with potential importers.

Though Texas boasts a reputation for sweet wines, the state is starting to make some good dry white wines that are more pleasing to English taste buds, he says. At his small, family-owned Texoma Winery, Mr. White makes all his wine by hand from grapes grown in the Texas High Plains. He got into the business in September 2005 after taking winemaking courses at Grayson County College in Denison.

Not long after he started, his wines won several awards at amateur contests, including a bronze medal for his Pinot Grigio in the 2005 *Winemaker Magazine* International Competition.

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