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Letter to C.W. Damoth of the American Wine Society from Dr. Konstantin Frank

Konstantin Frank
Dr. Konstantin Frank and Sons

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Dr. Konstantin Frank and Sons

*Experimental Nursery, Vineyards and Vinifera Wine Cellars
European Grape Varieties and European Estate Bottled Wines*

R.D. 2, Hammondsport, New York 14840

September 5, 1974

Mr. C. W. Damoth
President
American Wine Society
6557 Marseilles Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48224

Dear Mr. Damoth:

The future of the American table grape and the wine industries are not in the old American grape varieties, it, is not in the replacement of them by the French hybrids; it is not even in the cultivation of true European grapes of the species *Vitis Vinifera* that represent ten thousand varieties. The future of American grape and wine industry as well as American Society, lies exclusively in fifteen, but not more than twenty-five excellent wine and table grape varieties. I have now proven in twenty-four years of hard work these varieties do flourish here in Hammondsport as well as by more than two hundred of my cooperators in the eastern states.

What are the most excellent grape varieties that produce these famous wines and these countries, as well as the regions, most famous in the world? There are as follows:

The German true Riesling and Gewurztraminer; the Famous French Pinot Gris, Pinot Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and the king of the red grape, the Cabernet Sauvignon; the Hungarian Furmint and Fetjaska; the famous grape variety from Spain, Pedro Ximénez and from Portugal, Oporto. There are also six thousand native grapes from Russia for wine production. Excellent are Sereksia, Saperavi-Mzuane and Rkazitely. In addition to them are 10-15 table grape variations. All these grape varieties do flourish now in Hammondsport. This year, to name a few, Pinot Chardonnay will produce ten tons per acre, the Riesling between seven and eight tons per acre. It will be a very good idea to present this proof to the member of the "American Wine Society".

On April 23rd, forty-eight French scientists and grape growers visited our winery. They were very surprise* with the prosperous growth of our vineyards. On 8/28 were forty-eight grape growers and scientists from Ohio inspecting our vineyard and on September 28th, 60 grape growers and scientists will visit us from Massachusetts.

I would like to know your feelings regarding the organization of a seminar for the members of the "American Wine Society". This seminar will take place before the grapes will be harvested which would be around the last week of September or the first week in October. There I will present a documentary film showing four growing seasons and narrated by four Cornell University professors.

I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,



DR. KONSTANTINE FRANK

kf:jhg

My dear friend:

It is time that we wake up!

This year again we will harvest very high crop of European - Vinifera grape varieties, but the French hybrids look again very weak and dying. If we will not stop this wrong going, it can have very drastic consequences French hybrids do spread Phylloxera and virus and these two very destructive factors will destroy our grape and wine industries as it was happen in Europe, hundred years ago.

Please write a petition to the President of the American Wine Society and recommend him to hold a convention at Hammondsport, now, before the grapes will be picked.

Only here, at Hammondsport, the American public and the American authority can be convinced that the future of America is in the EXCELLENT grapes that do produce in the third year in the row:

Riesling seven and Pinot Chardonnay ten tons to the acre.

Here you can see also excellent table grape varieties that produce again 30 to 40 pounds per vine.

Kara-Burnu, Kaptschak, Beauty, Queen of the vineyards and some more.

I do hope to see you before the harvest.

Cordially,

Konstantin Frank



P.S.

Please send me the copy of your letter to the president AWS now.