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## News Releases



### Soil Science Society of America

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#### NEWS RELEASE

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### Great Wines Come From Great Soils

*Experts discuss the complex interaction of grapes, viticulture, and soil needed to produce a great wine*

**MADISON, WI, NOVEMBER 4, 2009** -- The world's greatest wines are the result of a threefold synergy among grape variety, human input, and something called the "terroir" -- a term often defined as the vineyard site, soil, and climate.

Experts will discuss terroir with an emphasis on soil science in a symposium on Wednesday, Nov. 4 in Pittsburgh. "Terroir: Winegrapes and the Environment" will be presented in two parts at the 2009 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) in Pittsburgh, PA.

The symposium will feature a variety of experts who will discuss the complex interaction of grapes, viticulture, and soil needed to produce a great wine. The symposium could very well be called, "How Great Wines Come from Great Soils," as these experts will emphasize soil science in their presentations on "terroir," and will touch upon factors such as soil surface color, soil drainage, and chemical soil composition. Among the experts presenting papers in Pittsburgh will be:

- **Thomas Rice, professor of Soil Science at California Polytechnic State University**, who has studied soil chemistry and viticulture, and soil resource inventories of vineyards.
- **Amy Richards, soil scientist, CRC for Irrigation Futures/Fosters Group**, who conducts work into managing root-zone salinity in premium, drip irrigated viticulture systems and the effect of salt on vine performance dependent on winter rainfall.
- **James Fisher, Soil Solutions LLC**, who is a soil scientist and a certified Associate Professional Agronomist. He specializes in vineyard soils and viticulture.

The first portion of the symposium will be presented on Nov. 4 as nine oral paper presentations from 12:45 to 4:00 pm in Room 413, David L. Lawrence Convention Center. To view the full schedule, abstracts, and authors, visit: <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Session5964.html>

The second portion of the symposium on Nov. 4 will be six poster paper presentations from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Exhibit Hall, David L. Lawrence Convention Center. To view the abstracts and authors for these papers, visit: <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Session5967.html>

Past studies of terroir have concentrated on the flavor components of the wine as related to the vineyard environment. For example, wine evaluators have tasted wines made by the same winemaker from Syrah grapes grown in different regions; and the wines tasted completely different; therefore, these sorts of site-specific or regional differences are at the heart of the terroir concept being presented at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings.

More than 2,700 scientists and professionals will gather at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Nov. 1-5 to discuss the latest research and trends in agriculture, energy, climate change, environmental science, science education, and more. Follow our daily Twitter feed of research and events at: [www.twitter.com/ASA\\_CSSA\\_SSSA](http://www.twitter.com/ASA_CSSA_SSSA), #ACSMtg. For meeting information, including abstracts of the papers being presented, visit: [www.acsmetings.org](http://www.acsmetings.org) or contact Sara Uttech, ASA-CSSA-SSSA, 608-268-4948, [suttech@soils.org](mailto:suttech@soils.org)

Complimentary registration to this event is offered to credentialed journalists, Public Information Officers, and NASW members. Advance registration is encouraged, by sending a request to Sara Uttech, Science Communications Manager, [suttech@soils.org](mailto:suttech@soils.org), 608-268-4948. To register on-site, present a business card or other credentials to the Newsroom, Room 310, David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Can't make it to the meeting? ASA-CSSA-SSSA will post news releases to the Annual Meetings online newsroom at: [www.acsmetings.org/newsroom](http://www.acsmetings.org/newsroom). Power Point presentations will also be available for many papers; please contact Sara Uttech: [suttech@soils.org](mailto:suttech@soils.org) for more information.

*The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is a progressive, international scientific society that fosters the transfer of knowledge and practices to sustain global soils. Based in Madison, WI, and founded in 1936, SSSA is the professional home for 6,000+ members dedicated to advancing the field of soil science. It provides information about soils in relation to crop production, environmental quality, ecosystem sustainability, bioremediation, waste management, recycling, and wise land use.*

SSSA supports its members by providing quality research-based publications, educational programs, certifications, and science policy initiatives via a Washington, DC, office. For more information, visit [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org).

SSSA is the founding sponsor of an approximately 5,000-square foot exhibition, *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*, which opened July 19, 2008 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.