



WINE 101

»»» "Do we swirl, dump, gurgle, or spit?" Colleen Topper and her husband, David, once wondered as they mimicked fellow wine tasters oohing at the *terroir*, checking the legs, and enjoying the finish.

Knowing they weren't alone in their intimidation, Colleen, co-owner of Napa's Goosecross Cellars, was inspired to create a free wine-tasting crash course for beginning and intermediate tasters.

"We offer the class to take a lot of the mystery and snobbery out of wine," said Colleen. "It's designed for the average consumer—we wanted to make it something for the people."

The class is held next to the winery's rose garden and offers a free taste of four Goosecross wines.

It's the perfect stop before a day of Napa wine tasting. You'll feel confident when you "check the balance" and impress your friends by saying, "I'm not swirling, I'm volatilizing the esters."

The Wine Basics Course will meet Saturdays until November 6, 11a.m.–12:30 p.m., at Goosecross Cellars, 1119 State Lane, Yountville. Reservations are required; for more information call (707) 944-1986 or visit www.goosecross.com.

—Claire Fisher