



Cooper's Hawk adds 5 new locations, plans for 5 more next year



On a date at a winery many years ago Tim McEnery realized that something was missing. There was wine, a comfortable atmosphere and good company, but he thought that having dinner on-site was something that would complete the experience.

Unfortunately, it wasn't available and he had to drive to another location to enjoy a meal. But, a seed was planted that evening that later blossomed into a concept and lifestyle brand of combining food and wine and an artisan retail market into a completely new hospitality experience.

In 2005, McEnery opened his first Napa-style tasting room attached to an upscale casual dining restaurant with a full bar in suburban Orland Park, bringing the feel of California wine country to the Midwest.

With more than 400 wine awards to its credit, Cooper's Hawk has not only created a concept, but a community with its popular wine club — the largest in the country — numbering nearly 250,000 members.

“Each month members receive a wine of the month that is not available to anyone except members,” Koenigsberg said. “You can pay \$20 a month for one bottle or \$38 for two and there are other benefits.”

One of those benefits is a special magnum of Italian-inspired wine as a gift to wine club members in celebration of their 12th anniversary this fall. This past summer wine club members received a \$20 thank you credit on food in the restaurant (\$40 if you were a two-bottle member.) There's also an opportunity to meet some big names in the business through collaborations at Friends of Cooper's Hawk events.

Wine club members had an opportunity to meet chef and Food Network host Tyler Florence, French-born winemaker Jean-Charles Boisset, Canadian food writer and cookbook author Gail Simmons and others.