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## New winery makes holiday debut

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By Ramona Frances

Oakhurst's first winery -called Idle Hour- is open for the holiday season at 41139 State Route 41. Wine tanks are installed at Queen's Inn By The River, which is described as a quaint eight-room inn on the Fresno River that offers a tasting room.

"Our wines are produced in small lots. We use sustainably grown grapes and make wine gently, using gravity flow to pour wine into barrels and other traditional methods," said winemaker Anna Marie dos Remedios, who together with her partner Deb Payne opened the local winery. The land is leased from Payne's family.

The small winery produces a wide variety of wine: Viognier, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc & Touriga Nacional. Remedios ran a winery in Panchoe Valley of California for two years prior to moving to Oakhurst where the same kind of wines were offered.

"I buy some lots of single vineyard designated wines and do not blend from other vineyards. It's kind of fun to make lots of different kinds of wine, rather than a larger amount of one kind," Remedios said. "So, I try to stick with three ton lots," an average of 50 cases per ton.

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Wine proprietors, from left, Anna Marie dos Remedios and Deb Payne have opened Madera County's newest winery, named Idle Hour at Queens Inn by the River in Oakhurst.

Photo by: Ramona Frances



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### Ramona Frances

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