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Rolling Forks Vineyards Highlights Opportunity for Minnesota Wine Amidst Tariff Landscape

GLENWOOD, MN – April 8, 2025 – Rolling Forks Vineyards, a family-owned winery dedicated to crafting exceptional wines from 100% Minnesota-grown grapes, today addressed the potential impact of recent federal tariffs on imported wines. While acknowledging the broader economic implications, the winery believes this shift could create a unique opportunity to elevate and celebrate the distinctive qualities of Minnesota viticulture.

Rolling Forks Vineyards prides itself on its commitment to showcasing the unique terroir of Minnesota through its carefully cultivated grape varieties. These grapes, often lesser-known to the wider wine-drinking public, possess distinct flavor profiles that reflect the state's climate and soil. The winery believes that the evolving import landscape could encourage consumers, including those with more traditional palates, to explore the exciting world of local wines.

"For too long, Minnesota wines have existed somewhat in the shadow of more established wine regions," says Melanie Cihlar, owner of Rolling Forks Vineyards. "The potential increase in the cost of imported wines could be a catalyst for consumers to look closer to home and discover the incredible quality and unique character of what we're producing right here. We believe our Marquette, La Crescent, and other Minnesota varieties offer compelling and delicious alternatives that deserve a place on every wine lover's table."

Tariffs are essentially taxes imposed on imported goods. In this case, they're being applied to wines coming into the United States from various countries. Importers who have to pay these tariffs pass those costs along to retailers, who in turn pass them on to consumers.

As European wines potentially become more expensive due to tariffs, Rolling Forks Vineyards invites consumers to take this opportunity to explore the exciting and award-winning world of

Minnesota wines. Many of Rolling Forks' own offerings have garnered recognition at prestigious national and international competitions, demonstrating the quality and craftsmanship inherent in their cold-climate viticulture.

"Cold-climate wines possess a distinct character, often showcasing vibrant acidity, unique fruit profiles, and a refreshing elegance that can be just as captivating and palatable as traditional old-world varietals," explains Cihlar. "Our Minnesota grapes thrive in our specific environment, resulting in wines with their own compelling story and flavor. We encourage even the most seasoned wine aficionados to broaden their horizons and discover the exciting nuances that our locally grown wines have to offer."

Cihlar further elaborates, "While we understand the complexities of international trade, this moment presents a chance for Minnesota grape growers and wineries to shine. It encourages a focus on local agriculture and the dedication of our industry to producing high-quality wines that truly represent our state. We are excited about the prospect of more consumers embracing the 'Minnesota terroir' and discovering the passion we pour into every bottle."

Per the April 2, 2025 Presidential orders, the tariff situation on imported wine to the United States is as follows:

A baseline tariff of 10% has been imposed on all goods imported into the United States from all trading partners. This includes wine from every foreign country. This tariff went into effect on April 5, 2025. The following are additional tariffs applied to specific countries based on trade imbalances. For wine, the reported rates are:

- **European Union: 20%** (This means a total tariff of $10\% + 20\% = 30\%$ on EU wines). This is reported to go into effect on **April 9, 2025**.
- **United Kingdom: 10%** (Total tariff of $10\% + 10\% = 20\%$).
- **South Africa: 30%** (Total tariff of $10\% + 30\% = 40\%$).
- **Israel: 17%** (Total tariff of $10\% + 17\% = 27\%$).
- **Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina: 10%** (Total tariff of $10\% + 10\% = 20\%$).
- Countries like **China** and **Vietnam** face significantly higher tariffs on their goods (34% and 46% respectively), although the specific impact on their wines wasn't detailed as prominently in the reports.

Some sources suggest that a 20% tariff could lead to a 40% or more cost increase for consumers due to compounding effects through the supply chain.

It's important to note that the situation is dynamic, and there could be further developments or negotiations that alter these tariff rates or timelines. However, based on the latest reports, these are the tariffs currently being implemented on imported wine to the United States.

Rolling Forks Vineyards anticipates some financial headwinds due to increased costs on imported supplies such as bottles and corks. Nevertheless, the winery remains optimistic that

a concurrent rise in consumer interest in locally produced wines could help offset this burden. It is their hope that as the price of imported wines increases, more consumers will seize the opportunity to discover Minnesota wines. Increased sales and a stronger local market would undoubtedly assist Rolling Forks Vineyards in navigating these challenging times. Furthermore, this shift could provide vital support to the entire Minnesota grape growing and winemaking industry, fostering its continued growth and sustainability.

Rolling Forks Vineyards invites the community and wine enthusiasts to visit their vineyard and tasting room in Glenwood, MN to experience the unique flavors of Minnesota-grown wines firsthand. Their wines are also conveniently available in over 100 liquor stores and restaurants throughout Minnesota, and can be ordered online for shipping to 37 states. They offer a range of red, white, rosé, and sparkling wines, all crafted with the same dedication and commitment to quality.

[About Rolling Forks Vineyards:](#)

Located among the rolling glacial hills of Glenwood, Minnesota, Rolling Forks Vineyards is a family-owned winery committed to producing high-quality wines from grapes grown on their estate. They are passionate about showcasing the unique terroir of Minnesota and crafting wines that are both distinctive and delicious.

PHOTO CAPTION: Rolling Forks Vineyards

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