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New Ownership Brings Fresh Energy to Oz Winery

Wamego, KS - Oz Winery announces new ownership under Kristen and Alec Philip. Kristen brings fresh energy and new vision focused on community, creativity, and connection. She continues the legacy at Oz Winery with a fun atmosphere that has defined the winery experience since it opened in 2007.

Kristen first started working at Oz Winery in 2013 as a tasting room attendant and then later became the tasting room manager. That led her to a new opportunity to become owner in 2026.

“I first started working at the winery on a whim, thinking it would be a fun side job,” she said. “But it turns out it was everything I ever wanted in a career. It was exciting and different every day, a creative outlet, and the chance to help people have a good time. When the opportunity presented itself, I knew I had to take it.”

The winery is inspired by L. Frank Baum’s literary classic *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. The vision for Oz Winery is centered on becoming a go-to destination for both locals and Oz fans all over the world.

“I want Oz Winery to be a staple spot for relaxing and engaging with people, while adding a touch of magic with our labels and Oz ties,” she said. “Whether it’s a one-time stop on a road trip or a regular after work meetup, I want us to be top of mind for a fun outing.”

Recent updates to the tasting room reflect that vision. It was remodeled earlier this year to create a brighter, more comfortable environment, complete with new seating and a few personal touches by the owner that are Oz or Kansas themed. Additional enhancements are coming soon, including the introduction of small-bite options this summer.

Kristen said, “Our wine tasting experience will stay the same. We offer free samples, flights or wine by the glass, zero intimidation, and all fun,” she said. “Whether you’re here to catch

up with a friend or just passing through Kansas, we want everyone to feel comfortable and find something they enjoy.”

Community engagement is also a key priority. Oz Winery plans to expand its role as a local gathering space by hosting unique events and creating memorable experiences close to home.

“Wamego is growing rapidly, and I want to provide opportunities for people to connect right here downtown. This community has empowered me to take this step, and I want to give back in every way I can,” she said.

With a blend of fresh ideas, fun atmosphere and honoring what makes Oz Winery special, the new owners and staff are excited to build on its legacy as a unique and welcoming destination in the heart of Wamego.

Oz Winery is hosting an open house on Thursday, May 7th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The open house is a come and go event where guests will be able to sample small plates and charcuterie boards the winery will soon have on menu, as well as some new wines. A 15% discount will be offered during the open house on all purchases in store.

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