

# Coups, Cheers & Chardonnays

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

## Greetings!

FlyersRights members know we are not shy about criticizing the TSA for capricious overreach and unnecessary heavy-handed hassling of the flying public.

We are well-known for challenging the constitutionality of TSA's full-body scanners.



Now TSA is quietly removing its X-ray body scanners from major airports and replacing them with machines that radiation experts believe are safer.

This is a coup for passengers. It means far fewer of us will be exposed to radiation. TSA denies public pressure had any effect on their decision, and says it's to speed up checkpoints at larger airports.

The backscatters, as the X-ray scanners are known, were swapped out at BOS, LAX, ORD, MCO and JFK, TSA confirmed.

The scanners have faced a barrage of criticism since being rolled out nationwide after the failed underwear bombing on Christmas Day 2009. One reason is that they emit a small dose of ionizing radiation, which at higher levels has been linked to cancer.

FlyersRights has worked closely with the Electronic Privacy Information Center's (EPIC) efforts to increase public awareness about the risks of full-body scanners, including a look at the political process and awarding the contracts.

Despite TSA refusing to acknowledge that public pressure influenced their decision, we believe it obviously did.

## FlyersRights Hall of Fame

### ***Bad Flight Saved By Airline Crew, Passenger Rights Laws***

Last week, a long-time FlyersRights.org member emailed us, asking Kate to give a shout-out to a particular United Express crew for their exceptional work. ([Read the saga in her own words here.](#))



To summarize, on October 17th, Flight 3624 departing out of Syracuse, put our Airline Passenger Bill of Rights to the test.

When they got word of a weather delay, the small, regional flight crew immediately got to work. They spent hours rebooking everyone making connections. The captain ordered the jetway bridge be reinstalled so people could come and go, citing the rules

for passenger comfort.

FlyersRights cheers the crew's handling of the situation. They kept passengers informed every step of the way and made the best out of a bad situation. In short, they acted in accordance with the Airline Passenger Bill of Rights!

## ***FlyersRights Napa Wine!***

Goosecross Cellars is located in the heart of the Napa Valley just off Yountville Cross Road. They produce an almost a perfect spectrum of wines, to cover everyone's flavor preferences, with proceeds going to support FlyersRights.



Here are our favorites broken down by flavor style, listed in the manner of a Progressive Wine List - from sweet and delicate all the way to intense, dry red. A wonderful glass of wine AND support for airline travelers everywhere. Win-win. You can't miss with any of the wines and here is a breakdown to make your selections a little easier:

### **Sweet White**

- 2010 Kate's Bad Air Day Cuvee Orange Muscat - Sweet, rich and perfectly made for those who love sweet wines above all else!
- 2010 Napa Valley Flyers Rights Chenin Blanc - Lightly sweet, delicate and the winemaker for this wine is our son's Godfather!

### **Dry Whites**

- 2010 Oak Knoll District Flyers Rights Viognier - Fragrant and ultra smooth - a delicate white
- 2009 Napa Valley Flyers Rights Chardonnay - Traditional rich flavors and oak aging - more intense flavors

### **Dry Red Wines**


- 2009 Carneros Napa Valley Flyers Rights Syrah - For lovers of rich, smooth reds
- 2009 Napa Valley Flyers Rights Cabernet Franc - Intense and very similar to Cabernet Sauvignon and the grape responsible for some of the finest Bordeaux wines

### **Kate's Final Word**

We say it often, but it's from our hearts. Thank you for contributing your hard-earned dollars to help us maintain passenger rights.

If we are to keep up the good fight, we need your help.

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Kathleen Hanni  
FlyersRights.org