

URBAN WINERY

BY MIRIAM KRESH / APRIL 21, 2015 17:57

Prize-winning Ben-Haim wines are crafted in a Ramat Hasharon warehouse.



Say “winery,” and you think of the countryside and a charming building surrounded by green vineyards. That’s most often the case in Israel, but every rule has its exception, and the Ben-Haim winery is it.

Drive past the Hakfar Hayarok junction into Ramat Hasharon, turn into Hasaraf Street, past a plant nursery and into a construction area. Park in front of a warehouse and push the gate open. A small outdoor reception area hints at what’s to come: an urban winery. Enter the tasting room. Jazz is playing in the background. One wall is lined with old barrels. You begin to understand how much the winemakers love wood. Photographs of the family cooperage business (crafting oak wine barrels) in the Old Country compete for your attention with a shelf of international prize certificates. Indeed, Israel’s first wine to earn the Grand Champion prize in the international TerraVino competition came from this winery in 2013. It was their flagship Mythos wine of 2005, a blend of Petit Syrah and Merlot grapes.

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