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# Grape Harvest in Full Swing on Bainbridge

By Rachel Pritchett, rpritchett@kitsapsun.com October 9, 2005

### BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Grape growers and vintners here are thick in the middle of harvest time, and they expect to process at least 43 tons of grapes this season.

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An exhausted Gerard Bentryn of Bainbridge Island Vineyards & Winery said Friday that he planned to continue the harvest of his 8 acres of grapes this weekend. He's anticipating 24 tons of a variety of grapes, which are picked from his vineyards off Day Road East by volunteers and employees. They work six to eight at a time and come from

inspects the bottling process.

Once picked, the mountains of grapes are dumped into a machine that tears off the stems and starts the pressing process. The pulp — "must" as it's called — then sits for 12 hours, followed by more pressing and settling.

"The main goal is to have really clear, clean juice," Bentryn said.

The addition of yeast triggers fermentation, which lasts one to two weeks, said Bentryn, who's in his 43rd year working with grapes — and his 28th on the island.

He anticipates his 2005 crop will yield about 20,000 bottles of wine, which won't be his largest.

A couple of other smaller island vintners also are knee-deep in work.



Diane Walker | For the Kitsap Sun

Plump grapes await harvesting at Bainbridge Island Vineyards & Winery.



Diane Walker | For the Kitsap Sun

Gerard Bentryn, proprietor of Bainbridge Island Vineyard & Winery, inspects the bottling process.

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task. Albee's not a grower like Bentryn — he

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