



# Powered by Grapes

LOCAL FOOD PURVEYOR GOES GREEN

■ BY KARI RUEL

When Rudolph Diesel invented the diesel engine over 100-years ago, he envisioned his engines could be used any place using the resources at hand like vegetable oil. Then petroleum oil was discovered and that became the fuel of choice for the modern day automotive. But for one local food purveyor, they've returned to Diesel's original intentions and are not feeling the hit on the pocket book at the pumps.

Valentin and Nanette Humer, owners of Food & Vine, Inc, makers of the grape seed oil Salute Sante, have been fueling their two Mercedes for the past two years with recycled grape seed oil.

"If the world had kept Rudolph's vision going, we would have had less wars and the world would have been much cleaner," said

Valentin. "The oil pipelines have been very intrusive to the environment. It's really sad."

The Humers are moving towards making their company a "Green" company and using recycled grape seed oil to fuel their cars was their first step.

"When we started our company twelve years ago, having ecologically sound products didn't generate the attention it does today," said Valentin. "Being 'green' is in vogue today, which is good."

According to the Humers, sixty-six percent of the power to make grape seed oil is produced by its own press cake – left over briquette like cake from the grape seed. As for powering his automobiles, Valentin collects the grape seed oil waste from restaurants he sells his products to, filters the waste through a cloth filter and then is able to use almost 100 percent of it to fuel his cars.

"I've created a miniature prototype of

what could be done in the future," said Valentin. "If McDonald's restaurant, for example, would switch to a healthier oil and partner up with an auto manufacturer, imagine what kind of impact that would have on the environment."

The Humers have not put petroleum gas in their cars for two years.

"We've proven it's possible to run a car on grape seed oil."

There is a minimum conversion to the vehicle to be able to accept the grape seed oil. Unfortunately, at this time it only works on diesel fueled vehicles. Over 50-percent of European vehicles are operated with diesel engines compared to 10-percent in the United States.

"It's harder and harder to get a diesel engine car in the United States," said Valentin, who was originally from Austria. "We should be striving towards that because diesel fueled vehicles produces 95-percent less pollution."

Even in their product name; "Salute Sante," which means to your health in Italian, the Humers strive for a healthy lifestyle in all they do. Visit their web site at [www.grape-seedoil.com](http://www.grape-seedoil.com) to learn about the health benefits of grape seed oil and easy, delicious recipes you can prepare with your family. **NVL**