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## Wine Trail Traveler Newsletter

As the weather turns colder we become reflective of the 150 plus wineries visited during 2007. Every winery offers a unique experience and has its own story to tell. However, a few wineries have stories that will touch your heart. In the spirit of the holiday season, we would like to share a few of these heart-warming stories.



*Doukénie mandolin was played on board the ship that crossed the Atlantic. Doukénie came to America with hopes and dreams of a better life.*

### Turn to Family When in Need of Comfort and a Name

Windham Winery, a small family run winery in the rolling hills of Loudon County Virginia had a dilemma facing them. A winery from Australia sued the family winery over the use of the Windham name. Despite the fact they had used the name Windham for years and it was based on the name of a town in New York state, the Virginia winery had to make a choice. They needed to choose between fighting a losing battle in the courts or changing their name. They opted to change their name.

Selecting a new name for the winery posed a challenge. As Windham Winery, they already had an established base of customers, and a name change might cut into that base. Another challenge was what to name the winery. Looking at their family roots helped with the challenge of choosing a new name.

Co-owner George Bazaco planted the vineyard on his Virginia farm at the urging of his Grandmother, Doukénie. There have been generations of winemakers and vineyards in their family who emigrated from Greece. Winemaking was in their blood. Not only was George's grandmother instrumental in getting the idea of a vineyard and winery started, it was her name that would be the new name for the winery.

Doukénie means "duchess." Doukénie's father gave her the name Doukénie to remind her that her family was once royalty. However, times were tough in their village. When Turks overran it, the family lost much of its wealth and status. At fourteen years of age, Doukénie

decided to leave her village and make the voyage to America to start a new life. After getting her parents to agree to the trip, she departed from her loved ones.

Doukénie turned 15 while on the voyage. She had few possessions with her. One was the mandolin that she played on board the ship. Rich passengers from one of the upper decks heard her music and invited Doukénie to play for them. These passengers treated Doukénie well on the voyage, but she met obstacles upon reaching Ellis Island.

Doukénie was to be sponsored by her uncle, however since her uncle was not married, the port authorities would not permit Doukénie to go with him. Doukénie spent several days on Ellis Island while a suitable family was located. Her independent spirit became a driving force for her family and continues today. Doukénie's mandolin is the symbol for the winery and is proudly on display in her daughter Hope's house. Hope lives only a few feet from the winery and helps her son George and his wife Nicki in the tasting room and cooks delectable treats for winery festivals.

On our visit to [Doukénie Winery](#), George and Nicki encouraged us to visit Hope. We were a bit apprehensive just knocking on a door and entering a house. However, the hospitality was great and within minutes, we were sampling freshly baked baklava. Hope told us about her mother, Doukénie and showed us the prized mandolin.

Hope's enthusiasm and energy were uplifting. We had a glimpse of Doukénie in her. Doukénie's spirit continues today.

We observed the passion for winemaking many times during 2007. Often the passion is generations deep. The story of Doukénie is one of those great American stories. The immigrants from all over the world helped build this country. They also contributed to the wine industry and continue to develop their love and passion for winemaking.

*Terry Sullivan*

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# Teddy

As a newborn baby, I almost didn't make it. I was born ten weeks early, and my lungs weren't fully developed. What ultimately saved me was a new medication that had been tested on lambs. It is fitting that lambs came to have a symbolic meaning for me later in life.

I love lambs for two reasons – one, because lamb imagery abounds in the Bible, and as a Christian, I find comfort in this. In John 10:27-29, Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." I sometimes imagine myself as a lamb safe in Jesus' arms, where no perils can reach me.

I also love lambs because they have come to symbolize Wales, a nation that contains more sheep than people. The semester before I studied abroad in Wales, while I was still waiting to hear if I had been accepted by Swansea University, I looked at a painting of Jesus holding a lamb and said to my friend, "I love lambs." "Well, then," she replied, "of course you're going to Wales!" When the train taking me to Wales wound through the Welsh countryside, herds of sheep met my eyes. On my first trip to the Gower Peninsula, I saw sheep up close. It was a rainy

February morning, and the other American exchange students and I had journeyed to Rhossili, part of the Gower featuring tall, rocky cliffs and a wind-swept beach. Dotting the bright green cliffs were roaming sheep. This image became seared in my mind as the quintessential image of the beauty of rural Wales. Little did I know, Wales had more in store for my lamb-loving heart.

The Monday before Easter, my parents and I visited **Parva Farm Vineyard** in Tintern, Wales. Parva Farm, a small sheep farm and vineyard, sits on a hill near the Welsh-English border. From the hill, visitors can see the quaint village of Tintern, with its thatched-roof cottages, pubs, and shops. The River Wye is also visible, and horses graze in the green fields on either side of the winding river.

After speaking with Parva Farm's owners, Colin and Judith Dudley, I embarked on a self-guided trail of the vineyard. I passed two sheep in a fenced-in area and paused to smile at them. When I returned from my hike up the hill, I asked Judith if I could see some of the lambs. She and Colin took me into their barn, where a sheep had given birth to two lambs the previous night. Colin picked up a lamb he called Teddy and placed him in my arms. Teddy had been born with crooked legs



*Meghan holding a lamb not expected to survive. Parva Farm Vineyard, Wales*

and a slanted spine, and his mother was neglecting him. My heart went out to the little lamb, and I held Teddy, gently petting him, hoping I could give him some love.

I don't know if Teddy survived, but I do know that I will always remember my experience at Parva Farm Vineyard. I cherish the photograph I have of me holding Teddy, and when I look at it, I try to remember the fragility of life. I believe that we are here to give and to serve, and though I may have only given Teddy a few seconds of love, he gave me a lifetime of memories.

*Meghan A. Sullivan*

## Romance for the Heart

Many wineries have an ambience about them that makes them a great place to socialize. Some wineries have event rooms for big splashy events. Here weddings and receptions can take place. Occasionally, proposals of marriage occur in a vineyard or at a winery.

One of our favorite romantic stories we have heard comes from **Wintergreen Winery** in Virginia. The winery, surrounded by Black Rock, Three Ridges and Brent Mountains, is located in a valley along a bubbling stream. A large willow tree drapes gracefully over

the stream and bank. It is here that young men come and propose to their loved one. Many return to visit the area where they were first proposed to. Wintergreen is a lovely spot for special times. While visiting Wintergreen Winery we learned about a couple who ambled to the willow tree. Watching unobserved from the tasting room, a visitor exclaimed to everyone, "He is going to propose to her." Everyone in the tasting room gathered at the windows to watch the proposal. When it appeared that she accepted, everyone in the tasting room ran out and



*A romantic spot for proposals, under a willow tree and next to a babbling brook a few steps from the Wintergreen Winery tasting room*

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## A Parent's Eye

During our journeys to wineries this year, we have come across many family run wineries. These wineries produce anywhere between 2000 bottles of wine up to over 100,000 bottles. Many wineries we visited began in the 1970's and 1980's. These are the wineries where parents have spent timeless working hours establishing vineyards and a winery to produce quality wines. Their children have grown up in the culture of vineyard management and winemaking. At an early age, they may have enjoyed helping plant grapevines, harvesting grapes and watching the winemaker create wine.

In many cases, these children are now adults and may have attended enology programs at Cornell, UC Davis, or another college of their choice. Their parents may be heavily involved in the industry but slowly the adult children are taking the reins of the industry. We've observed parents who are proud of their children and happy that they respect the wine industry enough to be involved in it. On the reverse side, we have met winery owners who acknowledge the influence of their parents in helping to make the wineries what they are today.

At **Paumanok Vineyards** on Long Island, we met Charles Massoud.

Today three of his sons are following his footsteps. Charles, his wife and three sons are in charge of the winery and vineyards. As Charles spoke to us of his sons' dedication to the winery, he spoke with pride and there were tears in his eyes. While we talked with Kareem, he remembered back to when he was 11 years old and helped with the planting of the vineyards. As many would say, "it's all about family."

When we met Andrew at **Veritas** in Virginia, he was quick to tell us about his daughter, Emily. She is a winemaker alongside her father and was just recently the Overall Winner of the Red, White, Sparkling and Dessert wine categories in the Women Winemakers Challenge portion of the 2007 National Women's Wine Competition. During our visit to the winery, Andrew continued mentioning his daughter's ability as a winemaker and each time there was pride in his voice and a sparkle in his eye.

At **Breaux Vineyards** in Virginia, Jennifer Breaux is the second generation to help at the winery. Her father is currently the CEO while Jennifer is the Hospitality and Events Manager. Jennifer's husband is the General Manager. Today they wonder if the third generation will be involved in the winery. It is easy to tell that Jennifer enjoys living near

the winery and her work. As she says, "It's all about a way of life."

**Clover Hill Vineyards and Winery** in Pennsylvania offers a glimpse into the tradition begun by parents and now involves their children, Kari Skrip and John Skrip III. In the mid 1970's, John and Pat Skrip purchased the property upon which the winery and vineyards are located today. Their children have virtually grown with the vineyards and winery. Kari is involved in many aspects of the winery and John III is the winemaker. Influenced by other wine regions, the second winery generation has developed a line of wines called Generations. Living in Australia influenced Kari and created a desire for Clover Hill to produce a dry Riesling. This led to the production of 2002 Generations Riesling, a Riesling with zero percent residual sugar. On the other hand, John was educated in California and sought to create a Chardonnay, which would impress his friends on the west coast. The result is the 2001 Generations Chardonnay that is barrel fermented in French oak and aged for 16 months in French oak.

Families working together are all part of a wonderful life.

*Kathy Sullivan*

cheered. Visitors often return to Wintergreen to celebrate an anniversary. Guests enjoy sharing the story about the day they proposed just feet away by the large willow tree next to a bubbling stream.

**Sandhill Crane Vineyards**, in Michigan, enjoys helping stage proposals for couples. On the day of our visit, a young man was in contact with the winery about bringing his girl friend to the vineyard to ask for her hand. The winery staff placed small lights in the vineyard. The event was to happen at dusk when the couple walked to the vineyard and the winery would turn on the lights. I hope she said, "yes."

**Miles Cellars** where the tasting room is located in old house has a unique story to tell. While they were restoring the house, the ghosts became disturbed. A newlywed ghost couple made an appearance. The story of the couple was bitter sweet. The recently married couple lived in the house for a short time. The young man was repairing a light and fell to his death. His wife died shortly thereafter. On occasions, the ghostly couple can be seen on the front porch or in the tasting room. Today, the New York winery honors the newlywed couple with a wine aptly called, "Ghost."

*Kathy Sullivan*



*Miles Cellars honors a newlywed couple whose lives abruptly ended.*

## Our Winery Partners

Stop by these wineries that advertise with Wine Trail Traveler. Be sure to check the [winery ads](#) for more detailed and updated information.

**Basignani Winery**  
15722 Falls Road,  
Sparks, MD 21152

**Chateau O'Brien at Northpoint**  
3238 Rail Stop Road  
Markham, VA 22643

**Fiore Winery**  
3026 Whiteford Road  
Pylesville, MD 21132

**King Ferry Winery**  
658 Lake Road  
King Ferry, New York 13081

**Kluge Estate Winery & Vineyards**  
100 Grand Cru Drive  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

**Pearmund Cellars**  
6190 Georgetown Road  
Broad Run, VA 20137

**Veritas Vineyard & Winery**  
145 Saddleback Farm  
Afton, Virginia 22920

**The Winery at La Grange**  
4970 Antioch Road  
Haymarket, Virginia 20169

## Our Lodging Partners

**Hampton Inn, Geneva NY**  
43 Lake Street  
Geneva, New York 14456  
Phone (315) 781-2035

**Hampton Inn and Suites, Leesburg VA**  
117 Fort Evans Road N.E.  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
Phone (703) 699-8640

**Hilton Garden Inn, Allentown West**  
230 Sycamore Road  
Breinigsville, PA 18031  
Phone (610) 398-6686

**Hilton Garden Inn, Kennett Square**  
815 E. Baltimore Pike  
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348  
Phone (610)-444-9100

## Recipes with Wine

With the holiday season quickly approaching, baking and decorating are on our minds. Below is an easy recipe to make. The dough rolls out easily. The flavor may remind you of springerle cookies.

### Anise Wine Cookies

#### Ingredients

¾ C white wine  
¾ C sugar  
1 C canola oil  
1 T anise seeds  
1 t vanilla  
5 C flour

#### Sugar Mix

¼ C sugar and 1 t cinnamon combined.

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Mix first five ingredients until sugar dissolves.
3. Add flour one cup at a time.
4. Roll out to ¼ to 3/8 inch thick
5. Dip into granulated sugar and cinnamon mixture.
6. Bake at 325 degrees for about 20 minutes, depending on your oven.
7. Cool and place in plastic bags. Anise flavor increases with time.

More recipes have been added recently to our Wine Traveler's website. We will continue to expand the recipe section when wineries donate a recipe to our site.

Have a recipe that uses wines as an ingredient? If you'd like it published on Wine Trail Traveler send it to [newsletter@winetrailtraveler.com](mailto:newsletter@winetrailtraveler.com).

When you try a recipe, we hope you will take a moment to email us at [kathy@winetrailtraveler.com](mailto:kathy@winetrailtraveler.com) and let us know your experience with the recipes. If you would rather, join the free forum and comment.

*Dear Friends,*

*During this time of holiday celebrations, let us look for peace and harmony.*

*May each and every one of you and your families be happy, peaceful and safe.*

*Peace,*

*Kathy & Terry Sullivan*