

Sip and Shop

I Love to Shop with Wine; Sometimes I Even Buy It

With more than 60 percent of sales to women, wineries are beginning to cater to this group; no wonder many tasting rooms are adding eye-catching products to their shelves.

Wine together with delightful shopping opportunities is the recipe for a satisfying and awesome afternoon. Relax and sip a glass of your favorite varietal or blend, as you browse. Discover distinctive gifts. Look for humorous quotes like "Got Wine?" "I love cooking with wine...sometimes I even put it in the food," or "Wine improves with age the older I get, the better I like it."

Prince Michel in Virginia has a large tasting bar surrounded by a great selection of quality merchandise. One buyer travels to New York to purchase unique items for the tasting room displays. Unusual shaped glass vases, jewelry, assorted bags and silver display items are some of the hundreds of items available. Choose between knickknacks and elegant pieces.

Searching for a wedding gift? Perhaps champagne glasses would be perfect for the happy couple. Look for winery-recommended



Gift items at the Wintergreen Winery tasting room

glassware or treasured hand-painted stemware. Owner and winemaker, Fred Frank of Dr. Konstantin Frank's Vinifera Wine Cellars in New York, emphasizes, "Riedel glassware does make a difference when tasting wines." Tastings of champagne at Kluge Estate Winery in Virginia are with Riedel stemware.

Visitors can discover a display of colorful Polish stoneware at Keuka Spring Vineyards, in New York State's Finger Lakes region. This set features dishes with a bold, dark blue edge and purple grape clusters with dark green leaves, brushed across the plate. Glazed, with an off-white background, these dishes are lovely. According to Co-owner Judy Wiltberger, Polish stoneware is very popular.

Look for distinctive food items available at some wineries. Gourmet chefs at Kluge Estate Winery prepare picture-perfect foods. Fill a decorative box with some of these Yummy Napoleons, Strawberry Cheesecake, Sunburn Tarts and more.

At Adams County Winery in Pennsylvania, visitors can ask for custom gift baskets. Personally chosen selections make wonderful all-occasion gifts. Nancy Quarella at Bellview Winery in New Jersey makes baskets year-round and during the holidays has 40 baskets of all sizes and shapes available.

Gift certificates are often available in tasting rooms. These make delightful gifts for any occasion.

Perhaps a friend would appreciate a certificate to Wintergreen Winery near Nellysford, Virginia. Wintergreen loans picnic baskets for food purchased in the tasting room. Visitors can purchase tasty gourmet treats, cheeses and drinks, and enjoy them under a lovely overhanging willow tree or along a



Crystal display at Trentadue Winery, California

musical, bubbling brook.

At Bully Hill Vineyards in the Finger Lakes, a separate two-floor building makes a wonderful shopping experience. Choose from lovely kitchen accessories to Christmas decorations. A Christmas corner is available year-round.

Check out a winery's website before you visit. Websites will frequently provide you with the hours, days and what to expect at the winery. If you want to read a visitor's perspective on a winery, visit [Wine Trail Travelers Winery Review](#) section with over 100 reviews.

K.S.

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Second floor of gift shop at Bully Hill Vineyards, in New York, has holiday gifts available throughout the year.

What's New on the Website?

Our return visitors will notice a new look of the Wine Trail Traveler website. The site underwent a new design during the summer and was launched September 1st. This new site design will make navigation easier. Some of the menu items have changed names. Winery Reviews replaces the Wine Trails menu and Wine Simplified replaces the Learning menu. The Community menu has been replaced with Recipes and the Forum menus. A new menu, Opinion, offers our writers a place for editorials and columns. The Partners menu replaces the Winery Listing menu. Check out our site and explore the different areas.

Once again we visited some Michigan wineries and one Pennsylvania winery. The Michigan wineries were: St. Julian Winery, Parma Cherry Creek Cellars

The Pennsylvania winery was: Pickering Winery

New winery visits took us for the first time to New Jersey: Hopewell Valley Vineyards Unionville Vineyards Bellview Winery Tomasello Winery

We visited Terrapin Station in Maryland. They hope to release their first vintage in the fall of 2007. In 2008 they may open by appointment.

Shopping Tips

Shopping for the Holidays

Do you like the Christmas spirit when you shop? Plan to do your shopping nearer to the holidays. As the holidays get closer, you will find tasting rooms decorated for the season. Linganore Winecellars in Maryland has shelves decorated for the holidays and more decorations throughout the tasting room.

Relax, taste some boutique wines and browse gaily decorated wineries for those special gifts.

If looking for wine, check out mulled wine. Some wineries suggest a particular wine and a bag of spices to simmer in a crock-pot. Often these same tasting rooms will have a crock-pot of mulled wine simmering and offer you a taste. The fragrance throughout the room is delightful and definitely adds to the holiday spirit.

Make your bottle of wine extra special by asking the winery if they have a recipe to go with the wine. Tasting rooms are wonderful sources of recipes.

Candles are a popular gifts at wineries. Many of the candles have scents of popular wine aromas. Folly Hills Winery in Pennsylvania and Kluge Estates in Virginia have nice selections of candles.



Wine scented candles at Kluge Estate Winery, Virginia

Green Shopping

Are you shopping with the environment in mind? Whether you want to purchase a new gift, arts and crafts or wine, with a careful selection of your gifts at a winery you will be taking a step in the right direction.

When shopping for wine, ask the wine consultant about the vineyard management. If she/he mentions sustainable, biodynamic or organic farming, that is a good sign that the vineyard is concerned about the environment and the vineyard manager is taking steps to protect it. Very few wineries are able to produce organic wine. This is due to the tough government restrictions on what qualifies as an organic wine. You may find wine labeled as made from organic grapes. Sulfites to protect the wine may be added during the winemaking process. If sulfites go beyond a certain level, the wine cannot be labeled organic wine.

When you travel to vineyards in late winter or early spring, you are likely to see large piles of cuttings. Grapevine cuttings can be fashioned into attractive accessories. Look for decorated grapevine wreaths for sale.

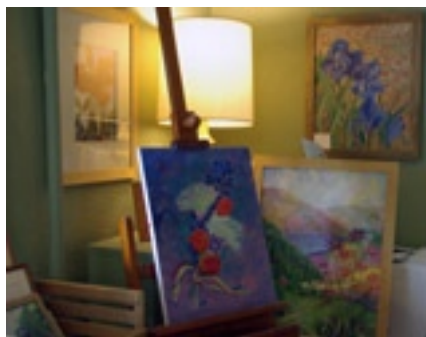
In some tasting rooms, you may see corks used to make a variety of items. Whether mirrors framed with corks, hot place mats or bottle holders, creative uses for corks can be discovered. A few tasting rooms sell bottles which have lights placed inside them. Occasionally, the bottle is also hand painted and dramatically dressed up. It is a delight to look at while the simple bottle gives off a gentle light. Be on the lookout for these unique and frequently recycled objects.

A gift certificate for grapevines is an alternative idea. This is the perfect gift for someone who likes to garden and a gift they will remember for years to come.

The Winery Art Scene

There is an art to winemaking. Passion drives the winemaker to create a wine that possesses a balance between fruit, acid, alcohol and tannins. Similarly, an artist seeks balance in a painting, sculpture or pottery. It is little wonder then that many winery tasting rooms offer a venue for local artists.

Occasionally the winery owner or staff member is also an artist. Walter S. Taylor, founder of Bully Hill Vineyards in New York, painted over 500 watercolors. At times, prints of his paintings were used for wine bottle labels. Many of his paintings rest in a gallery next to the winery tasting room. Jim Sullivan was a graphic artist who began Sullivan Vineyards, California, in 1972. Today his daughter Kelleen is an artist who is also involved in the winery operations. Edward W. Pelton is a sculpturer whose piece "Man in Motion" greets visitors along the driveway to Veritas Vineyard and Winery in Virginia. Edward works at the winery and his wife, Emily is one of the award winning winemakers at Veritas. The owner of Cascata Winery, in New York, is also an accomplished artist. Coralee Burch has several of her paintings available for purchase in the winery tasting room. Owner and winemaker Sergio Neri of Hopewell Valley Vineyards in New Jersey has a passion for using copper to create tasting room fixtures.



Coralee Burch's art on display at Cascata Winery in New York.

Many winery tasting rooms sell local artists creations from their tasting room. Local artists submit a portfolio of their work to Pentamere Winery in Michigan. Chosen artists have their work displayed for several weeks. The tasting room is booked for several months in advance. The second floor of Friday's Creek winery, in Maryland, is an art gallery. Local artists provide paintings, pottery and sculptures for purchase.



Art Gallery at Friday's Creek Winery in Maryland

From photography, paintings, sculptures, to pottery an astute shopper can find the right gift often at reasonable prices at winery tasting rooms. Clover Hill Winery in Pennsylvania offers many unique gifts. They have a wide assortment of different wine bottle holders and hand etched Romanian glassware. The next time you visit a winery tasting room, amble through the room looking for unique gift items.
T.S.



Just a few of the different wine bottle holders available at Clover Hill Winery in Pennsylvania

Harvest 2007

Mother Nature is always an element involved in vineyard management. In 2007 some vineyards were devastated by a hard late frost. In Virginia temperatures were as low as 18 or 19 degrees after bud break. Other areas throughout the U.S. suffered due to frost damage. While vines may survive to produce another year, the frost damaged vines produce fewer grapes.

In some vineyards, the grapes are being harvested earlier than ever. In Italy some vineyards are a month earlier than usual due to the hotter than normal weather.

The good news is that it's not too late to participate in harvesting grapes in a vineyard. Check the wineries in your area. Call or check their website. Wineries who harvest their grapes by hand may need help. One vineyard manager we visited, likes having volunteers come to help, but smiled as he recalled volunteers who left because it was too hot.

Watch for Wine Trail Traveler's October Newsletter with more about harvesting grapes.



Volunteers harvesting grapes at Basigini Winery in Maryland

FAQ

How do I volunteer at a winery?

Many small boutique wineries enjoy having volunteers and indeed need volunteers. Give your favorite wineries a call. Wineries frequently ask for help in their newsletters, so sign up for those free newsletters.

Our Winery Partners

Stop by these wineries that list 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

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

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

“Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance.”

Benjamin Franklin

Recipes with Wine

Grilled Rock Lobster

2 T lemon juice
4 T Dr. Frank Rkatsiteli
½ c olive oil
½ t black pepper
½ t garlic salt
2 t paprika
2 rock lobster tails

Combine lemon juice, Rkatsiteli, olive oil, black pepper and garlic salt in a small bowl. Split lobster tails lengthwise with a large knife. Brush flesh side of tail with marinade. Place tails, flesh side down on a medium grill and cook for 10 to 12 minutes turning once. Baste frequently with marinade and sprinkle with paprika. Lobster is done when firm to the touch.

Provided by Dr. Konstantin Frank's Vinifera Wine Cellars, New York.

Lakewood's Pear & Walnut Crumble

2 – 15 cans of pears (halves)
1 T lemon juice
½ c, plus 1 T flour
¼ c sugar
2 T Lakewood Vineyards Port
½ c walnuts, finely chopped
¼ c light brown sugar
½ t salt
6 T butter (cut into pieces)
¾ c crumbled blue cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, and grease a 9-inch baking dish.

Drain the pears and cut into slices. In a bowl, toss the pears with the lemon juice, 1 T flour, sugar and Port. Arrange the pear mixture in a baking dish (there will be liquid too, that's OK.).

Combine the remaining ½ c flour, brown sugar, walnuts and salt. Add the butter pieces, working them in with your fingers, a pastry cutter or fork, until it resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle this over the pear mixture.

Bake until it is golden brown and the pear mixture is bubbling (about 30 minutes.) Remove from the oven and sprinkle the blue cheese over the top. Return to the oven for another 5 minutes (until the cheese is melted.) Remove from oven and let stand for at least 10 minutes before serving. Enjoy warm with Lakewood Vineyards Port.

Provided by Lakewood Vineyards, New York

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.