

Volume 2
Issue 2
February 2008

Wine Trail Traveler Newsletter

Will She Say, "Yes?"

She is the one you want to share your life with forever. You have the glittering diamond ring in a black velvet box. You think you have done everything right, so far. Now are you feeling just a bit shaky? Where should you propose? Should there be flowers, music, and dinner? Most importantly will she say "yes?"

Suggestions include: choosing a quiet area. Sometimes restaurants can be too noisy. Make it a special place - one that will be remembered years later. A lovely winery and vineyard setting can be ideal. Discovering answers to these questions may be easier than you think. Some wineries will even help you with your plans.

Black Star Farms, an agriculture destination site on the Leelanau Peninsula in Michigan, is happy to help with everything except asking the BIG question, "Will you marry me?" They will work with you to create a unique setting. There is an Inn on the winery estate. In one situation, the young man requested 500 roses placed in the room and have a violinist playing as the couple entered the Inn. When contacting Black Star Farms, the staff suggested that rather than adding the violinist to add additional roses. When the couple entered the room, 600 to 700 roses filled the room. All of his



Virginia's Wintergreen Winery offers a romantic setting for proposals surrounded by mountains, under a willow tree next to a brook.

planning and expense paid off when she said, "Yes."

A unique proposal took place at Bowers Harbor Vineyard on the Old Mission Peninsula in Michigan. Owner, Spencer proposed to Erica on an unplanted field. A month later a vineyard was planted and Spencer dedicated the vineyard to his Erica who said, "yes."

At Sandhill Crane Vineyards in Jackson, Michigan, the staff is happy to help with proposals by placing lights in the vineyards for the occasion. While at Wintergreen

Winery in Nellysford, Virginia proposals take place near the tasting room by a bubbling brook under a willow tree.

Vineyards, wineries and tasting rooms are friendly places. If you would like a little help with the details, whether where to buy flowers or if they would string lights, be sure to ask at your favorite winery. The setting is perfect and one that is enjoyable to return to for many years.

K.S.



The Inn at Black Star Farms on Michigan's Leelanau Peninsula is a beautiful location to propose.

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Wineries as Destination Wedding Sites

Throughout the country, one can find wineries that make wonderful wedding or reception locations. Some wineries have large event areas where local caterers are available. Other wineries have restaurants, bed and breakfasts, or inns available. Sometimes large outdoor tents are set up for the receptions. Frequently, ponds or lakes are nearby and add to the romance of the location.

When planning a wedding or reception, check out some of the wineries below and see what they have available to offer for special events.

Chateau O'Brien in Markham, Virginia has several rooms available and a large deck. Chateau O'Brien can accommodate numerous events including weddings and receptions.

Fiore Winery in Maryland has two delightful indoor areas and with 14-acres can accommodate up to 1,000 people outdoors. One wall in the reception room has a large mural of the area where Mike Fiore grew up in Italy. The other indoor event area, the Chandelier room is impressive and elegant. The indoor areas can hold up to 175 guests.

Pearmund Cellars is located in Broad Run, Virginia. This winery

has a friendly atmosphere and can accommodate 50 guests for a wedding and reception. They can also have a larger group for an outdoor ceremony.

Veritas Vineyard & Winery in Afton, Virginia offers a large site for weddings. Saddleback Hall is their large event facility. The Hall is perfect for wedding receptions and can accommodate 250 people. When you check out this facility, be sure to notice the lovely views of mountains and vineyards.

The Winery at La Grange built in the 1790's has been renovated and offers a unique site to host a wedding or reception. This Haymarket, Virginia winery can have up to 70 guests. Events outdoors can accept 150 guests.

Grove Winery in Gibsonville North Carolina offers indoor seating for up to 43 while the patio can accommodate up to 112. Outdoor seating for a wedding is available for 224. If you wish to have more seating contact Grove Winery about special arrangements.

With over 5,000 wineries in the United States and each one uniquely different, you may find just the one you want for your special day!

K.S.



Event Room at Virginia's Veritas Vineyard and Winery can accommodate weddings in a beautiful setting.

Romance in February

February is romance month. Love is in the air. School children exchange Valentine Day's cards. Some cards are comical, others filled with candy hearts and a few are sent with hope. As time passes, Valentine cards begin to take on a more serious note as in "I like you," or "you're special." As years pass, Valentine's Day may mean a beautifully designed Valentine's card and serious sentiment.

Chocolate and wine make an ideal Valentine's gift. Many variations of chocolate exist. When pairing wine with chocolate try to match the sweetness of the chocolate with the sweetness of the wine. You may wish to have the wine a little sweeter than the chocolate. If you feel adventurous, try dipping a bottle of wine in chocolate or dipping the lip of wine glasses in chocolate.

In addition to a beautiful Valentine card or a gift, consider taking someone some place special. Consider inviting them to a winery tasting room. Choose between several types of wineries: small boutique wineries, rustic or elegant, large or small. If one enjoys wine, there is a winery for you to enjoy.

If you want to impress someone special, visit the winery before you go. What amenities does the winery have for visitors? Discover how the wineries conduct tastings. Is there a restaurant? Does the staff anticipate a crowd? Are there tables available to share a glass of wine?

You may want to locate a winery with a restaurant or even a bed and breakfast. Check out the partners list to find a winery that may be what you are looking for.

K.S.

Our Winery Partners

Stop by these wineries that advertise with Wine Trail Traveler.

Black Star Farms *(new advertiser)*

10844 E. Revold Rd.
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682

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

Grove Winery and Vineyard

7360 Brooks Bridge Road
Gibsonville, NC 27249

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

Pickering Winery

Rt. 187 Between Wysox and Rome
Wysox, PA 18854

Veritas Vineyard & Winery

145 Saddleback Farm
Afton, Virginia 22920

The Winery at La Grange

4970 Antioch Road
Haymarket, Virginia 20169

Our Lodging Partners

The Inn at Black Star Farms *(new advertiser)*

10844 E. Revold Rd.
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682

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

Valentine's day and cake seem to go together. The recipe section of the Wine Trail Traveler website has several cake recipes that use wine as an ingredient. The most difficult to make, but very rewarding is the Champagne cake recipe. Other cake recipes use a box cake mix. Enjoy our latest addition. To view other cake recipes see the [dessert](#) section of Wine Trail Traveler.

Title: Late Harvest Cake

Ingredients

18 oz yellow cake mix (without pudding)
1 pkg vanilla pudding
1/2 c water
1 c Chateau Grand Traverse Late Harvest Riesling
1/2 c vegetable oil
4 eggs
1/2 c pecans, chopped
1/4 lb butter
1 c sugar
1/4 c water

Directions

1. Line bottom of a greased 10" tube pan with chopped pecans.
2. Blend cake mix, pudding, water, 1/2 c of wine, oil and eggs with mixer and pour into pecan-lined tube pan.
3. Bake at 325° F for 50-60 minutes.

Topping:

1. Mix and boil for three minutes: butter, sugar and 1/4 c water.
2. Remove from heat and add remaining 1/2 c of wine.
3. Pour this mixture over hot cake and leave in pan 30 minutes before turning out.

Serves 16

Provided by Chateau Grand Traverse, Michigan.

Have a recipe that uses wines as an ingredient? If you'd like it published on Wine Trail Traveler send it to kathy@winetrailtraveler.com.

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

Our Artists Partners

Masten Designs

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Astoria NY 11102