

About the only thing more varied than the types of wine are the ways we can enjoy it. Whether it's a candlelight dinner close to home or in the wine country of Walla Walla, Washington, a hip new hangout in Miami Beach, or an out-of-the-way winery in the heart of America, wine can be celebrated by anyone in just about any place. Let Vintage Travel show you the way.

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Food, Fun and Wine in the Desert

The Art of Food & Wine Palm Desert is a four-day food and wine celebration that attracts thousands of art and culinary enthusiasts from across California and around the country to enjoy the very best in art, food and wine hospitality and education. This year's event, running November 6-9, features food and wine tastings; celebrity chefs; elite vintners; exclusive restaurants; wine, culinary and cultural seminars; art; music; shopping and golf — all nestled in the Coachella Valley.

New to the schedule this year is the opening night "Food Flight!" a friendly, interactive competition featuring Coachella Valley's finest chefs and bartenders; wine dinner benefits, pairing local restaurants and charities with celebrity chefs and master sommeliers; "Sweet Dreams," a nightcap event showcasing desserts, wines, champagnes and after-dinner drinks poolside at the Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa; the dedication of 18 new sculptures to enhance the beauty and excitement of Palm Desert's El Paseo shopping district; and a concert at Palm Desert's music venue, the McCallum Theatre.

For more information, visit www.artoffoodandwine.com or call 1.866.96.TASTE (82783).

Maine Wine Lovers Package

Enjoy the pleasures of Maine while staying at The Youngtown Inn, an 1810 farmhouse in the Camden Hills of Maine. The Wine Lovers package includes two nights' lodging, a gourmet full breakfast each morning, dinner for two one night in the inn's highly acclaimed restaurant, serving a seasonally changing dinner menu, and a tour of Cellardoor Vineyard, Maine's largest vineyard, which is one mile from the inn. You'll sample the wine and receive one bottle free to take home.

In Lincolnville, one of the top 20 "Dream Towns" named by *Outside* magazine, guests can also enjoy hiking, swimming and boating while close by to the shopping and galleries of Camden and Rockland. The Wine Lovers Package starts at \$399 for two. For more information, visit www.youngtowninn.com.

The Taste of Andalucía

Led by Gerry Dawes, an expert on Spanish food and wine, **The Taste of Andalucía tour** will focus on the cuisine of this region of Spain, highlighting traditional food and artisanal ingredients, and innovative chefs and avant-garde techniques.

Travelers on The Taste of Andalucía tour come in contact with local Andalusian culture, meeting chefs and winemakers and learning firsthand about the cuisine, wine and culinary traditions. Scheduled for November 12-20, 2008, The Taste of Andalucía is nine days/eight nights, \$5,600 per person, includes most meals and “a lot of wine.” Two other tours are scheduled for March and May 2009. For more information, visit www.epicureanways.com.

Beyond the Tasting Room at Lynmar Estate

Enjoy a complete sensory journey in Sonoma County, California, at Lynmar Estate,

one of the Russian River Valley’s premier producers of pinot noir and chardonnay. During the Estate Tour, groups taste, touch, smell, hear and see the entire property. For more than two hours, guests will be guided through the expansive organically farmed vegetable and flower gardens, up along the “Road to Bliss” to the Lynmar seed barn, horticultural center and greenhouse.

Guests will continue through the vineyards before traveling through the wine caves, stopping by the gravity-flow winery and returning to the comforts of the tasting room with its leather chairs and soft hues.

The Lynmar Estate Tour is \$65 per person and available by appointment only. The Estate Tour accommodates no fewer than six people and no more than 14. The tour lasts about two hours and includes a wine tasting and gourmet food pairing with recipes. For reservations or more information, please call 707.829.3374 and select option “4” when prompted.

Southern Illinois Wine Trail

The Shawnee Hills Wine Trail wineries are in Jackson and Union counties in Southern Illinois. All 10 wineries are just a few minutes from each other, so visitors can enjoy the wineries on a day trip or over a long weekend.

Shawnee Hills received a designation in 2006 as an American Viticultural Area (AVA). Its grapes are grown in the sandstone- and limestone-heavy soil in Southern Illinois. Vintners in the AVA designation who also produce their own grapes are permitted to use the term “estate bottled.”

Eight of the wineries offer picnic areas for you to bring picnic baskets and enjoy your lunch or snacks with an award-winning Southern Illinois wine. Hedman Vineyards offers Swedish fare in their Peach Barn Café.

You can start the trail from either end, or jump on somewhere in the middle. Rolling hills and picturesque vistas are the backdrop for the various vineyards and wineries along the way. The Shawnee National Forest provides some of the most beautiful scenery in the Midwest. There are several bed-and-breakfasts along the way as well as antique shops to round out a weekend trip.

For more information, visit www.shawneewinetrail.com.

