

Area wineries host Valentine's Day events



Source: Fauquier Weekend
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A Blue Ridge WineWay event planned for Valentine's Day weekend will feature vineyards in Fauquier County and throughout the region, offering superb wines, delectable chocolates, and candlelight dinners, according to a press release by the wine-promoting group.

The Valentine excursion includes stops at four of the region's most distinctive artisanal wineries that comprise the Nation's Capital Wine Trail.

"Our wineries are hidden along the winding, scenic roads of the beautiful Virginia countryside, yet enjoy uncomplicated access via Interstate 66," said John Delmare, proprietor of Rappahannock Cellars and spokesman for the Blue Ridge WineWay. "The Blue Ridge WineWay offers a great way to enjoy a 'stay-cation' for a three-day holiday weekend."

Participating wineries include Pearmund Cellars, located between Gainesville and Warrenton; Mediterranean Cellars, just north of Warrenton; Philip Carter Winery in Hume; and Rappahannock Cellars, which is between Front Royal and Washington, Va. "You can spend time sampling the wares at each winery during the day [and] enjoy a romantic dinner at Pearmund Cellars or Philip Carter Winery that evening," Delmare said.

Mediterranean Cellars is offering complimentary tastings of two signature wines, Romance and Sweet Romance, which will be paired with chocolates and strawberries throughout the holiday weekend.

For more information about Mediterranean Cellars, visit www.mediterraneancellars.com .

Chris Pearmund, winemaker and proprietor of Pearmund Cellars, will welcome visitors to sample his newly released 2007 vintage, which he characterizes as "our best vintage

ever.” The vineyard will also showcase the confections of Chocolaterie Wanders, a seventh-generation artisanal chocolatier.

On the evening of Feb. 14, Pearmund's “Virginia Wine is for Lovers” feast features a five-course Tuscan menu for \$99 per person. Reservations are required and details can be found at www.pearmundcellars.com .

At Rappahannock Cellars, elegant wines will be paired with gourmet hand-crafted chocolates, along with the new release of Rappahannock Cellars' 2007 Claret and Chardonnay. The winery will also feature live music and a cellar tasting of the new 2006 port-styled dessert wine. For more information, visit www.rappahannockcellars.com .

At Philip Carter Winery, founder Philip Carter Strother invites guests “to enjoy a day with the one you love and discover the First Family of American Wine.” Fine chocolates, red roses, live music, and premium wines will be offered, to be enjoyed in the fireside ambiance of the winery's Cleve Hall.

In the evening, Cleve Hall will be transformed into the setting for a romantic four-course meal, preceded by passed hors d'oeuvres, featuring regional Virginia cuisine. Cost is \$85 per person, seating is limited, and reservations are required. For more information, visit www.pcwinery.com .

“There's no better way to romance your sweetheart than traveling through Virginia Wine Country on a three-day weekend,” said Delmare.

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