

On The Wine Trail in Mercer County, PA -- By Peggy Mazyck Community Contributor (2014-06-12)

We are considering calling it the “Lakeland Wine Trail” because the Trail travels around beautiful lakes and through scenic countryside. The Mercer County area is home to seven family owned wineries producing premium wines. We invite you to take a leisurely drive, stopping along the way to sample the distinct style and personality of our wineries. Enjoy personal service, tasting, educational programs and special events throughout the year. Sample their wines and see for yourself that each offers a truly unique experience.

The wine trail starts in the resort area of Conneaut Lake. Conneaut Cellars Winery is located minutes from I-79 close to the intersection of Rt. 322/18 and Rt. 6. The winery was founded by Dr. Alan Wolf in 1982. Conneaut Cellars Winery fashions itself after a turn-of-the-century winery and performs all of the winemaking operations at the 6,400 square foot winery. Special events they host are an Open House on the last weekend in April, Jazz and Blues Festival the third Saturday in June, and the Fall Picnic on Sunday after Labor Day. www.Ccw-Wine.com.

Travel east on Rt. 322/18 to Rt. 285 East. Turn right onto Lake Rd. towards Maurice Goddard State Park and Lake Wilhelm. Situated near the shores of Lake Wilhelm is Wilhelm Winery and Antique Wine Making Museum. Located in a beautiful, rustic 100 -year-old barn, Wilhelm Winery was established in 2000. Owner Gary Shilling has a passion for wine making that spans over 20 years. In addition to outstanding wines, Wilhelm Winery offers a wide array of retail wine accessories and baskets for your gift giving needs. Check their website for fun events. (www.wilhelmwinery.com)

For your next winery stop, take I-79 south to Exit 113. Follow Rt. 208 west to Neshannock Creek and the charming town of Volant. The story of Volant Mill Winery begins with father and son talking business over a few glasses of vino. The father, Gary Rhodes, already owned vineyards and the son Bryan, excelled at business operations. It was a natural fit to merge their talents and create Volant Mill Winery. Today you can sample many varieties of wine and browse a wide selection of wine-themed merchandise for a unique gift at their winery. Also enjoy a variety of events occurring on Main Street Volant. www.volantmillwinery.com

Continue west on Rt. 208 to New Wilmington, home of a large group of Old Order Amish and Westminster College. Fractured Grape Wine Cellars has a cure for what ails you or at least they support a cause that does. For each bottle or glass of wine you purchase the winery donates a portion to a charity that is searching for a cure. So enjoy the scenic countryside, raise your glass and drink to a cure. www.fracturedgrape.com

Travel a short distance further on Rt. 208 west and turn left onto Old Pulaski Rd. Nova Cellars Winery provides visitors with a broad range of traditional varietal and fruit wines to suit all tastes—from the wine enthusiast to the wine discoverer. Comfortable seating is available for both small and large groups, with outdoor seating available as weather permits. Upcoming events at the winery include the Wine Club Pick-Up Party and Valentine's Day Event. Check their website for details. www.novacellars.com

Close by is Interstate 376. Travel west on I-376 to Rt. 18 north. Look for the sign for Webb Winery. This boutique winery offers exceptional, handcrafted wines in a pleasant atmosphere. From whites to reds and dry to sweet, they have a wine for every palette. Their wines are made from produce grown as close to the winery as possible, with sources in New Wilmington, Mercer and North East, PA. This winery has ongoing events. Look for their “Wine and Chocolate Event” in February and “Beginner’s Guide to Wine Tasting” in March. www.webbwinery.com

End your fabulous wine trail tour by continuing on Rt. 18 north to Jamestown, PA, home to Lago Inn & Winery. This winery is located on a 200 year Estate beautifully nestled in the slopes above Pymatuning Lake. You’ll have to wait



until mid April to include them in your tour as they open April – Oct. This winery is worth the wait. They offer live music and good food to accompany your wine. Lago Winery received the Trip Advisor 5 Star Rating Award for 2012! www.lagowinery.com

For more information about events in Mercer County, log onto www.VisitMercerCountyPa.com or call 1-800-637-2370.