

POP TRAVEL



Round Barn Winery and Distillery

A distillery and brewery round out your winery visit to Round Barn, a cozy, family-run operation in Baroda, Mich., that caters to every beverage taste. Fall winemaking classes fill up well in advance. Participants pick enough grapes to produce two cases of wine each. The winery is open 361 days a year: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday. Tours: \$5/person, by appointment only with minimum 12 people; roundbarnwinery.com or 800-716-WINE (9463).

THE MIDWEST WINE TRAIL

By Jerry Soverinsky
FOR REDEYE

You'd think the chances of a Midwest version of the wine-lovers movie "Sideways" would be remote. But for those without the time or funds to venture to California's Napa Valley for a wine-tasting holiday, Midwest wineries offer plenty of travel options. Many incorporate nearby sites and attractions to create a weekend getaway. Almost all focus on regional agricultural products, affording visitors an intimate taste of the Midwest. Here's a sampling: [JERRY SOVERINSKY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.]



DRINK IT UP

Read more about Illinois wineries in "Welcome to the land of drinkin'" at metromix.com.



Piasa Winery

Perched alongside the Mississippi River in Grafton, Ill., Piasa Winery offers an award-winning collection of red and white wines. Sunday afternoon visits are always popular, when musicians play from the winery's outdoor deck. Throw in a free wine tasting, and you've got all the ingredients for a relaxing afternoon as you watch the boats drift down the river. Open Monday-Thursday until 6 p.m.; Friday-Saturday until 9 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-7 p.m.; piasawinery.com or 618-786-WINE (9463).



Breezy Hills Vineyard

Wine from Iowa! Who knew? Yet Darrell and Roberta Morse, owners of the Breezy Hills Vineyard in Minden, produce a dozen or so wines. Many vintages are produced from local fruit too. Grapes from Iowa! Who knew? Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; breezyhills.com or 712-485-2083.



Chateau St. Croix Winery and Vineyard

It was during an Air Force tour of duty in Germany that Troy Chamberlin and his wife, Laura, gained inspiration for starting a winery. Today, with an estate in St. Croix Falls, Wis., that includes vineyards, horse stables, gardens, a carriage house and an award-winning wine inventory, their dream has been realized. Tours: \$5/person (includes free, take-home wine glass), Monday-Sunday, several per day. Tasting Room: Free tastings for up to three wines. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday; chateaustcroix.com or 715-483-2556.

Alexis Bailly Vineyard

For more than 28 years, David Bailly has used only Minnesota grapes while crafting his award-winning table wines from his Hastings, Minn., winery. His dry wines, winners of more than 45 national awards, have brought acclaim to a region previously thought incapable of producing notable wines. While the vineyard does not offer tours, its tastings are popular. \$3/person (\$5 for special events). Open 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday; abwines.com or 651-437-1413.



Madison Vineyards

Steve and Sandy Palmer have been self-proclaimed oenophiles (wine devotees) since the mid 1970s, when they planted their first vineyard. Their passion for wine has produced several award-winning vintages from their Madison, Ind., estate. They added a bed and breakfast in 2005, affording visitors a convenient option should they linger a bit too long in their winery's tasting room. Vineyard open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Lodging from \$90 per night; madisonvineyards.com or 888-473-6500.