



Girls Gone Wine

Wineries to visit: *Hillebrand Winery, Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery, Lailey Vineyard and Peller Estates*

Girl friends, premium wine, gourmet food, decadent desserts, boutique shopping and luxury spas. It all spells a whole lot of fun and laughter in Niagara-on-the-Lake wine country. When it's time to reconnect, rejuvenate and get re-inspired, the wineries on this tour are the perfect spots to hit.

Step up to fashionable **Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery** and you'll be presented with tour and tasting options just right for an impromptu visit. For girls who like to do a little pre-planning would do well to book one of a slew of wine sensory and culinary experiences or a summer concert featuring a top Canadian artist in the winery's one-of-a-kind outdoor amphitheatre. The Tasting Gallery has a modern café feeling for those who want to take a little more time to take in the surrounding scenery and savour food and wine pairings.

What's a girls' getaway without a little bubbly on a vineyard patio? The **Hillebrand Winery Restaurant** is a great spot for ladies who lunch with its Niagara-inspired menu prepared by the rather dishy Chef Frank Dodd. Don't have time for a full meal? No matter. Feel free to while away an hour on the patio sipping the award-winning Trius Brut and nibbling on locally made charcuterie and cheese. If you are looking to let loose completely, the winery also hosts the popular Hillebrand Jazz and Blues at the Winery concerts in the summer.

Lailey Vineyard is home to Queen Donna and don't you forget it! When Donna Lailey won the first-ever Grape Queen crown of the Niagara Wine Festival, she insisted on being called "Queen" instead of the traditional title, "King" (really, have you ever heard of a female King before?). Donna was also the only female founding member of the Vintner's Quality Alliance (VQA). She teamed up with husband David, and Winemaker Derek Barnett to produce small batches of quality wines from their very own grapes. Visitors to Lailey might find themselves on a tour and tasting with none other than Derek himself - who is a Charmer with a capital "C".

Why don't you and your gal pals savour two of your favourite indulgences, wine and chocolate? At **Peller Estates**, Chicks & Chocolate is the latest, on a long list of lively wine and food pairing experiences offered. Inspired in part by Peller Estates' belief in making food-focused wines and the observation that more women were visiting the winery - in packs! Of course, gentlemen are welcome as well, but who could better appreciate the different ways chocolate and wine pairings can awaken the palate than the ladies in the house?

For shopaholics, art studios and trendy boutiques are mainstays in the Old Town. And for the ultimate in pampering, look for a spa package at one of the many accommodations in Niagara-on-the-Lake.