

Wine trails grow

◀Continued from Page 6

wineries.

“Our events sell out as tickets are limited,” said Supina. “These events are a lot of fun, but we have people in the tasting room at other times with a wine trail map and they are having fun when there isn’t an event.”

Supina recommends taking time at each winery and to ask questions. It is important to learn and find the wines you enjoy.

Touring the wine trails of the Old Mission Peninsula and the Leelanau Peninsula is a lot fun whether you are going with a friend, family members or a group. To learn more about the Wineries of the Old Mission peninsula visit their website at www.lpwines.com or call (231) 223-4050. To learn more about the Leelanau Peninsula Vintners visit www.lpwines.com or call (231) 938-1811. Wine trail maps are available at all member wineries and at area Chamber of Commerce’s and Visitors Bureaus.

Leelanau Peninsula and Old Mission Peninsula wineries to present ‘Vines Across the Bay’ in April, 2004

The Leelanau Peninsula Vintners Association (LPVA) and The Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula (OMP) will join together to present VINES ACROSS THE BAY, April 24, 2004 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa.

The two wine trails have developed a reputation of producing wines of quality and distinction, attracting attention from national and international wine critics. Wines produced from 700 acres of grapes between the two peninsulas have been capturing medals at regional and national wine tasting competitions in recent years. Winemakers, grape growers and tasting room managers from the area all agree: It is time to celebrate!

“This celebration will be a great way for wine enthusiasts, whether you are a novice or an expert, to enjoy our

northern Michigan wines under one tent,” said Bonnie Supina, Event Co-Chair. “Wine Festivals create a cheerful atmosphere, and by doing it in the spring we will kick off a celebration of new wines that are released each year at this time.”

Festival organizers see this event as an opportunity to not only showcase the quality of the wines of the region but the area itself. One goal of the festival is to attract attention to northern Michigan during what is considered to be a slower tourism period.

“I commend the wineries for taking this step of promoting themselves in the spring and helping to create interest in spring tourism in Michigan,” said Joe Breidenstein, Michigan Festival & Events Association Board Member. “This festival comes at a much needed time when funding for

tourism in Michigan is being cut back.”

The 2004 Vines Across the Bay will be a one day wine festival featuring northern Michigan wines, food and music. Organizers see the festival growing into a weekend event in the future.

Vines Across the Bay will kick off The Festival of the Senses, a weeklong event that will feature a film festival, a Michigan authors and writers festival and a Michigan music festival. Each festival will be operated independently and festival organizers will make a formal announcement in June of 2003 of their collective effort to create a week-long shoulder season festival.

Attendees to the first annual Vines Across the Bay will enjoy samples of new release wines, culinary creations from area restaurants, samples from

regional farm markets, special festival discounts on retail wine purchases at the Grand Traverse Resort, classes for the novice wine enthusiast, a special food and wine paring seminar, a special tasting for the “advanced” wine connoisseur and much more.

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa has agreed to host the annual wine celebration. Festival organizers see the facility, as the ideal location to hold a festival that they expect will draw 20,000 participants plus in the future. The first year event organizers will limit the number of tickets sold to the first 5000. Tickets will go on sale mid summer of 2003 with the price to be determined.

For additional information about Vines Across The Bay visit <http://www.lpwines.com> or call (231) 938-1811.

Annual 5k & 7 mile Vineyard Run or Walk followed by a weekend of Wine & Pasta!



September 13th & 14th, 2003 Run/Walk 9:30 a.m. at Ciccone Vineyards — Tasting (all wineries) Noon - 5 p.m.

ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED / Tickets available on line at www.lpwines.com or call 231.938.1811 • All Tickets must be purchased by VISA, MasterCard, Discover

Run/Walk/Tasting: Tickets - \$35 purchased before August 31, 2003. Tickets - \$45 purchased after August 31, 2003.

Includes: race registration, event T-shirt, wine tasting ticket (a special pour and pasta at each winery) and commemorative wine glass.

Wine & Pasta Tasting: Tickets - \$20 Includes: wine tasting ticket (a special pour and pasta at each winery) and commemorative wine glass.

Run / Walk: Cost \$18 purchased by August 31, 2003. Cost \$25 purchased after September 1, 2003. Cost \$30 purchased after September 11, 2003.

(T-shirts guaranteed to first 800 registrants. T-shirts for Run/Walk participants only)

For Online Race Registration forms or information on coming events visit: www.lpwines.com or contact Rick Coates at 231.938.1811 email: rick@lpwines.com