

WorldMark
BY Trendwest

Destinations

A Magazine Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

April 2006

Toasting the wine country at
Northern California's Windsor

GRAPE NUTS



PLUS

Clear Lake

A scenic stop
for wine —
and fishing

**CONSTRUCTION ZONE:
MIDWAY IS HOT STUFF**

**ADVENTURE CLUB:
SAN ANTONIO FIESTA**



THIS MAGIC MOMENT

The 2006 *Destinations* PHOTO & ESSAY CONTEST

The theme for this year's *Destinations* Photo and Essay Contest is "Vacation Magic." Have you had a wondrous, transforming, or seemingly magical moment while on a recent WorldMark vacation? Share it with us through your photos or your words. All photo and essay contest entries must pertain to a WorldMark or exchange vacation taken between the years 2000 and 2006.

Your participation helped WorldMark win a prestigious industry award last year. The OZZIE Silver Award for Best Use of Photography—Nonprofit/Institutional/Custom Magazine was given to the December 2004 *Destinations*—which happened to be the issue featuring your winning photographs from the "Time of Your Life" photo and essay contest. With your talent, history just might repeat itself!

By entering the contest, participants agree to free and unlimited use of their photographs and essays by WorldMark and Trendwest Resorts, including publication in future issues of *Destinations*. Winning entries will appear in the December 2006 issue of *Destinations*. Prizes include gift cards and non-renewable WorldMark credits—up to 10,000 credits for first place winners. For a complete list of contest rules and prizes, go to www.worldmarktheclub.com/destinations.



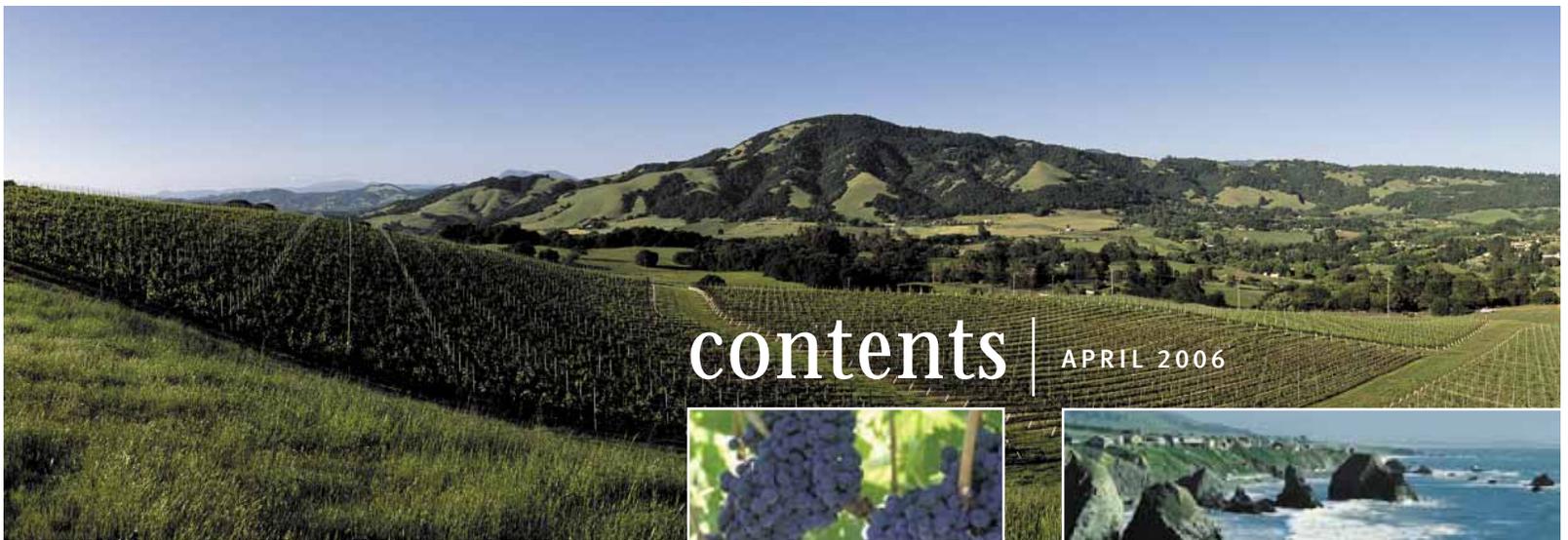
Mail all photos and essay entries to:
Destinations Photo and Essay Contest
Destinations Editor
Trendwest Resorts, Inc.
9805 Willows Road NE
Redmond, WA 98052

All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, September 22, 2006.

"We received our 10,000 Bonus Points certificate in the mail, and I have already booked my Mom and Dad a trip to Kauai for next September. They are so excited!"

—Andrea K. Moore, First Place Winner, 2005 *Destinations* Essay contest





contents

APRIL 2006



features

10 A Warm Windsor Welcome

With a devoted staff and so many sightseeing options—including California’s “Mendocino Coast,” towering redwoods, and scores of wineries for the grape nuts among you—WorldMark Windsor has owners coming back for more.

16 The Resort of Wine and Roses

A loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and...superior fishing and other lake-oriented delights make the Clear Lake resort a darling among WorldMark owners.

18 Monarchs of the Forest

The original redheads of the planet populate the Northern California woodlands with majesty.

20 Good Grief—A Museum?

The doctor is always in at this tribute to the creator of Lucy and the Peanuts gang.

22 It’s All in the Mix

The Russian River Valley hosts yuppies and loggers, a river and redwoods, and wineries offering everything from zinfandel to champagne.

24 Packing Like a Pro

Helpful hints to get everything into your suitcase and out again, incident-free.



departments

5 YOUR CLUB

Inventory Specials, 2006 Premier Club resorts, WorldMark Midway and Utah’s “hot pots.”

26 TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

San Antonio Fiesta, Carnival Golf Cruise, Amazing Race Seattle, San Juan Getaway, Disneyland® Park Hopper® passes, and cruises galore.



ON OUR COVER:
Fine vintages and spectacular scenery await those who visit the wine country of Northern California.
Photo by Ray Kachatorian/Image Bank.

A State of Mind and Vine

SAY THE WORDS "THE WINE COUNTRY" to someone, and watch what happens: Facial muscles relax, eyes light up, and a smile takes up residence within the lips. Those words hold such promise that one instantly starts imagining fulfillment. The air—perfumed with aromatic fruit and luxuriant soil. The landscape—a soothing palette of lush greens, variegated purples, and rugged browns. The climate—flawlessly temperate. And any rain—brief and balmy. Whether we're teetotalers or self-appointed sommeliers, this is the wine country we carry within our imaginations.

We're happy to report that this vision is a clear-eyed reality at the Northern California resorts featured in this issue. Located in verdant Sonoma County, WorldMark Windsor has garnered a devoted fan base of owners in just three short years. Start on page 10 to read their stories, check out staff recommendations, and get a feeling for this lovely village's small-town warmth. Drive 70 miles northeast of Windsor and you'll find WorldMark Clear Lake, a popular wine country getaway among owners since 1998. Go to page 16 to reacquaint yourself with this old friend.



The Adventure Club's events always hold the promise of excitement, and this month's offers deliver in spades. Beginning with page 26 you'll find every manner of escapade, from a luxurious Eastern Caribbean golf-and-cruise package to participating in a scaled-down, Seattle-focused version of the hit TV show "The Amazing Race."

Some words just make you feel good as soon as you hear them. Like "the wine country." Like "vacation." Like, we hope, "WorldMark vacation ownership." We'll keep working to make every aspect of your WorldMark experience one that will bring a smile to your lips, ease to your mind, and a lift to your spirit. Promise.

Beata Jachulski Baker

Beata Jachulski Baker
Senior Editor

Corrections: There is an error in the Daily Vacation Credit Values Guide 2006-2007 that was enclosed with the February issue of *Destinations* magazine. The listing for WorldMark Indio on page 9 incorrectly classifies the four-bedroom unit type as "penthouse." The actual four-bedroom unit categorization for Indio is "presidential." All credit values listed for Indio are accurate.

In the Inventory Specials article on page 5 of the March issue of *Destinations*, WorldMark Lake of the Ozarks' weekday credit value in Red Season was erroneously listed as 675 credits. The correct figure is 875 credits.

Destinations

Senior Vice President
Trendwest Management
and WorldMark Operations Dave Herrick
Publisher Wendy Noritake
Editor in Chief Jan Pollard
Art Director Chris Bulloch
Senior Editor Beata Jachulski Baker
Designer Douglas R. Deay

Contributors: Dave Akins, Sylvia Betancourt,
Emma Croston, Tami Fitch, Amy Godwin,
Christa Midcap, Alyssa Moore, Barbara
O'Connell, Brian Runnels, Dan Stearns,
Karen E. Thomas, Kimberly Wolf

Reservations Department
1-800-457-0103
Mon. - Fri., 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. PT
Sat. & Sun., 6:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. PT
(Closed Tue., 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. PT)

Owner Services
1-888-648-7363
ownersupport@worldmarktheclub.com
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. PT
(Closed Tue., 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. PT)

Trendwest Travel
1-800-953-5511
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. PT
Sat., 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. PT
(Closed Wed., 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. PT)

Loan Payments, Maintenance Dues, Finance
1-800-779-0760

Resort Condominiums International
1-800-585-4833

Interval International
Service line: 1-877-678-4400
Flexchange recording: 1-800-722-1747

Comments are appreciated
Destinations Editor
9805 Willows Road NE
Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 498-2500
editor@worldmarktheclub.com

Visit *Destinations* on the Web at
www.worldmarktheclub.com/destinations

© 2006, WorldMark, The Club. All rights reserved. Vol. XVI, No. 3, April 2006. *Destinations* is published monthly except January by WorldMark, 9805 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052. *Destinations* is an official WorldMark publication. Subscriptions are covered by dues paid by owners of WorldMark. Non-owner subscription price of \$11 per year, including state sales tax. Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement #40870507. Postage paid at Vancouver, BC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Destinations*, 9805 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052. Canada Post: Publication Mail Agreement No. 40870507, Postage Paid at Vancouver, BC. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: *Destinations* c/o Mailing Department 1070 SE Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V5X 2V4.

your club

INVENTORY SPECIALS: A NONSTOP, AWESOME OFFER

WHAT'S THE COST?

YOU CAN FIND a resort's credit values in your *Daily Vacation Credit Values* booklet or through the Resort Gallery on the WorldMark Web site at www.worldmarktheclub.com. The resort gallery link is on the home page, left column. Simply multiply the resort's credit values by .042 to find out its midweek and weekend rates.

HOW TO BOOK

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS and for more information, call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103. **Availability changes constantly!** Keep abreast of the latest Inventory Specials in this monthly magazine (excluding January) or—for the latest updates—go to www.worldmarktheclub.com.



Spring into a great value

WANT TO REALLY CELEBRATE the return of warmer weather? Grab a getaway. It's easy—and economical—with Inventory Specials. Instead of sitting empty, selected unreserved WorldMark units can be booked for just 4.2 cents per credit, up to 60 days in advance. Low cost, longer booking window, and great choice of destinations—it all adds up to great, super-cheap vacation opportunities for you each month.

How inexpensive is it? Monday through Thursday nights in the wine country of Windsor in a one-bedroom unit in Red Season are 875 credits each. $875 \times .042 = \$36.75$ a night! Here are your May and June specials. >>

Exclusions are May 26–29.
These may vary at certain resorts; check with your vacation planning counselor.

May—Midweek and Limited Weekends
Angels Camp, CA
Bison Ranch, AZ
Galena, IL
Grand Lake, OK
Lake of the Ozarks, MO
Pinetop, AZ

May—Midweek Only
Big Bear, CA
Birch Bay, WA
Cascade Lodge, BC
Clear Lake, CA
Lake Tahoe, NV
Rancho Vistoso, AZ

Running Y, OR
San Francisco, CA
Steamboat Springs, CO
Sundance, BC
Windsor, CA
Wolf Creek, UT

May—Exotic
Denarau Island, Fiji

June—Midweek and Limited Weekends
Galena, IL
Grand Lake, OK
Rancho Vistoso, AZ

June—Midweek Only
Angels Camp, CA
Big Bear, CA
Bison Ranch, AZ
Cascade Lodge, BC
Pinetop, AZ
Sundance, BC
Windsor, CA

June—Exotic
Denarau Island, Fiji

your club

Your 2006 Premier Club Resorts

by Dave Akins, Vice President of WorldMark Resort Operations

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that we announce the 23 WorldMark resorts that have achieved Premier Club status for 2006. Premier Club scores are based on comment cards submitted by WorldMark owners; standards are even higher than those required to reach RCI Gold Crown or Interval International Five Star status.

The managers and staff of these resorts have worked very hard to attain this level of recognition from our WorldMark owners. Resorts listed with an asterisk are repeat award winners that have incorporated the steps necessary to make a high level of distinction part of their day-to-day routine. Please join me in congratulating them all for earning this special honor.



Clockwise from top: WorldMark Seaside, WorldMark Seattle at The Camlin, WorldMark Las Vegas.



- Arrow Point*
- Bass Lake*
- Bear Lake*
- Bison Ranch*
- Branson*
- Clear Lake*
- Galena*
- Lake of the Ozarks*
- Las Vegas
- McCall*
- Marina Dunes*
- Mariner Village*
- Oceanside*
- Pinetop*
- Reno*
- St. George*
- Seaside
- Seattle at The Camlin
- South Shore*
- Steamboat Springs*
- Victoria*
- Windsor*
- Wolf Creek*

Six of your 2006 Premier Club resorts are on Inventory Special for the months of May and/or June—see details on page 5.

Owner Education APRIL 2006 CLASSES

Owner Education—a fun and free way to learn all about your ownership. Classes are held at Trendwest sales locations unless otherwise indicated. **Reservations are required.** For reservations, please call **1-800-397-5968**, Mon – Fri, 6 am – 9 pm; Sat – Sun, 6 am – 5 pm. Class times and locations are also listed online at www.worldmarktheclub.com/education.

NORTHWEST

Birch Bay, WA

Sat, Apr 8, noon
Thu, Apr 20, 6 pm
Sat, Apr 22, noon–E

Bothell, WA

Tue, Apr 4, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 13, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 19, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 19, 8 pm–E
Thu, Apr 27, 6 pm

Burnaby, BC

Fri, Apr 21, 6 pm

Coeur d'Alene, ID

At Coeur d'Alene Inn
414 W. Appleway
Thu, Apr 13, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 13, 8 pm–E

Depoe Bay, OR

At resort
Sat, Apr 8, noon
Sat, Apr 8, 2 pm–E

Discovery Bay, WA

Thu, Apr 6, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 26, 4 pm–E
Wed, Apr 26, 6 pm

Eugene, OR

At Red Lion Hotel
205 Coburg Rd
Thu, Apr 6, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 6, 8 pm–E

Federal Way, WA

Wed, Apr 5, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 11, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 18, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 18, 8 pm–E
Tue, Apr 25, 6 pm

Leavenworth, WA

At Icicle Inn Best Western
Wed, Apr 12, 6 pm

Seaside, OR

Fri, Apr 7, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 20, 6 pm–E
Fri, Apr 21, 6 pm

Seattle, WA

The Camlin
Sun, Apr 9, noon
Sun, Apr 9, 2 pm–E
Fri, Apr 14, 6 pm
No free on-site parking

Tri-Cities, WA

At Clover Island Inn
435 Clover Island Dr.
Kennewick
Wed, Apr 12, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 12, 8 pm–E

Vancouver, WA

Wed, Apr 5, 4 pm–E
Wed, Apr 5, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 11, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 19, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 27, 4 pm–E
Thu, Apr 27, 6 pm

N. CALIFORNIA

Angels Camp, CA

Tue, Apr 4, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 25, 6 pm–E

Peninsula, CA

Burlingame Crown Plaza Hotel
1177 Airport Blvd.
Sat, Apr 8, 10 am, 2 pm

Reno, NV

At resort
Thu, Apr 13, 6 pm

Roseville, CA

Sat, Apr 1, 10 am, 2 pm
Thu, Apr 13, 6 pm–E
Thu, Apr 20, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 27, 6 pm–E
Sat, Apr 29, 10 am, 2 pm

San Jose, CA

2880 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Sat, Apr 1, 10 am, 2 pm
Wed, Apr 12, 6 pm–E
Wed, Apr 19, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 26, 6 pm–E
Sat, Apr 29, 10 am
Sat, Apr 29, 2 pm

Walnut Creek, CA

Sat, Apr 8, 10 am, 2 pm
Tue, Apr 11, 6 pm–E
Tue, Apr 18, 6 pm–E
Sat, Apr 22, 10 am, 2 pm
Tue, Apr 25, 6 pm

Windsor, CA

Thu, Apr 6, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 20, 6 pm–E

S. CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield, CA

Mon, Apr 3, 6 pm

Las Vegas, NV

At resort on Las Vegas Blvd.
Sun, Apr 9, noon
Sun, Apr 30, noon

Oceanside, CA

At resort
Thu, Apr 20, 6 pm

Palm Springs, CA

Tue, Apr 18, 6 pm

San Diego, CA

Thu, Apr 6, 6 pm
Sat, Apr 29, noon
Sat, Apr 29, 4 pm–E

San Dimas, CA

Wed, Apr 5, 6 pm
Sat, Apr 22, noon
Sat, Apr 22, 4 pm–E

Torrance, CA

Mon, Apr 10, 6 pm
Mon, Apr 24, 6 pm

Westlake Village, CA

Sat, Apr 1, noon
Sat, Apr 1, 4 pm–E

MOUNTAIN

Bear Lake, UT

Tue, Apr 25, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 25, 8 pm–E

Boise, ID

At 800 S. Industry Way in Meridian
Sat, Apr 8, 10 am
Thu, Apr 13, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 13, 8 pm–E
Thu, Apr 20, 8 pm
Tue, Apr 25, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 25, 8 pm–E

Broomfield, CO

Sat, Apr 1, 2 pm–E
Thu, Apr 6, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 12, 6 pm–E
Wed, Apr 12, 8 pm
Tue, Apr 18, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 26, 6 pm–E
Wed, Apr 26, 8 pm

Englewood, CO

Sat, Apr 1, 10 am–E
Sat, Apr 1, noon
Wed, Apr 5, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 11, 6 pm–E
Tue, Apr 11, 8 pm
Wed, Apr 19, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 27, 6 pm–E
Thu, Apr 27, 8 pm

Idaho Falls, ID

Sat, Apr 15, 10 am
Fri, Apr 28, 6 pm

Overland Park, KS

Fri, Apr 7, 4 pm
Sat, Apr 8, 10 am–E

Phoenix, AZ

Fri, Apr 21, 6 pm

KEY

All classes are general information except those marked with the following codes:

E = All about exchanges
W = Web reservations
S = Gen. info. taught in Spanish

Rancho Vistoso, AZ

Sat, Apr 1, 10 am–E
Sat, Apr 22, 10 am
Sat, Apr 22, noon–E

Salt Lake City, UT

Wed, Apr 5, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 6, 6 pm–E
Tue, Apr 11, 8 pm
Wed, Apr 12, 6 pm–E
Tue, Apr 18, 6 pm
Thu, Apr 20, 6 pm–E
Wed, Apr 26, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 26, 8 pm–E

St. George, UT

Fri, Apr 14, 6 pm
Sat, Apr 15, 10 am
Sat, Apr 15, noon–E
Fri, Apr 28, 6 pm

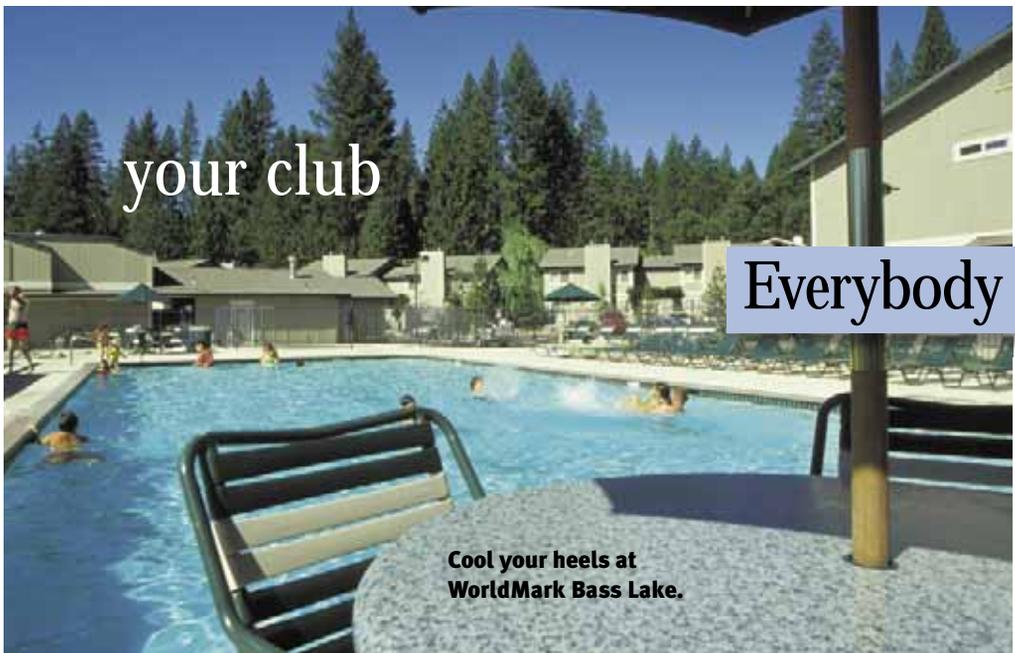
Tulsa, OK

Tue, Apr 4, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 4, 8 pm–E
Sat, Apr 22, 10 am–E
Sat, Apr 22, noon

Wolf Creek, UT

Tue, Apr 4, 6 pm
Tue, Apr 4, 8 pm–E
Thu, Apr 13, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 19, 6 pm
Wed, Apr 19, 8 pm–E
Thu, Apr 27, 6 pm

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED – MAKE YOURS TODAY AT 1-800-397-5968



your club

Everybody in the Pool

Cool your heels at
WorldMark Bass Lake.

WORLDMARK'S OUTDOOR POOLS that close for the winter will be reopening during the month of April. You can suit up and enjoy open-air pools at the following resorts:

- Bass Lake
- Bear Lake (indoor pool is open all year)
- Big Bear
- Birch Bay (indoor/outdoor pool is open all year)
- Bison Ranch
- Branson
- Grand Lake
- Lake of the Ozarks
- Lake Tahoe
- Leavenworth
- Mariner Village
- Pinetop
- Reno
- South Shore
- Steamboat Springs (indoor pool is open all year)

Earn 1,000 Lifetime Credits When You Buy or Sell Your Home

CALL US FIRST when it's time to buy or sell your home, and you could earn 1,000 permanent WorldMark credits—renewed automatically every year—for life.

The Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM provides expert service from the nation's top real estate brokers through an exclusive program available only to WorldMark owners. If you're buying *and* selling a home, you could earn up to 2,000 lifetime credits! Call today and find out if you qualify.



CALL TOLL FREE AT 1-877-869-9672

Inquire online at

www.worldmarktheclub.com/owners/realestate.shtml



"We listed and sold our home in San Ramon, Calif., through the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM and couldn't be happier. Their overall package—plus the WorldMark Vacation Credits—made it a real bonus. We highly recommend the program."

Robert and Carole Rinne, Geyserville, Calif.

Transaction must be initiated through Trendwest's Real Estate Referral Office to qualify. Vacation credits will be available only to WorldMark members who register first with Trendwest and have been referred to the participating local broker by the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM. Owners going directly to the individual real estate brokers without referral will not be eligible to partake in this offer. Some transactions may not be eligible. Program may not be available in all states.

The pool at WorldMark Wolf Creek will be open in time for Memorial Day weekend (May 26-29). Weather fluctuations throughout the country are to be expected in early spring, so it's always a good idea to call the resort prior to your arrival to check the pool's status.

Winner!



TOM HARMON of Elk Grove, Calif., won a three-night WorldMark stay when we selected his completed resort comment card in our drawing for February. Fill out that card every time you vacation at a WorldMark resort—you could be our next winner.



WorldMark Midway Destined to be a Hot Spot

WORLDMARK'S NEWEST RESORT in Utah—Midway—is flying up. By midsummer 2006, WorldMark owners will have 34 units available in this Swiss-themed city that's conveniently close to the ski slopes of Park City, golf courses of the Homestead Resort, and recreational activities of Wasatch Mountain State Park.

Wasatch County is known for its “hot pots.” These are natural hot-water springs—water temperatures range from 54 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit—located within crater-like depressions, many with dome-shaped walls rising up from the earth. The walls were created by centuries of water activity: Snowmelt from the Wasatch Mountains would seep deep into the earth, where the superheated interior would boil the water and send it percolating skyward, picking up minerals along the way that formed rough ramparts as they cooled. Most of the local hot pots are no more than 20 feet in diameter and 10 feet high—with one stunning exception.



The Homestead Crater is a geological giant—and it's located less than a half-mile from your future resort. Over 200 feet in diameter, this hot pot boasts a 55-foot-high, beehive-shaped dome, and 65-foot-deep waters that stay at a consistent 95 degrees. Visitors can access the massive spring at ground level via a 110-foot-long tunnel; once inside, there are opportunities for soaking, swimming, snorkeling, and even scuba diving.

The crater, which has a hole at the top of its dome that lets in sunlight and fresh air, can also be explored on foot. Guided tours are conducted regularly to enlighten visitors about the history, archeology, and geology of this environmental anomaly. For more information on Homestead Crater activities and fees, go to www.homesteadresort.com.

Clockwise: Aerial view plans of WorldMark Midway. Two views from the Homestead Golf Course; the Homestead Crater offers aquatic activities in a unique setting. Swiss accents grace the facades of new WorldMark construction; the indoor pool and spa take shape. A vintage postcard reveals Homestead Crater's early popularity.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOMESTEAD RESORTS (3)

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BEWANI (2)

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOMESTEAD RESORT



A Warm Windsor Welcome

WITH ACCESS TO THE OCEAN, REDWOODS, AND COUNTLESS WINERIES, THIS THREE-YEAR-OLD RESORT IS A WINNER

By Hope McPherson



About 75 miles north of San Francisco and just off California's historic Highway 101, WorldMark Windsor sits between the Windsor Golf Club and the home of Eddie the emu, a feathered resident of the private farm across the street.

Brand new in 2003, the resort offers 228 units in nine buildings, swimming pools, and exercise and game rooms. Already owners return repeatedly—whether to tour Sonoma County boutique wineries, visit redwoods stretched to the heavens, or relax at poolside. “From the Windsor resort, owners have access to the ocean, to wineries, and to Charlie Brown and his friends at the Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa,” says manager **Scott Williams**. “Who could ask for a better personal retreat?”

Prison break

Windsor also has a staff that gets as many raves as the nearby wineries. “Hi, Mrs. Polk!” call out front desk clerks **Lindsay Cox** and **Steve Consiglio** as an owner enters the lobby just before midnight. A nurse at San Quentin State Prison, **Donna Polk** has patients who include prisoners on death row. And although she resides in Los Angeles, she regularly drives 50 miles between the prison and the resort for a well-earned respite. “This is my getaway,” she says. “These are wonderful people at Windsor. They're like my family.”

Chatting with Cox and Consiglio, Polk asks Consiglio about his college classes, requests a 4 a.m. wake-up call, and learns that her order from Land's End has arrived. Polk says Windsor is the break she needs from her work among 6,000 male inmates—which includes her wearing a knife-proof vest and a helmet with a plastic shield to protect her eyes. “I brought my friends here last Fourth of July,” she says. “We relaxed in a penthouse.”

Staff to the rescue

Kudos are common for the staff, who do everything from delivering early-morning coffee to planning multiple routes to area hospitals for an overdue pregnant owner, and stocking a freezer with Ben and Jerry's ice cream. “The last time I came, there were two pints in the freezer for me,” recalls **Mike White**, a regular at Windsor with his wife, **Sherrie**, their daughters, and grandchildren.

Retired after 10 years of commercial fishing in Alaska and then 18 years with the city of Fort Bragg, California, White has visited several WorldMark resorts in California and Oregon—first as a guest of family and then as an owner himself. “When we come here, I like swimming with my grandkids and just hanging out,” he says, adding that he's also taken the bus that travels from the resort to nearby River Rock Casino. “I won \$140 yesterday. It paid for our trip.”

Day-trip designers

In addition to making owners feel at home, staff members are also masters at planning day trips. While asking owners about their interests, they bring out maps and highlighter pens, plotting routes through the Russian River Valley, along the imposing Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve, and through towns such as Bodega Bay for whale watching, Sebastopol for antique hunting, and Mendocino for art galleries.

“Mendocino is awesome,” says Williams. “It's two hours from the resort, and includes a beautiful drive through a redwood forest and past a few nice wineries.” After owners spend time in that seaside hamlet (pop. 824), Williams suggests they stop at the Mendocino Market deli for picnic supplies. Another hour's drive south



PHOTOS BY JUAN STEINBERG

Delightful to approach, a joy to inhabit: WorldMark Windsor is your home away from home in a world of recreational opportunities, wine culture, and world-class scenery.

on Route 1, he explains, will bring the picnickers to the Point Arena Light House. And the day's excursion still isn't over.

Favorite homecoming

After the nosh, people can hop back on southbound Route 1, stopping at parks and beaches until Bodega Bay. There, owners can stop at the Tides Wharf—which includes a restaurant, bakery, and fish market—to pick up fresh fish and local wine for dinner back at the resort. “It’s a trip that will take a full day depending on how often and long you stop,” says Williams. “But it is one of our favorites.”

“During the summer, it’s really fun to go canoeing in the Russian River,” adds **Adrian Vasquez**, front desk manager. “Owners also have fun paddle-boating and fishing in Lake Sonoma.” Other short jaunts include wineries that press olive oil, and laudable restaurants. “We have a lot of people who do day trips to San Francisco,” he says.

Snoopy and sweets

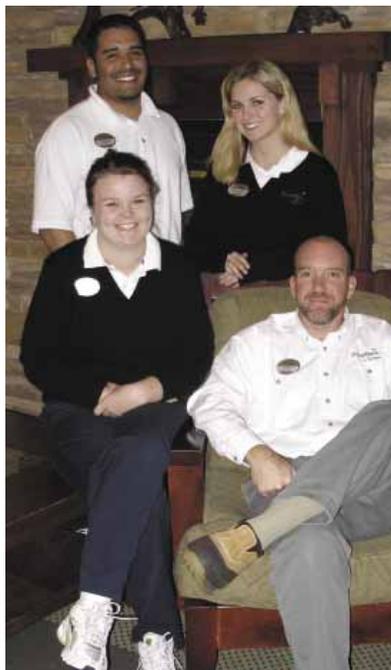
Santa Rosa’s Charles M. Schulz Museum includes exhibits such as Snoopy’s doghouse wrapped by famed artist Christo, and an education room where children can create live-action cartoons using a zoetrope (i.e., a revolving drum with slits). “I’ll have to take my grandkids there on our next trip,” says White. Nodding, his 9-year-old granddaughter **Taylor** adds that her favorite place to visit from the Windsor resort is Powell’s Sweet Shoppe.

“Old Downtown Windsor,” a unique mixed-use development, offers a cornucopia of shops and restaurants, including Powell’s. “I couldn’t get out of there without a gelato,” admits White. “It was white chocolate, and it was delicious!”

A muffin for morning

Another delicious stop in Windsor, advises Vasquez, is the restaurant Langley’s on The Green. “They bring out special appetizers for WorldMark owners, and then they send owners home with a muffin for the next morning,” he says. “We get a lot of compliments about Langley’s on comment cards when owners leave.”

When **Ron and Linda Backstrom** visited WorldMark Windsor recently, they came to prepare for the holi-



HOPE ANDERSON

Some of WorldMark Windsor’s front desk staff comes together in the game room (from left, seated): Heather Middleton and manager Scott Williams, and (standing, from left) Adrian Vasquez and Heather Degnan.

days. Residents of Bodega on the coast, the couple have been WorldMark owners “for about 200 years,” jokes Ron. Owners since the early 1990s, they visited resorts for respite when she was the primary caregiver for her ailing father; they have brought nieces and nephews for Mother’s Day weekends; and they have visited resorts as their gateway to shop, tour wineries, and explore various locales.

Last November, the Backstroms used WorldMark Windsor as the destination to write 70 Christmas cards. “Once we

got away from home, writing our Christmas cards went great,” says Linda, adding they made a bargain with themselves. “We write our cards till noon, and then we can play.”

Their playtime included stops at Windsor’s new eatery, Mangiamo, for lamb stew and lemon tarts, as well as a visit to Pig Alley in Duncan Mills, along the Russian River. “We like that shop,” says Linda. “It’s very artsy.” Adds Ron: “She bought cards there.”

Wine flows freely

With WorldMark Windsor in the heart of wine country, owners have numerous wineries to visit, including Dry Creek Vineyards and Preston Vineyards, where grapes grow near olive trees—the fruit of which is pressed into a light, organic olive oil. “A lot of owners come in March for barrel tasting,” says Vasquez. “They taste wine straight from the barrel to see how it’s progressing.” Most wineries participate with music, food, and wine flowing freely. “People go from winery to winery with a glass,” he says.

With the vineyards dotting Sonoma County in between farms populated with grazing Jersey cows, horses, and the occasional Brahma bull, having the resort’s staff to query makes the visit all the better. “Ask us for maps and our preferred wineries list,” says Cox. “The staff can answer questions about where to go for the best reds and whites.” Adds Vasquez, “We know where small boutique wines are that no one knows about—the wines you can’t buy at a store.”

And perhaps that is made all the better by the resort’s home-away-from-home atmosphere. “When I walk into a WorldMark resort like Windsor, I say, ‘Hello, home,’” says Linda Backstrom. “When I leave, I say, ‘See you later.’”



HOPE ANDERSON

Linda and Ron Backstrom dining out at Mangiamo.

Sonoma

INSIDE OUT

By Hope McPherson

THE STAFF AT WINDSOR is full of ideas and recommendations for owners while they're at the resort, whether that's for a few days or a few weeks. Just *some* of their favorite suggestions are below—no matter what time of year you visit.

Wineries, Sonoma County. WorldMark Windsor is less than an hour's drive to three regions sprinkled with orderly vineyards: **Dry Creek Valley**, **Alexander Valley**, and the **Russian River Valley**. Along the Russian River Wine Road that weaves through them, more than 100 wineries, with their wine-tasting rooms, are open year-round. Experts are on hand to answer questions, and provide award-winning wines for visitors to taste and buy. Here are some wineries less than 20 miles from the resort:

- 🦎 **Dry Creek Vineyard**
3370 Lambert Bridge Road, Healdsburg
- 🦎 **Toad Hollow Vineyards**
409 A Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg
- 🦎 **Bella Vineyards**
9711 W. Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg
- 🦎 **Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery**
8761 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg
- 🦎 **Kendall-Jackson Wine Center**
5007 Fulton Road, Fulton



Langley's on The Green, 610 McClelland Drive, Windsor. This fine-dining restaurant not only has mouth-watering choices, but it also has a reputation for taking great care of its WorldMark guests. It's less than 3 miles from the resort.

Powell's Sweet Shoppe, 720 McClelland Drive, Windsor. Northern California may be health conscious, says WorldMark manager Scott Williams, "but that sweet shop rocks!" With its wall of Pez candies, 24 flavors of gelato (including crème brûlée and stracciatella), and European chocolates, kids of all ages will succumb to temptation here.

Windsor Farmers Market, Town Green in Old Downtown Windsor. Open between May and November, this lively farm-



From nutritious organic fare at Windsor Farmers Market, to gleefully sinful novelties at Powell's Sweet Shoppe (try the Magic Eight Ball), Sonoma is a palate-pleaser.



HOPE MCHERSON

Nifty stops around Windsor include (clockwise from top): The vibrant—and popular—coastal community of Mendocino; Bodega Bay, where Alfred Hitchcock’s 1961 thriller “The Birds” was filmed; Charlie’s at Windsor Golf Club, a convenient eatery for WorldMark owners; Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve; Victorian architecture in Healdsburg; and the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa.

ers market is the place to buy organic produce to stock your Windsor kitchen with fresh greens, fruits, and meats. You can also find flowers, gift items, and more. Check with Windsor staff for the market’s specific hours.

Charles M. Schulz Museum, 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa. Just 7 miles from the Windsor resort, the Schulz Museum had local artists paint 55 statues of Charlie Brown in 2005, each fitting the locations where they were installed.

The 2006 Peanuts character is Woodstock, and artists will paint an estimated 70 statues to be placed around Santa Rosa between June and September.

Healdsburg, less than 10 miles north of WorldMark Windsor on Highway 101. “There’s a lot of shopping and antiquing to do in Healdsburg,” says Adrian Vasquez, front desk manager. “There’s also a neat bookstore, Toyon Books.” Toyon, an independent bookseller, offers author



readings, sales of new and used titles, and books about the region's wineries.

Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve, 17020 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville. About 16 miles from Windsor, majestic redwoods fill this 800-acre state reserve, which also offers a visitor center, self-guided nature trails, and picnic facilities. Visitors can drive into the park at a cost of \$6 per vehicle, or they can park in the lot at the reserve's entrance and walk in for free. The tallest tree in the grove, Parson Jones, is taller than the length of a football field. Its estimated age is 1,300 years—dating from the time the Chinese invented gun powder. The park has many paved, level trails that are handicapped accessible.

Pig Alley, 25193 Main Street, Duncan Mills. Filled with art such as paintings, jewelry, cards, and leather goods by regional artists, this is a popular stop to find one-of-a-kind gifts—for you or someone else. A 21-mile drive from the resort gets visitors there.

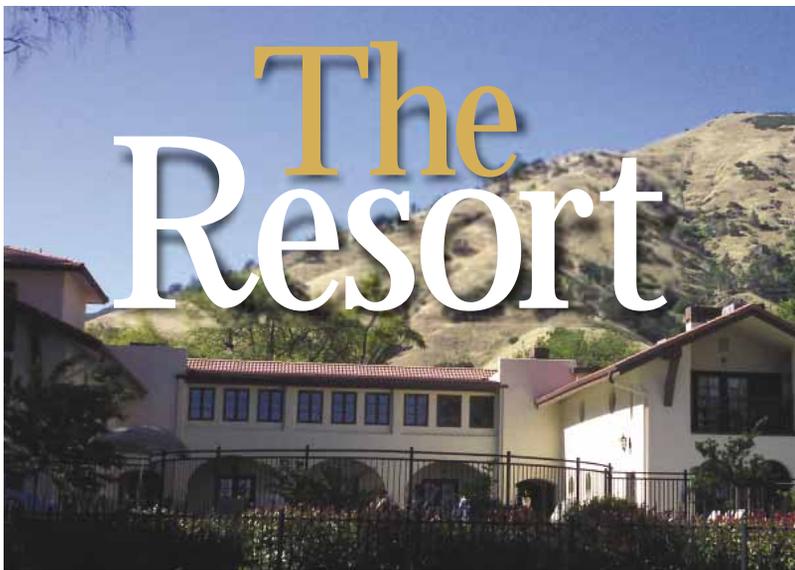
Salt Point State Park, Highway 1. About 20 miles north of WorldMark Windsor, this park features 6,000 acres of striking views along trails and six miles of rugged coastline. Visitors come to hike, fish, picnic, and dive. "A lot of owners like to go up the coast to this park," says Vasquez. "It's a nice drive to a beautiful area."

Bodega Bay. About a 45-minute drive from the resort, Bodega Bay is on gently winding Highway 1 along the coast. Stops at numerous scenic overlooks give lucky ramblers a chance to see and hear waves crash against rocky outcroppings, sight gray and white whales during the winter and early spring, and watch red-tailed hawks float overhead on the air currents.

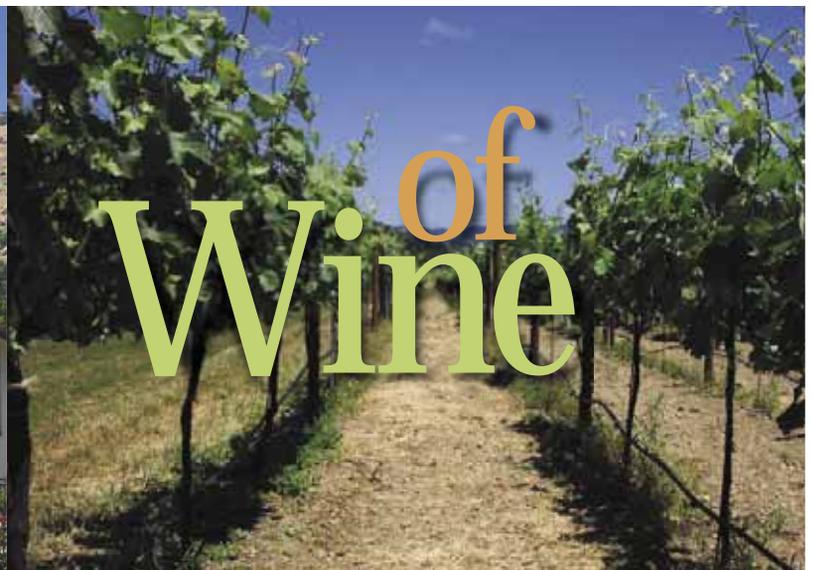
Mendocino, about 96 miles north of Windsor, was founded in 1850 as a logging town. Today it's a flourishing community of artists and has appeared in movies and TV shows such as "The Majestic" and "Murder, She Wrote."

Windsor Golf Club, 1340 19th Hole Drive, Windsor. This lush golf course is next door to WorldMark Windsor. Playing a par-72 championship course, golfers navigate its 6,650 yards, which have also welcomed six PGA Nike Tour events in the past. Alas, the club doesn't offer discounts to WorldMark owners, although its course is popular with golf enthusiasts.

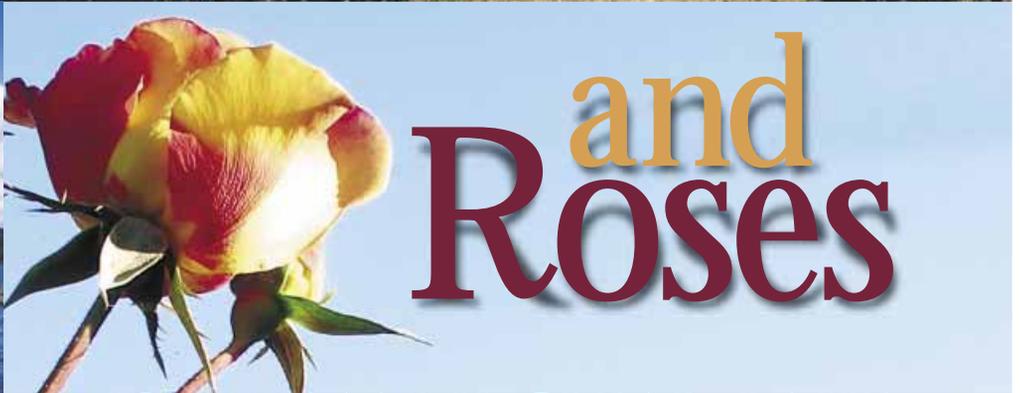
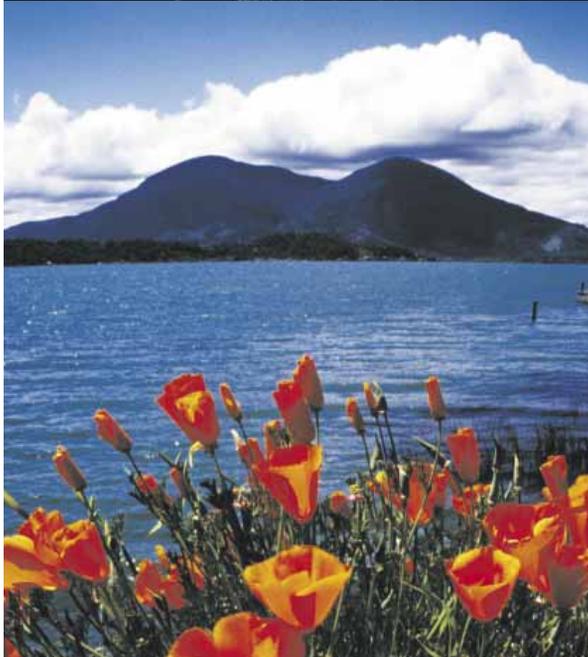
Charlie's at Windsor Golf Club, Windsor. Whether after playing a round or just wanting to dine with a view, owners appreciate Charlie's menu that includes steak, fresh seafood, pastas, and pizza. "The restaurant often delivers to resort owners," says Williams. 



The Resort



of Wine



and Roses

WORLDMARK CLEAR LAKE
IS A STATELY MANSE IN NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA'S ROLLING COUNTRYSIDE

By Hope McPherson

Swapping tales at the end of the dock—with fishing lines in California's Clear Lake to lure wily catfish—**Dave Roseman** and **Leonard Scott III**, both of Oakland, California, look like old buddies.

"But I just met him an hour ago," says Scott, reaching into a pie plate heaped with bait: dry bread, salami and, well, raw bacon. "Catfish eat anything," explains Roseman, who's on his third trip to WorldMark Clear Lake. "My fiancée is here a lot," adds Scott about **Nicolé Bibb**, an owner since 1996. "We're here now with my kids, **Lenny and Taylor.**"

Located 112 miles northwest of Sacramento and 131 miles northeast of San Francisco, WorldMark Clear Lake echoes a bygone era. The main lodge fea-



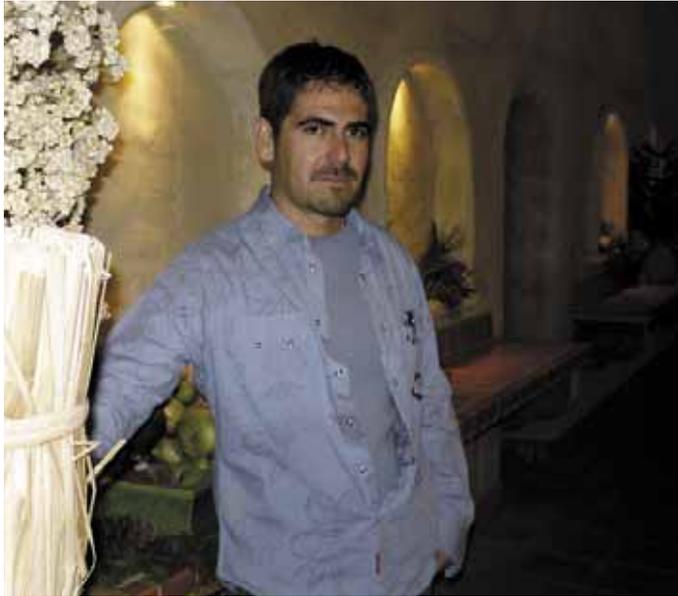
On a clear November day, Clear Lake's dock becomes a meeting place for owners Dave Roseman (left) and Leonard Scott III (right).

tures heavy dark beams, blond Swedish floors, an ornate red felt-covered pool table, and a stately balcony just itching for someone to make a grand entrance. And this May, the resort celebrates the lodge's 100th birthday.

"We'll have a party," says manager **Al Hippe**. "Local wineries will hold a wine tasting, and we'll invite artists to display their work."

Built in 1906 as a private mansion, the mission-style lodge sits near the dormant volcano Mount Konocti. The building eventually became home to a California Supreme Court judge, a mysterious German army officer, a Prohibition "speakeasy," and 1953–55 world middleweight boxing champ Carl "Bobo" Olson. By the 1980s, the former mansion was a popular nightclub but showed its age.

When WorldMark acquired the property, the lodge was restored to its original stateliness. "A lot of owners tell me stories about when they used to come here and enjoy the nightlife when it was a club," says **Jennifer Cooper**, front desk clerk. "Now they're coming back with their families."



Javier Meza, originally from Chile, is a winemaker and estate manager for Ceàgo Vinegarden. He is also a WorldMark owner.

On lush grounds that include rose gardens and bay laurels, the resort offers owners more than just a place to fish, though. “I tell owners to consider this place their home away from home,” says assistant manager **Lauri LoDolce**. “It’s also their starting point to see historic towns like Kelseyville, visit Robinson Rancheria and Konocti Vista casinos, and tour award-winning wineries.”

Two of those award winners are just down the road, less than 2 miles to the south. Ceàgo Vinegarden and Tulip Hill Winery rest on opposite sides of East Highway 20, and welcome WorldMark owners year-round. Ceàgo, a Jim Fetzer-owned winery, also provides Saturday morning tours just for WorldMark owners.

Using strict biodynamic farming techniques, Ceàgo produces wines on an estate with a Spanish-Mediterranean allure. Its 220 acres are dotted not only with grapevines, walnut trees, and lavender, but also with sheep and chickens (for organic weed and pest control). “Next year we will also be pressing three types of olives,” says **Javier Meza**, winemaker, Ceàgo manager—and WorldMark owner himself.

Back at the resort, **Jim and Sandy Trout** are enjoying an early-winter getaway with their daughters **Janae and Janna**, and grandchildren **Gavin, Emma, Zachary, and Macee**. So far they’ve discovered a street fair in nearby Lakeport, where they watched their grandchildren paint ornaments. Afterward, the crew dug into hot dogs and nachos at the Yuppy Puppy. “The fair was amazing,” says the retired insurance salesman from Novato, California. “With so much to do, we were all excited.”

Wine aficionados **Chuck and Anna Peters** have been querying **Robert Folk Jr.** of the Limousine Connection about lo-

(Right) Three generations gather at WorldMark Clear Lake (from bottom left): daughters Janae Hinz and Janna Wacholz, parents Sandy and Jim Trout, and grandkids Gavin, Macee, Zachary, and Emma.



HOPE McPHERSON (5)



(Above) Jennifer Cooper, the late-night front desk clerk, welcomes owners to WorldMark Clear Lake well into the night.

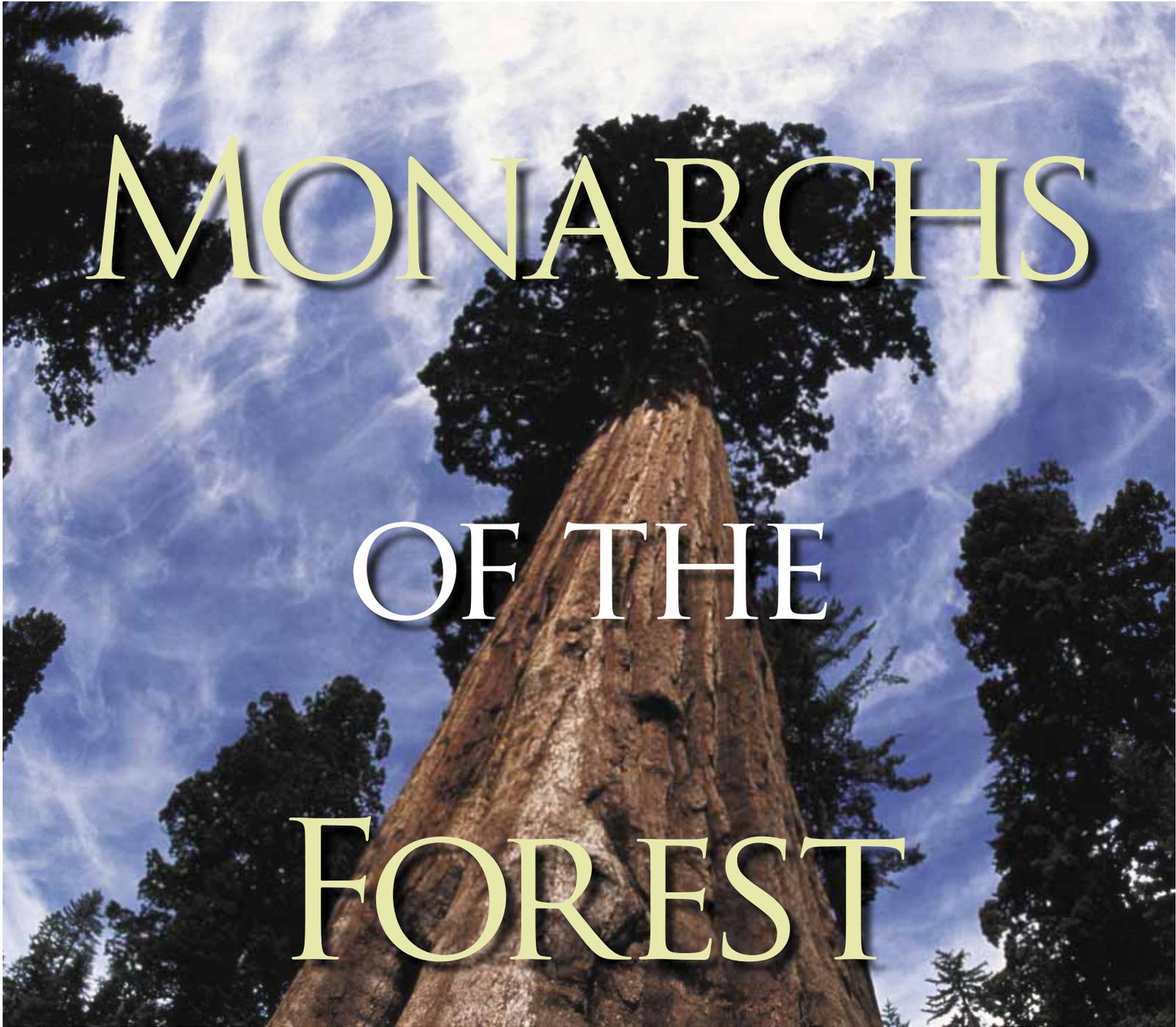


(Left) Yvonne Barnett is behind the bar at the Blue Wing, a historic bar in Upper Lake, just 10 minutes from WorldMark Clear Lake. Note the collection of 100-year-old bottles behind her, which were found on the property during the recent renovation.

cal vineyards. Providing five-hour tours of 12 area wineries north of Clear Lake, Folk is a gold mine of information about area winemakers, including **Victor Simon** of Fife Vineyards in Redwood Valley and registered-nurse-turned-winemaker **Deanna Starr** of Milano Family Winery in Hopland.

Folk and his wife, **Katie**, are also WorldMark owners. In the past four years they’ve visited resorts in British Columbia’s Victoria, Oregon’s Depoe Bay, and, just two months before Hurricane Katrina hit, WorldMark New Orleans. “We also stay at Clear Lake and Windsor quite frequently,” he says.

This year, **Nicolé Bibb** celebrated Thanksgiving with her family at Clear Lake. “But when we were here in the summer, we ‘skidoodled’ on the lake,” she remembers, laughing. “This is the second resort I ever visited and I’ll keep coming back.”



MONARCHS OF THE FOREST

FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS before the last Ice Age, redwood trees stretched across the entire Northern Hemisphere, including Europe and Asia. Now they thrive exclusively in the mists of Northern California. The Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) grows along a narrow coastal strip about 450 miles long by 25 miles wide from just north of the Oregon border to Big Sur. This belt is defined by a Pacific climate of mild, foggy summers and cool, wet winters, which is ideal for the trees.

A typical coastal redwood lives several hundred years and can reach 2,000 years and more. Mature trees average 200 to 250 feet, but the tallest among them surpass 350 feet. That's twice the height of Niagara Falls.

Though not as massive as their arboreal cousins, the Giant Sequoia of the southern Sierra Nevada, some coastal redwoods grow up to 20 feet in diameter.

Despite these superlatives, however, redwoods are delicate in many ways. Their cones are quite small, and it takes more than 100,000 seeds to make one pound. Their root systems are broad and shallow, no more than 13 feet deep, which means they can be toppled by strong winds. (This happened in 1991 to the venerable Dyerville Giant in Humboldt Redwoods State Park.)

Yet redwood trees are strong. The soft, reddish bark, from 6 to 12 inches in thickness, acts like asbestos in protecting them from fire. Tannin in the bark makes



A
TYPICAL
COASTAL
REDWOOD
LIVES SEVERAL
HUNDRED YEARS
AND CAN REACH
2,000 YEARS
AND MORE.

them resistant to fungus and insects such as termites. For these reasons the heartwood, bright cherry to dark mahogany in color, has been highly prized in building since Americans first arrived. Of two million acres of original old-growth forest, fewer than 100,000 remain today.

Founded in 1918, the Save-the-Redwoods League has been instrumental in protecting the species by purchasing large tracts of old-growth forest. At present the trees are sheltered in 32 California state parks and Redwood National Park. 

From *Insiders' Guide: Northern California: Off the Beaten Path* by Mark R. Williams. Copyright © 2005 by The Globe Pequot Press. Used by permission of the publisher. To order a copy, visit www.globepequot.com.



Good Grief— A Museum?

A comic strip hardly seems the stuff to base a museum upon. But Peanuts was no ordinary strip, and its creator, Charles Schulz, no common cartoonist. During the peak of Schulz's 50-year run with Peanuts, the strip starring Snoopy and Charlie Brown appeared in hundreds of newspapers and was enjoyed by more than 350 million readers.

Near Schulz home

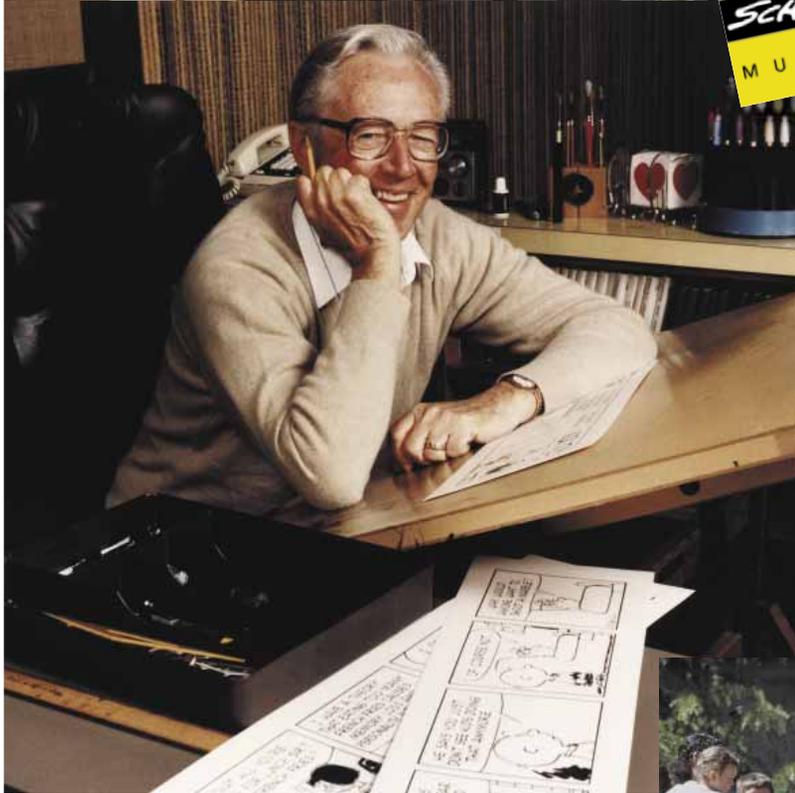
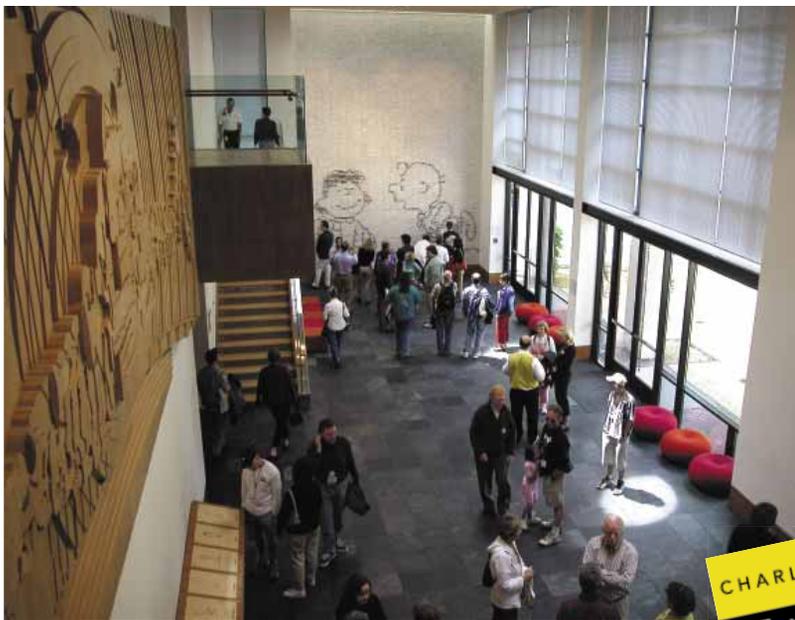
Still, Schulz initially resisted plans for a museum, downplaying all the fuss and acting more like Charlie Brown than Charles Schulz. But he eventually relented and the Charles M. Schulz Museum opened in 2002 in Santa Rosa, Calif., not far from his home and the studio

where he created much of his work.

The two-story structure keeps the fun stuff downstairs with rotating exhibits of some of his original strips. There are also permanent exhibits, including Morphing Snoopy, a 7,000-pound wood sculpture by Japanese artist Yoshiteru Otani that features 43 layers cut away to show the evolving appearance of Snoopy from Spike, Schulz's boyhood pet, into the beagle made famous by the strip.

Early drawings found

Another prize here is a wall of art recovered from a Colorado home where Schulz once lived and covered with early drawings of his Peanuts characters in 1951. The artwork



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHARLES M. SCHULZ MUSEUM

had been covered up with four coats of paint by new owners, then restored and donated to the museum.

Visitors upstairs can examine Schulz's drafting table and other memorabilia from his life, including personal papers, books, and photographs. There's also a classroom where budding cartoonists can come and practice their stuff.

A special Snoopy house

Schulz admired the environmental artist Christo and mentioned him in a 1978 strip, with Snoopy wondering whether the artist's



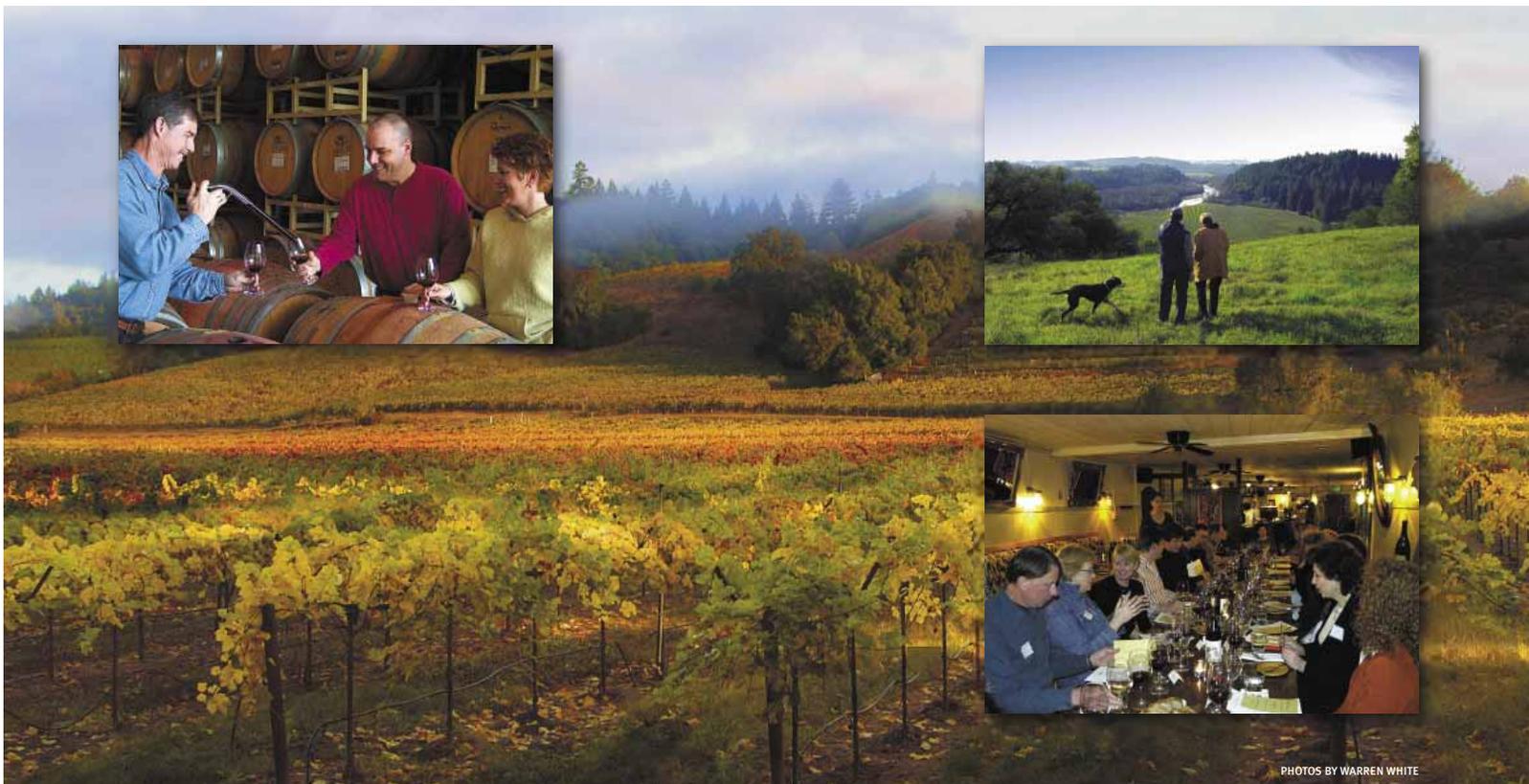
SNOWIA COUNTY TOURISM

From the first embryonic sketches of the Peanuts gang to a multilayered 3.5-ton Snoopy sculpture, the museum is a treasure trove of artist Charles Schulz's warmth and wit.

next project would be to wrap his doghouse. In a case of life imitating a cartoon imitating life, Christo came to the museum in 2003 and completed Snoopy's wish. He presented the museum with a doghouse covered in tarp, polyethylene, and ropes. It's appropriately entitled, *Wrapped Snoopy House*.

The museum is located at 2301 Hardies Lane and can be reached at (707) 579-4452. Its Web site is at www.schulzmuseum.org.

From *Northern California Curiosities* by Saul Rubin. Copyright © 2005 by The Globe Pequot Press. Used by permission of the publisher. To order a copy, visit www.globepequot.com



PHOTOS BY WARREN WHITE

It's All in the Mix

URBAN GO-GETTERS, HIPPIE THROWBACKS, POSH RETREATS, AND POCKETS OF WILDERNESS MAKE THE **RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY** A FASCINATING MÉLANGE

Behind the cool fogs of the coast is the western entrance to a relatively warm and pastoral area known as the **Russian River Valley**. The tree-lined highway follows the river's course through 20 miles of what appear to be lazy, backwater resorts but in fact are the major stomping grounds for partying weekenders from San Francisco. The valley's seat, **Guerneville**, has the most nightlife and lodging, while **Healdsburg** serves as the gatekeeper for the **wine area**, bordering US-101 and the **Dry Creek and Alexander valleys**.

The fortunes of the Russian River Valley have come full circle; back in the Twenties and Thirties, it was a recreational resort for well-to-do city folk who abandoned the area when newly constructed roads took them elsewhere. Drawn by low rents, city-saturated hippies started arriving in the late Sixties, and the Russian River Valley took on a nonconformist flavor that lingers today.

More recently, an injection of affluent Bay Area prop-

erty seekers, many of them gay, has sustained the region's economy, and the funky mix of loggers, sheep farmers, and wealthy weekenders gives it an offbeat cachet that has restored its former popularity.

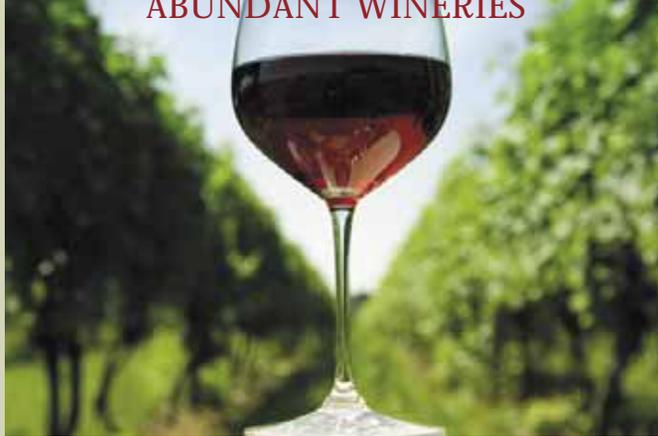
The road that snakes through the valley is dotted with campgrounds every few miles, most with sites for the asking, although during the first weekend after Labor Day, when the region hosts the **Jazz on the River Festival**, things can get a bit tight. The festival is something of a wild weekender as bands set up by the river and in the woods for impromptu jamming sessions and scheduled events. The new late-June **Russian River Blues Festival** has proven equally popular.



Invoking good times, a funky wine-goddess sculpture greets grape devotees.

Sip Your Way Through the Scenery

GET TO
KNOW A
GRAPE OR
TWO AT THE
**RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY'S
ABUNDANT WINERIES**



JEFF TITCOMB/PHOTOGRAPHERS CHOICE

The Guerneville Chamber of Commerce issues an excellent **Russian River Wine Road Map**, which lists all the wineries that spread along the entire course of the Russian River—now numbering nearly a hundred. Unlike their counterparts in Napa and Sonoma, few of the wineries here either organize guided tours or charge for wine tasting. You can usually wander around at ease, guzzling as many and as much of the wines as you please.

Belvedere, 4035 Westside Rd., 4 miles south of Healdsburg, 707-431-4442, www.belvederewinery.com. Pleasantly situated winery with good views from the terraced garden. **Live jazz** on summer Saturday afternoons. Tastings daily 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Dry Creek Vineyard, 3770 Lambert Bridge Rd., 4 miles northwest of Healdsburg, 707-433-1000 or 1-800-864-WINE, www.drycreekvineyard.com. This family-owned operation is well known for its consistently top-notch wines—particularly the **Cabernet Sauvignon** and **Chardonnay**. **Picnic facilities**. Tasting daily 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Ferrari Carano, 8761 Dry Creek Rd., 6 miles northwest of Healdsburg, 707-433-6700 or 1-800-831-0381, www.ferrari-carano.com. One of the smartest wineries in the region, Ferrari is housed in a neoclassical mansion with beautiful landscaped grounds. They specialize in **Italian-style wines**. Tastings daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; \$3.

Hop Kiln, 6050 Westside Rd., over 5 miles south of Healdsburg, 707-433-6491, www.hopkilnwinery.com. Recently established rustic winery with a traditional atmosphere but not a snobbish attitude. Ironically a plaque marks the spot where kilns used to dry the hops when this was beer country. Tastings daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m.



**Enjoy the new
varietals with
friends.**

Korbel Champagne Cellars, 13250 River Rd., 2 miles east of Guerneville, 707-824-7000, www.korbel.com. The bubbly itself—America's best-selling premium champagne—isn't anything you couldn't find in any supermarket, but the wine and brandy are sold only from the cellars, and are of such notable quality that you'd be crazy not to swing by for a glass or two. The estate where they are produced is lovely, surrounded by hillside gardens covered in blossoming violets, coral bells, and hundreds of varieties of roses—perfect for quiet picnics. A **microbrewery** and **upscale deli** are also on the premises.

Lake Sonoma, 9990 Dry Creek Rd., Geyserville, 707-473-2999, www.lakesonomawinery.net. In a fine elevated setting at the far end of Dry Creek Valley from Healdsburg, there is a good range of wines and a particularly **fine port**, as well as a **microbrewery** on the premises. Tastings daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Porter Creek, 8735 Westside Rd., over 5 miles east of Guerneville, 707-433-6321, www.portercreekvineyards.com. Small winery with a cottagey feel, producing all organic wines; **Pinot Noir** a specialty. Tastings daily 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; closed Tue & Wed in winter.

Topolos at Russian River Valley Vineyards, 5700 Graevenstein Hwy-116, Forestville, 5 miles from Guerneville along Hwy-116, 707-887-1575 or 1-800-867-6467, www.topolos.net. One of the Russian River Valley's most accessible wineries, specializing in **Zinfandels**. The **popular on-site restaurant** (707-887-1562) serves Greek-inspired California dishes. Dine on the patio and feast your eyes on the wildflower gardens. Tastings daily 11 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; tours by appointment. ➤

From *The Rough Guide to California*. Copyright ©2005 by Rough Guide Travel Guides. All rights reserved. Reproduced here by permission of the publisher. Visit www.roughguides.com



Packing Like A Pro

By Susan Foster

Before packing, you'll want to assemble some tools to make the job easier. Here are items to help you keep things organized, clean, and wrinkle-free.

1. Self-sealing plastic bags in several sizes: I use two-gallon, one-gallon, quart, and pint sizes for grouping items so they won't get lost. This is a great way to keep categories of things together in one place—a bag for socks, a bag for underwear, etc. Some people use zippered mesh laundry bags in various sizes to hold tee shirts and underwear.

2. Plastic dry cleaner's bag: These protect your clothing and prevent wrinkles by trapping air between layers. I once bought a roll of at least one million from my dry cleaner and am still using them. You can also save the ones that come from the cleaners. Some say the ink on printed plastic bags may come off on clothing but I have never had that problem. If this worries you, turn the bags inside out.

3. Tissue paper: I don't use much, but it does come in handy for stuffing the sleeves of a delicate jacket, for instance.

4. Clothes dryer softener sheets: Tuck one into your suitcase to keep the

contents sweet smelling. Of course, you can also use it in a clothes dryer.

5. Bags for shoes: I prefer clear plastic bags from the grocery produce department so I can see the shoe inside. Other choices are old socks or purchased shoe bags. One shoe per bag allows for more flexible packing. One of my friends uses a clear plastic hotel shower cap for each shoe.

6. Vacuum cleaner: Use the edge-cleaner tool to vacuum the lint and sand from the last trip out of the bottom of the suitcase.

7. Solid-color bed sheet: Place a clean sheet on top of the bedspread so road dirt and dust on the suitcase won't soil the spread. The solid color helps me find small items that may get lost in the design of my printed bedspread.

8. Nylon zip-top tote: This bag fits in the bottom of your main suitcase to be used as an "overflow bag" for shipping home dirty laundry or accumulated treasures.

9. Bubble wrap: Packing a bag completely full minimizes shifting of contents and wrinkling. Items shift toward the bottom, which can change depending on how the bag is carried or rolled. If your bag is not quite full, add sheets or bubble wrap. Toss the bubble wrap as you add purchases and the contents expand. Or, keep the bubble wrap to use for packing fragile items you find along the way.

10. Handy organizers: Look for Pack-It® Folders, Pack-It Cubes, and



SMART TRAVEL SECURITY TIP

See-through containers (clear plastic or mesh) make security checks go faster as screeners can easily view the contents without opening each bag.

Pack-It Sacs by Eagle Creek in luggage and travel stores or the Magellan's catalog. These organizers are a step up from my plastic bags! Also look for similar products from L.L. Bean and TravelSmith.

11. Compression bags: These reusable plastic bags reduce volume of clothing by up to 75 percent. They



have a unique, one-way valve that allows the air to be compressed out of the bag, leaving a much flatter bundle. They work best with casual clothing or dirty laundry where wrinkling is not an issue, or you can use them to pack your favorite down pillow. (Look for Pack-It® compressor bags or Pack-Mates™ at luggage and travel stores, Magellan's, or Norm Thompson.)

From *Smart Packing for Today's Traveler, 2nd Edition Revised*. Published by Smart Travel Press at www.smartpacking.com



SMART TRAVEL SECURITY TIP

The TSA (Transportation Security Administration) recommends packing shoes last, on top of other contents. Shoes often contain metal parts that make it necessary to do a hand inspection of your bag; packing shoes on top speeds the process.



San Antonio Holiday Fiesta

*Footloose—
cowboy style*

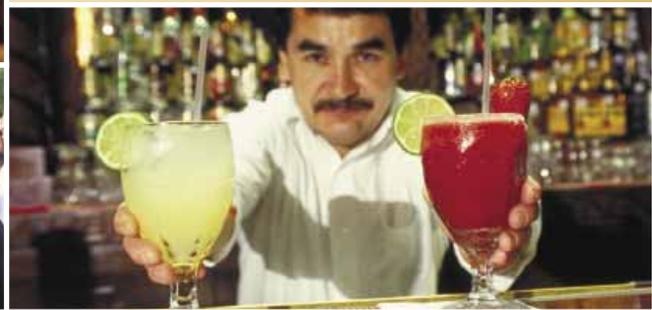


December 5–9, 2006
15,600 credits per person (double occupancy)*
Cash 'n' Credits option available†

San Antonio's cobblestone paths, historical architecture, and famous Paseo del Rio—Riverwalk—provide for a truly distinctive holiday escape. Marvel at the glow of the Fiesta de las Luminarias' thousands of candles illuminating the Riverwalk as you cruise the San Antonio River. Unlock the secrets of true Tex-Mex cuisine in a cooking class—complete with margaritas. Enjoy unique holiday shopping in the quaint German frontier town of Fredericksburg. From a holiday theater performance in Austin to kickin' up your spurs at an authentic dude ranch, this holiday adventure is sure to awaken the rootin' tootin' cowboy in all.

Package includes four nights' hotel accommodation at the St. Anthony Wyndham Hotel; welcome dinner; daily American breakfast; tour of San Antonio including The Alamo, Institute of Texan Cultures, and Mission of San Jose; Fiesta de las Luminarias river cruise; private Tex-Mex cuisine cooking class; visit to Austin, with admission to LBJ Library and holiday theatre performance; visit to Fredericksburg; dinner and entertainment at dude ranch in Bandera, the "Cowboy Capital of the World."

Say *yee-haw* to this
Texas holiday fiesta by calling
1-800-457-0103



*Footloose tours cater to solo travelers; however, couples and other owners who wish to attend are welcome. Solo owners will be paired up to meet double occupancy requirements. Single occupancy rooms are available for additional 5,000 credits per person. Airfare and \$69 USD exchange fee not included. Roundtrip airfare is available for credits from select cities. Airfare-for-credits can only be booked in conjunction with this tour. †Any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Tours include some walking. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.

Go for the Green



Seven-day Eastern Caribbean golf cruise

October 15–22, 2006

Set sail for some of the most beautiful islands in the world while taking a swing at two magnificent golf courses: San Juan's Wyndham El Conquistador, and Mahogany Run in St. Thomas. Enjoy private tee times, a WorldMark golf tournament, and professional instruction to hone your golf skills. Off the greens, indulge in world-class sunning, outstanding scuba diving, and duty-free shopping at fabulous ports of call.

Carnival Cruise Line's *Elation* sails roundtrip from Miami to Half Moon Cay, Bahamas; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Grand Turk in Turks and Caicos Islands.

ONE-PERSON GOLF PACKAGE AND

ONE NON-GOLFER

Inside cabin: 31,400 credits

Ocean view cabin: 35,400 credits

TWO-PERSON GOLF PACKAGE

Inside cabin: 39,600 credits

Ocean view cabin: 43,600 credits

Cash 'n' Credits option available*

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- ▶ Seven nights aboard Carnival's *Elation* (includes WorldMark owner welcome reception, full meal and entertainment program, WorldMark owner putting contest).
- ▶ Priority tee time at Wyndham El Conquistador golf course in San Juan, Puerto Rico (includes roundtrip transportation from ship, cart, greens fees, golf pro assistance, and limited insurance coverage).
- ▶ WorldMark Owner Golf Tournament at Mahogany Run in St. Thomas (includes prizes, roundtrip transportation from ship, cart, greens fees, golf pro assistance, and limited insurance coverage).
- ▶ Ports of call noted above.

All credit values are for two people, based on double occupancy

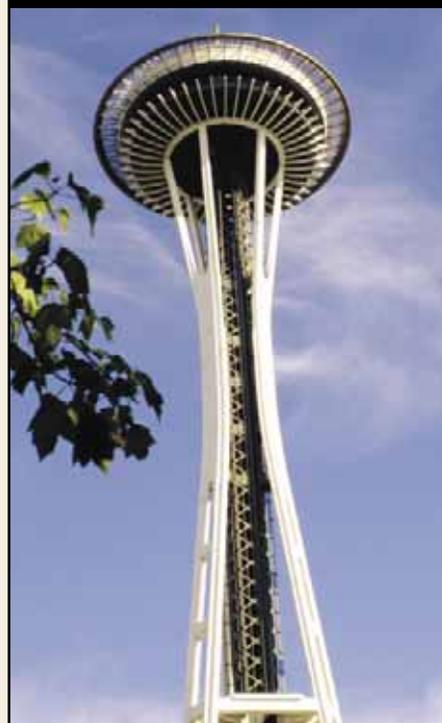
Call 1-800-457-0103 to reserve this golfer's dream vacation today



*Any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Subject to change and availability. All rates based on double occupancy and include port charges and government taxes. Airfare to Miami and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Carnival Cruise Line ships' registry: Panama and The Bahamas. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307

THE AMAZING RACE SEATTLE EVENT

July 29, 2006



6,000 credits for two-person team
9,000 credits for three-person team
Cash 'n' Credits option available*

This Seattle event is based on the popular "Amazing Race" TV show, where teams travel the world battling road blocks and performing "detour tasks" at the quickest pace possible to reach the next route marker. Now you can play this one-day mini-version of the show, with teams of two and three owners battling it out in the streets of the Emerald City. You won't win a million dollars, but you don't need a passport, either.

Package includes three-hour Amazing Race event; award ceremony and prizes; barbecue reception.

HONE YOUR PUZZLE-SOLVING SKILLS—CALL 1-800-457-0103 TODAY TO PLAY

*Any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Transportation not included. Game is open to all ages and fitness levels; however, as a quick finish is the object of the game, walking and jogging may be involved. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.

ESCAPE NEXT WINTER WITH THESE EXOTIC CARNIVAL CRUISES

Mexican Riviera for eight nights

Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Spirit* sails roundtrip for eight nights from San Diego to Acapulco, Zihuatenejo/Ixtapa, and Manzanillo, Mexico.

December 1-9, 2006

Inside cabin: 28,000 credits | Outside cabin: 34,000 credits



Western Caribbean for seven nights

Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Victory* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Miami to Costa Maya, Mexico; George Town, Grand Cayman; and Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

January 14-21, 2007

Inside cabin: 24,000 credits | Outside cabin: 29,500 credits

Balcony cabin: 34,000 credits



All credit values are for two people, based on double occupancy
Call 1-800-457-0103 to reserve your cabin today

Subject to change and availability. All rates based on double occupancy and include port charges and government taxes. Airfare and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Cash 'n' Credits option available; any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Carnival Cruise Line ships registry: Panama and The Bahamas. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307

SAN JUAN ISLAND GETAWAY



July 15-16, 2006 | 9,400 credits for two* | Cash 'n' Credits option available†

Sail roundtrip from Seattle aboard the Victoria Clipper to Friday Harbor in Washington's San Juan Islands. From there join other WorldMark owners on a wildlife cruise, where you can delight in the scenery and seek out elusive orcas and other native creatures as you traverse the channels, straits, and bays. Back on shore, you're free to explore this quaint seaport's parks, activities, shops, restaurants, and galleries. Your overnight accommodations at Friday Harbor Inn are three blocks from the ferry dock, in the heart of town.

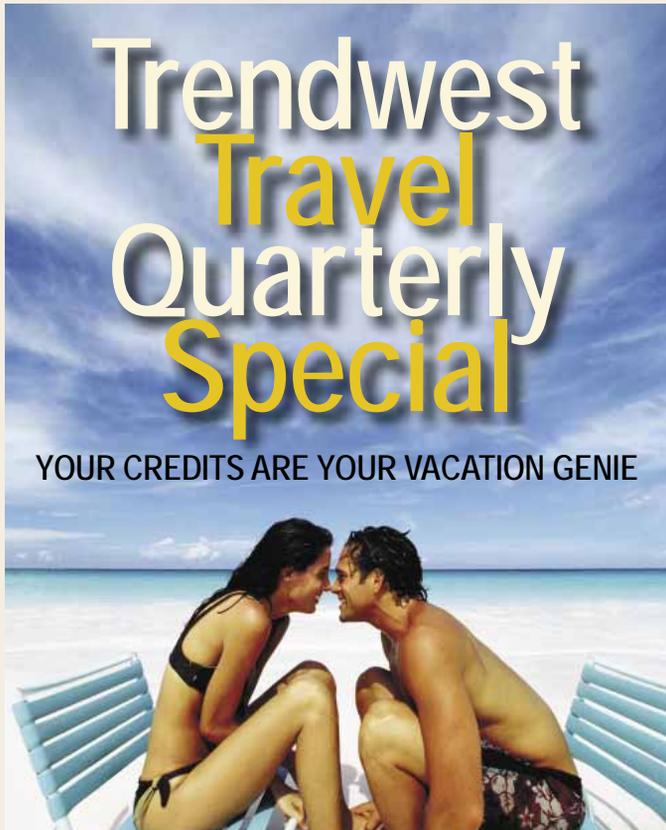
Package includes roundtrip transportation from Seattle aboard the Victoria Clipper; 2.5-hour wildlife cruise; one night's accommodation at the Friday Harbor Inn.

Optional Friday Harbor excursions available for credits (all rates are per person):

- Three-hour guided kayak tour ~1,200 credits
- Two-hour narrated island bus tour ~400 credits
- Whale Museum admission ~100 credits

**CALL
1-800-457-0103
TO PURCHASE THIS
ISLAND ESCAPE**

** Double occupancy. †Any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Airfare and meals not included. Additional people may share one room for 2,800 credits per person with a maximum occupancy of four. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.*



Trendwest Travel Quarterly Special

YOUR CREDITS ARE YOUR VACATION GENIE

Craving a tour of Europe? Yearning to take a cruise? Longing to fly to a desert island? Don't dream, dial! Call Trendwest Travel and use your credits to make those vacation wishes come true. You can use your WorldMark credits toward the purchase of any eligible* airfare, tour package, or cruise. You may travel anytime, but you must purchase by June 30, 2006, to take advantage of this special offer. Make your reservation today and start packing!

Call Trendwest
Travel
at
1-800-953-5511

*Only fares that can be prepaid at time of booking are eligible; hotels, car rentals, etc., requiring payment upon checkout do not qualify for this special. Exchange fees apply. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.



TWO YEARS

For the price of one

**Renew your Interval membership today!
Get 2 years for only \$84.**

Enjoy exciting exchange opportunities, low-cost Getaways, Golf Resort program, travel services & discounts, and much more...
Don't wait — call us today!

INTERVAL INTERNATIONAL
THE QUALITY VACATION EXCHANGE NETWORK

CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-888-353-3021
or 305-666-1884 ext. 7759 (outside toll-free limits)
REFER TO SOURCE CODE 92988
Offer expires May 31, 2006

CRUISE YOUR WAY INTO A NEW YEAR HAWAIIAN 10-NIGHT CRUISE

JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 10, 2007
Inside cabin: 34,000 credits
Outside cabin: Starting at 45,000 credits

**All credit values
are for two people,
based on double occupancy**

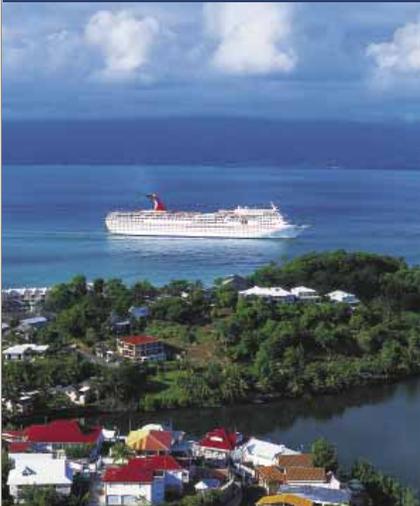
**Call 1-800-457-0103
to reserve your cabin**

Start the New Year off in spectacular fashion—cruise the Hawaiian Islands. The *Norwegian Wind* offers six stunning restaurants, 10 different bars and lounges, a fitness center, and expansive terraces and walkways that all present panoramic views of the open sea. Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Wind* sails roundtrip for 10 nights from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Hilo and Kona on the Big Island, Kauai, Maui, and Fanning Island in the Republic of Kiribati (passport required).



Subject to change and availability. All rates based on double occupancy and include port charges and government fees. \$129 USD exchange fee and airfare not included. Cash 'n' Credits option available; any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Norwegian Cruise Line ships' registry: The Bahamas, and Panama. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.

**FUN IN THE SUN ON
THREE- AND FOUR-NIGHT
BAJA, MEXICO,
CRUISES**



THREE-NIGHT BAJA, MEXICO, CRUISE

Carnival Cruise Line's *Paradise* sails roundtrip for three nights from Long Beach Pier in Los Angeles to Ensenada, Mexico.

December 8–11, 2006

Inside cabin: 12,500 credits

Outside cabin: 14,500 credits

FOUR-NIGHT BAJA, MEXICO, CRUISE

Carnival Cruise Line's *Paradise* sails roundtrip for four nights from Long Beach Pier in Los Angeles to Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico.

December 4–8, 2006

Inside cabin: 11,000 credits

Outside cabin: 13,000 credits



All credit values are for two people, based on double occupancy
Call 1-800-457-0103 to reserve your cabin today

Subject to change and availability. All rates based on double occupancy and include port charges and government taxes. Airfare and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Cash 'n' Credits option available; any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Carnival Cruise Line ships' registry: Panama and The Bahamas. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.

**Disneyland®
Park for Credits**

PARK HOPPER® PASSES

The "happiest place on earth" is now available for credits! With the Disneyland® 50th birthday celebration still in full swing, this offer comes just in time to plan your summer fun.

**Two-day adult (age 10+) Park Hopper® Pass:
2,900 credits**

**Two-day child (age 3-9) Park Hopper® Pass:
2,000 credits**

**Three-day adult (age 10+) Park Hopper® Pass:
3,600 credits**

**Three-day child (age 3-9) Park Hopper® Pass:
2,500 credits**

LIMITED TIME OFFER! Advance purchase of Park Hopper® Passes for credits is available now through April 28, 2006. All passes will be mailed between May 22 and May 26, 2006, and will be valid for use through December 15, 2006.



**PUT ON YOUR MICKEY EARS
AND CALL 1-800-457-0103 TODAY!**

Valid street address required. Tickets will be shipped via UPS 3-day service with signature required. Please arrange for someone to be available to sign for package during daytime hours. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307



Three Ways to Go Exotic with Norwegian

Hawaiian Seven-Night Cruise

Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pride of Aloha* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Hilo and Kona on the Big Island, Kauai, Maui, and an evening sail by Mount Kilauea.

DECEMBER 10-17, 2006

JANUARY 7-14, 2007



Inside cabin: Starting at 32,500 credits ★ Balcony cabin: 59,500 credits

Seven-Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise

Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Jewel* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Miami for San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. John and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; and Norwegian Cruise Line's own private Bahamas island.

DECEMBER 10-17, 2006

Inside cabin: 26,000 credits ★ Outside cabin: 33,000 credits ★ Balcony cabin: 37,000 credits

Seven-Night "Texaribbean" Cruise

Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Dream* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Houston for Progresso, Playa del Carmen, and Cozumel, Mexico; as well as Belize City, Belize.

DECEMBER 2-9, 2006

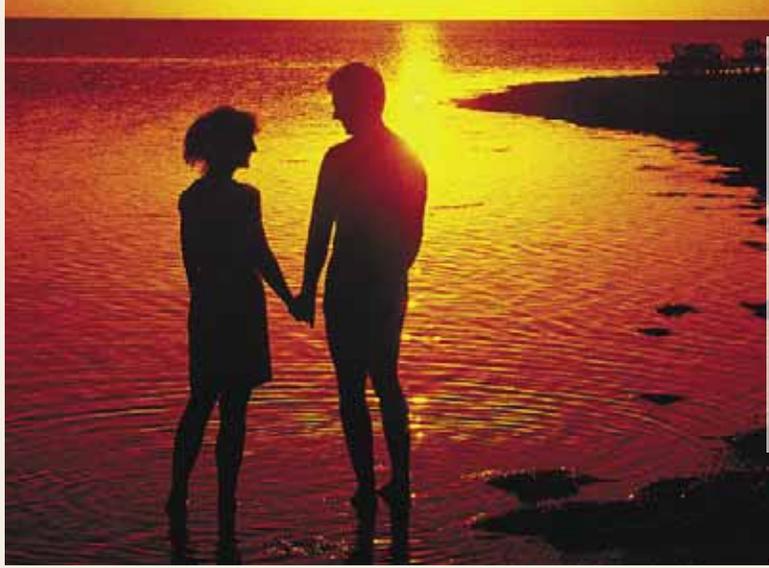
Inside cabin: 22,500 credits ★ Outside cabin: 27,500 credits



All credit values are for two people, based on double occupancy

Call 1-800-457-0103 to reserve your cabin

Subject to change and availability. All rates based on double occupancy and include port charges and government fees. \$129 USD exchange fee and airfare not included. Cash 'n' Credits option available; any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Norwegian Cruise Line ships' registry: The Bahamas and Panama. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.



Picnic
in Style
in the

Wine Country



Harmony Wine Case



Envoy Wine Case



Travel Wine Set



Martini Tote

Tote your libations safely and stylishly the next time you head out for a party, picnic, or concert under the stars. Your WorldMark store is offering special pricing this month on

- ▼ **The Harmony Wine Case:** Elegant leatherette container holds one bottle of wine, and comes with two wine glasses, corkscrew, wine stopper, and napkin.
- ▼ **The Envoy Wine Case:** With an innovative aluminum outer shell, this beautiful case has a fully insulated section for two bottles of wine, and includes a corkscrew.
- ▼ **The Travel Wine Set:** Four-piece set contains stainless steel corkscrew with blade, pour spout, and spout stopper—all in a sleek travel case.

There's also a martini tote for the cocktail set. All make perfect gifts—or treat yourself.

Shop online using your credits at
www.worldmarkstore.com



9805 Willows Road NE
Redmond, WA 98052

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRENDSWEST