

The "Varietal" Nomad

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Special points of interest:

- Cruisers thinking "outside the envelope" and "off the boat"
- Trade flat water for black-top just for a day!
- You came to see New York. Don't miss it!
- "A day without NY State Wine is like a day without sunshine" *Dad Stevens quote.*

New York Welcomes "Off Board" Thinkers

It probably shouldn't have come as such a surprise. Some of our cruising couples are taking the opportunity to use the Nomad as their Cruise-Ship Hotel headquarters, while inserting an over-the-road look at some of the landside attractions of beautiful New York State. The most logical place for starting one of these side trips is probably at spectacular **Seneca Falls**. By the time you have arrived, you will already be smitten by the ambience of New York State along the canal—and if you've done a little homework, you will also have discovered you are in the very heartland of the State's newly-burgeoning wine production industry.

Just 25 years ago this land, carved by glaciers into several spectacular "Finger" Lakes, boasted just 19 wineries. Today there are more than 150! There are 46 around **Seneca Lake** alone, with 25 on the west, and 21 on the east side. Taking a day away from the Canal in the middle of your week-long adventure is no doubt a good idea. Problem is, there are so many great places competing for your attention, it is hard to decide on where to go, and what wines to choose. Dad Stevens fancies himself as something of a connois-



The French don't have a corner on scenery! All the Views along NY's Finger Lakes are Glorious!

seur, and has done a lot of surreptitious sipping here and there along these same byways. He has dedicated this special Newsletter edition to describing a great day he enjoys, so you can consider one YOU will enjoy as well. **Bon Appetite, and AHOY!**

A Question of "Wheels"

Your first requirement is going to be a comfortable vehicle that can transport you over the 85 to 90 miles of highways surrounding Seneca Lake. The best way to do this is to call the great folks at **EAGLE AUTO**

RENTALS in Seneca Falls. As you come through the last lock and start across Van Cleve Lake, give them a call at (800) 758-1644, and tell them when you and the Nomad will be arriving at the Seneca Falls Town

Wall. They will make arrangements to bring a vehicle to you tomorrow morning—and you'll be able to leave it at the wall after you return tomorrow night. The Nomad's your hotel. **ENJOY and AHOY!**

Your Onshore Adventure Begins... "Un-Cork New York"

Your Wine Country adventure begins right alongside the Nomad. Make sure she's comfortably tied up at the Seneca Falls Town Wall, leave the air conditioner on "low" (if it's going to be sticky), and commandeer your Taurus out onto the highway. You will head west along Route 20 (If you cruised over to *Amelia's* yesterday for dinner—you'll drive past the restaurant as you approach Waterloo). *Did you*



(L) and turn left into **Belhurst Castle**. This is a place filled with history, beauty and breathtaking views. A

know that Waterloo is the place where they "invented" America's Memorial Day celebration?

As you travel through Geneva, take Route 14, South

wide range of activities await at this place listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which it displays in an elegant yet relaxed atmosphere. You'll quickly understand why Belhurst is considered "**One of New York's Most romantic Places**". I'm suggesting you first visit this "*newest winery on the Seneca Lake Wine Trail*", and then retire to one of Belhurst's beautiful dining rooms for an elegant, romantic lunch. Ruth Frampton is the Wine Shop Manager, and looks forward to your visit.

Fox Run Vineyards, Inc.

Situated high up on Torrey Ridge, 60-acre **Fox Run** overlooks one of the deepest parts of Seneca Lake, and is producing a remarkable range of fine wines. Under the tender tutelage of Scott Osborn and Brooks Hale, this vineyard is poised to become one of the great producers of fine vinefera wines in the Finger Lakes Region. The first vines were planted in 1984, and the old Dutch style barn, erected shortly after the Civil War (1867) was

restored and converted to an up-scale winery and tasting room. Winemaker Peter Bell lovingly manages the production of Vineyard Manager John Kaiser, and among their average production of 18,000 cases is some of the best Chardonnay anywhere! You will find their selections

complete and competent—and don't miss their **Reserve Chardonnay**. Production is mostly consumed in NY and Pennsylvania but *they will ship...*

Tours at Fox Run are given every hour, on the hour until 4:00PM. There's a neat gift shop on the premises, and if you're lucky, you'll be here during one of the Lake's Wine Trail Events!

Glenora Wine Cellars, Inc.

Further south along Route 14 is Dundee, NY—and amid vineyards sloping steeply down to the lake shore, **Glenora Wine Cellars** is one of the largest producers of vinefera varieties in the Eastern U.S. Founded in 1977, Gene Pierce, Ed Dairymple and Scott Welliver have boosted the firm from

recognition as a top New York producer to its current status as one of the world's most prestigious winery properties. There are prizewinning vintages



lining the shelves everywhere—but I have to admit a certain failing for the firm's absolutely glorious **Reisling** and **Seyval Blanc**. Winemaker Steve deFrancesco never ceases to amaze with his style and versatility.

Lakewood Vineyards, Inc.

The Stamp family has farmed the picturesque western shore of Seneca Lake for four generations. Understanding that a wine can be no better than the fruit from which it is made, each generation has passed the secrets of vine and earth on to the next, always striving to grow the highest quality grapes. Located at 4024 State Route 14 just north of Watkins Glen, you'll be passing conveniently by their location on your wine adventure tour. Stop in and sample some of the



1997
Long Stem White



1999
Crystallus

very pleasant selections of award-winning **Lakewood** wines (including a



nice "**Port**" and be sure to try a sip of their special **Mystic Mead**, a tasty delight you will not have seen elsewhere along your route.

Making the Turn in Watkins Glen



At the bottom of the Lake is part of

the adventure. You're in pretty, historic **Watkins Glen**, where American Grand Prix road racing was revived on October 2, 1948. This was the first American road race run since before World War II. The 6.6 mile circuit ran through the village streets, starting and ending in front of the Schuyler County Court House. The

circuit was used for races through 1952. Unchanged, it may be toured today on public roads. If you were here in the early days, like Dad, it's a sentimental journey. For those who have never been here before, it is a lesson in motor racing history..

Stop for an Ice Cream at the Hershey's emporium on Franklin Street. Be sure to leave by the back door (early pictures) and ask the proprietor about this famous racer's (and spectator's) hangout!

Atwater Estate Vineyards

OK. So Dad is writing this, and he's prejudiced. If you found any wine in the locker aboard the *Nomad*, it probably came from here. In 1999 Ted Marks, along with black grape magician Phil Hazlitt purchased the 84-acre piece of land that lies between the eastern shores of Seneca Lake, and route 414 in Hector. This winery's name comes from Phil's sixth-

generation great-grandfather, and it was Phil's expertise in cultivation and winemaking that was the basis for the beginning of **Atwater Vineyards**. Current Winemaker Vincent Aliperti joined the



Tasting at Atwater is always an occasion !

Atwater staff in 2001 from the Wiemer Vineyard. His distinctive style shows best in the mystical way he handles the vineyard's dark grapes, of **Pinot Noir** and **Cabernet Sauvignon** persuasions. The wines here are all memorable (and affordable)!

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If you were able to stay anywhere close to the schedule, you've had a fine lunch at **Belhurst Castle**, a tasty "sorbet" at the **Hershey Ice Cream Store** in Watkins Glen, and a lot of elegant wine along the way. Nothing could be better than stopping for dinner at one of the best restaurants you've ever experienced! Robert and Suzanne Stack have converted an old Lodi farmhouse into an establishment



reminiscent of the great "*la Relais*" restaurants of rural France. Suzanne is your chef, and will prepare any menu item you select to world-class standards. Only open for dinner—you'll be

glad you waited to end a perfect day here at **Suzanne's**. We think it is the finest restaurant in New York. **Bon Appetite!**

Re-Insert Cork: Store in a Cool Place...

I hope you have found this a pleasant diversion from what is already a perfect vacation adventure—skimming along the NY State Canal System with **CRUISE-USA**. We didn't mean to go "overboard" - but felt that the interests of so many of our wonderful guest skippers should be explored, explained and shared with others. If you choose to take this kind of an option during your canal cruise, you will have a chance to visit and explore some great eateries, fine wineries, get to know some wonderful people, and see some



dramatic scenery along the way . The really comforting part of your day will be returning to the Town Wall at Seneca Falls to find your "cruise-ship" waiting to welcome you home in comfort and style. (You DID remember - the air conditioner on "low"?)



A note to our Skippers:

Getting Dad to put this Newsletter together was easier than we thought. He is probably the chap who first checked you out in the Nomad—an admirer of fine automobiles, airplanes and boats, great wine and world traveling. I hope you have found information and pleasure in his effort to help you "Un-Cork New York"

Mark Stevens, CRUISE-USA.