

# THE BUFFALO NEWS

## Toga party launches a weekend of events

**The Finger Lakes Wine Festival is held in Watkins Glen International Racetrack, Watkins Glen**

7/11/2004

The weekend begins with the third annual "Launch of the Lakes" toga party from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Friday in the Coliseum Village. Food and wine tasting is included and fireworks complete the evening. The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Glass, two days continental breakfast, a special "Finger Lakes" themed gift basket and a dinner voucher starting at \$228 per person.

Patrons are picked up at their hotel and there is a mid-day and end of the festival return.

### Area wineries

Here is a listing of some of the area wineries taking part in the festival.

#### Merritt Estate Winery

2264 King Road, Forestville

(888) 965-4800; [www.merrittestatewinery.com](http://www.merrittestatewinery.com)

Festival location: 191-192 East Riesling Blvd. and the Food Court (sangria slushes)

Pouring: At least nine wines, including Bella Rosa (a sweet red Lambrusco), Chautauqua Blush (similar to a white Zinfandel) and two dessert wines, Vidal Ice Wine and Late Harvest Delaware.

#### Niagara Landing Wine

##### Cellars

4434 Van Dusen Road, Lockport

433-8405; [www.niagaralanding.com](http://www.niagaralanding.com)

Festival location: 43-44 Chardonnay Blvd.

### Tickets

Regular prices: \$20-\$25 for one-day; \$25-\$35 for two days; \$10 (one day) for designated driver.

Contact: Watkins Glen International at (607) 535-2481 or [www.flwinefest.com](http://www.flwinefest.com). For information on Finger Lakes Tours/Covered Wagon Tours, (607) 324-4200 or [www.finger-lakes-tours.com](http://www.finger-lakes-tours.com) [www.finger-lakes-tours.com](http://www.finger-lakes-tours.com).

### Tours and shuttles

In addition to designated driver tickets for those not drinking, there is shuttle service (about \$10 each way) through Finger Lakes Tours/Covered Wagon Tours.

Packages include Saturday transportation to and from the festival, two nights accommodation, a one-day taster festival pass, admission to the Corning Museum of

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Pouring: Eight to 10 varieties including Misty Niagara (sweet white) and Boxer Blush

### Warm Lake Estate Vineyard and Winery

3686 Lower Mountain Road, Lockport

731-5900; [www.warmlakeestates.com](http://www.warmlakeestates.com)

Festival location: 149 East Riesling Blvd.

Pouring: Rhodes Road (Pinot Noir)

### Willow Creek Winery

2627 Chapin Road, Silver Creek

934-9463; [www.willowcreekwines.com](http://www.willowcreekwines.com)

Festival location: Not yet assigned

Pouring: Eight wines including Rambo Red and Aunt Millie (a blush, similar to a Zinfandel)

### Johnson Estate Winery

8419 West Main Road, Westfield

(800) 374-6569; [www.johnsonwinery.com](http://www.johnsonwinery.com)

Festival location: 7-8-9 Chardonnay Blvd.

Pouring: About 17 wines, including Vidal Ice Wine and Red Ipocras, a spiced red wine whose recipe dates to the 16th century.

### Casa Larga

2287 Turk Hill Road

Fairport

(585) 223-4210; [www.casalarga.com](http://www.casalarga.com)

Festival location: 13-14 Chardonnay Blvd.

Pouring: Nine wines including two chardonnays (Vineyard Hill and Casa Larga Vineyard) and Casa Larga Meritage (blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc)

Note: Festival locations are subject to change. Up-to-date information is available in the Taster's Guide program.

### Tips and notes

- The festival takes place rain or shine and is handicap accessible.
- Pets are not allowed.
- While ticketed children under 12 will be admitted, this is an adult event and no family activities are planned. Strollers should not enter the festival's tasting areas.
- Coolers will not be allowed.
- All guests aged 30 and under should be prepared with identification showing proof of age.
- A claim check area will allow visitors to store purchases until they leave. To save time, bring name and address labels to identify your purchases.

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- Source: [www.flwinefest.com](http://www.flwinefest.com) and festival staff

### Directions

(from downtown Buffalo):

- Take I-90 East to exit 42 (Rt. 14 Geneva/Lyons)
- Turn slight right onto NY-318
- Turn right on NY-14
- Turn right on NY-414
- Take another right on Steuben St./CR-16

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