

MICHIGAN'S VIBRANT VINEYARD VACATIONS

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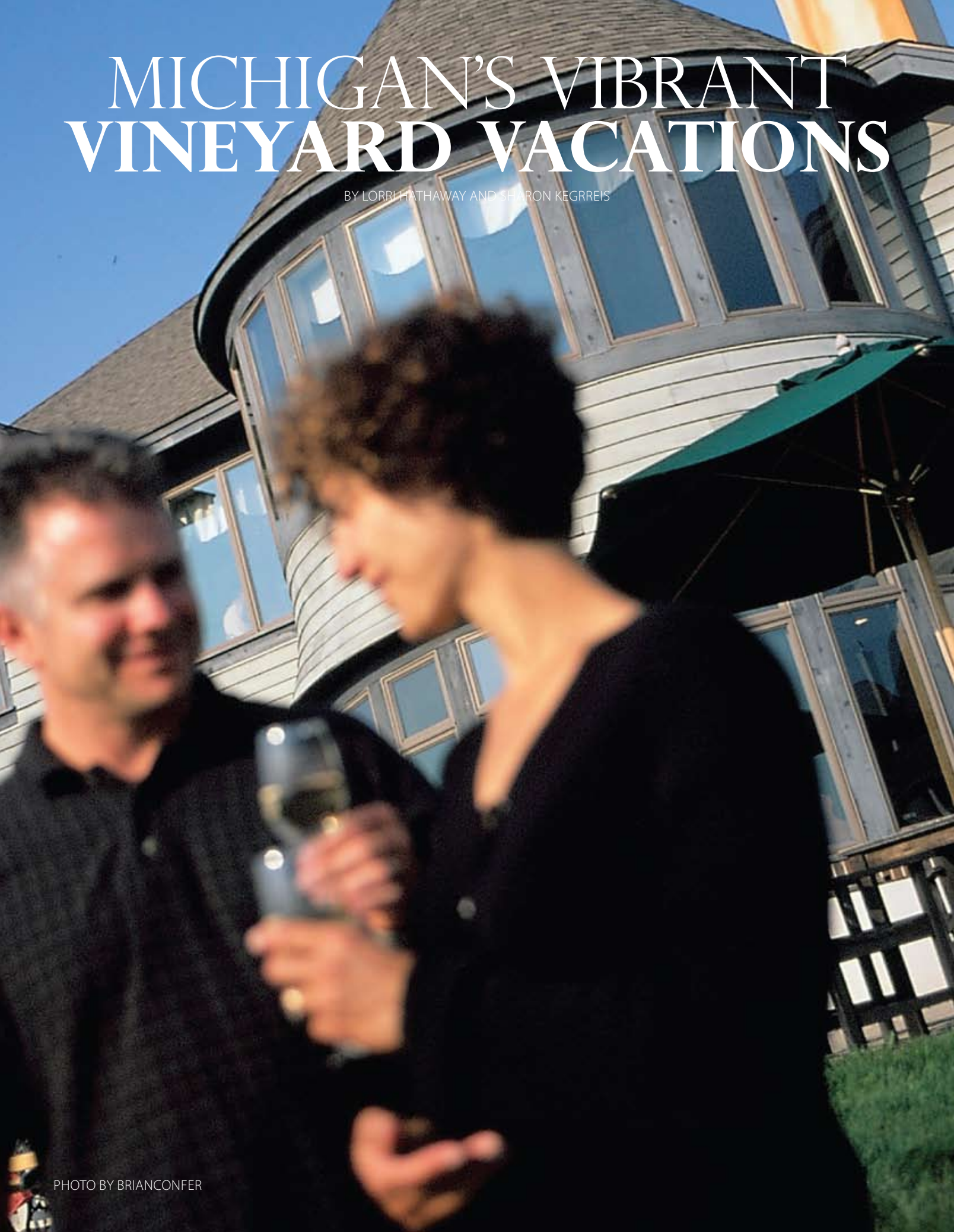


PHOTO BY BRIANCONFER

Spectacular sunsets over Lake Michigan, sandy beaches and the elusive Petoskey stone attract millions of visitors every year to the 300-mile-long coastline. Beyond the charming beach town accommodations are a number of vineyard destinations near Michigan's west coast, welcoming overnight guests for unrivaled experiences.

Vineyards are idyllic destinations for relaxation, romance, girls' getaways, celebrations and culinary exploring. Travelers seeking breathtaking landscapes, world-class wines and creative cuisine may be surprised at the many options from the tip of the mitten to Michigan's southwest border.

HARBOR SPRINGS

Highland Hideaway Bed and Breakfast Resort

Tucked in hill country in Harbor Spring is Highland Hideaway Bed and Breakfast Resort, also home to Pleasantview Vineyards and Winery. Atop a steep climb overlooking the dramatically sloping vineyard, this getaway includes the Sunset House for romance and relaxation and, across the grounds, the Sauterne House for families and small groups. A lovely garden and wooded setting provides a hushed backdrop to this northern Michigan escape located a stone's throw from the recreation destination of Boyne Highlands. Vintner Dr. Jerry Perrone is delighted to provide private wine tastings, tours and educational classes during your stay and share insight into sustainable agriculture. Special occasions and events are welcome and, for a dramatic touch, white dove releases complement your ceremony.

OLD MISSION PENINSULA

Chateau Chantal Bed and Breakfast

Chateau Chantal offers one of Michigan's most beautiful, unspoiled vistas of rolling, lush vineyards and glistening bays. Stay in the lovely lake-view suites or a spacious two-bedroom executive apartment offering a relaxing respite from the busy life. Book a seasonal cooking class, for which Chateau Chantal has garnered national accolades, to round out your culinary experience. Or, reserve a Thursday in the summer for Jazz at Sunset, a weekly celebration of music, wine and stunning sunset views.

Every day, awaken to a hearty breakfast

like blueberry Malbec jam on raisin toast, fresh fruits and hot meat and egg cuisine. Bob Begin, founder of Chateau Chantal, cheerfully greets and offers to fill Champagne flutes with freshly squeezed orange juice. A cup of locally roasted Java from Great Northern Roasting Company ignites a fun-filled day on the peninsula. Immediately following breakfast, Bob guides a tour, sharing his insight along the way into the daily workings of the winery and inn - the perfect start to exploring the wineries of Old Mission Peninsula.

TESORO INN

Across from Chateau Chantal, Tesoro Inn is the revival of an old farmhouse residing on an early 20th century farm. Now a contemporary inn, the house features three suites. Professional Chef Les Hagaman and his wife, Jane, place as much emphasis on luxurious accommodations as a delightful breakfast experience, and invite you to choose your setting for dining: breakfast in bed, outdoors, in the third floor viewing tower or in the dining room with other guests. Les describes his food as fresh, provincial and classic. The pairing of farm fresh, free-range chicken or duck eggs, prepared any style, and signature corned beef hash, is one sampling of the varying menu. Outside, gardens, vineyards and orchards surround the inn, its bucolic setting ideal for those seeking an escape to the quiet vineyard countryside.

THE INN AT

CHATEAU GRAND TRAVERSE

A surprisingly, massive guesthouse is nestled within the estate of Chateau Grand Traverse. The 15,000-square-foot inn features six private guest rooms and a shared 18-person

dining table, mammoth living room, and a recreation and entertainment facility. The house's many nooks invite you to settle into a good book, chat over wine with friends or, for fun, search for the secret passage into a colossal cellar room. At sunset, find a cozy spot on the porch to sip a glass of wine poured from your complimentary bottle and soak in the stunning view of Grand Traverse Bay and Power Island.

In the morning, fill up on a deluxe breakfast before touring the massive wine production facility, strolling through the grapevines on the 120-acre estate and sampling a wide selection of award-winning wines in the tasting room. Outdoors, enjoy searching for more than 40 species of birds that frequent the vineyards, including the rare to the region orchard oriole.

GREY HARE INN

Down the road, an elegant villa sits atop a vineyard and orchard with a scenic view of Grand Traverse Bay. Surprising European-influenced architecture draws you in as you wind along the dirt lane to Grey Hare Inn. Inside, European décor is reflected throughout, and three charming guest rooms boast French names of Le Jardin, Grange de Bois and Clos de Vigne. The experience is reminiscent of a working farm in Southern France as you're encouraged to mingle with the farm animals and pick your own grapes during harvest. In the morning, savor local farm ingredients in your Tuscan-inspired breakfast.

LEELANAU PENINSULA

The Inn at Black Star Farms

A stay at the Inn at Black Star Farms in Suttons Bay is a breadth of agricultural experi-



PHOTO BY BRIAN CONFER



PHOTO BY BLACK STAR FARMS

ences from the moment you wind your way along the hillside vineyard to the magnificent inn and sweeping estate. The inn's elegance is buoyed by the striking, stone-encased fountain and, upon entering, stunning white marble foyer and dramatic staircase. Nearby, a daily hospitality hour is held for mingling fireside and enjoying wine and delicious appetizers. During your stay, a special wine blend is accessible by tap, in addition to your complimentary bottle of Red House wine. Spend a comfy night in your well-appointed room before dining on a gourmet breakfast.

Afterward, wander over to the equestrian facility or hike the 160 acres of forest, vineyards and orchards that, come wintertime, is also a haven for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. In the tasting room, sample award-winning wines, and indulge on a wedge of Raclette cheese, handcrafted onsite by Leelanau Cheese Company. Still hungry? Try wood-fired pizza at the seasonal Hearth and Vine Café, located on the farm, and shop for fresh produce, hearth-baked bread, maple syrup and kettle-cooked jams in the market.

SILVER LEAF WINERY

Along grapevines and nearby cherry trees, a rustic, log-hewn cabin resides on the grounds of Silver Leaf Winery in Suttons Bay. The cozy cabin is ideal for whiling an afternoon away, reading a good book and sipping wine on beautiful Leelanau Peninsula. In the tasting room, vintners Mark and Patti Carlson pour tastes of their wines, handcrafted from their 22-acre vineyard. Revel in the brightly displayed artwork by local artists that graces the walls and is available for purchase. Or, linger on the spacious deck accessible through French doors. The treetop and vineyard views just may inspire you to trek along a two-mile trail through the estate, guided by a handy map. Be sure to pack a lunch, as the serene setting offers several picnic spots.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN Worthenbury Country House

Antique shopping, wine country and beaches are within an easy commute of a beautifully restored farmhouse located in the heart of Michigan's southwest wine country. The Worthenbury Country House in Baroda dates back to 1916 when it was home to one of the first settlers in the area. Today, the three-bedroom house that accommodates up to 10 people is a tranquil hub for relaxation after touring the many wineries in the region. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted with Tabor Hill sparkling juice from the owner, Steve, who makes you feel like honored guests.



PHOTO BY WORTHENBURY COUNTRY HOUSE

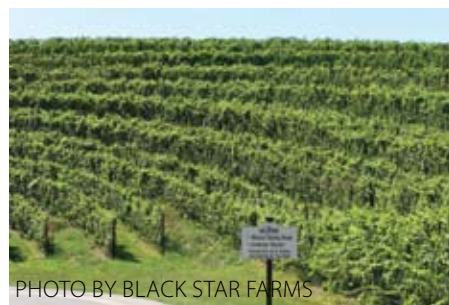


PHOTO BY BLACK STAR FARMS



PHOTO BY CHATEAU GRAND TRAVERSE

Outside, the grill beckons for an impromptu barbecue paired with a regional Pinot Noir or steel fermented Chardonnay you can pick up during your tour of the Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail. Later, take a dip in nearby Lake Michigan, or unwind on the cozy porches or in the outdoor hot tub. Whatever you choose, the secluded house is convenient for exploring wine country, delving into family fun along the shoreline or enjoying a secluded getaway among acres of grapevines.

THE COTTAGE AT LINDAH

In nearby Buchanan is a lovely Victorian farmhouse, called the Cottage at Lindah. The two-bedroom house with modern-country decor offers a quaint getaway for up to six guests on the 40-acre estate of Hickory Creek Winery. During your stay, stroll over to the tasting room to sample the artisan wines. Pick up fresh fruits and meats from close by markets and cook up dinner in the fully equipped kitchen. The dining room's expansive windows offer an unspoiled view of the working farm. End your day chilling on the front porch or back deck with a bottle of estate wine, such as the elegant, pair-with-anything Cabernet Franc Rosé, and soak in the landscape of Chardonnay vines. Complimentary coffee and locally crafted bath soaps, shampoo and lotions add finishing touches to your stay.

Vineyard escapes abound along Michigan's west coast. Naturally, autumn is an ideal time to explore wine country for a vibrant, mosaic landscape of lush grapevines and gorgeous fall colors. Visit off-season, too, for easier access to the winemakers and for more room at the tasting bar. Any season, you'll be delighted in the spectacular views, award-winning wines and friendly hospitality. □

Lorri Hathaway and Sharon Kegerreis are authors of the award-winning *From the Vine: Exploring Michigan Wineries and The History of Michigan Wines*. Get autographed books and more details at www.deliciousmichigan.com.