

Start planing an escape to wine country



January snow may have you dreaming of a spring escape. Lucky for you, America's first viticulture region is close enough for a day trip or long weekend of relaxation, entertainment and wine.

Augusta is just a short, one-hour drive from St. Louis and is home to unique shopping, dining and lodging experiences.

This charming, historical village hearkens back to a time when life moved slower and was full of purpose, a time when a handshake meant something and when excellent craftsmanship was a source of pride. That pride of purpose accounts for Augusta's award-winning wine.

A key part of Missouri's wine history, Augusta's picturesque farms and rolling vineyard hills have inspired some of the

country's best wines. In fact, Augusta, not Napa Valley, was the first designated wine district in the United States.

For those who are looking for more energetic pursuits, nearby recreational opportunities include the KATY trail and Klondike Park, a scenic property with trails, a lake, camping and an arts center. Winter hikes can be magical – and speaking of magic, Augusta is the perfect place to celebrate the captivating power of love.

There's still time to plan a romantic Valentine's weekend in Augusta. One option is Love in the Vines: A Valentine's Day Pop up Bar in the Crush Room at Mount Pleasant Estates. Enjoy an evening filled with delightful drinks and delicious bites.

Planning ahead for spring, you'll want to save the date and book lodging for the 22nd Annual Plein Air Art Festival, taking place April 24 through May 3. Artist applications are being accepted now at augustapleinair.com.

Let the businesses of the Greater Augusta Chamber of Commerce help you plan your next getaway.

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