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Cheers!

4TH ANNUAL WACONIA
WINE FESTIVAL IS JULY 27-28



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Music, food, wine, shopping and July weather — what's not to love? Those are just some of the reasons Ashley Schram, owner of Schram Vineyards Winery & Brewery in Waconia, says people should attend the Waconia Wine Festival July 27-28.

"It's a great, fun and easy way to experience all three wineries over the course of a weekend," Schram said.

The Waconia Wine Festival is being held at three wineries in Waconia — Parley Lake Winery, Schram Vineyards Winery & Brewery and The Winery at Sovereign Estate — that are located within a five-mile radius of each other, and all have views of different lakes.

The event, which is in its fourth year, is put on by Waconia Wine Country, a joint association of the three wineries.

"We have collaborated on events since 2012, but wanted a big event to showcase the amazing grapes grown and wines being created in this area," Schram said. "We all grew in size and became established enough to put on a bigger event."

The area has become very well known for its wineries, with the wineries seeing success because of the symbiotic relationship they have with each other, explained Terri Savaryn, general manager of The Winery at Sovereign Estate who also serves as the main organizer of the festival. But because Minnesota wine is still a new industry, Waconia Wine Country is trying to raise more awareness about local wineries.

Savaryn says a festival is a good way to do that because "people in Minnesota love festivals," noting the Waconia Wine Festival attracts more people to all three wineries, giving them a good sense of what each one offers.

At each winery, attendees will pay a \$5 general admission, and then it is another \$5 for a wine tasting (you can pay more to taste more wines). The wine tasting comes with a souvenir glass with the winery's logo on it, so if



PHOTO BY MELISSA TURPINEN

The Winery at Sovereign Estate in Waconia overlooks Lake Waconia.

you go to each winery, you can collect all three.

Schram Vineyards will be pouring a selection of its reds, whites and roses, as well as sampling its Bumblebee honey wines from the can — something that's not done often at the winery, Schram said. At Sovereign Estate, visitors will be able to sample a variety of wines, including several state-grown wines, Savaryn noted.

There will also be live music, a

variety of food options and various vendors at each winery throughout the weekend. Visitors will also have the opportunity to take home wines.

A new feature at this year's event makes it easier for people to get around. There will be buses that will make the rounds between the wineries, so people can park at one and take a bus to the rest of them if they so choose. Savaryn said this is something people have been asking for for years.

Schedule of events

PARLEY LAKE WINERY

Friday, July 26

■ 6 p.m.: Concert in the Vines with GB Leighton. Tickets are \$15.

Saturday, July 27

■ Noon-3 p.m.: Music from Becky Rae Dalton. Free with festival admission.

■ 3-5:30 p.m.: Music from Traveled Ground. Free with festival admission.

Food: Arcane Kitchen, Borealis Bowls, Crepe & Cake food trucks

Sunday, July 28

■ Noon-2:30 p.m.: Music by Lehto & Wright. Free with festival admission.

■ 3-6 p.m.: Music from Karina Kern. Free with festival admission.

Food: Fireman's BBQ food truck

Vendors throughout the weekend: MN Art Truck, other vendors

Parley Lake Winery is at 8280 Parley Lake Road in Waconia. Its website is www.parleylakewinery.com.

SCHRAM VINEYARDS WINERY & BREWERY

Friday, July 26

■ 6-9 p.m.: Kick-off event with music from Traveled Ground. Free to get in.

Saturday, July 27

■ 4-7 p.m.: Music from Zack King. Free with festival admission.

Sunday, July 28

■ 1-4 p.m. Music from Erin Chase. Free with festival admission.

Vendors throughout the weekend: Fox Run Mobile Marketplace and Salmon Sitka Shares

Schram Vineyards is at 8785 Airport Road in Waconia. Its website is schramvineyards.com.

THE WINERY AT SOVEREIGN ESTATE

Friday, July 26

■ 6 p.m.: Kick-off event with music from The 6 Outlaws. It is a \$5 admission at the door, which opens at 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 27

■ 6 p.m.: Music from LiveWire. Free with festival admission, or \$5 at the door after 6 p.m.

Sunday, July 28

■ 1-4 p.m.: Music from Clark Machtemes and Traveled Ground. Free with festival admission.

Food: "A lot of food options" from the winery's in-house kitchen, including its popular cheese plate, barbecue and sandwiches, General Manager Terri Savaryn said.

Vendors: Various craft vendors.

Sovereign Estate is at 9950 North Shore Road in Waconia. Its website is sovereignestatewine.com.

If you go

What: Waconia Wine Festival.

When: noon-6 p.m., July 27-28, with kick-off events at each winery on July 26.

Where: Three wineries in Waconia — Parley Lake Winery, Schram Vineyards Winery & Brewery and The Winery at Sovereign Estate.

Cost: \$5 general admission at each winery, an additional \$5 at each winery for a wine tasting and souvenir tasting glass.

Other details: Live music, food and vendors at each winery. Free buses will make the rounds between the wineries from noon-6 p.m. Some wineries will host post-festival events.

Website: waconiawinecountry.com.