

Camera work

COMMENTS? CONTACT KEN KLOTZBACH: KKLOTZBACH@POSTBULLETIN.COM



"It has been great. Relaxing," says Jean Just, of Annandale, at Aspelund Winery in rural Kenyon.



From left, friends Vicki Hassing, of Blue Earth; Brooke Anderson, of Minneapolis; Kelly Tedrick, of Rochester; and Lori Yonkovich, of California, drink wine July 30 at Lake Pepin Winery.

Sipping wine & riding a trolley



The Aspelund Winery in rural Kenyon is one of four stops on the Great River Road Wine Trail "Minnesota Side" Trolley Tour. Other stops on the tour included the Lake Pepin Winery, Falconer Vineyards in Red Wing and Cannon River Winery in Cannon Falls. Reserve your seats at RochesterMNTour.com or by calling 507-421-0573.



"I love it; it's always great fun," says Lake Pepin Winery vineyard and grape grower John Marshall, who served Margie Bloomcamp, of West Des Moines, Iowa, on a July tour.

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY ELIZABETH NIDA OBERT

Whether celebrating a 60th birthday with daughters or a "girls reunion" with friends, the Great River Road Wine Trail "Minnesota Side" Trolley Tour is a popular draw for those as far away as Blue Earth, Pipestone and Okoboji, Iowa.

"It's really kind of exploding this year," said company manager Rick Anderson on a sultry Sunday afternoon in July. "It's a nice experience for people." In addition to socializing and getting a view of southeast Minnesota, good wine awaits.

Tours are held on Sundays through October — and almost booked through September — and board promptly at 10 a.m. at the Olmsted County Government Center. An \$89 ticket includes stops and sampling at Lake Pepin Winery, Falconer Vineyards in Red Wing, Cannon River Winery in Cannon Falls and Aspelund Winery in rural Kenyon. The tour price does not include a stop for lunch.

"I love it; it's always great fun," said Lake Pepin Winery vineyard and grape grower John Marshall, who walks from table to table offering a pour. "They bring me 30 customers a shot. Honestly, I'm exhausted when it's over."

"It's all very good, except I'm getting wined out," confessed Char Carlotto, of St. Louis Park, during her final stop in Kenyon, where Aspelund Winery co-owners Dawn and Bruce Rohl hustled around serving wine.

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About Elizabeth Nida Obert

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I tend to enjoy the vineyard experience more than the wine. My husband and I spent time at the Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery near Seattle, Wash., in August. The wine was abundant, but the highlight for me was an outdoor Doobie Brothers and ZZ Top concert on the lush grounds. If you like wine and music, it's something you might want to look into.

Photographer's tip: Waiting for a trolley to make its appearance down a dusty country road requires patience. As do a variety of situations photographers find themselves in. Forethought and anticipation are important.



The Lake Pepin Winery is one of four stops on the Great River Road Wine Trail "Minnesota Side" Trolley Tour. "They bring me 30 customers a shot," said Lake Pepin Winery vineyard and grape grower John Marshall, who appreciates the boost in business.



A glass of wine is served at Aspelund Winery, which opened in 2015 and is located in rural Kenyon.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

Send high-resolution photos to images@postbulletin.com. Include caption information, including names and towns.

Sept. 30: Fairs and Festivals. Due by Sept. 26.



From left, John Carlotto and his wife, Char Carlotto, both of St. Louis Park; and Kim Wabaunsee and Jean Just, both of Annandale, relax in the sunshine at Aspelund Winery.