



FERMENTERS GUILD WINERY TOUR 2010

This year we'll be visiting two excellent wineries in the "Twenty Mile Valley" region of the Niagara Escarpment: Henry of Pelham and Hernder Estates, both fine producers of a variety of VQA wines. Each winery has planned a special event particularly for us, and the tours promise to be both informative and fun.

Due to the wineries earlier closing times during the month of April, we'll need to leave the hotel no later than 3 pm. The bus is due at 2:45 pm, so we can begin boarding after that, returning by 6 pm.

That will allow anyone needing to check in at the hotel to do so, and also have dinner, before the Meet and Greet begins at 7:30 pm. We pushed our departure as late in the day as we could, mindful of providing as much time as possible for people driving from a distance.

We'll visit Henry of Pelham first, since they close at 5 pm. *(They usually do not allow group tours except at 11 am or 1 pm, but have made an exception for us. The caveat is that they have enough time after we leave for staff to clean up, etc. before closing.)* From the bus we'll go directly to their ballroom, where we'll be greeted with a sparkling wine to start. As we taste four wines there, including an ice wine, we'll hear all about the winery and its history, as a 'verbal tour', plus appropriate tasting notes. We'll then be able to do a bit of shopping, use the facilities, etc. before re-boarding the bus around 4:20 for our second stop.

Although Hernder encourages people to visit earlier, as reflected in their pricing structure, it is great for us that they do stay open later, often catering weddings and other events in the evenings. They will join us on the bus for a short introduction, then take us on a 20-minute tour. If conditions are favorable, we'll enjoy our tasting on their patio, looking out at the vineyards, so keep your fingers crossed for fair weather! Besides a red, white and iced fruit wine, we may get to try a vinegar or infusion tasting, those being among their other specialties. We'll have to leave by 5:40 pm in order to be back at the hotel by 6 pm.

You may have noticed the singular case above: "bus". Last year we had a few ~~to~~ many people for one bus, and wanted to accommodate everyone who signed up inasmuch as the wineries featured --Hillebrand and Jackson Triggs-- represented invitations from two corporate members [Global Vintners and RJS]. Thus we ordered and paid for two vehicles, ensuring sufficient space.

However, in an effort to be frugal with our funds, this year we are just taking one bus. That means we have a maximum of 46 spaces available, on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up now so you don't miss out!

To sign up – please contact Member Services at (613) 489-1242 or email memberservices@fermentersguild.com.