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Finger Lakes Wine Review

Ice, Ice Baby

By Holly Howell

The nice thing about living near a great wine region is that there is always something fun to look forward to on the calendar. It is true that January signals a time of rest and recovery from the holidays, and folks like to slow it down a bit. At the wineries, the tasting room staffs take a breather, and the winemakers focus on that recently harvested juice that is quietly fermenting in the cellar. But the festivals continue. And when it comes to dealing with the cold New York State winters, there is no better way to celebrate than with an event that includes the ice!

Just when I am starting to tire of my New Year's resolutions, and I cannot eat another carrot stick, the Wine on Ice festival appears. Yes, the good folks of Elmira have perfectly timed their second annual event to take place on January 27 and 28 at the First Arena on North Main Street. Finally, I can get back to doing what I do best. With three different sessions to choose from, you will find a delightful assortment of regional wines to taste, gourmet cheeses to sample, and seasonal fare to savor from the local restaurants. Craft businesses and artisan producers will be on hand offering an array of unique gift items. And now that December is long gone, it is time to splurge on yourself, completely guilt-free.

Of course, you get a keepsake wine glass, which is my favorite part of the deal. Musical entertainment is included as well. The ticket prices for Wine on Ice range from \$23 to \$27. For more information, you can visit www.wineonice.com. Nice.

Barely three weeks later, the ice shows no sign of melting. So, Casa Larga Vineyards in Fairport will be hosting the fourth annual New York Ice Wine Festival on February 18. This is the heaven on earth for wine lovers with a sweet tooth. The winery, just



outside of Rochester, is home to one of the world's most award-winning ice wines. These wines are made from frozen grapes, resulting in exquisite dessert wines. Casa Larga invites other ice wine producers along to offer up a taste of one of the region's most luscious specialties. Add winery tours, ice-carving demonstrations, educational seminars, live entertainment, and gourmet food stations, and you've got a party. Bye-bye winter doldrums.

For more information on the New York Festival, visit www.casalarga.com.

And don't forget to pray for snow! ❄️



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