



LARGE GROUP GUIDELINES

For Tour Operators and Guests Groups
(8 or more people)

Lake Erie Wine Country (LEWC), an association of 23 wineries located along the shores of Lake Erie in western New York and Pennsylvania, attracts thousands of visitors each year. Many of these visitors arrive via buses or limousines. The following guidelines are intended to ensure that wineries, tour operators, and other individuals organizing group visits have a clear understanding as to the expectations of the wineries. These policies are intended to provide pleasant and enjoyable wine tasting experiences which are safe for all--including our mutual customers.

Guidelines for Groups (of 8 or more) Visiting Wineries:

- **Reservations:** Call wineries well in advance. While 2-weeks notice is preferable, any notice is better than none. This is especially important for larger groups. Unannounced group arrivals cause considerable strain on tasting room operations, which may adversely impact customers' experiences, particularly during peak periods and seasons.
- **Keep in Touch:** Have phone numbers for each winery. Know each tasting room's hours and applicable tasting fees in advance. Please call the wineries to warn them if you are NOT on schedule - expect that there may be some adjustments required if your group is late.
- **Be Thoughtful When Scheduling:** For smaller wineries especially, schedule tours during weekdays or weekend mornings. Some wineries have small tasting rooms with limited staff. Please take this into consideration as you schedule your visits, as advance notice enables wineries to plan ahead and arrange for extra staff.
- **Remember to Purchase Wines You Enjoy:** Many of the wines you'll taste while visiting are only available in the tasting rooms, so it is a good idea to purchase wines you want to take home.
- **It is NOT advisable for large groups to visit our wineries during trail-wide event Saturdays in:** February (Chocolate), May (Cheese), 1st 2 Weekends in November (Harvest). See website for dates.

Special Guidelines for Drivers:

- **Parking:** Park in designated areas (if available) to avoid blocking the entrance or parking lot.
- **Be Considerate:** Wineries operate under specific licenses issued by the State Liquor Authorities that allow them to provide tastings of their wines in order to generate sales.
It is illegal for customers to bring outside alcohol onto winery premises. It is also illegal for wineries to serve customers who are intoxicated or not of legal drinking age. Drivers should be proactive in handling these behaviors and not drop off intoxicated individuals to be dealt with by tasting room staff.
- **Be Proactive:** Inform parties/clients *in advance* that they need to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at wineries.
- **Take Care:** Do NOT drop off customers on a main road so that they can walk to a winery. Many wineries are on busy roads. It is VERY DANGEROUS and a SERIOUS LIABILITY RISK for tour clients to walk along these roads to/from a tasting room.
- **Please:** Do NOT provide alcohol in buses or limousines en route to wineries.
- **AND Lastly:** Please do not bring intoxicated or unruly clients to wineries. For all of the reasons stated above, most importantly the illegality of serving intoxicated customers, drunkenness should not be facilitated by providing or allowing consumption of alcohol en route to wineries. Bringing intoxicated or unruly clients to wineries will result in incidents and/or conflicts that will only serve to harm both wineries' and tour operators' businesses.

(continued)

Thank you for helping to keep our customers safe and for facilitating enjoyable experiences in Lake Erie Wine Country.

Lake Erie Wine Country Wineries and Phone Numbers:

6 Mile Cellars (April-Dec.) (814) 580-8375

21 Brix Winery (716) 792-2749

Offers complimentary tours if scheduled ahead of time. Visitors can see the tank room and walk into the barrel room (from our tasting room) during regular hours.)

Arrowhead Wine Cellars (814) 725-5509

Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co. (814) 449-0378

Blueberry Sky Farm Winery (716) 252-6535

Burch Farms Wine Shop (814) 725-0747

Courtyard Winery (814) 725-0236

Heritage Wine Cellars (800) 747-0083

Johnson Estate Winery (716) 326-2191

(Max 50 people in large groups. Reservations may not be accepted after 3 p.m. on Saturdays.)

Lakeview Wine Cellars (814) 725-4440 (Only groups of 25 max. No groups after 3 p.m.)

Liberty Vineyards & Winery (716) 672-4520

Mazza Chautauqua Cellars/5 & 20* (716) 269-3000

Mazza Vineyards* (814) 725-8695

Merritt Winery (716) 965-4800

Noble Winery (716) 326-9463

Penn Shore Vineyards (814) 725-8688

Presque Isle Wine Cellars (814) 725-1314 (Prefer to collect tasting fees ahead of visit.)

Quincy Cellars (716) 736-2021 (\$5.00 tasting fee - refunded with bottle purchase.)

Sensory Winery (716) 736-2444 (\$5.00 tasting fee - refunded with bottle purchase.)

South Shore Wine Company* (814) 725-1585

* A \$3 tasting fee per person will include guided "tasting flights" where each person will have a choice between two flights of 6 wines each. Group leaders can inform tasting room staff of the main preference of their group (dry, semi-sweet, sweet) so that staff can try to tailor the flights to their group (if possible.)

Sparkling Ponds Winery (716) 736-4525

\$3 tasting fee which includes all wines on list, ice wine, frappe vino and a few food pairings. Drivers bringing 15 or more receive a free small token of our choice. Suggest calling at least one day in advance but are welcome anytime. Prefer groups before 3:00 p.m. We accept groups anytime.

Vetter Vineyards (716) 326-3100

Willow Creek Winery (716) 934-9463