

# Fredericksburg Wine Tour

by Cheryl Kenny



What do Harley Fat Boys, Texas wildflowers, and Wine Tasting have in common? SCSC'S easy rider trip to Fredericksburg!

Many of the trip participants took off work Friday to arrive in Fredericksburg early in the day. The Montgomerys and Kennys even came up a day early - going to Fredericksburg via San Antonio. A group of early arrivals went to one of the local Biergartens to get into vacation mode. A few folks arrived late. Elaine Schoch and Linda Patterson came to the Welcome Party straight from work - complete in their work clothes. After their long drive, they decided to leave the Welcome Party early to get some dinner. Harvey Hatling also decided that something more than appetizers was called for, so he snuck out to a German restaurant to sample sauerbraten for his first meal in Fredericksburg. Kayleen Kill and John Rice started out the day with the Shell Open and then continued their day of fun and frolic when they arrived at the Welcome Party around nine o'clock. The Welcome Party was such a success that we had to make 2 extra runs to the liquor store for more wine! This seemed appropriate since we were all on the trip to sample wines. The wines at the Welcome Party were a remembrance of Peggy Montgomery's 1998 trip to Italy. On that trip we went to the Cavit winery and came away with some true favorites. We felt this trip would start off with a previous SCSC success and serve as a springboard to discover some wonderful Texas wines. The snacks were a success, but the Amaretto Torte for dessert received rave reviews.

Saturday morning some folks decided to go off on their own. Sue Edwards, Nancy Sarff, Kay Cain shopped till they dropped in town. Penny Chancy went out to the Fair Grounds to see what was available at the Antique Festival. Jim Edwards, Jeff Sarff, and Ed Cain tried to set up a golf foursome with Steve Kenny. However, his ATC mule duties did not allow him to make the 7:45 T-time. Ed set the tone for competition by starting out the morning by 4-putting the 1<sup>st</sup> hole, but Jim reported it went "up hill" from there. Floyd Hanks and Ginger Howard-Hanks took the morning to check out a Rose Farm to see if they could find some specialty roses for their garden. While the roses didn't pan out, they got a great mirror for the mantle in their new home.

We started out Saturday with a drive along the Willow City Loop. This scenic drive of 13 miles has beautiful outcroppings,

wild flowers, and streams that cross the road. One of the unexpected benefits (?) of the weekend was that Harley Davidson clubs were participating in a fund raiser rally. Joe Walker and Gene Soo were sorry they didn't know about this event ahead of time, as they would have brought their bikes along for the weekend. The bikers we doing a good job of attracting the single (and married!) women on our trip. More than one person attempted to make friends to get a ride! At our first stop along the scenic drive, Claire Finn asked one of the bikers if she could take a picture with him on his bike. He was glad to accommodate so she and Linda Morrison captured a Kodak moment. Jerry Sadler knew how to solve the problem of bikers luring the SCSC women away from our group. He loaded up his car with women for the tour to make sure he had a chance to get to know Claire Finn, Linda Walters, Linda Morrison, and Barb Hefron. We had so much fun on this excursion that we were 30 minutes late for our first winery tour! (We were to learn later that it might have been better to pass this one up!) When we arrived at Bell Mountain, Lee Swords, Sandy Cox, Joe Walker, Gene Soo, Craig & Sy Liebergot, Suzan Miles, and Annette Brown were also being entertained by bikers as this winery was a stop on their rally.

The weekend of April 20<sup>th</sup> is the annual Wine and Wildflower Trail. While many wineries participate in this annual event, the SCSC group limited their visits to two wineries. Bell Mountain Winery was first on our list. Our tour guide was delightful, but this vineyard did not get high marks from the SCSC crowd. There was general consensus on the Mead sweet dessert wine, but the other wines got mixed reviews. Harvey Hatling helped out by finishing the wine samples for several folks.

Everyone made different choices for lunch, with plans to meet at Beckers Winery at 3:00. Cheryl Kenny couldn't get the Montgomerys, Liebergots, Suzan Miles, Annette Brown, Harvey Hatling, Sylvia Hudspeth, and Millie Jude to leave the Herb Farm after lunch, so she was AGAIN late for the Winery Tour. Sylvia Hudspeth and Millie Jude decided that Fredericksburg was a shopper's paradise, so they opted to drop out of the afternoon activities to explore the antique shops in town. Since the Sarffs, Edwards, Cains, Kill/Rices, Lee Swords, Joe Walker, and Sandy

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Cox were on time at Beckers, they joined another tour group. This winery was delightful. Beckers has won several Texas wine tasting awards, and has even beaten out some California wines in competition. As there was lots of wine drinking by the glass, the group ended up staying here much longer than expected listening to live music on the porch. Ginger Howard-Hanks was talked into playing the washtub, using her skills as a harpist to pluck the rope. Suzan Miles did some ethnic dances, and Jerry Montgomery picked up the accordion to play a short melody (!?!). This was one of many places during the course of the weekend where Suzan Miles made sure we celebrated Annette Brown's Birthday. Ed Cain had a chance to get back at Jeff talking about his putting skills when he placed a Top Flight golf ball in his fresh glass of Chardonnay. Afterwards some folks stopped by the Wild Seed farm. The group then took a break before dinner.

Dinner was at the Navajo Grill. Due to having so much fun during the day, Millie Jude, Sylvia Hudspeth, JD Baron and Carol Cain decided to join the dinner festivities. While Lee Swords, Sandy Cox, Elaine Schoch and Linda Walters decided to dine on there own, they all stopped by to say hello and see how

our meal was going. The restaurant put together a special menu for our group - Southwestern in style, the food was fabulous. At the end of dinner Jeff Sarff entertained us with his cork in the bottle trick. Make sure you ask him about the \$75 bill the General Manager gave him at the end of the meal for a "damaged" napkin! After a day of fresh air, wine, and food, most everyone retired to the hotel. The Kennys, Montgomerys, Suzan Miles, and Annette Brown followed the Liebergots to the Piano Bar after dinner for a final nightcap. While there, the Liebergots took turns serenading the crowd with their beautiful voices. The piano player was having so much fun, he stayed past his time to close. Only when the lights were raised did the lounge empty out.

After a weekend of delightful food, wine, weather, and company, SCSC checked out on Sunday morning and headed back to Houston. General consensus is that we need to do this again. Volunteers to run the next trip????

Thanks for the contributions from Steve Kenny, Peggy and Jerry Montgomery.

