

REMEMBER MY FIRST VISIT TO THE FINGER LAKES wine trail well: During the fall of my senior year at Hamilton College, I toured Cayuga Lake with a close group of friends. We made a full day of it, visiting wineries like Hosmer, Thirsty Owl and Knapp before packing into a small room in a Holiday Inn near the lake. The next morning we grabbed bagels at Ithaca Bakery before heading back to campus. Little did I know I was hanging out in my future backyard!



My second trip was in the spring of 2012. Itching for a break from the daily grind of New York City, my husband and I joined my mother on a weekend trip to Rochester to visit my aunt and uncle. While there, we all spent a day touring the west side of Seneca Lake. Billsboro, Fox Run and Wiemer were just a few memorable stops where we chatted at length with the friendly people who greeted us—at Billsboro, one of the employees even knew my uncle’s band, which performs around the region. We gabbed, sipped and laughed our way along the trail. It was a great, fun day with family.

Though these are my early memories of the Finger Lakes wine trail, they weren’t my first experiences tasting the region’s wine. I have fond—though blurry—memories of sharing a big bottle of Red Cat (the subject of this issue’s Behind the Bottle) among college friends in a dorm room one birthday. I’ve had many fun times with the people dear to me while enjoying Finger Lakes wine!

It’s fitting that when I recall that first sip of Red Cat and those first visits to the region I think of the people with whom I shared those experiences. After all, wine is all about people! Not only do you share it with friends and family, but also behind every bottle of wine produced here is a person’s or team’s heart and soul. And that’s what this issue, our annual Wine Issue, is all about: the people behind the wine. From up-and-comers like Kelby Russell and Christopher Bates, to multi-generational winemaking families like the Wagners and the Hazlitts, to living legend Hermann J. Wiemer, there are hardworking, passionate people producing these world-class Finger Lakes wines.

I may not have known it at the time, but all the friendly people I met during my wine trail visits would soon become my neighbors. Lucky me! With this issue, I invite you to raise a glass of Finger Lakes wine in celebration of these inspiring winemakers and wine professionals.

Cheers!

Sally Kral

Managing Editor



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