

CELEBRATE KINGS: *Pride in our people, places & products*

Celebrating Kings County – Gaspereau Vineyards style!

Fiddlers and kitchen parties, authors and artisans, cooking demonstrations and culinary delights! All from Kings County and waiting to be discovered this summer - at a local winery!

Tucked against a south-side hill in Kings County's beautiful Gaspereau Valley, "local" is celebrated at Gaspereau Vineyards. Only locally developed grapes grace its wines - no blends - and local staff works its vineyards, winery, and store. Its focus is on local products and, on weekends through the tourist season, local talent!

Though owned by the Jost family of

Malagash, the year-old farm-estate winery is independently run and is managed by Kim Strickland. She bubbles with enthusiasm when expressing appreciation for Kings County and its sometimes little-known riches.

"Kings County is a hidden treasure. Do you know how much there is to do here?" asks Kim. "There are four wineries within 20 minutes of one another, beautiful scenic parks, artists, musicians, and some of the top restaurants."

Each weekend this summer, the winery will feature someone or something local. Some highlights include book signings and

readings, cooking demonstrations and samplings - and for a true show of Kings County hospitality - daytime parties featuring local fiddlers and singers to keep the feet tapping.

"We have Nova Scotia kitchen parties - Kings County style!" says Kim. "To add to the mix, I am also hoping to bring music students here from Acadia." The summer's events are promoted through other county hospitality venues such as restaurants and camping parks, and are listed on a big chalkboard at the winery.

In the winery's store, "local" is everywhere. Mingling with the wines are cheeses from Fox Hill Cheese House, books by authors such as Lila Hope Simpson and Cameron Royce Jess, organic herbs from Farmer John's, local wood creations, and hand-made candles from Burnt-Out Solutions, among many other products.

"There is a need out there to focus on the community. Local people are looking for locally grown, locally made, locally focused product. You're supporting your own."

Culinary students from nearby NSCC Kingstec Campus have created another "local" connection for the winery. They recently paired Gaspereau Vineyards wine with apple dessert entries for the Apple Blossom dessert contest. And they have a winner!

"Krista Estabrooks has won second runner-up in the dessert contest!" says Kim. "Her dessert was paired with our maple wine. We will be featuring all their (Kingstec) desserts here, probably on Apple Blossom weekend."

And after summer is over, local youth groups are invited to experience the harvest season. As with all visitors, they enjoy a complimentary tour and tasting - the youth sample fresh white and red grape juice. But they also get to participate in "punching down the grapes"!

Visit Gaspereau Vineyards, and learn about much more than wines. "When people leave here, they go away with a handful of brochures promoting all local products and local things to do. That's down-home Kings County hospitality!"



Kim shows a selection of locally written books, displayed with some award winning wine selections.



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