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Restaurant news

Vinoteca celebrates Michigan wines with events

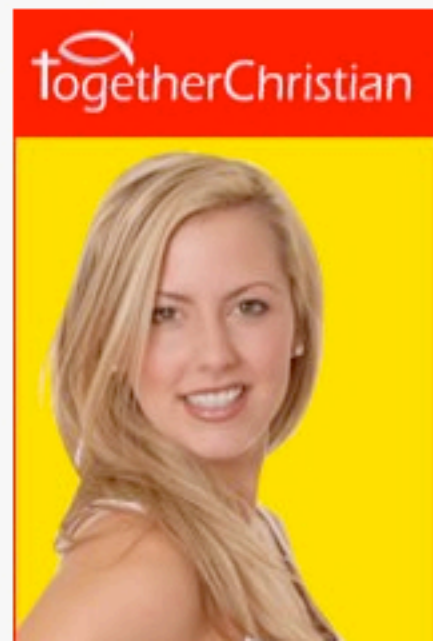
Molly Abraham / Special to The Detroit News

Royal Oak is looking like the Napa Valley this month. Among the various events are Vinoteca's celebration of Michigan wines all through April with special wine flights and appropriate Michigan-themed dishes to pair with them.

Here's one dinner choice that's especially appealing: grilled salmon with mustard/maple sauce, fingerling potatoes and fresh asparagus, at \$15. Pan-seared duck breast with herbed grit cakes, cherry beurre rouge and fresh vegetables is tagged at \$17, and there are also entree choices at \$13 and \$16, to be paired, of course, with appropriate Michigan wines by the glass or the flight.

Wine flights are \$18.50, and are typified by one that includes Shady Lane Cellars 2000 Brut, Left Foot Charlie Pinot Blanc and Black Star Farms Pinot Noir blend. The quality of Michigan wines has been on an upward trend for quite a while, but there are still people who will be surprised by it.

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On April 29, the month-long celebration at Vinoteca will culminate with a tasting that includes cheeses and charcuterie and a chance to really get to know what the more than 50 Michigan wineries are doing.

Vinoteca is at 417 S. Main St., in the same complex with Bastone, Cafe Habana and Commune. Reservations for events at Vinoteca are taken at (248) 544-6250 (Bastone). Vinoteca opens at 4 p.m. each day.

On April 23, D'Amato's at 222 S. Sherman St., (248) 584-7400, will host a dinner featuring wines of Alain Brumont of Chateau Montus along with five courses, including charcuterie and wild Alaskan halibut prepared by chef Myles McVay (\$55). On April 28, the action moves to Oak City Grille at 212 W. Sixth St., (248) 556-0947, where Spanish wines will be featured along with a multi-course dinner at \$35. Reservations are needed for all the events.

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