



Travel Ideas

Treasures Of The Niagara Peninsula

(NAPSA)—Horseshoe Falls may be the best known attraction of Canada's Niagara Peninsula, but the falls are only one attraction to sample and savor.

Horseshoe Falls are described as the most scenic of the two Niagara Falls, because about 85 percent of the water flows over them. At night, wide beams of colored lights illuminate the falls, creating a memorable show of light and color.

Many visitors use this border crossing as a starting point for exploring the Niagara Peninsula, which is bound by Lake Ontario on the north, Lake Erie on the south and by the Niagara River on the east. There's a lot to see.

For example, The Thousand Islands, which lie in the St. Lawrence River near Lake Ontario are a popular resort area, known for beautiful, rustic views, and their fishing, hunting, boating, and scuba diving opportunities. From both Alexandria Bay and the smaller fishing port of Clayton, boat excursions set out to explore the scenic waterways.

This area is one of the warmest in Canada. During the winter, when westerly winds bring frigid Arctic air to most of Canada, temperatures in this region average a relatively balmy 10 to 20° F. In the summer temperatures can be over 70° F, a ten degree jump over most of Central Canada.

Besides attracting tourists for summer pleasures, the milder climate also makes the area home to Ontario's wine region. The backbone of the wine region is the Niagara Escarpment, a ridge approximately 100 to 160 feet high which acts as a barrier to form a mesoclimate suitable for growing grapes.

One of the area's unique pleasures is ice wine. In keeping with the Canadian tradition of making



Visiting Canada's Niagara Peninsula can be a beautiful experience.

the best of its severe climate, regional winemaker Inniskillin makes this specialty wine, almost entirely by hand.

Interestingly, the harvest commences once the temperature drops below 14.0°F (-10°C) and the grapes have naturally frozen on the vines.

As the frozen grapes are pressed, much of the water in the juice remains frozen as ice crystals and only a few drops of sweet, concentrated juice are extracted. Slow fermentation then transforms the syrupy nectar into the decadently rich and alluring specialty hailed as "icewine."

The wine has been described as having an orange blossom perfume; nectarine and peach flavors, with a kiss of honey—a subtle surprise not unlike many of the other pleasures to be found in this beautiful area.

For more information, call 905-468-2187, visit www.inniskillin.com.