

# Cambridge Winery rolls out new wines...

## ...as The Vineyards at Cambridge parade new homes

By Tristan McGough  
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Vino-centric communities might have first been developed in old Europe, but leave it to Frank and Laurie Peregrine, owners of Cambridge Winery, to take it to a whole new level in America, creating a viable commercial enterprise that can adapt in several ways to accommodate its residential neighborhood while entertaining the wider community.

The Peregrines are turning their vision into a vine-ripened reality at their Cambridge compound with what will be their very first grape harvest, picked from vines planted in the spring of 2015.

"We expect around eight tons of grapes to be harvested," offers Frank Peregrine, who with wife Laurie, owns and manages two Cambridge Winery Tasting Rooms, the first in Madison located at 1001 S. Whitney Way, the other being the Cambridge Winery Tasting Room and Event Center.

Situated at 700 Kenseth Way in Cambridge, the Cambridge Tasting Room & Event Center offers an upscale menu that counterbalances its impressive variety of alcoholic concoctions, especially the wines under its brand.

Peregrine says, "Cambridge Winery will be using all its harvested grapes exclusively for its own wines.

"This year, our harvest will yield three new varieties: Marquette, Petite Pearl and Brianna."

Besides growing select, climate-hearty grapes at their vineyard, and then fermenting and aging them into vintage varieties, the Peregrines hope their 73.5-acre Cambridge location will become a magnet destination

for weddings, family reunions and community events, such as just occurred earlier this year when the Cambridge Arts Council held its 2018 "Fire & Ice" Annual Gala at the capacious center. The Gala brought in more than 200 people, however, says Peregrine, "Our dining seating capacity is 300 and we hope to reach that with groups in the future."

"We also hosted the Cambridge High School Junior Prom this year, and we have over a dozen weddings booked so far for this year."

Compared to their first year, when only a single wedding had been booked, Peregrine says, "Events have really picked up. We'd like to see more of them."

Actually, Cambridge Winery had purchased the first 28 acres of land in Cambridge specifically for planting grapes. Peregrine indicated that the first four acres that had been planted back in 2015 are the same four about to be harvested in 2018 and used for the first oak barrel fermented and aged wines grown by the winery. The other 2016-sown five acres of the nine so far planted will be harvested next year or soon thereafter.

"We've used Hungarian and American oak for our barrels in the past, and this year we're trying oak barrels from France. We rotate the barrels out over a five-year life cycle," the master gardener with a chemistry degree conveys.

"Out of the four wines we entered in last year's State Fair judging competition," Peregrine proudly reveals, "we won awards for three of them: two silver and one bronze."

The wine contests are usually held in July so the winners can be on display during the August fair, proclaiming victory and, so they hope, a larger market-share.

While Frank's taking care of the viniculture side of the enterprise, Laurie manages the hospitality side, parlaying her culinary degree from Madison College to complement their choice selection of fine wines with a delectable cuisine that is presently expanding both its entrees and hours.

"We want to do more of certain kinds of dining events, like the brunches we did for Easter and Mother's Day," Peregrine exclaims.

However important it is to develop their winery brand and create the right event space for any themed event, the Peregrine's have not come to just pour a fine glass of vintage wine and toast the bride. The designated areas they've planted grape vines across their 73.5 total acre compound wind along exurban streets that will be populated with people seeking a vino-kind of culture cruise in their domestic lives.



Chris Cox and Chris Fahley stand ready to serve at the tasting station, showing the spacious event center in the background. (Photo by Tristan McGough)

The Vineyards at Cambridge is a residential development that will feature large family estates, family lots, plus condos and apartments. Peregrine vouchsafed, "The 20-unit apartment complex we just built had 10 units already rented the day the doors opened.

"Once we've filled it, we'll build a second 20-unit building as part of the Cambridge Vineyard Apartments," which is a discreet legal entity, similar to the Cambridge Winery and The Vineyards at Cambridge.

This year, The Vineyards at Cambridge will be showcasing five stately homes which highlight the latest trends in architectural design and upscale amenities. The Vineyards is one of the seven sites chosen for the 2018 Parade of Homes, running from June 9-24, 2018.

"We're very proud of that," Peregrine understates the great honor he brings to Cambridge, which has been doggedly pursuing progressive developments – both residential and commercial – that will add to the tax-base while enhancing the Village's reputation for quirky artisans, rural creatives and metro-commuters, all enjoying the serenity of small scale community surrounded by ample natural beauty.

The Cambridge Winery and The Vineyards at Cambridge do more than just bring commercial and residential developments side-by-side.

Quite literally, the dual venture at the 73-acre compound intertwines the two kinds of developments, insinuating the winery's vines throughout the meandering backyards of the multifaceted residences – like a landscaped laurel on the head of a giant Bacchus, the God of Viniculture, Wine-making, and Ecstatic Events.

Maybe it's that kind of analogy which best suggests an apropos image to the vino-centric neighborhood model being developed right in the front yard of Cambridge as part of the indigenous cultural landscape that is Wisconsin.

Like the vino-development itself, the image is larger than life.



Grape vines insinuate the rising residential development next to The Cambridge Winery. (Photo by Tristan McGough)



# Cambridge Winery

Sip, Dine, Relax



Stop by the Cambridge Winery Tasting Room and Event Center, located at the corner of Highway 12/18 and Kenseth Way on the edge of town. Enjoy Cambridge Winery's large selection of boutique wines from Wisconsin and California. Ask for a tour of our young vineyard, located just a block away in the Vineyards at Cambridge, a prestigious new neighborhood development with homesites integrated with the vineyard and bike paths.

Cambridge Winery offers wine tastings, glasses of wine, local beer and cocktails. Stop in for lunch or dinner, no reservation required. Check out the event space as a venue for your upcoming wedding, celebration or corporate event.



[www.cambridgewinery.com](http://www.cambridgewinery.com)

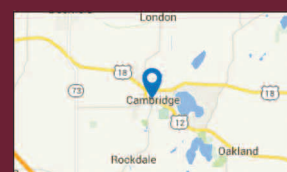
Check our Facebook page for weekly menu updates as well as upcoming events. Join our email list to get personalized up-to-date information on monthly wine specials and events by visiting our website.

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