

Th: Jefferson MONTICELLO

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Jefferson and Wine Tours will be conducted on eight evenings

THERE'S little argument that Thomas Jefferson was the most knowledgeable American wine connoisseur of his time.

"If someone had wanted to create the ideal observer of wine in early 19th-century America, he would have created Jefferson: a Virginia planter, well-traveled, a cultivated and urbane writer with an excellent palate, plenty of money to buy and try wine from any part of the world he wanted, and enough fluency in French to speak and write to wine-makers and connoisseurs in their own language," John Hailman wrote in the introduction to his 2006 book, *Thomas Jefferson on Wine*. "Jefferson lived at the heart of American and European social life. He could taste and discuss wine with the most famous and knowledgeable men and women of his day."

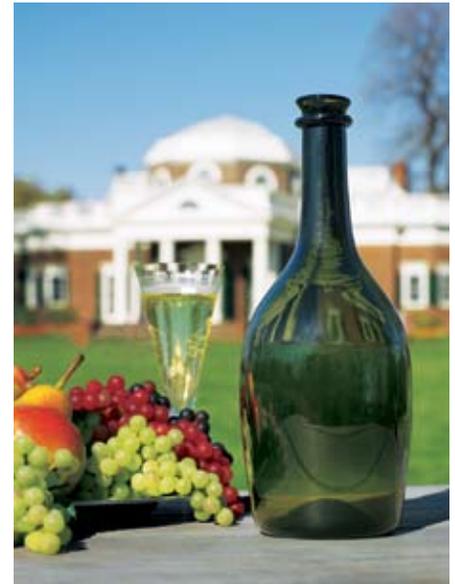
Jefferson's deep and longstanding interest in wine will be theme of small-group guided tours of Monticello to be

conducted on Wednesday and Friday evenings from Sept. 15 through Oct. 8.

Jefferson and Wine Tours will explore Jefferson's exposure to European wines, his attempts to grow wine grapes at Monticello, the storage and service of wines from around the world at his home, and related topics.

Jefferson and Wine Tours, lasting approximately 45 minutes, will include stops in rooms on the main floor of Monticello, in the Wine Cellar in the passage beneath the house, and in the Vegetable Garden overlooking Jefferson's restored vineyards. Each tour also will include a tasting of Virginia wines.

The tours will begin at 5:45 p.m. on Sept. 15, 17, 22, 24, and 29, and Oct. 1, 6, and 8. Monticello will be offering additional wine-related activities and events in the fall. For updated information, visit www.monticello.org/wine/.



COMMENTS?
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