

Airlines are maintaining own in strike

All airlines have been affected by the air controllers strike, but they are trying to limit the effect upon passengers as much as possible.

The Federal Aviation Administration has dictated that the number of flights will be reduced to accommodate the smaller air-controller network.

Reduced flights means new scheduling, frantic ferrying of planes from one place to another, and probable layoffs within the industry. These are internal problems, however; your flight will probably leave as scheduled.

Here are some of the news items coming out of the Detroit airline business:

- Frontier Airlines has introduced new jet service from Denver, Colo., to Oakland, Calif., and an introductory \$349 round-trip fare between Detroit and Oakland for passengers flying before Sept. 30.

- Buy your ticket 72 hours in advance and pay \$10 for any changes you make after it is issued.

- Simmons Airlines, which flies regularly in outstate areas of Michigan, has picked up the service discontinued by Republic between Detroit and Jackson.

Simmons, one of eight commuter lines in Michigan, makes two daily round trips between Houghton, Marquette, Escanaba, Traverse City, Lansing and Detroit. It flies one round trip daily between Sault Ste. Marie, Pellston, Alpena and Detroit, and another between Detroit and Cleveland.

Simmons uses two Brazilian twin-engine turbo-prop planes, the Embraer Bandeirante, on the Jackson run. They cruise at 250 miles an hour and carry 18 passengers.

- Judith Schuler-Pollard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Schuler of Farmington, has been named Delta Air Lines reservation manager for the Detroit area.

She has been with Delta since 1971, in the Southfield offices of the airline.

- If you would like to fly Freddy Laker's Skytrain, call the toll-free number 1-800-221-0374 for information about his inexpensive but confusing array of discount flights to Britain.

The low season, with the best prices, is from Nov. 1 to March 31; shoulder is April and May as well as Aug. 14 through Oct. 31; high is June 1 to Aug. 14.

You can buy a one-way Super Apex fare in low season for \$408 between New York and London; or a one-way within-eight-day fare for \$208. Reserve through your travel agent's airline computer reservations system. Ask for all the details to be sure this is the service you want.

— Iris Sanderson Jones



travel log
Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

From France to the falls: Niagara's grapes finally make the big time

IT WAS 28 degrees below zero in the Niagara Peninsula last Christmas day, a rare cold and one designed to turn a winemaker's hair from black to white overnight.

The native grapes were hardly enough to survive, and the French hybrids had a reasonably good chance, too. But what would happen to the vintners they tried so hard to produce for people who love Reisinger, Pinot Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer?

The word "vintner" has been a thorn in the side of northern wine makers for years, because that is the general description of wine grapes grown in both California and western Europe. We are used to the vinifera flavor, and nothing else tastes quite right to us.

THE GRAPES that grow naturally in northern New York and Ontario, as well as in Michigan, are usually considered table grapes, including the labrusca family, of which the Concord is the best known. Wine drinkers, raised on vinifera grapes, are inclined to look down their noses at what is called the "foxy flavor" in these wines.

We want the flavor we are accustomed to, especially the very popular Rhine flavor, which creates a great problem for winemakers in cold areas. Vinifera traditionally do not survive cold winters. There are only two ways to overcome this problem: Raise vinifera that will survive the winter or train wine drinkers to like "foxy" wine.

The winemakers of the Niagara peninsula are trying to do both. They are successfully growing a limited supply of the grapes that make Reisinger and other popular wines. And they are quite rightly suggesting that you allow each region to have its own special wine taste.

WE DO IT with food. There's an Italian taste, a Chinese taste and a Mexican taste. No food lover wants all three to taste the same. The wines of Ontario have a Canadian taste. I recommend some wine-tasting and winery tours for wine lovers visiting the Niagara Falls area.

The Ontario wines are plentiful and relatively inexpensive, especially the wines made from native grapes like Dutchess wines made in bulk from French hybrids.

French hybrids have been introduced into vineyards all over "cold country" because that's the best way to get the valued European flavor in a grape that will survive cold North American winters. A grape with the right flavor is grafted onto a stalk that survives the winter, giving us the best of both worlds.

They are also growing a few vinifera in this rich fruit-growing peninsula. I was astonished when they told me the Reisingers survived that 28-below-zero Christmas day, but the proof is in the bottle. They are making varietal wines in Ontario, and they taste pretty good.

Two problems: The winter kill is high, so they can't make very much of it, and, because of that, the price is fairly high. The Reisingers run from \$7 to \$9.50. You will get a better California wine for that money in Detroit, but that shouldn't stop you from a wine-tasting spree when your visiting Ontario.

There are four big wineries: Bright's, Andre's, Chateau Gai and Jordan; three medium-sized wineries: London, Barnes and Podomar; and several small cottage wineries such as Chateau de Charmes, Imaskillen, Charal and Newark.

Imaskillen has a good reputation. I liked the Reisinger at Jordan and Bright's, the only two wineries I visited. Bright's and Chateau Gai are in Niagara Falls, Barnes in St. Catharines, Podomar and Andre are west in Grimsby.

THE NIAGARA Grape and Wine Festival will be held Sept. 18-27 in the peninsula town of St. Catharines, if you want to combine sightseeing with wine tasting on a grand scale.

The Grand Parade has been rated fourth-best in North America, after the Rose Bowl, Orange Bowl and Macy's parades, and there will be everything from horse shows to wine-and-cheese parties for those who want to celebrate the harvest.

Check out a great Canadian idea: two liters of wine sold in a plastic bag that is inserted in a box. The bag has its own tap. As the bag empties, it collapses, so there is no air to spoil the wine that is left.



IRIS SANDERSON JONES

Jack Forrier is a grape grower on the Niagara Peninsula.

Earthwatch expeditions are road to adventure

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

"Wanted: A few good people to help scientists on expeditions. Honor and discovery is the only reward."

That's a want ad from Earthwatch, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Earthwatch is a non-profit organization that underwrites and manages about 75 different research projects a year.

In 10 years, it has used 6,000 volunteers from 50 states and 12 foreign countries, and given more than \$5 million to support scholars working in 60 countries.

HERE ARE some of the upcoming Earthwatch expeditions that need people with special skills and interests:

- Photographers, conservationists,

hikers and campers to photograph the wilderness of Costa Rica in November or December 1981, or the Australian rain forests in October or November 1981.

- Archaeologists, surveyors and those interested in anthropology to excavate a site in Majorca in August, September, December and January.

These "want ads" are from the summer issue of Earthwatch News, and many of the expeditions are already under way. It's too late to observe and track humpback whales in August, or to study pre-Incan cultures in Peru — also a summer trip.

Only the "employer" knows whether there is still room in expeditions to find and document Indian rock art in California (June, July, September and October), excavate Middle Stone Age settlements in northwest Britain (July, August, September) or do any of the

other exotic trips mentioned here.

Earthwatch has a 10th anniversary issue of the Earthwatch News due in September, however, with new want ad listings. You can contact them by mail or phone if you are interested in being involved.

The address is Earthwatch News, 10 Juniper Road, Box 127, Belmont, Maine 02178, and the phone number is (617) 469-3030.

IF YOU ARE an armchair traveler who would like to follow the fascinating work of this group, become a mem-

ber for \$20 a year. Membership is required before you join any of the expeditions.

Earthwatch has two domestic field offices, in Los Angeles and Seattle, and three international field offices, in Australia, East Africa and England.

The subject matter in their summer issue ranges from energy-efficient underground houses and protecting Bermuda's caves to endangered birds of Hawaii, photographing the stars and the folk art of the Catskills.

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