RAVEL

* *(L,P,C,R-1C,W,G-4A)

O&E Monday, August 28, 1991



Iris **Jones**

Travel agents meet, track industry news

The Michigan chapter of the American Society of Travel Agencies (ASTA) met recently at the Botsford Inn, Farmington. All the local travel industry professionals were there as well as industry reps from airlines, cruise libre convenien bureaus.

as industry reps from airlines, cruise lines, convention bureaus. Abraham Over of KLM's Southfield office (known to his friends as Bram) announced that KLM has applied for permission to fly from Detroit to the Netherlands, 'hopefully by Jan. A." Carollas Mirasda of USAIr's "Southfield office had good news, 'you can change USAIr's "non-refundable" tickets for a \$75 jeonatly.

Southfeld office had good news:
you can change USAIr's moonrefundable" tickets for a \$75
penalty.

That's what industry
Basociations are for, to spread the
word. Here's a word you may not
have heard if you buy a cruise at
Tavate designed for Florida
Travelers only, you may be caught
in the spot check made at the
gangplank and forced to pay a
higher rate.

The two main agenda items
were the introduction of new
officers and a seminar on erulses.
The new president is A. or Irel
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Randi S. Hoffmann of Premier Cruise Lines, which is associated with Walt Disney World (One of Their three ships is the former Love Boat): "We've extended our respecial so you can get a free "upgrade at Walt Disney World Licough Dec. 20 or a discount on a Cabba."

oggrade at want Dasky Horton
Libraugh Dee 20 or a discount on a
Cabin.

Maureen Morrell of Norwegian
Cruise Lines: "The Sunward Two
has been sold. In October we
launch the new Sunward Two
has been sold. In October we
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has been sold. In October we
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Carrier and Cruises." The Monarch
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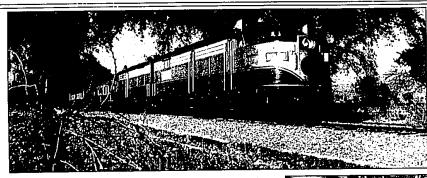
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"Cruise Lines." "Carnival Airlines
"Will resume three times a week
"Ilights to Nassau Jan. 27, 1992.

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"Colleen Flymo of Caraival
"Cruise Lines." "Carnival
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Paties."
Patly Crichton of Holland
American and Windstar: "We
expect Alaska to be even bigger
next year than it was this year.
Detroit is the number one source
of passengers for Holland
America."



Kiding the rails through California wine country

Charlene Baloskey of Livonia sent this report about a recent trip on the Napa Valley Wine Train.

"Welcome to Napa Valley" the sign reads "our wine is bottled po-

sign reads "our wine is bottled po-city,"
We are on Highway 29, on the way to another kind of poetry, the Napa Valley Wine Train, a luxury train that offers daily dining excur-sions through one of the world's premier wine-growing regions.
Lunch trains operate daily, din-ner trains every day except Mon-day, on 36-hour round trips be-tween Napa and St. Helena, Calif. The lunch train is the most popular because it allows passengers to see the valley in daylight.

Food served aboard the Napa Valley Wine Train is

prepared in the kitchen

The valley is particularly beautiful in the fall when grapevines are heavy with purple Cabernet or green Chardonnay grapes, and grape leaves are brilliant red and orange. e. Francisco millionatre Vin-

orange.

San Francisco millionaire Vincent DeDomenico, who gave America Rice-A-Roni, the San Francisco
treat, bought rights to the Southern
Pacific tracks in 1987 and had
eight vintage railroad cars refurbished to sophisticated 1920s and
109 standards by local craftspeople and began service in September
1989.

Our Pullman car, vintage 1915,
was a burgundy-and-champagnecolored coach with mabogary panding, speaking the service in September
1989.

The proposal control of the service of t

bloomed beside the tracks. Grapevines trailed gracefully over low trellises.

We passed 25 of the more than 200 wineries that are the heart of Napa Valley. The wine train is not a guided tour, so no chipper, loud-speaker voice exhorted us to look at the Mondavi Winery on our left or the Christmas tree farm on our right. Nothing detracted from the feeling of serenity.

Nothing detracted from the feeling of screnity.
Shortly after boarding, I moved from the lounge car to the dining car for the first lunch seating. The wine train has two meal seatings on each trip; you can eat on the way to St. Helena or on the return trip.
The dining car was a scene from a romantic old movie. Lunch was served at linen-covered tables set with bone china, sterling silver and

crystal stemware. The lunch train, price of \$55 includes salad, dessert and a choice of entrees: brolled salmon in wine sauce, filled triligon in Cabernet and Roquefort sauce, grilled chicken in Chardonnay and tarragon sauce.

Napa Valley wines attar in all the dishes as well as on the conditional conditions with the conditi

Decadence was sensational)

The Napa
Valley Wine
Train rolls
through the
heart of
California's
wine region.
Guests dine in
an atmosphere
of relaxed
olegance.

elegance.

Decadence was sensational).

The five-course candlelight dimer, which costs \$85, is even more elaborate than lunch. Dinner service includes hors documers, as or het course, and an even wider choice of entrees. The dress on the dinner train is semiformal and the setting romantic as twillight settles over the Napa Valley.

On Saturdays and Sundays, the wine train also operates a champagne brunch train (\$55) and a family car with special rates for children and an optional a la carte continental breakfast. Prices include the train, meal, taxes and service charges but not wine. The train leaves Naparacisco. A shuttle service also runs to Napa from San Francisco area hotels.

For more information call, toll-free (800) 522-4142.

Wine country perfect for picnics

By Charlene Balosky special writer

"When I heard you were from Michigan, I had to come over and introduce myself. I lived in Redford and West Bloomfield and attended the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit," Mary Danieluk

Studies in Detroit," Mary Danielus said.

Mary is the wine buyer for the Oakville Grocery, a fine gourmet shop on Highway 29 in the Napa Valley of California. I me her white I was browsing the walutpille of the California of the Walley of the California of the California wine country provides both.

both. More than 60 Napa Valley wineries have picnic sites, each with its own personality. I knew about the wooded grandeur of

Rutherford Hills, the flowery hills on elegance of Vichon and the one-stop convenience of V. Sattui with its on-site delicatessen. Was there another great winery picnic site nearby!

Mary Danieluk and her husband, Douglas, know a lot about wineries. They lived in the burgundy area of France for three years while Douglas studied winernaking, and they have been using their skills here in the Napa Valley. People stop to boy blunch ingredients at the Oakville Grocery, or order lunch boxes 24 hours in advance for about 31. Mary sent me to a charming, secluded picnic site at Villa Mount Eden, a small, but prestigious winery off the beaten path (from Highway 29 drive east on Oakville Crossroad).

Crossroad.)
Villa Mount Eden's narrow dirt
driveway winds through fields of

grapes, passes a farmhouse and a white clapboard winery, and ends in front of a small courtyard with trellized rose bushes, lwy-overed doorways and three pienie benches. The winery dops, Daisy and Sileba, who had been sleeping in the sun, strolled over to greet us.

The beauty of this winery is its screnity. In an area dominated by large wineries and crowded parking lots, Vilha Mount Eden stands out as a peaceful, friendly assis — and sa a perfect lomic site. "People like this place because there's no traffic." said Barbara Harriman, assistant hospitality manager.

Barbara said the plenite benches are available to customers who buy a bottle of wine.

a bottle of wine.

For information on picnic sites,

check area tour maps, or contact the Napa Valley Chamber of Commerce (707) 226-7455.

European air fares cut

It's getting to be a game, isn't it? It's getting to be a game. Isn't It's Every year we hold our breath in anticipation, knowing that the airlines will olfer dramatically to Marchas Bearden of the Carlos Games only minor differences between British Airways, Northwest Airtlines and Delta Airlines: buy your ticket before Sept. 18, fly after Oct. 4, don't expect a refund. The fare to such cities as London and Frankfurt

is \$446 round trip from Detroit, it goes down to \$386 if you fly Dec. 25 through March 15, minor variations in between. Stay six days to six

months.

British Alrways also has a special fare if you buy by Sept. 11, fly from Oct. 15 through Dec. 1 and return by Jan. 4: \$518 round trip.

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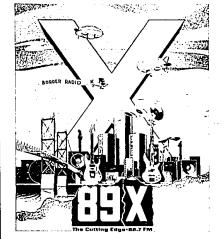
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