

***-- Martini, Wine and Tea –  
Group Tour Itinerary***

***A Unique Taste of the Chicago Southland!***



**Jane Bushong, Group Tour Sales Manager**



2304 173<sup>rd</sup> Street

Lansing, IL 60438

Toll Free: 888-895-8233

Fax: 708-895-8288

[Jane@VisitChicagoSouthland.com](mailto:Jane@VisitChicagoSouthland.com)

[TourChicagoSouthland.com](http://TourChicagoSouthland.com)

## Day 1

**3:00pm-4:30pm**

**Mid-Oak Distillery – Martini making classes and distillery tour (90 minutes)**

The Chicago Southland experience begins with something quite unique – *Professional Martini making classes and Distillery tour!*

It is no secret that the American demand for true crafts spirits has reached amazing heights. **CD Vodka** made by **Mid-Oak Distillery** is hand crafted and the quality shows through with every sip.

The CD Vodka inspiration is based on the following true story: “Catalina Dynastii” loosely translated from Russian means “Catherine’s Dynasty”. This refers to the rule of Catherine The Great who was the empress of Russia during the late 1700s. During Catherine’s reign, she allowed only the noble class to produce vodka in their homes for their friends and family. Because the vodka was specifically made for their friends and families, only the most stringent methods of processing were used to produce the purest vodka. The quality of the vodka during this time period was said to be the best in the history of the world.

Mid-Oak Distillery has taken the same care in production methods of their vodka, with an updated perspective...they make the vodka fit for the noble class available to the masses at an affordable price. Their vodka stands out as the smoothest, highest quality available at an affordable price.

Ready to have some real fun and learn how to make a perfect variety of Martinis? This unique class taught by the professional distillery makers themselves combines the world’s smoothest vodka, which is made on site, with laughs, good times, great drinks and hand selected gourmet cheeses.

The professional bartender instructors will guide the group through a 90-minute class and tour during where you will learn to make five different seasonal specialty martinis. Of course, a great drink can never go to waste, so the group will enjoy the fruits of their efforts immediately! All equipment, vodka and garnishes are included. They can even take home an unopened bottle of CD Vodka ... along with the skills to wow their friends and family for future events and holidays to come.



## Day 1 - Continued

**5:15pm-8:15pm** Balmoral Park Race Track (3 hours) *Mid-Oak driving direct to Balmoral Park is 30 minutes / 22 miles*

**Balmoral Park Race Track** is an exciting and a great place to finish off the day.

Balmoral Park's inaugural thoroughbred race was in held in 1926 and was won by Miss Rosedale. The inaugural card featured the \$5,000 Joliet Stakes for 2 year-old colts and geldings. The certificate system of wagering was used since pari-mutuel wagering had not yet become legal. In 1991 Balmoral Park became a harness racing facility exclusively and by 1993 they led the way throughout the country in the use of standardized saddle pads. In 1995 the 5/8's mile track was eliminated and state-of-the-art lighting system was installed on the one-mile oval. Balmoral Park can now accommodate 120 horses, which is all of the horses that race each night. A cheerful ambiance prevails throughout the Balmoral Club Dining Room overlooking the spectacular 1-mile track.

The group will enjoy a spectacular buffet complete with homemade soups, salads, entrees, and desserts as well as official race program, reserved seating, an official race dedication and a winners' circle group photo. Weather permitting one member of the group will get to ride in the lead pace car.





## Day Two

### 9:00am-10:00am Breakfast at Pickwick Tea Room (60 minutes)

Breakfast will be served at the **Pickwick Society Tea Room, Gifts & Antiques**. Named the #1 Tea Room in Illinois, Pickwick Tea Room is loosely based on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, *Little Women*, the Pickwick Society menu pays homage to each of the characters in the novel. Step back to a more genteel time, when Little Women would while away the hours with a soothing cup of tea in a place where we can, as Amy said, "Bear our souls and tell our most appalling secrets". Breakfast plates are named after one of the Little Women. Every Little Woman loves a tea party. The notable Pickwick Tea Room works with our groups to our needs and exceed our expectations. Their goal is to provide each and every visitor with a memorable experience.



### 10:00am-11:30am Shop Historic Downtown Frankfort (90 minutes)

After breakfast, the group will enjoy a relaxing shopping experience in the small-town setting of downtown Frankfort. From upscale to eclectic, the boutiques and stores in **Downtown Historic Frankfort** offer unique selections and personal service that you won't find at the shopping malls. The group will discover quality children's clothing, art, women's shoes and accessories. Frankfort also boasts home decor, dollhouse and garden accessories, products for pampered pets, counters lined with penny candy, antique shops, a museum and more. They can also enjoy a refreshment at the authentic **1890's Old Plank Trail Tavern** which specializes in nostalgia and great beer along with complimentary popcorn on the tables!



## Day Two –Continued

**11:30am-Noon**

Drive to Francesca Vicinato's Restaurant, Palos Park

Note: Frankfort to Francesca Vicinato's driving is 20 minutes / 11 miles

**Noon-2:30pm**

Francesca's cooking class combined with lunch

After some fun shopping around downtown Frankfort, its time to cook our way through lunch! The famous Francesca's Vicinato restaurant chef, Mario Lopez will demonstrate how to make each course in front of our guests which they will later enjoy eating. A complimentary white or red wine will be served with each course. Some of Francesca's Cooking Classics include (menu may vary according to seasons and availability):

Insalata della Casa -	Romaine, carrot, cucumber and tomato with a balsamic vinaigrette
Rigatoni con Mozzarella -	Light tomato-basil sauce with fresh mozzarella
Pollo alla Romano -	Roasted chicken breast with garlic, shallots, rosemary, lemon, olive oil and roasted potatoes
Profiteroles -	Cream puff pastries with gelato and topped with warm chocolate sauce

Recipes for each course are also provided to the guests to take home and try on their own.

Francesca's Vicinato Restaurant provides a contemporary, casually sophisticated trattoria ambiance, good, simple cooking, friendly service and fair prices. The menu features the zesty earthy cuisine of Rome and the surrounding areas of Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio.

The menus change almost daily, but always offer a tempting selection of appetizers, salads, pasta dishes, fresh fish, veal and chicken preparations. Their extensive wine list includes carefully selected Italian and Californian wines that will complement the meal perfectly.



**2:30pm-3:00pm**

Drive to Pullman neighborhood

Note: Francesca's to Pullman driving is approximately 30 minutes / 22 miles

**3:00pm-4:30pm**

Tour Pullman (Hotel Florence, church, museum, etc.)

Now that you finished learning to cook and have enjoyed another fabulous meal, it's time to move again. A visit to Historic Pullman, America's first Planned Industrial Community, listed as a National Historic Site is a perfect place to learn some history and experience architectural 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century structures.

The well-preserved area was built in 1880 by George M. Pullman, for the production of his famous sleeper car. This fascinating tour includes a visit to the Pullman Visitor Center, Greenstone Church, Hotel Florence, Administration Building and factory grounds. At the center of the historic planned industrial Pullman community, the **Pullman Historic District** and the **Pullman State Historic Site** use historic structures and public programs to showcase 19th and 20th Century industrial society. The signature Clock Tower Administration Building and Assembly Shops and the grand four story Hotel Florence give tangible evidence to the national and international influences of Pullman -- on transportation, industrial design, architecture, labor, urban and town planning and landscape design -- in the contemporary context of America's post-industrial economy, where much of the evidence of the industrial age has already disappeared. Visiting Pullman for a private guided walking tour is a wonderful way for the group to immerse themselves in the town while learning about this unique chapter in history.



## Day Two –Continued

### 3:00pm-4:30pm Tour Pullman (Hotel Florence, church, museum, etc.) - Continued

Before (or instead of if weather is not cooperating) starting the walking portion of your tour, visitors will start at the Visitor Center where they will have the opportunity to: Watch an introductory audio/video presentation that gives an historical overview of the town of Pullman and the preservation activity in the community today and view the on-going exhibit of historic photos and artifacts: *Pullman . . . The Man, The Car, The Company, The Model Town, The Strike, The Landmark Community in Chicago*. The group can stop by the sales desk where they can purchase select books and gifts related to the Pullman area.

Again, weather permitting, the group will then take a guided walk of the town and learn about the history of Pullman, its architecture and the landmark community today. During the tour, visitors experience a walk back in time - almost all of the original 1880s housing and many original public buildings comprise the district today. Our group will also visit the interior of the Greenstone Church and the Hotel Florence (*based on availability*). Tours are conducted by trained volunteer guides who are residents or admirers of Pullman.



### 4:30pm-5:00pm Drive from Pullman to Hotel

### 5:00pm-5:30pm Break at Host Hotel (assuming time allows)

### 5:30pm-6:00pm Drive to Orland Park – Cooper's Hawk

### 6:00pm-8:00pm Wine Tasting & Dinner Reservations at Cooper's Hawk

A very special and unique treat for dinner – Fabulous Food, Award-Winning Wines and specialty shopping is combined to delight the group's senses at one of the best restaurants and wineries in the Chicago Southland area. They will experience **Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant**, a modern casual restaurant with a menu created with their own handcrafted wines in mind. The group can start in the Napa-style tasting room, where they can view the wineries and sample the winemaker's latest creations. Next a stop in the gift store, to shop for a unique food or wine related gift to bring home with them. Finish in the bar and restaurant to enjoy a delectable dish designed to pair with Cooper's Hawk's own award-winning wine for a dining experience our group won't soon forget.



### 8:00pm-8:30pm Return Trip to Hotel

## Day Three

7:45am

Group Tour guests leave Hotel

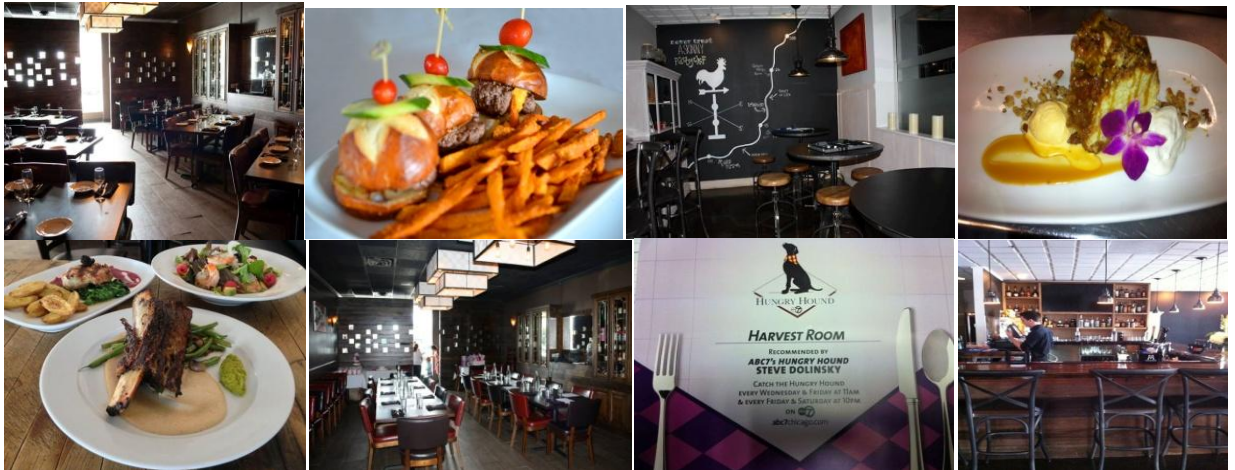
8:00am-9:00am

Breakfast at the Harvest Room, Palos Park (Farm to Table Concept)

The group will be impressed with their final “healthy and innovative” meal. The concept is simple: from the farm to your table. **Harvest Room Restaurant** staff are a small team with a big idea. They specialize in familiar dishes made fresh with local, organic or organically raised ingredients purchased from area farmers when possible.

Offering a wide range of tasty offerings including: homemade biscuits, jams, pastries, soups, pickles, house-cured meats and fish, fresh juice, a smoothie bar, Panini, and flatbread pizzas. Also a great selection of crafted, loose leaf teas blended in-house with blue zone, raw honey. Browse our all-natural children's menu, vegan dishes, and gluten-free offerings. They only serve antibiotic/hormone free, pasture raised meats, cage free eggs, homemade sausages, hand crafted teas, non GMO canola oil, and organic EVOO. They create their own syrups and mixes for our house cocktails, such as lavender honey simple syrup and pomegranate grenadine. They even offer a full bar with a wonderful wine selection and a Bloody Mary/mimosa bar on the weekends.

The group will be able to taste the goodness of Harvest Room in their private event room! Their passion is founded in pure ways. Their beliefs are steeped in these simple concepts. Pure and simple, our guests will remember the taste the goodness of Harvest room.



9:00am-11:00am

Drive through area and walk around Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens

*Note: Harvest Room Restaurant to Lake Katherine Nature Center driving is approximately 4 minutes / 2 miles*

Located only a few minutes away from the Harvest Room Restaurant the group will take a tour of **Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens** an 85-acre park that includes woodlands, prairie, wetlands, and a 10-acre lake. An estimated 100,000 people come to the park each year to hike or jog along the trails, canoe or kayak on the lake, attend a special event or educational program, or simply enjoy the beauty of the gardens and the abundant opportunities to see wildlife. Unique group programs such as Geocaching, Beginning Birding and Restoration techniques and common prairie plants as well as festivals such as the Monarch Butterfly Festival or Urban Bird Celebration and Dragonfly and Butterfly Walk make this location special for groups of all ages.



11:00am

Group Tour bus leaves area to head home

***And a Great Time Had By All!***



## Website References

Mid-Oak Distillery, Midlothian, IL	<a href="http://www.cdvodka.com">www.cdvodka.com</a>
Martini Classes and Tastings	<a href="http://www.cdvodka.com/tastings/">www.cdvodka.com/tastings/</a>
Balmoral Race Track, Crete, IL	<a href="http://www.balmoralpark.com/">www.balmoralpark.com/</a>
Historic Frankfort, IL	<a href="http://www.villageoffrankfort.com/play/historic-downtown-frankfort">www.villageoffrankfort.com/play/historic-downtown-frankfort</a>
Frankfort Museums	<a href="http://www.villageoffrankfort.com/play/museums">www.villageoffrankfort.com/play/museums</a>
Shop historic Frankfort	<a href="http://www.shophistoricfrankfort.com/">www.shophistoricfrankfort.com/</a>
Pickwick Society TeaRoom	<a href="http://www.pickwicktearoom.com/">www.pickwicktearoom.com/</a>
Francesca's Vicianto, Palos Heights, IL	<a href="http://www.miafrancesca.com/">www.miafrancesca.com/</a>
Historic Pullman Foundation, Chicago, IL	<a href="http://www.pullmanil.org/">www.pullmanil.org/</a>
Pullman Museum	<a href="http://www.pullman-museum.org/">www.pullman-museum.org/</a>
Pullman History and Photos	<a href="http://www.chicagohs.org/history/pullman.html">www.chicagohs.org/history/pullman.html</a>
Copper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, Orland Park, IL	<a href="https://coopershawkwinery.com/">https://coopershawkwinery.com/</a>
Harvest Room Restaurant, Palos Park, IL	<a href="http://www.harvestroomrestaurant.com/">http://www.harvestroomrestaurant.com/</a>
Lake Katherine Nature Center & Botanic Gardens, Palos Heights, IL	<a href="http://www.lakekatherine.org/group-info.cfm">http://www.lakekatherine.org/group-info.cfm</a>
Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau	<a href="http://www.tourchicagosouthland.com">http://www.tourchicagosouthland.com</a>