



March 2015 - Newsletter

MISSION

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region will preserve, protect and promote the cultural, historic and natural resources of its 19 counties.

VISION

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region will develop partnerships to protect our heritage and sustain our natural and cultural resources through promotion, preservation, education and tourism.

SIX TEXAS HILL COUNTRY WINERIES NOT TO MISS

by [Laura Longwell](#) on February 15, 2015



WORKING TO SUPPORT OUR HABIT

Texas may not be the first place you think of for high-quality wine from the US. California or the Pacific Northwest – maybe – but probably not Texas. But you'd be missing out. Over the last decade, the Texas Hill Country wineries have evolved significantly, coming into their own through a heavy reliance on grapes that grow well in the Mediterranean and not trying to replicate what's done in California. The live music and Texas hospitality don't hurt either. In more ways than one, Texas wineries are owning being Texan.

The Texas Hill Country Viticultural Area (the term for a designated wine grape-growing region) stretches for a massive 15,000 square miles. Yet its heart is near the charming small town of Fredericksburg, approximately 1.5 hours west of Austin and an hour north of San Antonio. [Wine Road 290](#) stretches roughly 30 miles from Fredericksburg to Johnson City, Texas, and is home to more than 15 wineries and tastings rooms with more being added all the time. With so many choices, it's hard to know where to go or if you'll like what you find when you get there. Here are six Texas wineries where you'll find remarkable scenery and award-winning wines.

Torre di Pietra When you walk into [Torre di Pietra](#), the first thing that strikes you is the warmth of the place. You're likely to be greeted by one (or more) of the Maxwells, the family that's proudly owned and operated the winery for over 10 years. And, if you're visiting during the off-season like I was, there's likely to be a fire going in front of some cushy leather chairs you can sink into while enjoying a glass of Cabernet. The fourth winery to open along Wine Road 290, Torre di Pietra prides itself on providing this kind of homey experience for its guests – you can even bring pets.

Click here to read the entire article > <http://www.traveladdicts.net/2015/02/texas-hill-country-wineries.html>

Featured March Events in the Texas Hill Country

San Marcos

Jan. 12th to May 12th, 2015 - The Wittliff Collections presents: The Face of Texas
The Wittliff Collection at Texas State University - Alkek Library-7th Floor,
Texas State University 601 University Drive San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 245-2313

<http://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/current.html>

The Wittliff Collections are proud to present our first solo exhibition of images by one of America's premier portrait photographers. In this series, based on his latest book from the University of Texas Press, MICHAEL O'BRIEN celebrates the individuality and independent spirit of Texans—from ordinary folk to the rich and famous, including those born here and those who eventually made Texas home. For his new edition of The Face of Texas, O'Brien has added portraits and updated photographs of people from the first edition. Writer and former Life reporter ELIZABETH O'BRIEN offers insightful verbal vignettes for the new portraits and also brings us up-to-date with the lives of the rest of the subjects. Each of the 48 portraits in this exhibition are accompanied by her narrative about the person. This winning combination of images and stories about a fascinating, eclectic mix of Texans is a fitting homage to our unique state.



Boerne

St. Patrick's Day Concert in the Cave - Saturday, March 14, 2015 -7pm

Cave with out a Name- Throne Room

325 Kreuzberg Rd.

Boerne, TX 78006

Contact phone: (830) 537-4212 Cost: \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door

How better to celebrate St. Patrick's day than to join us for a bawdy evening of Celtic and Heritage bar music. Come early, BYOB*, and relax before heading down into the Cave's Throne Room for a one of a kind experience. Water only once in the cave, and 126 steps down (and back up) so please drink responsibly!



Florence Suten
Rod Campbell
Mike Cunningham
Tom McNaena

This event will get loud, it will be ribald and risqué, but more than that, it will be entertaining!

Contact email: cwan@cavewithoutaname.com Or Visit: <http://www.cavewithoutaname.com>

Stonewall

LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour – March 28, 2015

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park announces the 8th annual LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour, "A Ride to Preserve History," which begins on the historic LBJ Ranch near Stonewall, Texas on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. The tour provides five separate routes of 10, 30, 42, 62 and 85 miles through the scenic Texas Hill Country of Gillespie and Blanco Counties and one special historical tour narrated by Luci Baines Johnson beginning at approximately 2 p.m.



Go to <http://www.lbj100bicycletour.org> for exact locations and times for pre-registration.

The ride begins and ends of the famed LBJ Ranch in Stonewall. The LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour is sponsored by the Friends of Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park and the National Park Service. All proceeds from the ride benefit educational programs, recreational events, and historic conservation efforts in the national park.

HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS....

PARTNER OPPORTUNITY! RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

The Texas Hill Country Trail Passport program encourages travelers to explore the Texas Hill Country, collect stamps from participating attractions or historic sites and earn great prizes. The passport will feature up to 30 stops creating an interactive way for visitors to experience the Texas Hill Country and will be similar to an official government passport printed in full color.

- The Texas Hill Country Passport has an estimated launch date of July 2015.
- Each page will be devoted to a single attraction or historic site.
- The cost is \$650.00 to participate.
- Participating partners will need to submit one high-resolution photo along with 100 words text about their attraction or site to hctrail@verizon.net.
- Travelers will be instructed to visit the site on each page and obtain a stamped image on their passport.
- When visitors complete 75% (or 22 stops) on the passport they will mail them to the Texas Hill Country Trail Region office to receive a Texas Hill Country experience or prize.
- Prizes will be determined by various destinations offering the experience or prize package. For example: Cedar Park will provide 2 tickets to ride the authentic steam train, the Hill Country Flyer.
- Passports will be mailed back to the visitor along with their prize for a keepsake.
- Passports will be available at participating stops or can be ordered by emailing hctrail@verizon.net.



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING....



Meeting Host:
**San Antonio
Convention & Visitor Bureau**

Texas Hill Country Trail
March Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2015
1:00 p.m.
Meeting Location:
McNay Art Museum
6000 North New Braunfels
San Antonio, TX 78209
210-824-5368
www.mcnayart.org

OPTIONAL TOUR AND LUNCHEON

11:00 am - Arrive early for a tour of the McNay Art Museum.

12:00 pm - Enjoy a delicious lunch compliments of the San Antonio CVB!

Please RSVP to: hctrail@verizon.net so they know how much food to order.



Texas Historical Commission

Texas Heritage Trails Program Update

Announcements:

Personnel:

A warm welcome goes out to Wendy Little, the new executive director of the Mountain Trail Region, who began January 20. Wendy is temporarily living in Alpine while she searches for permanent housing. The Mountain Trail Region is also looking for office space for Wendy, most likely in Fort Davis or Alpine. As soon as an office location has been secured, we will send out updated executive direction contact information. In the meantime, Wendy can be contacted by phone at 432.294.4312 or by email at texasmountaintrail@gmail.com.

Statewide Travel Guide:

The Texas Heritage Travel Guide featuring cities and sites from all ten regions has been finalized and printed. Guides have been sent to TxDOT Travel Information Centers, community Convention & Visitor Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce, and Visitor Centers. If you or your partners wish to receive individual copies or boxes of the guides, please contact Mae Perkins at mae.perkins@thc.state.tx.us or 512.463.6255.

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY?

Burnet Recipe

PAN-SEARED GREENS WITH BACON AND BALSAMIC REDUCTION

3 tablespoons bacon drippings
10 cups red chard and green kale torn

3 large garlic cloves, cut into thin slices
6 slices peppered bacon, cooked until crisp

Balsamic Reduction

2 cups balsamic vinegar

1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

Make the Balsamic Reduction. Stir together the balsamic vinegar and brown sugar in a heavy 2-quart saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to a simmer and cook until the liquid is thick and syrupy, about 30 minutes. Cool and transfer to a plastic squeeze bottle.

Heat the bacon drippings in a heavy, deep-sided 12-inch skillet over medium heat. When the fat is hot, add the sliced garlic and greens, tossing to coat with the drippings. Cook, tossing constantly, until the greens begin to wilt. Squeeze some of the Balsamic Reduction onto the greens and continue to cook, tossing, until the greens are wilted but still crisp. Add the chopped bacon and toss to distribute. Serve hot. Yield: 4 servings



Texas Hill Country Trail Region

39350 IH-10 West, Suite 3

Boerne, TX 78006

830-739-1362



www.txhillcountrytrail.com