

COACHING

RV NEWS & NOTES

RVers who belong to Harvest Hosts stay at vineyards and farms across North America.



Overnight Camping At Wineries, Farms

Harvest Hosts, a new RV membership program, offers RVers free overnight stops at wineries and farms throughout North America.

The program was started by Don and Kim Greene, FMCA commercial members and avid motorhomers. While traveling across Europe in 2008, they were introduced to France Passion, an RV visitation network that invites RV owners to visit farms and wineries and stay for 24 hours. Upon returning to the United States, the couple discovered that nothing similar existed, so they decided to develop a program themselves. After months of research, Harvest Hosts LLC was born.

As of July 2011, 300 Harvest Hosts were in the program. Participating farms can be found in all of the lower 48 states, Alaska, and Baja California, Mexico, and British Columbia, Canada, with new participants signing up regularly.

Harvest Hosts vintners and farmers invite owners of self-contained RVs to visit their vineyards, farms, and orchards and

to stay for 24 hours free of charge. Most of the facilities are small agricultural operations, not formal campgrounds. Visitors dry camp and must agree to a commonsense code of conduct.

Harvest Hosts locations reflect the diversity of the American farm. They include wineries, u-pick farms, orchards, farm markets, cider mills, maple sugarhouses, dairy farms, flower and herb gardens, creameries, breweries, distilleries, open-air museums, and wildlife rescue/animal parks.

Members of Harvest Hosts receive online access to the Harvest Hosts directory, which is updated regularly and contains participant locations, contact information, hours, GPS coordinates, and activities. Members also receive a membership card, a vehicle ID badge, and access to members-only pages on the program's Web site.

A 12-month membership costs \$30, while renewing members pay \$25. For more information, visit www.harvesthosts.com; e-mail dbg@harvesthosts.com; or call (928) 277-1661.