

Girlfriend Getaways

By Kristin Lindsey

Grab your closest gal pals and head out on one of these weekend retreats.

Cyndi Lauper hit the nail on the head with her 1980s song "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." Women work hard balancing their careers and families, but sometimes what they want, and what they need, is to let loose and have some fun with the girls. Ladies' weekends have become a popular market for the travel industry, with spas and resorts across the country offering special packages for girlfriend retreats. Whether you're looking to be pampered, get crafty or just spend some time relaxing with your dearest friends, you're guaranteed to have fun on these weekend escapes. No boys allowed.

Wine Retreat

The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake is located in Ashtabula County, in the heart of Ohio wine country. The resort is pure paradise for wine-lovers and offers a Girlfriends Getaway Series every January through June. Each month features a creative theme, such as Book Lover's Retreat in May and Fashionable Faces in June, with featured presenters facilitating one-hour participation seminars.

For \$209, an overnight stay for two begins Saturday at noon, upon your arrival to the lodge. During the day, enjoy personal consultations from booth sponsors including Pampered Chef, Mary Kay Cosmetics and Barnes & Noble. You'll also get a chance to please your palate by tasting some of

Ohio's finest wines, indulge in a dessert reception and experience ultimate relaxation with a 25-minute Swedish massage.

If one night isn't enough, you can always extend your stay and have more time to tour local wineries, boat, bike and enjoy the lakeside resort.

The Lodge at Geneva is located at 4888 N. Broadway in Geneva-on-the-Lake. To book your getaway, visit www.thelodgeatgeneva.com or call 800-801-9982.

Crafter's Holiday

Zane Trace Inn is Ohio's premier scrapbook retreat for good reason. Located in Somerset, this 200-year-old inn is fully equipped with scrapbook workrooms that feature state-of-the-art, no-shadow lighting, individual workstations and ergonomic chairs. Guests also have access to computers with Internet capabilities, the Wishblade personal media cutter and a printer.





For the ultimate getaway with your fellow crafters, the inn offers a variety of retreat packages, from the Diva Delight Package (which runs Friday to Sunday and includes five gourmet meals, snacks, drinks, full access to amenities including a relaxation room, hot tub, exercise equipment and the scrapbook equipment) for \$250 per



person to the Diva Decadence package (which runs Friday to Sunday and includes four gourmet meals; dinner at the Clay Haus restaurant Saturday night; a free manicure, facial and 30-minute massage provided by Libby's Day Spa; and all the amenities included in the Diva Delight package) for \$325.

Next door to the inn, Hometown Crafts and Scrapbooking carries several lines of scrapbook supplies in addition to locally made crafts such as jewelry, pottery and candles.

The Zane Trace Inn is located at 129 W. Main St. in Somerset. For information about the Diva packages, go online to www.scrapbookohio.com or call 740-743-9230.

Back to Nature

At Hummingbird Gardens and Retreat Bed & Breakfast, you and your friends can veg out in a 1940s cottage in the woods of Waynesville, located in Southwest Ohio, between Dayton and Cincinnati. Innkeepers Debbie and Tim Galaise offer several packages that make for ideal girls' getaways.



Add spa services like massage, reflexology, manicures and pedicures to your stay or enjoy a high tea. The B&B also offers a Girls Night Out package, where your group can lounge with a large assortment of movies on DVD and VHS and enjoy snacks, sandwiches or pizza, drinks and good conversation. The Girls Night Out package is available for groups of four, six or eight and ranges from \$240 to \$350 a night.

During your stay, you can also relax in the outdoor hot tub, stroll through the flower gardens or travel to the Waynesville antiques mall or to Kings Island theme park.

Hummingbird Gardens and Retreat Bed & Breakfast is located at 7933 state Route 48 in Waynesville. To arrange your Girls Night Out package, visit www.bbonline.com/oh/hummingbird/ or call 937-886-9744.