

Northwest offers cozy, upscale wine-centric winter retreats

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Winter in the Northwest is the ideal season to schedule time with a special someone in a special place. Watching as snow shrouds the evergreens or marveling as a coastal storm crashes its waves onto a beach both offer nature close-up. And no matter where you travel, winter also is a great season to have snug lodging and a crackling fire close at hand when it's time to retreat from nature.

For those who treasure our region's fine food and wines, the following are among the Northwest's best accommodations for a memorable experience.

SEMAIHMUO RESORT

Located on a sandspit between Semiahmoo Bay and Drayton Harbor, Semiahmoo Resort is perfectly situated to watch a storm roll in while swirling a Sauvignon Blanc from Washington's Klipsun Vineyard or a Red Mountain Merlot. Restaurant manager Lise Houweling is proud to tout that 75 percent of the resort's wines featured are from Washington State. Between the three on-site restaurants, they "offer everything from library wines sourced at smaller boutique wineries in Lake Chelan and Whidbey, to some of our favorite and more notable partners in Horse Heaven Hills and Columbia Valley."

If the weather is not conducive to kayaking or a round of golf, explore some of the trails and beaches of this 300-acre resort and then duck inside to find a cozy spot to sit back and relax with a glass of wine or snuggle up in front of a wood-burning fire in your guest room.

Semiahmoo also offers the Oenophile Club, featuring benefits like tastings in their wine cellar room, private wine storage, and access to private cooking classes with their executive chef, Bruno. Monthly vintner dinners continue the wine emphasis. Want to feel good while doing good? Inquire about seasonal programs that Semiahmoo supports by donating \$2.00 to local food banks for every locally-made bottle purchased.