

GUNKHOLING CRUISE 2022

Wednesday, July 20th: Winter Cove Saturna Island

Happy Hour @ 5:00 pm in the picnic area on shore. Bring an appetizer to share and your favourite beverage. Option: bocce ball and/or other lawn games.

Thursday, July 21st: Narvaez Bay, Saturna Island via Plumper Sound

This is a beautiful anchorage in an undisturbed bay that is surrounded by regenerating Douglas fir forest. While the protected anchorage is small, there is room for a few boats to tuck in and avoid the south winds that hit the area regularly. Great hiking trails to a panoramic view of Boundary Pass and the San Juan Islands. We will be checking the weather forecast to ensure that the winds are favourable. Plan B will be to anchor at Port Browning.

Happy Hour at 5:00 pm on shore. Bring an appy to share and your favourite beverage.

Option: En route to Narvaez Bay anchor at Saturna Beach stop and visit the recently reopened Sage Hayward Vineyards (previously the Saturna Island Winery).
<https://sagehaywardvineyards.com/>

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**Saturna Vineyard
Returns with New Owners**

Great news for boaters—remember the 'good old days' when you could tie up to the dock in Breezy Bay on Saturna Island, walk up the road to visit the Saturna Winery, have a tasting, some lunch and enjoy amazing views? The south facing sea bench between sheer cliffs and ocean currents is a virtual paradise, with fields stretching down to Saturna Beach. It was always my favourite spot, so I'm happy to report, the 'good old days' have returned!

The now rebranded Sage Hayward Vineyards was purchased in August, 2020 by Anne and Doug Hayward and his brother Ian and wife Wendy Sage-Hayward, hence the vineyard's new name. The 70-acre property, 40 acres of which are planted with old growth vines, is once again humming with bees and business.

Since the purchase, this family has been going flat out to get ready for the 2022 season, and it's incredible what they have accomplished.

"Although Saturna has many wonderful places to visit, the vineyard is certainly one of its jewels," says Anne Hayward. "As a family we have been coming to the winery since its inception some 27 years ago. We have celebrated many important family events at the winery over the years, so when we heard it was coming up for sale, the decision was a no-brainer."

Anne admits that they took on more than they realized, but also adds that, fortunately, they have a large family with lots of different skills and energy. The fruits of their labour can be seen everywhere.

Now open seven days a week from 11:00 to 16:00, you can try out wood-fired pizza, charcuterie plates, gravlax and potato cake, along with desserts. All dishes are designed around the wines they offer. We were thrilled to hear that the island's own culinary guru, Hubertus Surm, is the chef. Surm's creations used to delight visitors during the Harvest Festival celebrations many years ago, and his

café at the Saturna General Store is a must for anyone on the gourmet trail.

"Sit at the terrace and taste the terroir in our vintages," urges Anne, "while you take deep breaths of this sea air."

The vineyard has a re-vamped dock next to the beach (depth two metres at lowest tide) and approval for five mooring buoys. "We're just waiting on local shoreline conservancy to determine the best anchorages," Anne says. "From the water it's a 10-minute walk to the tasting room in the Feral Goat Bistro."

On offer this summer will be Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Rosé and Nuance, an aromatic white blend. Their limited-production wines are available by the glass or by the bottle and staff is happy to run thirsty boaters back to the dock if they pick up a case of wine. We'll want to—finding a good local Pinot Noir is not that easy.

sagehaywardvineyards.com

—Cherie Thiesen

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Friday, July 22nd: Medicine Beach, North Pender Island

This is a well protected spot with a nice beach at the head of Bedwell Harbour on North Pender Island. Medicine Beach Bird Sanctuary is behind Medicine Beach and contains rare plants and is one of only a few saltwater marshes left in the area. The beach is a wide crescent with long walks possible. There are cliffs at the north end of the beach with stairs to a viewing platform. Anchor in front of the beach in 4-5 m with good holding in mud and gravel.

Happy Hour at 5:00 pm

Dinner Option: Woods on Pender <https://woodsonpender.com/> This restaurant is about an 850m walk from the beach. I contacted the restaurant and this is the information that I received: *We are a small restaurant on a resort and can't really accommodate groups from offsite just individual bookings. We only have 24 seats. All dinners are reservations only and Friday and Saturday only. Coffee Bar is open to anyone. It is Thursday to Monday 9am to Noon and until 2pm Sunday and Mondays.*

Since one group reservation is not possible, it may be possible to make reservations in smaller groups of 4-6. Let me know if you are interested in this option and I'll see what I can arrange.