



# Romantic

The Dalles of  
the St. Croix  
in Polk County.

# FALL GETAWAYS



By Amanda N. Wegner

It's not quite over, but 2009 has been a long year. As we head down the home stretch, why not seize the opportunity to get away with someone you love for a romantic fall rendezvous? Wisconsin is a great place to enjoy the changing of the seasons, and here are some great ways to escape, relax and recharge, all while taking in the scenery.

## Kohler

Whether you love golf, gourmet food and chocolate, spa-going, shopping or history, this whole community, near Sheboygan, is a draw.

Stay at The American Club, which once provided housing, meals and recreational facilities for immigrant employees of Kohler who could not afford housing. Within The American Club are five high-quality dining spots, including the amazing Immigrant Dining Room. Or, across the street, stay and relax at the Carriage House, which is housed in the

same building as the Kohler Waters Spa; couples spa packages available. More accommodations are available at Inn on Woodlake.

Open through early November, depending on weather, take a swing on one of Kohler's four championship golf courses. Or explore Kohler's rich manufacturing history and get design ideas for your own in-home spa with a visit to Kohler Design Center.

After golf, relaxing or dining, take a 20-minute drive to Kohler-Andrae State Park for a crisp walk along the dunes of Lake Michigan. Heading back to Kohler, be sure to stop at the Craverie Café for a Peanut Butter Chocolate Mocha and some of Kohler's special-recipe chocolate to take home. Both are divine! Learn more at [www.destinationkohler.com](http://www.destinationkohler.com).

*Good time to go:* Spend a flavorful weekend at the 9th annual Kohler Food & Wine Experience, Oct. 22-25.

## Polk County

Nestled along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway to the west and home to 431 lakes, Polk County boasts some of the most fantastic fall colors in the state. Here, communing with nature and immersing oneself in the splendors of autumn is easy. Paddle a canoe and explore the shorelines or hop on a riverboat at Taylor Falls and enjoy dinner as the sun sets over the water.

The St. Croix corridor is punctuated with dramatic granite formations, like those found along Pothole Trail at Wisconsin's Interstate State Park. Hit this trail (a Wisconsin state park pass is required for admission) not only to view the trail's unique geological

pothole-like features, but to witness the Dalles of the St. Croix. This deep, steep-walled gorge was formed by glacial meltwaters, and interesting rock features, like Old Man of the Dalles and Devil's Chair, have awed visitors for centuries.

Find some Old World European flavor — and wine — at Chateau St. Croix Winery & Vineyard, just north of St. Croix Falls. The winery is complete with vineyards, a carriage house, stables, formal gardens and a fishing pond.

About a mile north of the park is St. Croix Falls' downtown district, a quaint riverfront area with narrow streets filled with shops and showcases of local art and flair.

For lodging, take your pick of B&Bs (including one plucked right out of Mayberry), cabins, lodges, campsites and more. Visit [www.polkcountytourism.com](http://www.polkcountytourism.com) for more information.

*Good time to go:* Sip away at the Chateau St. Croix Winery Fall Harvest Festival, Sept. 19-20.

### Not your last resorts

Wisconsin has a number of spas and resorts in the most picturesque locations.

Heidel House Resort & Spa, located on Green Lake, offers a "Romantic Escape" package. After some R&R, explore the lake's rich history with an Escapade Yacht cruise, available Friday through Sunday in September and October. More at [www.heidel-house.com](http://www.heidel-house.com).

Tucked within historic Lake Geneva, Grand Geneva Resort & Spa is one of only five AAA Four-Diamond resorts in Wisconsin. Several "romance" packages are available. Visit [www.grandgeneva.com](http://www.grandgeneva.com).

### Iron County

What's more romantic than waterfalls? North of the hustle and bustle of Minocqua, Iron County is home to some of Wisconsin's most magnificent cascades. Grab your sweetie and a copy of the book *Wisconsin Waterfalls* by Patrick Lisi, and head north. There are cabins and campsites galore, but for real Northwoods charm, stay at the Anton-Walsh House, a B&B in Hurley, where you'll enjoy a breakfast made by Gene Cisewski, who's a local waterfall expert. Learn more at [www.anton-walsh.com](http://www.anton-walsh.com).



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