



Cooking Vacations in Missouri

by Bonnie Vanaman, Demand Media

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Missouri's nickname is the "show me state," and with a history of wine-making dating back to the 1850s, German food in the Ozarks and the classic barbecue of Kansas City, there are plenty of the state's diverse culinary traditions to put on display. Take advantage of Missouri's bounty and combine it with a love of cooking as you try your hand at one of several culinary vacations.

Alpenhorn Gasthaus

Enjoy a wine cellar reception at the Alpenhorn Gasthaus before joining in a weekend gourmet cooking class in the heart of Missouri's wine country, with demonstrations and hands-on practice while you wear your chef apron and hat. Afterward, feast on the fruits of your labor with a four-course dinner. If you'd prefer something less intimidating, try the scaled-back weekday cooking class lunches instead. The inn's breakfast is "an event," according to the Food Channel, and the Gasthaus also offers culinary-based options like a late-night chocolate and wine cellar rendezvous, fireside fondue and gourmet picnics and cycling. Alpenhorn Gasthaus 179 Highway 100 E. Hermann, MO 65041 573-486-8228 [alpenhorngasthaus.com](#)

Culinary Sojourn in the Heartland

In Rocheport, learn how to make gourmet dinners for two, take part in private cooking classes and enjoy wine tastings under the guidance of professional chef and cooking instructor Mary Schlueter. She's catered to mayors, governors and senators and worked as executive chef for an exclusive resort that hosted many well-known entertainers and celebrities. The three day, two-night package, organized by the Denver-based Epitourean company, includes luxury accommodations at a Queen Anne Victorian-style inn and a daily gourmet breakfast. Culinary Sojourn in the Heartland Epitourean 505 Rita Place Suite 108 Castle Pines N. Denver, CO 80108 800-390-3292 [epitourean.com](#)

The Inn at Harbour Ridge

Nestled among the lakes of the Ozark mountains, your stay at The Inn at Harbour Ridge can include the Culinary Capers cooking class on select Wednesdays of each month, with demonstrations, take-home recipes and a gourmet dinner and dessert. In the mornings during warmer months, enjoy a scenic view of Mother Nature and the lake when breakfast is served on the screened-in porch. During the day, explore the area's state parks and wineries and return to the inn for an evening of champagne, roses and romance. The Inn at Harbour Ridge 6334 Red Barn Road Osage Beach, MO 65065 573-302-0411 [harbourridgeinn.com](#)

Silver Dollar City

Branson, Missouri, calls itself the "Live Entertainment Capital of the World," with more than 100,000 motel rooms, restaurant seats and theater seats combined. One of the city's most popular draws, the mammoth theme park Silver Dollar City, is also home to a Culinary & Craft School, with expert instructors, hands-on demonstrations and food tasting in each 60-minute session. The themed "courses" include everything from Amazing Appetizers to Chuck Wagon Dinner Class, all organized by Debbie Dance Uhrig, master craftsman of culinary arts, and

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taught in an 1880s style timber-frame farmhouse. You'll need to have a one-day Silver Dollar City park admission ticket or season pass, but many local hotels offer combination packages with lodging and tickets included. Silver Dollar City 399 Silver Dollar City Parkway Branson, MO 65616 800-475-9370 bransonsilverdollarcity.com

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About the Author

Bonnie Vanaman is a freelance writer who has written on a wide variety of subjects for various newspapers and national magazines. Vanaman worked for Discovery Channel Online, including the Health and Travel Channels, for more than a decade. She holds a degree in musicology from Florida State University and is a member of American Independent Writers.

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