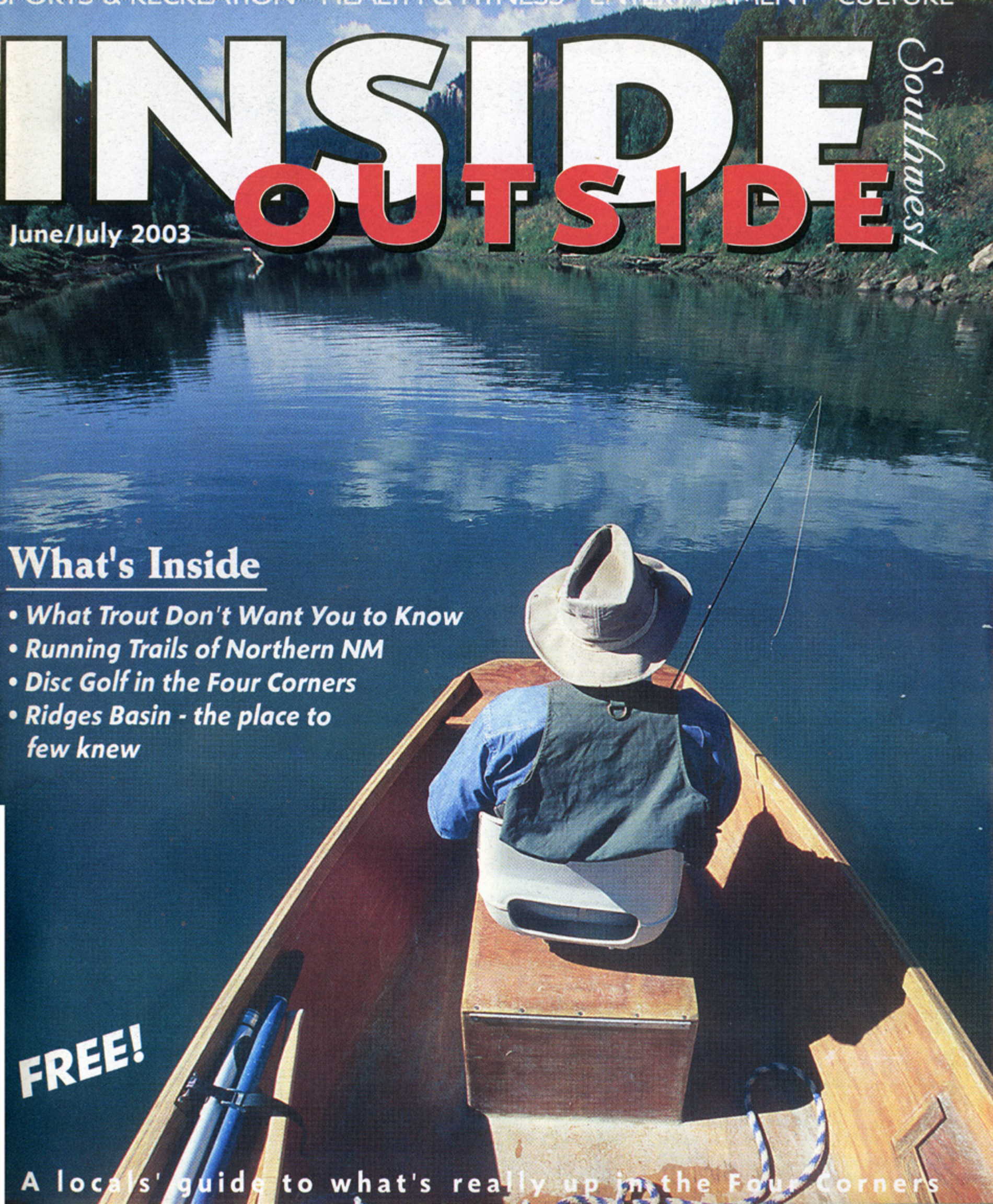


Reveling in the Telluride Wine Festival

by Sean Cridland

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What's Inside

- What Trout Don't Want You to Know
- Running Trails of Northern NM
- Disc Golf in the Four Corners
- Ridges Basin - the place to few knew

FREE!

A locals' guide to what's really up in the Four Corners

INSIDE/OUTSIDE Southwest

Editor

Pete Prendergast

Art Director

Pete Prendergast

Sales

Shawna Long
Daryll Hunt
Jonathan Hunt
Mendy Herring
Debby Morgan
Mike Onions

Contributing Editors

David Feela
Ken Wright

Photographers

Patrick Brawley
Will Blanchard
Cathy Tibbetts
Tad Johnson
Monica Peterson
Suzanne Strazza
Jim Mimiaga

Illustrators

Casey Conrad

Cover Photo by

Will Blanchard

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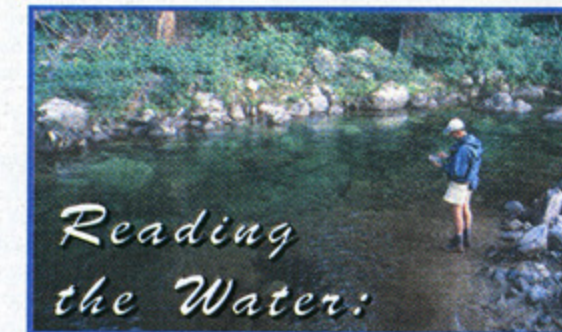
phone (970) 375-4538 • fax (970) 259-5011

email: editor@insideoutsidemag.com

web: www.insideoutsidemag.com

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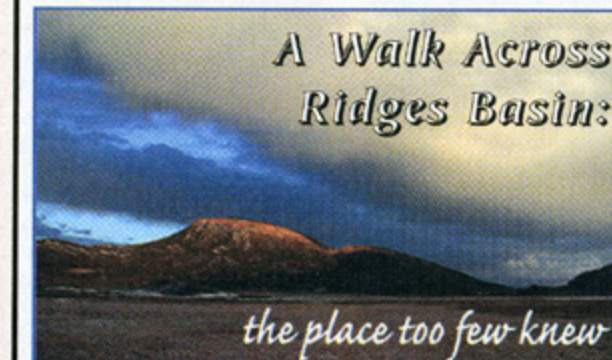
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by Will Blanchard

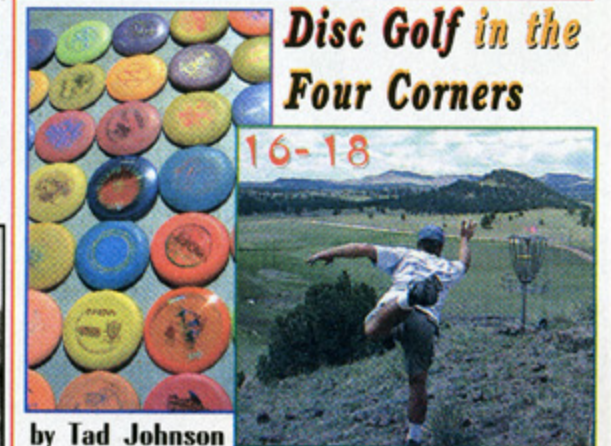


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Reveling in the

Telluride Wine Festival

by Sean Cridland

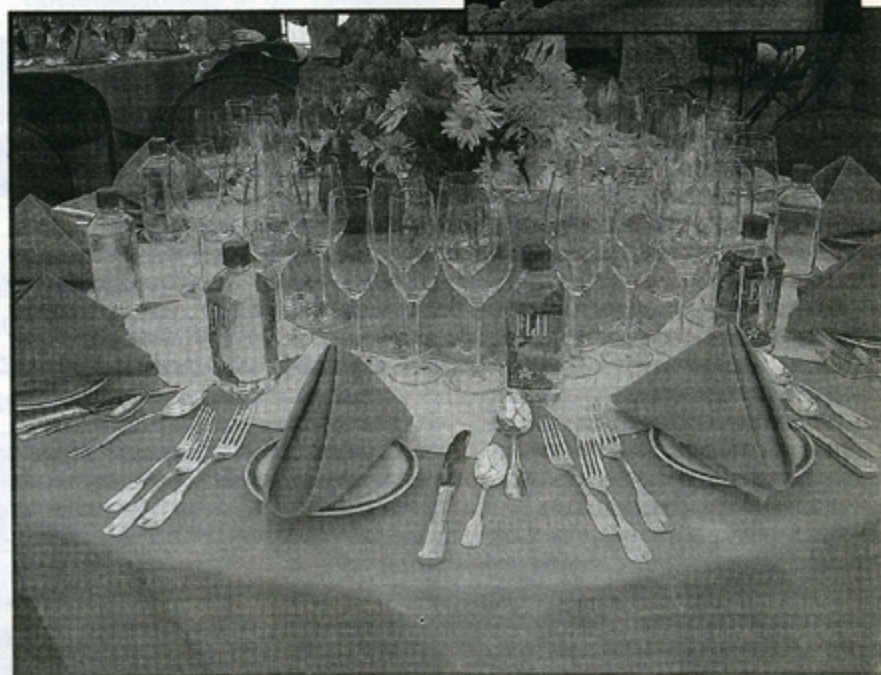


weekend event with rare opportunities to meet winemakers, master sommeliers, celebrity chefs and other experts of Epicurean and Dionysian delights. With representatives of over 85 wineries, the event features a Patron's wine-pairing dinner hosted by a celebrity chef, a Grand Tasting including selections from all the wineries and tasty treats from sponsors, two winemaker's luncheons, the Toast of Telluride walking tour, and a Sunday brunch which may be unparalleled anywhere between New York and San Francisco.

The Telluride Wine Festival has become nationally famous for its forums on fine wine and food. Participants are able to sit in on discussions by some of the nation's most expert Epicureans. Four Master Sommeliers, all Wine Festival veterans, are slated to return to Telluride for 2003. The list includes Doug Frost, master sommelier and the eighth American to be a master of wine; Wayne Belding, master sommelier and education chairman for the American Chapter of the Court of Master Sommeliers since 1996; Joshua Wesson, master sommelier and co-founder of Best Cellars; Sally Mohr, the second woman in the United States to attain the coveted title of Master Sommelier; and Steve Olson, the self-professed "Wine Geek." Guest chefs this year are Gary Danko, chef/owner of Gary Danko in San Francisco; a Five Star Mobil rated restaurant; Marc Vetri, chef of Vetri's in Philadelphia; and Executive Chef Anito Lo of Annisa in New York. In addition, several of Telluride's finer restaurants will be

working in association with chefs and vintners to offer specially prepared "wine dinners" of several courses which pair the appropriate wine with each course.

Perhaps one of my favorite activities at the Telluride Wine Festival is practicing my skill in wine lingo. Beyond the common descriptions of dry, semi-dry, or sweet, in a group of wine aficionados one is allowed to talk about a wine's "legs" (the way in which it drips down the inside of a glass after being swirled about), it's "nose" (the aroma that emerges from the glass), and it's aftertaste (the flavor one is reminded of after swallowing). And in the world of wine, you might even go on to talk about it's oak or crisp steel flavor, per-



haps it's fruitiness or nuttiness or even describe a wine as being chewy. Words that might land you some rather strange looks back at the El Rancho, where I drink the rest of the year.

For Patrons participating in the full slate of events, the Wine Festival starts with several events on Thursday, but really gets going on Friday with a series of forums and lunch options. For the more casual fan of tasting, the kick-off event is the wonderfully social Grand Tasting, held on Friday afternoon. That's where you can taste the best Pinots, Cab-savs, Chards, Champagnes and several other varietals with a wonderful array of cheeses, fruits, breads, and meats. And it's a great place to meet other devotees from around the country. This is one of those Dionysian events that one has to be careful about. I'm only guessing, but in the two tents that house that event, there must be about a thousand possibilities for tasting. Even if your intending to use this event as an educational event or a professional-style tasting and politely spit out each of your selections after tasting, you might well imbibe a bottle or two simply through osmosis! Therefore, I always consult the map to see which of my favorite vintners are in attendance and go straight to my favorites and the most curious of novelty wines so that I can still appreciate them while I'm still in control of my senses. If you're planning to stay for the weekend, you can always check out some of the newer and unfamiliar wines on Saturday night during the Toast of Telluride.

The Saturday evening Toast of Telluride offers largely the same wines and vintners as the Friday Grand

Tasting, but in a less charged atmosphere. Galleries, restaurants, and bookstores each host a distributor or two along with some fine morsels to prepare you for a fun night of dining, dancing, and socializing. Since it's spread out over several venues, it's actually a better opportunity to taste the wines, socialize, and get to experience a bit of contemporary Telluride.

On Sunday morning the Sunday brunch is one of the most marvelously decadent experiences of all. After having lived the Bacchanalian life of the bon vivant for the three days and nights before, the whole experience is capped off with a brunch featuring some of the best breakfast foods and champagnes one can imagine. Shellfish, smoked salmon, fine meats, egg dishes, fine pastries, fruits, and, of course, a little "hair-of-the-dog-that-bit-you" send you off on your way back to the real world. As you cruise out of the Telluride valley after so much good food, wine, art, and company, you will probably be just hung over enough and just relaxed enough while taking in the beauty of the drive that it will never even occur to you to feel guilty about it all. So much for guilty pleasures....

For information on attending this year's Telluride Wine Festival call the festival organizers at 970-728-4773 or visit their website at www.telluridewinefestival.com.

Sean Cridland is a former wine steward, river guide, and world class ski racer who teaches classes about life, art, and politics for Fort Lewis College. He can be reached at cridland_s@fortlewis.edu



SUNSET CONCERT SERIES

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

~ Every Wednesday evening from July 9 through Sept. 10, Telluride Mountain Village hosts the Sunset Concert Series. Watch the sun set behind Wilson peak and listen to a great live band free of charge. It's summer in the San Juans at its best!

July 9 - Thomas Mapfumo and the Blacks Unlimited	Aug. 6 - T.S. Monk
July 16 - TBD	Aug. 13 - Dar Williams
July 23 - TBD	Aug. 20 - Ralph Dinosaur
July 30 - Vinyl	Aug. 27 - TBD
	Sept. 3 - TBD
	Sept. 10 - Buddy Miles

For more information log on to www.townofmountainvillage.com, call 970-728-1392, or e-mail mountainvillage@telluridecolorado.net

