

Dish Omaha – May 7th, 2025

Jeff: Time now for another edition of Dish Omaha featuring KVNO's resident foodie, Diane Watson. Good morning, Diane.

Diane: Good morning, Jeff. Oh, I love this warm weather. And I love to sit outside with a glass of vino.

Jeff: Oooh. Yes.

Diane: Do you have a favorite varietal of wine?

Jeff: Yeah... You know, Beaujolais.

Diane: Oh, très bien.

Jeff: Très très bien. A little lighter, of course.

Diane: Of course, it's Beaujolais.

Jeff: But really, any wine is good.

Diane: (laughter) Well, I agree. And this time of year demands some alfresco time with friends and wine. The wine patio can be traced all the way back to ancient Greece and Rome. The villas had peristyles, which were garden-type patios surrounded by colonnades. And wine was sipped during banquets and leisure time. And then, of course, in the 18th and 19th century, France and Italy got in on the game with the sidewalk café. And in the U.S., they really came in to play post-prohibition. Now, one thing I had no idea, and I'm going to see if you know, how long prohibition lasted.

Jeff: Oh, I would have known maybe in grade school.

Diane: Sure.

Jeff: I don't recall.

Diane: I'm going to embarrassingly tell you, I figured it was like two or three years.

Jeff: Yeah.

Diane: No, it was 13 years long.

Jeff: 13 years.

Diane: 1920 to 1933.

Jeff: Wow.

Diane: I was shocked. So, no wine patios then.

Jeff: No.

Diane: But after then.

Jeff: Yeah.

Diane: And the style of American wine patio is really kind of the European charm with American casual. We love the string lights, the live music, the fire pits. And what's the big trendy food now that's served with wine? I bet you know.

Jeff: Oh, the little charcuterie.

Diane: Charcuterie. Exactly.

Jeff: Yeah.

Diane: So, I had a lot of fun asking our listeners for their favorite wine patio spot in Omaha. And I've got five for you.

Listeners Tom and Heather both mentioned Ooh De Lally. Now, we all loved Mark's in Dundee. And Ooh De Lally now occupies that space. So if you've been to Mark's in the past or Ooh De Lally, you know that that has a gorgeous patio back with lots of trees, lots of shade, cobblestones.

Jeff: It's super cozy.

Diane: Yes. And listener Steve reported that he proposed to his wife there.

Jeff: Awe!

Diane: ...which is... what a great spot for that. Listener Rich mentioned Nicola's. That's in the old market. It's kind of tucked away. I took my sisters there for lunch for the first time. They'd never been there. They didn't even know it existed.

Jeff: It's sort of hiding in plain sight.

Diane: Well said. Exactly. Right across the street from Cubby's gas station. Beautiful, big trees that kind of obscure the building. This time of year, there are lots and lots and lots of birds in those trees.

Jeff: Mmm. Love it.

Diane: So, it's very melodic and gorgeous. Allie told a story of her child knocking over the most expensive glass of wine she'd ever ordered. She said she was kind of cheap and ordered a nice glass of wine and her kid just knocked it over.

Jeff: Ohhhh. (laughter)

Diane: Corkscrew. Listeners Mike and Carmen both mentioned Corkscrew. Of course, there are two locations, one in Blackstone and one in Rockbrook. The back patio at the one in Blackstone has a beautiful open window wall.

Jeff: Oh, it's gorgeous. It's great.

Diane: I think I went to a... uh.

Jeff: French conversation cafe.

Diane: Yes, yes. And there's a fire pit and more charcuterie.

Jeff: You've got to have the charcuterie.

Diane: Well, you have to. (laughter) Listener Mallory mentioned Sonny's, which I thought was interesting.

Jeff: Yeah. Love it.

Diane: That's the beautiful outdoor space in Aksarben. It's very quintessential. And listener Anne, who just turned 21, said she had her very first glass of wine ever there last summer.

Jeff: Awe. It's a great space.

Diane: And you can just, people watch to your heart's content.

Jeff: There's a Bocci ball over on the side.

Diane: Yes. We had many listeners, Michelle, Mike, Diane, Helen all mentioned La Bouvette. Kind of the quintessential wine patio in the old market.

Jeff: Yeah.

Diane: It's been there since 1991.

Jeff: Incredible.

Diane: 34 years old.

Jeff: Yeah. Incredible.

Diane: They put some weather barriers up a couple years ago. So, it extends the season.

Jeff: Oh yeah.

Diane: You can go well into October, November.

Jeff: They just took them down a couple days ago, I think.

Diane: Yep. That's right. So now you know it's there.

Jeff: But I love that you can extend that season.

Diane: Right.

Jeff: I mean, I'd be out there in a blizzard anyway.

Diane: ... all the time. Exactly. My friend Margaret's parents go there every farmer's market. They've been doing that for 25 years.

Jeff: Ah, nice.

Diane: They get there early. They get a spot and watch people.

Jeff: Oh, perfect.

Diane: And then there were a couple of listeners, Emily and James, who talked about being so enthralled by the space and the street musicians, they just got up and danced. Right there. Right there on 11th Street.

Jeff: (laughter) I love it. I love it.

Diane: Now, don't forget there's lots of outdoor events with wine. If you go to concerts.

Jeff: Sure. Where it's legal, of course.

Diane: Where it's legal. And don't forget local wineries. We're going to be doing an upcoming Dish episode on the local wineries. And best of all, where the wine is really inexpensive, don't forget your own home patio.

Jeff: Oh, perfect. Diane Watson, Dish Omaha. Thanks so much, Diane.

Diane: See you next week!