



WINE WEEKEND 4

The Awakening to our roots, the seeds we will sow, and the fruit we'll bear.
Together.

Wine Bobby's Number: 651-278-7549

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@WWIV
#AlexanderPayneWasMeToo'edToo



Awaken the Passion.

Sideways (2004) revitalized a sleepy mountain village... and inspired a movement.

Just like Paul Giamatti's character, Miles, in the 2004 film *Sideways*, we need a li'l awakening, too – one in which we exercise our muscles, reconnect with who we once were, and indulge in the pleasures of the flesh.

To celebrate his longtime actor friend's upcoming wedding, Miles and his best, but now distant, friend spend a boyz weekend in Santa Barbara (sounds gay, right?). During their unremarkable trip, they drink wine, eat, and become intimate with two sexy strangers.

What better way to stir our own spirits than during a boyz weekend in Santa Barbara, too?

Well, I've also made sure to fold in lots of sexy strangers (43, in fact), some structured libations, built-in free time, and the agency to tap In-N-Out whenever you want! *How 'bout dat?*



THURSDAY

Small & White, Clean & Bright.

You'll look happy to meet me.

In the film, Miles drives from San Diego to Los Angeles to pick up his actor friend before venturing on to Santa Barbara for the boyz weekend.

Now, *we* get to make the same journey, for the fourth year in a row. We have folks flying into LA from all over the country (literally) at all different times on Thursday, primarily (wo!).

What follows are Thursday's plans, which may prove important for those traveling from [San Diego]. It's high-level, as other specific arrangements will be handled on an individual basis.



Thursday PM

Just as Miles swings through LA to grab his actor friend, and then onto to his mother in the valley (from whom he steals cash), our pilgrims will be ushered along similar paths.

AFTERNOON

- We'll coordinate meeting, scooping up, welcoming folks throughout the day.
- Some folks plan to head to Mid-City (Beverly Grove) for museums, outdoor shopping, Christmas décor viewing, and Erewhon (for star searchin' and \$60 probiotic juice shots).

EVENING

- Wine Bobby will host a casual gathering at his apartment (wow—how cool!):
*6263 ½ Orange Street
Los Angeles, CA 90048*
- There, he'll regale you with tales from the early days of wine and roses (we'll chill, order pizza, and hydrate).
- LA Locals are obviously welcome to join, too.

NIGHT when Darkness Falls

- Visitors will disperse/remain to sleep as follows:

Bobby/Rheanna's

*Anne H.
Mad
Marissa
Alli
Cassie*

Becca's

*Alexa
Arohan
Dolan*

Eleanor/Nicole's

*Jared
Stacia
Jenn
Ellen E.*

Euphemia's

Anastasia

Matt's

Tabitha

Some scenarios/information may not apply to you; please ignore or inquire if concerned about your place amongst **The⁶Awakening.*



FRIDAY

Let's Get Together,

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

It had been years since Miles and his actor-misogynist friend had quality time together—especially after years living such different lives.

Friday will be when (most) will land in Santa Barbara Wine County for some memories, like the corners of my mind. This is a reunion for some; and for others, a confounding leap of faith into the void.

The next set of slides reveal the day's itinerary—including ride and carpool assignments, general flow, etc. This way, you can plan your day to fit your best version of these insufferable characters.



Carpool Assignments

Miles and his friend had it easy taking one car to Santa Barbara. We'll have to take more cars.

- I'm suggesting folks who want to land in Santa Barbara by 9-10AM **depart LA area between 6-7AM.**
- The carpool assignments are for those who indicated they need rides. If you're not included in the assignment (right), we'll assume you have arranged your own ride up.
- If you're not included, we have assumed you arranged your own ride up to Santa Barbara.

Westside

Perry

Nicole
Anna
Ellen E.
Dolan

Jared

Stacia
Jenn
Alexa
Arohan

Christine

Annie W.
Eleanor H.

Mid-City

Bobby

Marissa
Allie
Mad
Cassie

Matt

Tabitha
Rheanna
Annie H.

Friday AM

Like the characters in the film, we will have the chance to spend time with people we've never met before. Remember how fun the characters had when they did that?

MORNING

- Aim to meet near the *Funk Zone/ Sterns Wharf* if you plan to arrive **before 11:30AM**.
- There, you can grab coffee, breakfast, scout out a spot to crank out some work, buy antique textiles, etc.
- Frankly, it's up to you to create fun with those you link up with that day. (See Appendix A for suggestions)
- Kay, Kay?



NOON

- When the spirit catches us, we can either fall down... or move to the beach right next to **Boathouse at Hendry's Beach:**
2981 Cliff Dr, Santa Barbara, CA 93109
- The restaurant doesn't take reservations, so we figure we can all show up, put names in, and chill on the beach until tables are ready.
- **Around 2 or 3PM**, we'll leave the beach and carpool over the mountain to Solvang to check into our respective hotels.

Some scenarios/information may not apply to you; please ignore or inquire if concerned about your place amongst **The¹⁰**Awakening**.*



Only the Bad Sleep Well.

Am I right?

Remember the *Windmill Inn*, where Miles and his friend stayed in the film?

Well, due to the film's increasing popularity, the hotel was rebranded as *The Sideways Inn*.

Historically, we have stayed at *The Sideways Inn*, but now the room rates have exceeded our budget.

The following slide contains our new hotel rooming assignments.

Friday PM

Unlike Miles and his friend, we will all be staying in the heart of Solvang, in three different hotels. Only some have jacuzzies. Sorry.

HOTEL & ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Between 3-4PM, we can check into our respective rooms across three hotels in Solvang. Room captains (the names on the reservation) are **Bolded**.

Royal Copenhagen Inn

Euphemia

Anastasia

Jenn

Eleanor J. (Sat.)

Anne H.

Mad

Cassie

Alli

Lauren C.

Anna

Ellen E.

Annie W.

Perry

Rique

Greg

Lauren O.

Rheanna

Kim (Sat.)

Hotel Corque

Andrew

Brigette

George

Jessie

Saleh

Sarah

Patrick

Danielle

Tabitha

Matt

Marissa

Hamlet Inn

Christine

Ellen A.

Eleanor H.

Dhwani (Fir.)

Nicole

Alexa

Arohan

Dolan

Patrick

Stacia

Becca

Dan

Practice Makes Perfect.

Unless you are practically perfect.

After Miles checked into the hotel, he had dinner alone at *The Hitching Post*, a fancy steak joint in Buellton.

Miles certainly enjoyed his steak at the the restaurant, but his favorite part was becoming friends with Maya, a kind, carefree server who pities him.

We won't need to make friends with the servers, because we'll have each other. But we'll still need more practice meeting new people.

The following slide gives details, such as pricing and menus, for our Friday night rehearsal dinner.



Friday Night

Unfortunately, *The Hitching Post* has 4 dollar signs online, so we have made accommodations elsewhere: **Trattoria Grappolo**.

REHEARSAL DINNER

- The Rehearsal Dinner will be at **6:00PM** at **Trattoria Grappolo** (5-7 min drive from Solvang):
3687 Sagunto St, Santa Ynez, CA 93460
- At this dinner, you'll be given your tasting group assignments for Saturday, as well as an opportunity to sign up for a third tasting at **Epiphany** in Los Olivos (availability limited to 20)
- If you do not plan to attend the rehearsal dinner, we will make sure to pass along pertinent info and the chance to join the third tasting.
- The **\$45 per person family-style** meal will include:
 - Bruschetta with fresh tomatoes, basil, garlic
 - Arugula salad with fresh burrata cheese, olive oil, and lemon dressing
 - Eggplant alla parmigiana
 - Penne al pomodoro
 - Filet of sole with lemon and capers
 - Pannacotta

*Beverages, including wine and beer, are not included in the price and will be ordered separately for the table.

Some scenarios may not apply to you; please ignore or inquire if concerned about your place amongst **The Awakening.*



SATURDAY

Strawberries, Cherries, and an Angel's Kiss in Spring.

My autumn wine is really made from all these things.

Miles and his friend had a good time exploring Wine Country and tasting everything but merlot. We'll explore similar terrain in and around the Santa Ynez Valley. And probably not drink merlot, either.

When the film was released in 2004, the world had not yet experienced the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. So, as we saw in the film, Miles and his friend had quite a bit of flexibility, agency, and unfettered male confidence that doesn't land well today.

These unprecedented times will require more structured and methodical tastings—
but will just as delicious!



Saturday

Even though our tasting groups will be assigned and smaller –and not necessarily with our best friends—we’ll still have buckets of fun learning about tannins and pheromones.

MORNING

- Take Saturday morning to enjoy breakfast in Solvang (see Appendix C)
- **At 10:20AM**, meet in front of **Hotel Corque** to board the shuttle:
*400 Alisal Rd,
Solvang, CA 93463*
- From there, we will visit two vineyards and break off into separate smaller tasting groups.
- I will bring some snacks and picnic food for the day.
- Further instruction will be given on site and during Friday’s rehearsal dinner.

AFTERNOON

- **At 1:30PM**, the shuttle will drop the group off in Los Olivos for an early afternoon of fun.
- There are 20 tasting reserved at **Epiphany**; if you are interested in a third (organized) tasting, you will have the opportunity to sign up during the rehearsal dinner.
- Other tasting rooms in Los Olivos do not take reservations, but we will encourage you to explore the town and stumble into new and unique experiences.
- **At 3:10PM**, the shuttle will depart Los Olivos and return to Hotel Corque.

EVENING

- Once the shuttle arrives back in Solvang, you are released from my clutches.
- The rest of the evening/night will be all yours—take advantage of the motel amenities, grab a sausage with a new friend at the beer garden, relax in the jacuzzi, or try out one of Solvang’s exquisite restaurants. (See Appendix C)


Some scenarios/information may not apply to you; please ignore or inquire if concerned about your place amongst **The¹⁷**Awakening**.*

A REQUEST

At this point, I hope it's clear:

Although this weekend has allotted “free” time, and I (Wine Bobby) can play lean a little tongue-in-cheek when it comes to inclusivity, I hope everyone – especially those who know fewer people – is included during the unstructured periods... *playtime*, if you will.

Luckily, I'm not really concerned, because you will all be logistically and socially shackled together all weekend.

A woman with curly blonde hair, wearing a red top, is looking towards the camera. She is in a room with a dark wooden cabinet containing several wine bottles. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, brownish tint.

And in *Sideways*...

Milo's new friend Maya invited him and his actor friend to her cool bungalow in Santa Ynez and served them wine from her collection (pictured here). Despite only having the men the day prior, Maya demonstrated great inclusivity—a core tenet of boyz weekend.

A wedding scene in a church. A groom in a dark tuxedo with a white shirt and black bow tie is looking towards the bride. The bride is wearing a white wedding dress and a long veil. They are standing in front of a church altar with stained glass windows. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the windows. The text 'SUNDAY' is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font, with a horizontal line below it.

SUNDAY

The Day We Marry



It's Not Goodbye,

Because you'll be trapped forever... in here, with us.

Since we all know Sundays are, indeed, *not* fun days, we must leave boyz weekend and return from where we all came.

But I know we'll all come again. Like in the film *Sideways!*

I anticipate we will all find an easy path home, and I trust we'll eventually figure it out together.

For a couple of you, it may require a bit more planning and coordination (details and targeted conversations to cum).

Regardless, I know we'll all think about the life of wine differently moving forward.



“...I like to think about the life of wine...

How it’s a living thing. I like to think about what was going on the year the grapes were growing; how the sun was shining; if it rained.

I like to think about all the people who tended and picked the grapes. And if it’s an old wine, how many of them must be dead by now.

I like how wine continues to evolve, like if I opened a bottle of wine today it would taste different than if I’d opened it on any other day, because a bottle of wine is actually alive.

And it’s constantly evolving and gaining complexity. That is, until it peaks, like your ’61.

And then it begins its steady, inevitable decline... and it tastes so fucking good.”

– Alexander Payne, who won an Oscar for writing this monologue. And directing this Oscar-nominated performance. Think about that.

Appendix A

Many people helped assembled amazing recommendations if you want some guidance when you choose your own *Sideways* adventure.

SANTA BARBARA RESTAURNTS & CAFES

Coffee & Potential WFH Spots

- Santa Barbara Roasting Company
- Café Coffee Roasters
- Dune Coffee
- Handlebar Coffee Roasters
- Dart Coffee (right in the Funk Zone!)

Elevated Brunch

- Belmond El Encanto - *Offers a delicious bellini brunch with views overlooking the ocean (\$\$\$\$); reservations available on OpenTable*
- Brophy Bros - *On the pier; does not take reservations*
- Scarlett Begonia - *Self described as “progressive modern food”; experienced as very delicious (get the mimosas!).*
- Flor de Maiz - *Oaxacan cuisine by the water; call (805) 679-5258 for reservations*

Brunch

- La Paloma - *recently started serving brunch; described as Californian fare; reserve on Resy*
- Finch & Fork - *Offers most of your brunch staples, including the cocktails; make a reservation on OpenTable*
- Louie’s CA Bistro - *Nestled in a historic hotel in the Arts District; make a reservation on OpenTable*
- Goat Tree Restaurant - *Right in the Funk Zone near the beach in the Hotel Californian; good pastries + good brunch food! Make a reservation on OpenTable*
- Farmer Boy - *Classic American breakfast on State St; diner style, no reservations*
- Dawn Patrol - *Known for potato hashes; casual on State St*
- Santa Barbara Public Market - *Includes a few options so folks could choose their own adventure - a little further away from the main strip, but still walkable*

Appendix B

Is your brand #doitall? Are you ready to push through the physical, throbbing, aches resulting from absolute pleasure? Here are some more activities to add to your itinerary.

SANTA BARBARA ACTIVITIES

Culture

- Santa Barbara Museum of Art - *Opens 11AM*
- Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens - *Opens 12PM*

Walks & Hikes, Arts & Culture

- Ellwood Mesa - *~20 min from downtown*
- Tangerine Falls - *~15 min from downtown*
- State Street - *now a pedestrian promenade!*
- Walk along the Pier and beach
- Santa Barbara Arts and Craft fair along the water

Tastings and Breweries

- The Urban Wine Trail - *Santa Barbara has over 30 tastings rooms across the city!*
- Night Lizard Brewing Co. - *A dual mission of brewing delicious beer and supporting the environment of the central coast.*
- Lama Dog Tap Room and Bottle Shop - *Over 20 beers on tap, plus the opportunity to buy some of your favorites to bring home!*
- Third Window Brewing - *Housed within a restored barn*
- Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. - *Nice patio and centrally-located*

Appendix C

Solvang is actually kind of fascinating, so I'd say explore on your own... but...

WINE COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

Breakfast (Solvang)

- Paula's Pancake House
- brekkie's by chomp
- Solvang's Restaurant – *home of the Danish sausage*

Coffee (Solvang)

- Café Dolce
- Succulent Cafe
- Good Seed Coffee Boutique
- The Coffee House by CHOMP

Lunch/Dinner (Solvang)

- Peasant's Feast
- The Chef's Touch BBQ

Fine Dining (Solvang)

- Industrial Eats – *The best place in town*
- Coast Ranch – *Cozy steakhouse*
- Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort – *elegant twist on local cuisine*
- First & Oak – *white tablecloth shit*

Other Restaurants and Eateries

- The Hitching Post II (Buellton)
- Firestone Walker Brewing Company (Buellton)
- Bob's Well Bread at the Ballard Store (Ballard)

And please give an
extra shrill “WOO” to
these two:

Nicole & Eleanor

** Buy ‘em each an extra tasting this weekend.
They are instrumental to making this happen!*

