

The Complete Event & Meeting

# planner

Greater Washington | Spring/Summer 2009

## VENUES WITH A PLUS

A CATTLE RANCH IN THE BLUE RIDGE, A PARTY ZONE ON THE RIVER, A COOKING SCHOOL & A DEN FOR WANNABE SPIES

## TEAM-BUILDING

ON A SAILING SHIP OR A GOLF COURSE, AT A WINE CLASS OR A SUMMER CAMP FOR ADULTS

## ARTFUL GUIDANCE

HOW A PAINTER-TEACHER FREES THE CORPORATE MIND

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

SITES \* BUDGETS \* VENDORS

## HOW, WHAT, WHERE

INFO ON HOTELS, VENUES, RESTAURANTS & SERVICES

## PALATE PLEASER

Easton, Maryland-based Laurie “The Wine Coach” Forster hosts seminars that tackle the tough questions: How do you order wine to impress a client? And how do you do it without spending a fortune? Her Executive Wine 101 aims to explain.

Forster acknowledges that wine can be a very intimidating topic, but she brings her training as a life coach into play. “I take my show on the road,” she says. Her goal: encouraging clients to work as teams at a blind tasting, perhaps challenging them to pinpoint the characteristics of a wine or uncover the identity of a particular varietal.

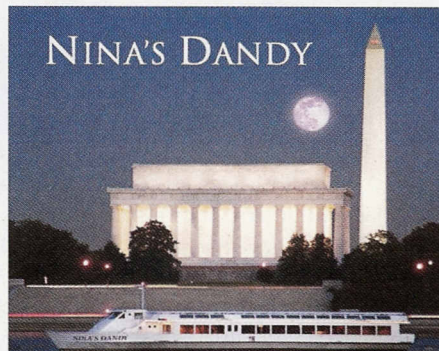
Past events range from a wine dinner for 100 to 200 people to an all-female executive retreat, each customized to the group. One session called “Weird Science” examines the interaction of certain wines and elements like salt or fat. Why doesn’t the goat cheese pair well with the chardonnay? But why does this same cheese “sing” when paired with Sauvignon Blanc?

Forster’s wine knowledge derives from her travels (to California and as far as Italy and Australia). She customizes her all-inclusive workshops so that clients have the chance to sip, savor, learn and interact with colleagues at events across the capital region. Forster, who has led international tours and works in this area with several vineyards, meets corporate groups wherever they wish.

**Laurie Forster—The Wine Coach**  
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