

[http://www.ricentral.com/east\\_greenwich\\_pendulum/news/local\\_news/east-greenwich-business-owner-organizes-savory-tours-for-clients/article\\_b2b6406e-ba58-11e7-8a37-17962418d706.html](http://www.ricentral.com/east_greenwich_pendulum/news/local_news/east-greenwich-business-owner-organizes-savory-tours-for-clients/article_b2b6406e-ba58-11e7-8a37-17962418d706.html)

FEATURED

## East Greenwich business owner organizes 'Savory Tours' for clients

By GABRIELLE FALLETTA Oct 28, 2017



Jessica Granatiero and Giovanna from Villa Madonia in Italy's Emilia Romagna region check out the vineyards.

EAST GREENWICH- Traveling to different locations around the country and Europe while enjoying wine and culinary pairings in a scenic setting sounds like a dream. For those who have participated in Savory Tours, the idea of traveling to wine country to get the ultimate experience is a reality.

Nearly 12 years ago Jessica Granatiero founded and opened The Savory Grape, a boutique wine shop in East Greenwich offering not only wine but education on the wine and how to pair it properly with food. Since she has started The Savory Affair, an event planning company, and now, she is busy working on her next venture— offering trips and tours to clients and fellow wine-lovers to locations around the country and Europe called Savory Tours.

“We started the experiences really because of a demand and need from the clients,” said Granatiero. “We would travel to different wine country places to meet with a variety of different winemakers and owners that we work with, and we would have different culinary and wine experiences while we’re there.”

“We had clients start to ask us, would you ever do something like this for us, as in put together an organized trip?”

About six years ago she did just that with the first Savory Tour trip to Napa Valley, Calif., that was so enjoyable it became an annual event. Now, Granatiero leads groups every year throughout planned trips in locations that have included day trips to Stoughton, Conn., and longer excursions to Long Island, NY and Tuscany and Piedmont in Italy. The trips are completely planned and coordinated by Granatiero whose goal is to create what she calls an “artisan culinary and wine experience.”

"We decided that it would be a really unique experience to put together not just wine trips, but really a whole wine and culinary experience for clients that they could not get otherwise," she said, adding she wanted to make the trip an experience travelers couldn't get from booking a vacation themselves.

The trips offer a hands-on experience that allows clients to meet with owners and winemakers of the vineyards they visit, allowing them to participate in different blending seminars and food and wine pairings while working with winemakers and chefs. The Savory Tours offer an experience that can't be had without the guidance and knowledge of Granatiero.

"The nice thing that Jess does is she never plans the same trip twice," said Linda Riggs, Client Coordinator at The Savory Affair. "While they might go to a favorite vineyard on two consecutive trips that's the only overlap, everything else is different just because of the relationship she has with the winemakers, the distributors, and now that she's developing and building a reputation in Italy, a lot of the vineyard owners are getting to know her as well."

The trips to Italy last about six days, and include 15 to 17 travelers who will dine in vineyards and experience the culture on the guided vacation. The next trip to Tuscany in November 2018, will include a trip to an olive oil press, shopping, a Michelin Star dining experience, a local creamery, a private cooking lesson, visiting historic sites and a private opera.

The Piedmont trip, that still has a few openings for clients, will happen in October 2018 and include visits to some of Piedmont's most difficult-to-visit wineries, Michelin Star dining experiences, a truffle walk, a private cooking lesson and more.

For those who want to stay a little closer to home, the Savory Tour to Long Island in April 2018 still has several openings for the three night, four day trip that includes gourmet farm-to-table culinary experiences, wine tastings and pairings, private visits with winemakers, and more. The tours are created to offer an educational and fun experience to small groups of clients.

"We want to make sure the experience stays intimate and it's not too large of a group," said Granatiero. "Also, a lot of the wineries and the chefs that we work with want to be able to provide that same experience."

For those interested in attending one of next year's trips with space still open, more information can be found at [thesavorygrape.com](http://thesavorygrape.com), along with other educational events happening at The Savory Grape in East Greenwich.