

A different kind of girls' night out

Carrboro location of Wine and Design offers a creative escape

By Morgan Johnson
Staff Writer

Whether it's a special celebration, a girls' night out or just a fun time with old friends, Wine and Design in Carrboro combines crafts and cocktails for a variety of occasions.

The local Wine and Design, located in Carr Mill Mall at 200 North Greensboro St., is one of the most recent establishments of the franchise. It has locations in New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Raleigh resident Roslyn Troutman, the owner and studio manager of the Carrboro location, opened the shop a little over a year ago.

Troutman said that she went to the Raleigh location and had such a great time there that she contacted the two women who started it, Emmy Preiss and Harriet Mills. Troutman told the owners to keep her in mind if they were going to open any additional locations in the area.

"That's how the whole Chapel Hill-Carrboro idea came up," said Troutman, who just celebrated the anniversary of the Carrboro location on March 13.

The success of Wine and Design in the Carrboro location stems, in large part, from its wide appeal, particularly for a girls' night out, Troutman said.

Keia Faison, a student at UNC and a participant in a class at Wine and Design for a friend's 21st birthday, said that the experience was an enjoyable way to bring friends together and get creative and messy.

"The class was a great spin on girls' night," she said. "No dressing up, just friends, wine and fun."

Troutman admitted, though, that sometimes, the wine can get in the way of a successful painting job.



A class of women at the Carrboro location of Wine and Design paint and admire their brightly colored projects. (Staff photo by Morgan Johnson)

For more information

Visit http://www.wineand-designus.com/Chapel_Hill.html to see pictures of designs, read facts about the Carrboro location and learn how to get involved.

"We always warn everybody that when you're cleaning your brushes to make sure you dip them in your water jar and not your wine glass," she said. "We have people all the time clean their brushes in the wine. So people start their painting with wine because they do it accidentally."

Cam Cline of Carrboro is an artist at Wine and Design and said that she has been drawing and painting for as long as she can remember.

It only seems natural that Cline, who started working at Wine and Design in September, would find this unique environment a great place to express her creativity through what she enjoys.

"As a child I would draw and paint for hours on end, and I sold my first painting at age 10 for \$10," Cline said.

Although the Carr Mill Mall location of Wine and Design is still new, Cline hopes to work there for a long time.

"Many things inspire the canvasses that are used in the classes," Cline

said. "The most popular subjects seem to be things of local interest, especially the Old Well, which is our most popular painting by far."

Cline added that the most exciting event she has hosted with Wine and Design is a private painting party for a sorority at Elon University. The sorority was spending a weekend celebrating "women we love," and one activity offered during that weekend was a Wine and Design party.

During the weekend Troutman rented a trailer, and the whole team, including her artist, went to Elon with paint and canvasses in tow. The class they hosted at the University included more than 150 women.

The Carrboro location of Wine and Design is open Tuesday through Saturday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Private parties and events can be held anytime during or outside of these hours.

Cline said that private parties are popular, and occasionally they will have as many as three private parties in one day.

"Wine and Design was a unique experience that was a great way to begin my friend's 21st birthday," Faison said. "I would suggest these classes to any group looking for an interesting way to spend the evening out."

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- Keia Faison