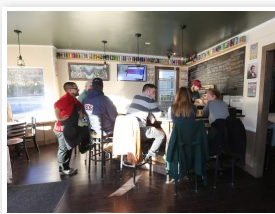


New Sloatsburg businesses attracting attention

Michelle Hainer, For The Journal News

Published 7:00 a.m. ET Nov. 21, 2017

Craft beer taproom and market, Seven Lake Station in Sloatsburg. John Meore/lohud



(Photo: John Meore/The Journal News)

After working in a liquor store for more than a decade, sisters Olga Lukashyk and Irina Moskalyk of Suffern knew they wanted to have their own shop someday.

So when they heard that the owner of Sloatsburg Wine & Liquors might be willing to sell, they jumped

at the chance to buy.

After taking ownership in late August, the sisters went to work putting their stamp on the store. They altered the name slightly to Sloatsburg Wine Inc., painted the interior an inviting soft gray and installed sleek black display shelving.

“There were a lot of sleepless nights,” says Lukashyk, who traded countless texts with her sister as they researched wines and spirits to sell. “But this is our dream come true.”

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The same could be said for Jamie Lovelace and Martijn Mollet, a married couple, who were initially drawn to the sleepy village because of its close proximity to Harriman State Park.

The couple opened Seven Lakes Station, a taproom and market, in 2016.

Both businesses are a welcome addition to the community which continues to market itself as a destination for travelers. In October, developer Michael Bruno recently unveiled his Valley Rock Inn in the village, a long-awaited — and talked about — improvement project. Bruno also opened a full service bike shop, 7 Lakes Bike Barn, and the Blue Barn Farm Market.



Owner Martijn Mollet adds a beer to the menu in the outdoor beer garden at Seven Lakes Station in Sloatsburg. Friday, November 17, 2017. (Photo: John Meore/The Journal News)

The development did not go unnoticed by Lukashyk and Moskalyk. In addition to the aesthetic improvements to their shop, the pair have seriously stepped up the shop's inventory.

There are more than 300 wines for sale, including several organic brands such as Santa Julia, Our Daily Red and Osoti Rioja. The vodka section has expanded from five varieties to more than 30, along with a host of other spirits, many of which are local to New York state. (No worries if you can't make the trip to Warwick or Washingtonville, as you'll find wines and spirits from Warwick Valley Winery and Brotherhood Winery on the shelves in Sloatsburg.)

They also specialize in hard to find, ultra exclusive (and expensive) small batch spirits like The Yamazaki, a single malt Japanese whisky aged 18 years that retails for \$500 a bottle.

"I like having New York City quality service without having to leave Sloatsburg," said Monica Freire, who has lived in the village for 17 years. "They're breathing new life into Sloatsburg."

And they aren't the only ones. Lovelace and Martijn Mollet have been so busy that the couple, who opened Seven Lakes Station in September 2016, recently added additional seating inside the bar and opened a heated beer garden out back that seats 40.

"We're nature lovers, but we felt like there needed to be something more for people our age to do here," says Lovelace, who also works in the hotel industry. "We're total foodies who love quality food and drink, so we rolled the dice. We weren't sure how the village would respond but we've been really busy."

Guests will find 14 beers on tap, seven of which are dedicated to those brewed in the Northeast. (District 96, Grimm, Equilibrium and Singlecut are current favorites). The couple also serves a well-edited list of wine and hard to source Belgian ales, a nod to Mollet's birthplace.

"You're not going to find Coors Light here," says Lovelace. In addition to what they have on tap, a market section houses more than 100 craft beers available for carry out, and a small but hearty menu features cheese and charcuterie plates, hot pressed sandwiches and Bavarian pretzels.

"The owners are so welcoming and friendly, and they know a lot about the craft beers they offer," says Katie Burns, of Tuxedo, who likens Seven Lakes to a cross between Characters and Rhodes Tavern, two Sloatsburg mainstays. "And the small setting is really appealing."



Bartender Scott Ruel draws a beer from the tap at Seven Lakes Station in Sloatsburg. Friday, November 17, 2017. (Photo: John Meore/The Journal News)

On a recent, unexpectedly cold Saturday evening, several patrons were huddled around the fire pit in the beer garden at Seven Lakes Station, their hands clasped around snifters of richly colored brews.

"They serve beers here that you can't get anywhere else," says Randy Chenevert of Hastings-on-Hudson, who was relaxing with friends after mountain biking in Harriman State Park.

"It's the only genuine spot in Rockland County," chimed in Daniel Tyler, of Airmont, who often goes hiking in the area. "It's like having a beer at a friend's house. Only with a much cooler backyard."



at Seven Lakes Station in Sloatsburg Friday, November 17, 2017. (Photo: John Meore/The Journal News)

If you go

Sloatsburg Wine Inc., 61 Orange Turnpike,
Sloatsburg, 845-753-2087

Hours: Sunday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Tastings: Fridays 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays 1-6 p.m.
Follow them on Instagram @sloatsburgwine for updates.

Free weekend delivery throughout Rockland with \$100 purchase or a case of wine.

Seven Lakes Station, 80 Orange Turnpike,
Sloatsburg, 845-712-5586, sevenlakesstation.com

Friday and Saturday noon-midnight

Sunday noon-10 p.m.

Follow them on Facebook/Instagram/Twitter @sevenlakesny for updates on what's on tap