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Journeys

Weekend getaway: Take the kids and head to Chelan wine country

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 Wapato Point Cellars, on Lake Chelan, has a large outdoor play area for the kids. (Sara Kennedy)
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Beat the summer crowds and score savings on a relaxing weekend trip to Lake Chelan.

By Sara Kennedy

Journeys

In the summer, it's a bustling town full of water lovers. But spring at Lake Chelan is a relaxed affair, with deals on lodging and space to move at the region's family-friendly wineries.

The [Spring Break at the Lake](#) promotion is over, but remember it for next year. A recent trip was incredibly relaxing, with lots of wine and beautiful views for the adults, and space for the kids to bike and explore. The promotion also includes lodging deals and special activities.

But spring is still a great time to visit, with warming temps and fewer crowds. Here are five things not to miss if you visit in the off-season.

[Vin Du Lac Winery](#)

Located close to the town of Chelan, this winery is a great first stop for wine tasting. They have three excellent flight options, as well as upscale bistro food. An outdoor space with fire pits and a large lawn was perfect for when the kids got squirmy, and a view overlooking the lake was spectacular. Open Thursday–Sunday.

[Wapato Point Cellars](#)

Take a drive around the lake to this pretty site with a huge outdoor play space complete with a slide and merry-go-round. Tastings are free, though you might want to pay for a glass of one of their reserves. The restaurant is a little high-end for kids, but you can sit outside with some snacks before heading back into town for dinner.



Lakeside Lodge & Suites has many family-friendly amenities. (Lakeside Lodge & Suites)

[Lakeside Lodge & Suites and Lakeside Park](#)

The kid-friendly factors at this motel-style lodge are many: Indoor and outdoor pools, so you can burn off serious energy no matter the weather; a free continental breakfast to get everyone up and fed; space to spread out in the affordable suites; and immediate access to Lakeside Park, with play structures, beach access, bike trails and more.

[Local Myth Pizza](#)

Fantastic pizza, including a cheese pizza for the kids that the adults ate most of. They feature a great selection of local wines and regional beers, and have lots of toys to keep the kids occupied. They don't take reservations and, even in the quiet season, it's a favorite. So go early or be prepared for a wait.



Local Myth Pizza is a must-stop if you travel to Chelan with kids. (Local Myth Pizza)

Stormy Mountain Brewing and downtown Chelan

In summer, the streets are filled with bathing-suit-clad tourists, but in spring you can pop in and out of Chelan's cute shops with ease. The Chelan Museum is a compact look back on the history of the area and operates on donations. And, when you need a break from wine, Stormy Mountain Brewing offers their own brews, as well as a range of regional options, and very family-friendly food choices.