

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTS, NATURE AND CHARM FLOURISH IN SPRING GREEN, WISCONSIN

Spring Green is a charming community in southern Wisconsin's lush Wisconsin River Valley that offers a resplendent mix of entertainment options that will delight every member of the family. From theater of the highest caliber to internationally acclaimed art and architecture, from specialty shopping and gourmet dining to outdoor activities that take advantage of the rolling and verdant terrain, Spring Green is the perfect Midwestern vacation destination.

Arts, Architecture and Adventure

The quaint community boasts an arts scene with offerings that rival those in any urban metropolis.

This summer, the world-class American Players Theatre (APT) will present five classic works in its spectacular outdoor amphitheatre: William Shakespeare's pastoral romance, "**As You Like It**" directed by Tim Ocel; "**All's Well That Ends Well**" Shakespeare's witty and thought-provoking look at love unrequited, directed by John Langs; Lillian Hellman's bristling "**Another Part of the Forest**," the story of an Alabama family's ruthless fight for fortune and prominence following the Civil War, directed by William Brown; W. Somerset Maugham's smart, wily and urbane examination of marriage and infidelity "**The Circle**," directed by James Bohnen; and "**Major Barbara**," George Bernard Shaw's clever commentary on idealism, charity and money, directed by David Frank.

The new Touchstone Theatre, APT's beautiful 200-seat indoor venue, opened in 2009. For its second season, audiences will enjoy three modern works including Samuel Beckett's enigmatic story of existential futility, "**Waiting for Godot**," thought by many to be the greatest play of the 20th century, directed by Kenneth Albers; "**The Syringa Tree**," Pamela Gien's chronicle of a young girl growing up in 1960s South Africa, with all 24 characters played by APT Core Company member Colleen Madden, directed by C. Michael Wright; and "**Exits and Entrances**," Anthol Fugard's meditation on his relationship with an Afrikaner actor, directed by Kate Buckley.

Frank Lloyd Wright chose Spring Green as his Midwestern base. **Taliesin**, located one mile outside city limits, was his home and studio and to this day it crowns an exquisite, unspoiled landscape. Guests can walk down the same paths that inspired Wright, and explore the beauty, serenity and historic and architectural scope of Taliesin. Built in 1911, Taliesin (Welsh for "Shining Brow") was designed with three wings that included a living quarter, as well as an office and farm buildings and was used by Wright as a way to further explore his ideas for organic architecture. A variety of tours of the Taliesin Estate are available from May 1 through Oct. 31. Reservations can be made by calling 877-588-7900 or by e-mail at tours@taliesinpreservation.org.

The whole family will love one of the area's most unique architectural marvels, **The House on the Rock** (5754 Highway 23, Spring Green, Wisc., 608-935-3639). Established in the 1940s by Alex Jordan, the House on the Rock features an extraordinary complex of rooms, streets, buildings and gardens spanning more than 200 acres. Originally built as a weekend retreat, House on the Rock has something that will appeal to everyone.

During the fall months, visitors can bear witness to the finest in foliage during the annual **Fall Art Tour**. Held Oct. 15-17, the Fall Art Tour is a self-guided, open artist studio driving tour through Spring Green, Baraboo, Dodgeville and Mineral Point. Artist studios open to the public include those of painters, sculptors, potters, weavers, jewelers, woodworkers, mixed media artists and more. For more information call 608-588-7509.

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The **Wisconsin Artists Showcase** (143 S. Washington St., Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-7049) is located in a restored cheese warehouse that showcases fine arts, prints and handmade paper by Jura Silverman. Framing and art consulting services are available at the ready. Custom orders available.

Shopping Galore

Spring Green is home to an array of specialty shops where the savvy shopper can find one-of-a-kind items including Amish quilts, Southeast Asian textiles, antiques, home accessories and locally grown cheese, meats, wines and farm produce.

Located in the South Albany Street Courtyard, **43/90 North Earth** (128 Albany St., Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-3313) is a feel-good shop that sells all things soulful. Guests can take in the tranquil sounds of the soft music while treating themselves to the Goddess Collection of jewelry and flowing garments.

A converted turn of the century schoolhouse is home to the **No Rules Gallery** (120 S. Albany St., Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-7509), which features the work of 30 artists. That is where you will find jewelry both modern and antique, as well as handmade tiles, pottery and stained glass, handcrafted rings, pins and necklaces, in addition to American-made jewelry, glass, pottery, tiles and more.

The Country Sampler (133 E. Jefferson St., Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-2510) offers the handicrafts of some of the finest quilt-makers in all of US and Canada. This quilt shop features reproduction quilt fabrics as well as cross-stitch, folk art and period furnishings.

Wining and Dining

No one goes hungry in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Visitors can choose from casual dining to upscale fare, with many restaurants using local ingredients from the area's bountiful farms. Here are a few favorites:

The Bank Restaurant and Wine Bar (134 West Jefferson St., Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-7600). Once home to the State Bank of Spring Green, The Bank Restaurant and Wine Bar features creative cuisine with a foreign flair and the finest locally-grown and seasonal ingredients. There are more than 200 varieties of wine to choose from, by the bottle or by the glass. Patio seating available. Lunch, dinner, weekend brunch. Carry outs available.

The Shed (123 N. Lexington St., Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-9049) is a more relaxed spot, offering casual cuisine, specializing in sandwiches, homemade pizzas, soups and award-winning pie. The bar is always stocked with a nice selection of wine, cocktails, tap beer and drink specials.

The Spring Green General Store (137 S. Albany St., Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-7070) features home-style ethnic cooking and gourmet groceries in a converted cheese warehouse. Breakfast and lunch are served daily. The store also features a bevy of women's clothing, jewelry and gifts, as well as specialty items.

Riverview Terrace Café (Highway C and 23, Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-7937) is located in the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center and serves informal lunches in an unforgettable setting May through October. The Café also provides a year-round seasonal gourmet dinner menu.

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Outdoor Activities

The area around Spring Green features a wide array of outdoor activities including championship golf links, miles of biking and hiking trails, swimming, fishing, canoeing, camping, wildlife watching and more.

Golf

Rated 4 ½ stars by *Golf Digest* magazine, the 27-hole championship course at The House on the Rock Resort utilizes the regions rolling hills to create a memorable and challenging course with carefully spaced tee times. 800-822-7774.

Parks and Prairies

Governor Dodge State Park (4175 Hwy 23 North, Dodgeville, Wisc., 608-935-2315, gruenka@wisconsin.gov) Governor Dodge in southwestern Wisconsin is one of the state's largest state parks, with 5,270 scenic acres of steep hills, bluffs and deep valleys, plus two lakes and a waterfall.

Tower Hill State Park (608-588-2116, wschutte@dnr.state.wi.us) features campsites, hiking trails, a canoe landing, picnic areas and a fully staffed park providing visitors with a complete natural recreation experience and a fascinating glimpse of Wisconsin history.

For those who like their recreation on the wild side, **Avoca Prairie** (located in the Avoca Unit of the Riverway, seven miles west of the Lone Rock Bridge on Hwy. 133) is the largest tallgrass prairie east of the Mississippi. The prairie plant and animal species found here built the soil that made mid-America the world's breadbasket. Wisconsin's pre-settlement prairie once covered two million acres. Today a little more than 2,000 scattered acres (one-tenth of one per cent) survive.

Ferry Bluff (located off of Highway 60, four miles southwest of Sauk City) provides a spectacular and historical view of the river and surrounding topography. To the north and east visitors can see the Baraboo Hills, containing some of the oldest rock in North America. On a clear day those with keen eyes can spot the highest point in southern Wisconsin, Blue Mound, thirteen miles to the south.

Canoeing

The Lower Wisconsin is a river for people who like outdoor activity at a leisurely pace. River currents range from 3 to 5 miles per hour upstream, to only 1 to 2 mph near Muscoda. Along its entire 92.3 miles there are no rapids or falls (or portages), making it ideal for recreation canoeists. Two thirds of river users are found on the 25-mile stretch between Prairie du Sac and Spring Green.

A number of local places rent canoes, including **Wisconsin Riverside Resort** (Spring Green, Wisc.). Canoe and camping are available with **Erik's Adventures**. Please call the Chamber office for information 608-588-2054 or visit www.springgreen.com.

Fishing

Both the main channel as well as the backwaters of the Wisconsin River support large numbers of game fish and pan fish. In the main channel there are walleye, sauger, channel and flathead catfish, smallmouth bass and northern pike, among others. In the sloughs, bayous and floodplain lakes one can fish bluegill, bullhead, crappie, largemouth bass and northern pike. Be aware of special river regulations, including size limits and protected species.

Good fishing can also be had on area streams and lakes. Hunting & Fishing supplies and licenses can be found at **Woody's** (Hwy. 14, Spring Green, WI, 608-588-2717).

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Wildlife Watching

The Riverway is home to more than 45 species of mammals and nearly 300 bird species, including 23 different waterfowl. River otters, beaver, mink, muskrat, raccoon and many other mammals thrive here, sharing the lush bottomlands with bald eagles, herons, sandhill cranes, pileated woodpeckers, woodcock and osprey. Further "inland" the quiet observer may encounter ruffed grouse, wild turkey, white-tailed deer and even an occasional badger or bobcat. The prairie remnants, in addition to presenting a brilliant three-season display of wildflowers (please do not pick), provide cover and nesting for bob-white, blue-winged teal, bobolinks and other birds.

Biking

The country roads surrounding Spring Green offer bicycling pleasures and challenges for riders of all abilities. So pack a lunch, pick a direction and enjoy the scenery.

Special Events

Spring Green hosts a wide array of seasonal events and festivals, each offering visitors a unique perspective of what the village has to offer. Here is a brief sampling of what's going on in the upcoming months:

Spring Green Arts and Crafts Fair

Spring Green's Jefferson Street will fill with more than 200 artists from around the country to celebrate the 41st fair, Saturday, June 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m and Sunday, June 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fair is free and open to the public. Take a leisurely four-block stroll where you will find creative works to view, enjoy and purchase. Aside from the artwork, there are special exhibits, live entertainment and children's activities.

Spring Green Car Show

On Aug. 21, charming downtown Spring Green becomes a huge showcase for prized automobiles. Classic cars, hot rods, unique show cars and trucks – all types and models fill the streets. This is sure-fire fun for the whole family.

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