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***Trompe l'oeil!* Say what? Bronze Artwork Displayed at Chateau Chantal**

July 7, 2009, Old Mission Peninsula, Traverse City, Michigan: Next time you walk into the Tasting Room, experience the ‘trick’ of the eye, the triumph or focus of the eye at Chateau Chantal. Open the door and smack in front of your eye is an 8’X9’ bronze piece of art on the frontal wall named, ***I am the vine, you are the branches.*** Many will recognize the partial quote from the New Testament’s John 15.



First, you need to touch this art, ***gently.*** It is ***bronze,*** cast by local artist and restaurant owner, Verna Bartnick, with foundry work by TJ Carroll.

A literary genre often used by various authors in the Old Testament for a ***THEOPHANY*** or ‘showing of God’ was the accompaniment of a near cataclysmic event – thunder and lightning, deluge, burning bush and the like –i.e. pay attention! Something important can be learned. Among the ideas of this work by Verna Bartnick, the ***Peninsula*** itself is a ***Theophany,*** a ‘showing of God’s beauty’, a reflection of the Creator’s image. The Peninsula’s current evolution began with a cataclysmic event some ten to fifteen thousand years ago with the last movement of northern glaciers that carved and melted to form the world’s largest fresh water reserve of the Great Lakes, the Bays to your east and west, and the land we now call Old Mission. The rocks and glacial till ***portrayed below*** the work are the glacial deposits – sandy-clay loam and gravel forming the so called Kalkaska soils that house and feed the roots of Indian corn, early potato crops, current fruit trees and the grape vines that the labors of man have enjoined this land’s yield and beauty. The salmon colored stone is called ***puddingstone.*** It is typical of conglomerate rock made of a mixture of different, irregular sized grains and pebbles held together by a finer matrix, usually formed from quartz sand and probably left behind after the last Ice Age.

Note the images cast in the leaves and fruit of the work. Their efforts continued to evolve the work of creation... Aish-qua-gwan-aba, head chief of the Ottawa at Elk Rapids, and Chief Ahgosa, son of old chief Oge-ma-wish; the Rev. Mr. Dougherty, first missionary to introduce western civilization here; the migrant laborers who helped clear the land and harvest its rich crop; and, somewhere in the bronze, ***Chateau Chantal and you,*** standing there, wondering what this is all about.



For Immediate Release

Does Verna's work elicit any thoughts of your own? We'd like to know. Guests are invited to write them down and deposit in the suggestion box by the main entrance. We will enter them in a memory guest book available to others who visit this beautiful piece of geography.

*Chateau Chantal is a unique development that combines a winery, vineyards, bed and breakfast, residence, six private home sites, and winding roads, all of which combine to create a "retreat into the Old World." The 65 acre site sits high atop a ridge 12 miles north of Traverse City, Michigan on the beautiful and historic Old Mission Peninsula. Chateau Chantal crafts many styles of wine, allowing the grape to dictate the style. The location's unparalleled views and outstanding staff play host to B&B activities, cooking classes, wine education opportunities, Tapas Tours, conferences and meetings, small weddings, and friendly regional wine events.*