

Lunch Run/Road trip to [Niffer's](#) on Lake Martin and [Hodges Winery](#)
Saturday, October 27, 2012

Let's plan to meet at the [Burlington Coat Factory parking lot](#) (Atlanta Highway @ E. Bypass, behind Varsity BBQ) and **be ready to roll at 10:00am**. It usually takes just over an hour to motor to Niffer's via US 231N, Redland Road, Friendship Road, Cherokee Trail, AL 229, AL 50 & 49. We can order and be eating by 11:30.

If you need to get back home for a ball game, that's fine. OR, if you'd like to ride another 11 miles, Ron Pardo has suggested that we visit the [Hodges Winery](#). It's located about 9 miles east of Walnut Hill for a tour and tasting. Here's a [review from Lake Martin Living magazine](#).

Driving directions to Niffer's then to Hodges Vineyard

Maps:

<http://goo.gl/maps/SLhv4> to Niffer's (47.1 mi, 1 hour 18 mins)

<http://goo.gl/maps/lshTX> to Niffer's and later on to Hodges Vineyards

When: Saturday, October 27, 2012, **9:45am**

Where: Meet at the [Burlington Coat Factory parking lot](#).

Depart: **10:00am**

1. Head **east** out of the parking lot on the service road and merge to the LEFT lane.
2. Follow the U-turn under the bypass.
3. Merge LEFT toward **US-231 N**
4. Take the ramp on the left to **US-231 N**
5. Follow signs for **US-231 N**
6. Merge RIGHT onto **US-231 N. Wetumpka Hwy** via the ramp to **Wetumpka**
Continue to follow US-231 N.
7. Head **northeast** on **US-231 N** (**Caution through the construction zone**)
8. About 1 mile past the river bridge, take the 1st right RIGHT (at the Shell station) onto **Co Rd 8/Redland Rd**.

(This begins the scenic portion of the ride. The cotton and soybean fields in the river's flood plain are ripe for harvest. The steep hills around Wetumpka are remnants of the ancient meteor crater and the hardwoods are beginning to show their fall color. Besides the great terrain, roadside beauty, evocative road and place names, and late October's cool dry air, major portions of this route have been recently resurfaced, making for excellent motoring. Thank you, Elmore County!)

9. Stay on **Co Rd 8/Redland Rd**, for the next 15 miles, bearing left and up the hill at the Rifle Range Rd./Co Rd 4 turn off.

10. At the dead-end/**STOP SIGN**, turn **RIGHT**, still designated **Co Rd 8**, but now called, **Friendship Rd**.

11. Head **east** on **Co Rd 8/Friendship Rd** toward Tallassee for about 1 mile.

12. Take the **1st LEFT** (at Coleman's Plumbing) onto **Cherokee Trail/Co Rd 155**. Continue to follow Cherokee Trail/Co Rd 155 for the next 6 miles.

(This leg of our trip is bordered by neatly manicured farms and homes along rolling terrain.)

13. At the next **STOP SIGN** cross AL 14, and continue on **Cherokee Trail/Co Rd 155** for the next 3 miles.

14. At the **STOP SIGN**, turn LEFT onto **AL-229 N/Kent Rd**.

15. Watch for another **STOP SIGN** just 1 mile up the road at Co Rd 44/Chana Creek Rd., in downtown Kent. Proceed across Co Rd /Chana Creek Rd on **AL-229 N**/now named **Redhill Rd**.

16. Continue another 5 miles on **AL-229 N/Redhill Rd** to the **STOP SIGN** at the intersection of **AL-50 E/Martin Dam Rd**. The Pardos will join us here.

17. Turn RIGHT on AL-50 E/Rev James Arter Smith Hwy.

(This begins the hilliest-twistiest leg of our trip. Take caution as the road winds down to the Tallapoosa River bridge (just below Martin Dam) where the surface changes from asphalt to the concrete, as this is a mildly abrupt transition. Your front suspension will thank you. Once across the bridge, we begin the winding ascent past Overlook Drive and over Wind Creek on up to the crest of a 500-foot hill, then down the "corkscrew" where the Walter Mittys among us can be at Laguna Seca for a few seconds. Passengers can enjoy this panoramic view. Drivers, well, this can sneak up on you, so take Jim Morrison's advice and "keep your eyes on the road and your hands upon the wheel". From here, the road returns to the rolling sweeping turns past the Union community then on to Walnut Hill.)

18. At the **STOP SIGN** at Walnut Hill, turn left onto **AL-49 N/Stillwaters Hwy** for about 2 miles to Niffer's on the left, before the Blue Creek bridge.

11:30am, lunch and socializing at Niffer's

01:00pm, on the road again to Hodges Vineyard (11 mi., 17 mins)

19. Turn RIGHT out of Niffer's parking lot back-tracking **south** on **AL-49 S/Stillwaters Hwy** for about 2 miles to Walnut Hill.

20. At the caution light, turn LEFT onto **AL-50 E/Rev James Arter Smith Hwy**

21. Proceed **east** on **AL-50 E/Rev James Arter Smith Hwy** for 4.5 miles.

22. Take a **SLIGHT RIGHT** onto **Tallapoosa Co Rd 18/Girl's Ranch Rd** (later, Lee Co Rd 72) for another 4 miles.

24. At the **STOP SIGN**, take a SHARP RIGHT onto **Co Rd 71** (at the dumpsters)

25. Hodges Vineyard is a few hundred feet down **Co Rd 71** on the right.