

Arts & Entertainment

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Beacon Pub, Merry Wine offer wine and music pairin

Kim Cameron and Side F/X perform live

By Mark Vanderhoff
STAFF WRITER

Kim Cameron, lead singer of the band Side F/X, was drinking margaritas at Margaritaville in Key West, soaking in the sounds of Jimmy Buffet's island country music.

Buffett and margaritas go perfect together, she thought.

That's when the wine aficionado and musician came up with an idea.

"You always hear about wine and food pairing, but it occurred to me we really don't use all the other senses," Cameron said.

Sure, smell and taste often correlate, but could the two senses of taste and hearing complement each other?

Cameron returned to her home in Washington, D.C., and set out to do some "testing," playing music for her friends and sharing some wine.

"Everyone had a good time," she recalled.

The result of that initial event and some more trial and error is a list of wine styles paired with songs by Cameron and Side F/X.

The band will bring their

most famous wine region, also offers wine and music pairings, although not with live music.

The right song can smooth out the tannins of a merlot, or highlight the fruitiness of a Riesling, Cameron said. She's tested her pairings on snobs and novices alike, with the same results.

Now she travels the country, offering the wine and music pairing events in select cities. Side F/X usually plays "normal" concerts - without wine tasting - in mid-size venues, and Cameron also plays acoustic sets in coffeehouses and other intimate settings.

Cameron, a former corporate executive, has two albums with Side F/X and has been touring the United States for a year. They also play free shows at Veterans Affairs hospitals and offer VA hospital patients free admission to their regular concerts. They play Monday at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville.

Tuesday's performance will be relaxed, with discussions about the wine and flavors. Breaks between each song and food from the



Photo provided by Kim C

Kim Cameron and her band, Side FX, will play live music in a wine and music pairing event hosted by the Beacon Pub and Merry Wine Market.

Black Mountain.

"I found a lot of wines we had when we first opened but that we no longer carry," Scott Counce said. "It was fun and mutually beneficial for both of us. It made us re-

member some wines."

Tickets for the event are \$10. For more information, call the Beacon Pub at 686-0006 or the Merry Wine Market at 669-9050.