



DC'S WINE COUNTRY®

Nineteen eighty-four marks the birth of DC's Wine Country®. Lew Parker of Willowcroft Farm Vineyards established the original Loudoun winery, planting the first grapes in 1981 on the slopes of his farm that in the 1800s were successfully planted with orchards. Loudoun's fertile soil and temperate climate proved fruitful for other winemakers who followed. Today, Loudoun features 39 award-winning wineries and tasting rooms, the most of any county in Virginia, along with an organic distillery, Catoctin Creek Distilling Company, and eight craft breweries. Located just 25 miles outside our nation's capital, Loudoun is known as DC's Wine Country®.

In Loudoun, visitors can explore boutique wineries sprinkled throughout the countryside; learn about winemaking from area vintners; talk with vineyard owners about the history of the land and its structures; and experience Virginia varietals, surprising blends, and dessert wines. Wine tasting in Loudoun is designed to be a welcoming and relaxing experience. During tastings, visitors are educated about the wines they sip and are encouraged to take their own personal notes; the Loudoun winemaking community believes that wine tasting is as personal as winemaking.

Loudoun's wineries are grouped into six driving "clusters." The ride to each is an experience in itself, along winding roads and up mountains, past horse farms and historic estates, and beside miles of stacked stone fences. Loudoun offers a variety of scenic wine tours – by bicycle; limousine; or bus or sedan charter. Each cluster also features unique culinary experiences, including Loudoun's own fresh destination restaurants. Visitors can enhance their trip by spending the night at an area inn, bed and breakfast, or resort, and splitting winery visits over two or more days.

Loudoun Heights Cluster

868 Estate Vineyards
Breux Vineyards
Cardamon Family Vineyards
Doukénie Winery
Hillsborough Vineyards
Maggie Malick Wine Caves
Notaviva Vineyards

Waterford Cluster

8 Chains North
Catoctin Creek Winery
Corcoran Vineyards
Crushed Cellars
Hiddencroft Vineyards
Loudoun Valley Vineyards
Sunset Hills Vineyard
Village Winery

Potomac Cluster

Carroll Vineyards
Fabboli Cellars
Hidden Brook Winery
Lost Creek Vineyard & Winery
Tarara Winery

Mosby Cluster

Barrel Oak Winery
Middleburg
Boxwood Estate Winery
Cana Vineyards & Winery of Middleburg
Chrysalis Vineyards
Greenhill Winery & Vineyard
Leaves of Grass Vineyards
Quattro Goomba's Winery

Harmony Cluster

The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards
Casanel Vineyards
Dry Mill Vineyard & Winery
Hunter's Run Wine Barn
Stone Tower Winery
Willowcroft Farm Vineyards
Zephaniah Farm Vineyard

Snickers Gap Cluster

Above Ground Winery
Bluemont Vineyards
Bogati Bodega & Vineyard
North Gate Vineyards
Otium Cellars

Popular Loudoun Varieties

- **Chardonnay:** A medium- to full-bodied dry white wine with fruit characters of citrus, apples, pear, or tropical. When barrel aged, characters of vanilla, butterscotch, and toasted oak can come out.
- **Cabernet Franc:** A medium-bodied red wine known for its spiciness and herbal characters. Flavors can include black pepper, cinnamon, currants, mint, and leather.
- **Cabernet Sauvignon:** A medium- to full-bodied tannic, dry wine with complex flavors that emerge as currants, green olives, herbs, and bell peppers, with a hint of mint and leather.
- **Chambourcin:** This French-American hybrid grape can give its wine a dark color but it is surprisingly light in the palate. This is the red wine for white wine drinkers.
- **Merlot:** A medium- to full-bodied dry wine with strong flavors in the front and a soft finish. Flavors can include black cherries, anise, blueberry, and plum.
- **Norton:** A native Virginia grape that is dark in color and its fruity flavors may include plum and tart cherries.
- **Viognier:** Condrieu in the Northern Rhone Valley is the home of the Viognier grape. Neglected there until recently, Viognier has found a home in the Old Dominion, Loudoun especially. The county's soils, climate, sunlight, and growing season create excellent conditions for this grape. Viognier comes as a welcome surprise to many Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon drinkers.
- **Blends:** The art of the winemaker is often shown in a blend of different grapes just as a chef would use different spices.

Annual Food & Wine Festivals

January

- Route 9 Barrel Tasting

February

- Chocolates Galore & More

March

- Samedi Gras, *Breaux Vineyards*

April

- Easter Egg Hunt & Marshmallow Festival, *Great Country Farms*

May

- Taste of Greece, *Doukénie Winery*
- The Hottest Cool Jazz Festival, *Chrysalis Vineyards*
- Loudoun County Spring Farm Tour
- Strawberry Jubilee, *Great Country Farms*

June

- Cajun Festival and Crawfish Boil, *Breaux Vineyards*
- Northern Virginia Brewfest
- Virginia Wine Country Half Marathon

July

- Key West Fest, *Breaux Vineyards*

August

- Dog Days Sunflowers and Peach Festival, *Great Country Farms*

September

- Epicurience Virginia, *Morven Park*
- Pancake Breakfast & Potato Harvest, *Great Country Farms*
- Taste of Italy, *Doukénie Winery*
- Lovettsville Oktoberfest
- Pumpkin Harvest, *Great Country Farms*

October

- Loudoun Farm Fall Color Tour
- Norton Wine and Bluegrass Festival, *Chrysalis Vineyards*

In addition to annual culinary festivals, Loudoun wineries offer many year-round experiences, including winemaker dinners and wine making workshops, new wine release parties, outdoor festivals, grape stomping, barrel tastings, hot air balloon events, and much more.