



2024 Visit Loudoun Media Sheet

DC's Wine Country[®]

2024 marks the 40th Anniversary of DC's Wine Country[®]. Since the first Loudoun wine was bottled at Willowcroft Farm Vineyards in 1984 the county is now home to more than 50 wineries and tasting rooms in spectacular settings ranging from rustic barns and historic farms to river-crossed valleys and vine-covered mountain slopes.

Profiles

Lew Parker

Lew Parker bottled Loudoun's first wine at Willowcroft Farm Vineyards in 1984. Incredibly, 40 years on, he is still growing grapes (12 varietals now) and still making fine wines at his scenic mountain top winery. Parker turned the cellar of the 1790s farmhouse on the property into a wine library where he archives every bottle he has ever made (including that 1984 Riseling), while the tasting room is a rustic wood-floored red barn dating back to 1875.

Jenni McCloud

Jenni McCloud left a high-flying tech career in 1998 to open Chrysalis Vineyards, a wine estate outside Middleburg. Today she is the world's leading grower of Norton, the Virginia grape, and founder of the Ag District conservation zone between Aldie and Middleburg. Aside from the winery and tasting room on the property McCloud also operates a creamery that produces artisanal cheeses and a bakery that makes fresh bread and dough for pizzas.

Nate & Sarah Walsh

Dashing Nate and Sarah Walsh are the "It Couple" of the Loudoun wine scene. They lease prime vineyards from farms throughout Loudoun, blend their classy vintages at the Walsh Family Wine tasting room in Hillsboro and pay tribute to the source farm on the labels of the bottles. Try: "What Will the Women Drink?" a bold, brambly, dry red dedicated to women tired of the stereotype that they only like sweet wines.

Doug Fabboli

Doug Fabboli of Fabboli Cellars is known as the "Godfather" of Loudoun wine. After 10 years at leading California wineries, he bought 25 acres around Lucketts in 2000, planted grapes and soon helped inspire the Loudoun wine boom. Fabboli Cellars is also a base of the New Ag School where Doug teaches high school students farming and land preservation, and a new, weekly "country market".

5 Cool Varietals and the Wineries to Taste Them

Cabernet Franc

A medium bodied red, originating from Basque Country in France. Try it at Boxwood Estate Winery.

Fer Servadou

Medium bodied, but with firm tannins that produce rustic reds. Try it at Hillsborough Winery & Vineyard.

Carménère

Medium bodied Bordeaux, noted for its red and black berry flavors. Try it at Casanel Vineyards & Winery.

Chambourcin

Mellifluously named French American hybrid, vibrant red in color, but with a supple texture. Try it at Creek's Edge Winery.



Unique Experiences in #DCsWineCountry!



Taste Around the World in Loudoun

As a relatively young wine industry not yet known for one grape or style of wine, Loudoun winemakers constantly innovate. As a result, a tasting tour of Loudoun is a journey around the world. Try everything from Austrian Grüner Veltliner, French-style Bordeaux, Spanish Tannat, Portuguese Albariño, Italian Nebbiolo, Argentinean Malbec and much more, all within a few miles.



Collaboration Operations

Walsh Family Wine offers a regular "Bar Takeover" when they invite industry friends to serve their favorite wines. They also host the Walsh Winemaker's Studio where up-and-coming winemakers use their facilities to make wine. Fabbioni Cellars in Lucketts runs The New Ag School, an agribusiness incubator that trains and mentors students in all aspects of agribusiness, from viticulture to running a winery, farm or B&B.



Wine & Dine

The Vineyards & Winery at Lost Creek hosts a "Terroir to Table" harvest dinner in the vines each year; Breaux Vineyards' annual "Vine to Wine" dinner series showcases the four stages of the grape growing cycle and Bluemont Vineyard hosts a Chef's Dinner series each fall featuring a menu of local meats and produce paired with their estate wines.



Music in the Vines

Dozens of Loudoun wineries feature live music on weekends while the Tarara Summer Concert Series, a five-month series of summer Saturday concerts at Tarara Winery, celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2024. 868 Estate Vineyards hosts the annual LoCo Fest each September to raise money for local musicians. Notaviva Farm Brewery & Winery gives its wines musical names such as "Ode to Joy" Meritage.



Cork Classes

Learn about palate, aroma, taste and tannins at Boxwood Winery's "Cork Curriculum" classes in July and August. Sunset Hills and 50 West Vineyards' "Knowledge Uncorked: A Master's Series in Wine" is a six-part wine education program taking place Saturdays between September and November.



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DC's Wine Country®



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