



2022 Visit Loudoun Media Sheet: Wine Country

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Overview

Five Cool Varietals – and the wineries to taste them

1984 marked the birth of [DC's Wine Country®](#) when Lew Parker of [Willowcroft Farm Vineyards](#) established the original Loudoun winery south of Leesburg, having planted grapes there in 1981. Fast forward and there are now some 45-plus wineries and tasting rooms in Loudoun, in spectacular settings ranging from rustic barns and historic farms, to river-crossed valleys and vine-covered mountain slopes.

- 1 Cabernet Franc** – a medium bodied red, originating from Basque Country in France.
Try it at [Boxwood Estate Winery](#).
- 2 Fer Servadou** – medium bodied, but with firm tannins that produce rustic reds.
Try it at [Hillsborough Winery & Vineyard](#).
- 3 Carménère** – medium bodied Bordeaux, noted for its red and black berry flavors.
Try it at [Casanel Vineyards & Winery](#).
- 4 Chambourcin** – mellifluously named French American hybrid, vibrant red in color, but with a supple texture.
Try it at [Creek's Edge Winery](#).
- 5 Chardonnay** – late-ripening, crisp white wine hybrid derived from Seyval and Chardonnay grapes.
Try it at [868 Estate & Vineyards](#).

Profiles

- 1** Jenni McCloud left a high-flying tech career in 1998 to open [Chrysalis Vineyards](#), a wine estate outside Middleburg. She is the world's leading grower of the distinctive Norton grape, and founder of the Ag District agricultural conservation zone between Aldie and Middleburg. Her empire includes not just a vineyard but a creamery, with milk coming from the cows on site, and a chef who creates artisanal pizzas and breads from a 600-degree brick oven.
- 2** 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. Their latest hit: “What Will the Women Drink” a bold, brambly, dry red dedicated to women tired of the stereotype that ladies only like sweet wines.
- 3** 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”.
- 4** Pilot Mark Malick met aeronautical engineer Maggie when they both served in the Navy. They married, and in 2001 started planting grapes on a former Christmas tree farm in west Loudoun. Today Mark is the viticulturalist and Maggie is the winemaker at [Maggie Malick Wine Caves](#), named for the bunker-style subterranean tasting room they built on the 215-acre estate.



Unique Experiences in #DCsWineCountry!

Wine & Dine

Lost Creek Vineyards & Winery

[Lost Creek Vineyards & Winery](#) elevates the wine country experience with a chef on site specializing in farm-to-table small plates to pair with the wine selection. After, head to the winery owner's trendy Echelon Wine Bar in downtown Leesburg, which offers tasting courses alongside a fine dining experience.

Sangria Making & Rent-a-Row

Bluemont Vineyard

This scenic winery on the slopes of the Blue Ridge offers team building Sangria Making classes on the spacious outdoor patio. Learn how to add citrus, apples, spice and homemade mint to a base of red or white [Bluemont Vineyard](#) wine. For something more intimate, Rent a Row – the “Row” being a column of grapes reserved for romancing couples or group picnics.

Music & Wine Pairing

Notaviva Craft Fermentations

This Hillsboro winery-brewery goes just a little further to reach the right notes. The name [Notaviva](#) literally means “right note”, and the wines and beers are named after musical themes, like a “Cantabile” (songlike) Cab Franc or an “Ode to Joy” Meritage. They also host an annual “Wine and Music Pairing Experience” where you pair the right wine to the right songs. Sing it!

Tunes in the Vines

868 Estate Vineyards

Mozart with your merlot? Country with your cab? Dozens of Loudoun wineries feature live local acts on weekends, genres ranging from jazz, folk and country, to rock, pop and classical. 868 Estate Vineyards hosts the annual Loco Musicians Festival each September, and the Spotify soundtrack “[The Songs of Loudoun](#)” features some 25 successful local artists, many of whom cut their teeth playing winery gigs.

Winemaker for a Day

Sunset Hills Vineyard

This scenic western Loudoun winery hosts this popular program on select dates, (usually November through April) allowing guests to become an “apprentice” winemaker for a day. Learn to age, blend and bottle your own wine, and if you like what you create, get your personal label affixed to the bottle and take it home.

