



2025 Visit Loudoun Media Sheet

DC's Wine Country®

Since the first Loudoun wine was bottled at Willowcroft Farm Vineyards in 1984 the county has become 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

The Hatch Family

In 2002, Bill Hatch and his wife Bonnie planted the first grapes on the family's historic cattle farm south of Leesburg and renamed it Zephaniah Farm Vineyard. Fast forward 23 years and they host tastings of their award-winning estate vintages in a barn on the property and have brought their children into the fold. Son Tremain won the 2024 Virginia Grower of the Year award and daughter Emily is assistant winemaker to Bill.

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

Known as the "Godfather" of Loudoun wine, Doug Fabboli was named 2025 Virginia Wine Grower of the Year. 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 Cool Varietals and the Wineries to Taste Them

Carménère

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

Fer Servadou

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

Petit Manseng

Hardy, acid-rich and high in sugar, this white wine varietal is used a lot in blends but can also be a surprisingly balanced single varietal with notes of honeysuckle and sun-ripened apricots. *Try it at 868 Estate Vineyards.*

Tannat

This dark, intense, acid-driven French origin red wine with ripe fruit and lingering tannins is the up-and-comer on the Loudoun scene. *Try it at Doukénie Winery.*



Unique Experiences in #DCsWineCountry!



Around the World in 40 Wines

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 Alvharino, Italian Nebbiolo, Argentinean Malbec and much more, all within a few miles.



The Winemaker's Incubator

At this incubator space started by Walsh Family Wine, up-and-coming winemakers can create and launch their own wine brands utilizing the equipment, space, and expertise of the WFW team. Several award-winning wines have already been created through the program including vintages from Quartzwood Farm and Domaine Fortier Vineyards. The facility is also being used to make a Vermouth produced by Clever Beast Botanical, a Leesburg company.



Wine & Dine

At the rustic restaurant of EagleTree Farm Vineyards pair their wines with the locavore dishes (filet mignon, root puree) of the chef-owner. Breaux Vineyards' annual "Vine to Wine" dinner series showcases the four stages of the grape growing cycle and Bluemont Vineyards 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, celebrated its 25th anniversary last year. 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 held on Saturdays between September and November.



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