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Wine Trail Traveler Newsletter

North Carolina's Yadkin Valley and Swan Creek Wineries

We had the opportunity to visit wineries in Yadkin Valley AVA and the newly formed appellation of Swan Creek within the Yadkin Valley. The bucolic atmosphere of the Yadkin Valley and Swan Creek areas made a very relaxing and pleasant time. The areas are located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In September the foliage of the valley was green and one can imagine that the fall foliage must be majestic.

We visited three wineries in Swan Creek AVA and eight in Yadkin Valley AVA. In Swan Creek Raffaldini was the largest. Surrounded by rolling hills of vineyards, the Tuscan-styled building offered beautifully landscaped gardens, a large tasting room and patio area with plenty of tables and chairs. Raffaldini's setting appears to have been transported from Italy. Laurel Gray's tasting room is a renovated and expanded milking parlor, a Southern term for dairy barn. It too offered an ideal setting for relaxation while overlooking the vineyards and a large pond. Buck Shoals offered a charming country setting with rocking chairs on a wood porch overlooking the vineyards.

The other wineries we visited in Yadkin Valley included Childress, winery of the famous NASCAR racer. This winery tends to be opulent. McRitchie Winery & Ciderworks is the first winery in North Carolina to produce hard cider. It has



Raffaldini Vineyards and Winery's tasting room appears to have been transported from Italy.

a homey feeling to it and the owner and winemaker has wide experience in producing wine. Old North State Winery, an urban winery, is located in Andy Griffith's hometown, Mt. Airy. This urban winery has been able to combine a tasting room with a restaurant making a delightful place to get together with friends. We loved the story behind RagApple Lassie, a winery named after a young boy's (now owner) calf. Visitors have a unique opportunity to visit a winery where they discover the winery before the tasting room and feel the experience behind the wines. RayLen

Vineyards & Winery was named after the owner's daughters Rachel and Helen. Round Peak Vineyards was the result of two couples on vacation who decided they wanted to own a vineyard and winery. Shelton Vineyards is another dramatic winery with lovely landscaping. We also visited Westbend Vineyards, the oldest vineyard in Yadkin Valley.

Most of the grapes grown in this region of North Carolina are the *vitis vinefera*. Many wineries and vineyards plant French and Italian varieties. Enjoy a week exploring the wineries here.

K.S.



Childress Vineyards offers an opulent tasting room with beautiful views of the surrounding vineyards.

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Regional Wine Week

The concept of terroir or “taste the place” is taking front stage during the week of October 6th. Wine bloggers, newspaper columnists and online newsletter publishers will write about wines from local regions. Some of the states that will be covered include: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin and the province Ontario in Canada.

Wine Trail Traveler will blog each day about Colorado wineries and wines. Check the [blog](#) daily from October 6th – 10th.

T.S.

Tasting Notes

I haven't had an oaked Chardonnay for a while and I found Davis Valley Winery's (in Rural Retreat, Virginia) 2005 Chardonnay to be particularly good. It offered an apple and tropical fruit aroma. The taste was apple with unobtrusive oak and it finished with butter and fruit. This was not a heavily oaked Chardonnay. It was nicely balanced between oak and fruit for my taste.

Another enjoyable white wine, this time from North Carolina, was Childress Vineyards 2006 Sauvignon Blanc. This wine with a citrus and tropical fruit aroma had a very fruity taste with different fruit appearing at different times. The finish was crisp with citrus giving way to melon.

One red of interest was RayLen Vineyards and Wineries 2006 Category 5. This wine was named for a hurricane and since its production there have been no category 5 hurricanes making land fall in North Carolina. People visit the winery and ask for hurricane juice. Category 5 is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Syrah. The aroma had a black berry aroma and taste with a very smooth mouth feel. The finish was crisp with soft tannins and a long fruit aftertaste.

I had to try McRitchie Winery & Ciderworks Hard Cider. They are the only producers of hard cider in North Carolina. I was surprised at the lightness and crispness of this sparkling cider. Although you notice the apple aroma and taste it was not overpowering. It reminded me of a blanc de blancs. The finish was crisp and cleansing.

T.S.

Virginia Wine Month

With the growing number of wineries in Virginia, there is increased interest in visiting those wineries in one's region as well as throughout the state. October 2008 is the 20th anniversary of Virginia Wine Month. There are more than 60 special events that will take place at wineries throughout the state. October in Virginia is simply stunning. An afternoon taking in the beauty at a winery is even better. Tasting rooms come in all shapes and sizes from small log cabins to large chateaus. Visit Virginia wineries during October for an opportunity to taste the place with local foods and wines. Check websites for dates, times, fees and reservations.

Information: Virginia is for Lovers' [website](#)

Some events at Wine Trail Traveler Virginia partners:

Barrel Oak Winery

“Benefit for the Lance Armstrong Foundation” Fighting Cancer to Win
Date: October 2– 5 11am-6pm

Event: “Ellen Crosby Book Signing”
Meet the author of the Wine Country Murder Mysteries!
Date: October 4 (check for time)

Columbus Day Weekend Winery Walk
ASNV naturalists will lead wildflower and wildlife walks at 11am and 4 pm
Date: October 11-13

“Halloween and Election Fright Fest!”
Friday movie fright nite (not for the faint of heart) and Haunted Forest Hike Saturday and Sunday nights.
Date: October 31 – November 2nd, 11am til the ghouls go home!

Chateau O'Brien at Northpoint

Event: Murder Mystery Night
Date: October 18, 7pm – 10pm Limited Seating
Fall [Murder Mystery Flyer](#)
Fee: \$65 per person

Pearmund Cellars

Event: Become a Crush Monkey
Date: October 10, Check times.
Fee: \$125 with Souvenir T-shirt and Lunch

Trick or Treat with Cab Frankenstein
Date: Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 10am – 6pm

The Winery at La Grange

Event: Movie Night
Date: October 10, 7pm – 9:30pm
Two adults can relax with a picnic basket and watch a movie outdoors.
Fee: \$35 for a basket with cheese and crackers or \$60 for a basket with gourmet food.
Reservations required, Adults only

Event: Crush Monkey Fridays
Red Winemaking
Date: October 17 (Check times)
Fee: \$125 per person – includes lunch and souvenir t-shirt
Reservations required

Event: Movie Night
Date: October 24, 7pm – 9:30pm
Two adults can relax with a picnic basket and watch a movie outdoors.
Fee: \$35 for a basket with cheese and crackers or \$60 for a basket with gourmet food
Reservations required, Adults only

Event: Haunted Wine Maker's Dinner
Date: October 25, 6:30pm-9:30pm
Fee: \$99 per person, plus tax and gratuity
Reservations required

Event: Halloween Celebration Weekend
Date: October 25-26, 11am - 6pm

Event: Halloween!!
Date: October 31
Come in costume for a treat

Veritas Vineyard & Winery

Be sure to stop by for a delightful tasting during October.



Chateau Morrisette, off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Southern Virginia, looks like a fairytale setting.

Wine Trail Traveler Partners

Our Winery Partners

Stop by these wineries that advertise with Wine Trail Traveler.

Colorado



Two Rivers Winery & Chateau

2087 Broadway
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503

Maryland



Dove Valley Vineyards and Winery

645 Harrington Road
Rising Sun, MD 21911



Fiore Winery

3026 Whiteford Road
Pylesville, MD 21132

Michigan



Black Star Farms

10844 E. Revold Rd.
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682



Chateau Chantal

15900 Rue de Vin
Traverse City, MI 49686

New York



Three Brothers Wineries & Estates

623 Lerch Road,
Geneva, NY 14456

North Carolina



Grove Winery and Vineyard

7360 Brooks Bridge Road
Gibsonville, NC 27249

Oregon



Kramer Vineyards

26830 NW Olson Road
Gaston, OR 97119-8039



Redhawk Winery

2995 Michigan City Lane NW
Salem, Oregon 97304

Pennsylvania



Pickering Winery

Rt. 187 Between Wysox and Rome
Wysox, PA 18854

Virginia



Barrel Oak Winery (check Wine Trail Traveler website for a tasting coupon)

3623 Grove Lane
Delaplane, Virginia 20144



Chateau O'Brien at Northpoint

3238 Rail Stop Road
Markham, VA 22643



Pearmund Cellars

6190 Georgetown Road
Broad Run, VA 20137



Veritas Vineyard & Winery

145 Saddleback Farm
Afton, Virginia 22920



The Winery at La Grange

4970 Antioch Road
Haymarket, Virginia 20169

Join Pearmund Cellars on a 10-Day Luxury Cruise of the Mediterranean!

Set Sail with Pearmund Cellars on June 17, 2009

June 17-27, 2009, Aboard Oceania Cruises, a 10-night cruise with 11 ports of call



Chris Pearmund will host two onboard wine tastings along with a food and wine pairing dinner. He also will provide a lecture on the history of winemaking. The cruise will provide optional shore side excursions to delightful, less public wineries in Italy and France.

For more information about this opportunity, contact Bob Miller at 866-368-7327 or info@yourcruisesource.com.

Wine Trail Traveler Partners

Our Lodging Partners

Ontario, Canada

Hilton Garden Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake

500 York Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
L0S 1J0
Phone 905-984-4200
Toll free: 866-777-9877



Colorado

The Wine Country Inn

777 Grande River Drive
Palisade, CO 81526
888.855.8330
Note: opening in August 2008



Michigan

The Inn at Black Star Farms

10844 E. Revold Rd.
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682



Pennsylvania

Hilton Garden Inn, Allentown West

230 Sycamore Road
Breinigsville, Pennsylvania 18031
Phone (610) 398-6686



Hilton Garden Inn, Kennett Square

815 E. Baltimore Pike
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348
Phone (610) 444-9100



New York

The Halsey House

2057 Trumansburg Road
Trumansburg, NY 14886
Phone: 800-387-5590



Virginia

Hampton Inn and Suites, Leesburg VA

117 Fort Evans Road N.E.
Leesburg, Virginia 20176
Phone (703) 699-8640



Our Artists Partners

New York

Masten Designs

2710 Astoria Blvd. Apt. 2C
Astoria NY 11102



Our Restaurant Partners

Colorado

Garlic Mike's

2674 Hwy 135
Gunnison, Colorado 81230
970-641-2493



Garlic Mike's

103 Rose Lane
Montrose, Colorado 81401
970-249-4381



Mark your calendars for the
largest tasting room on the
planet.



For more information

Want to be listed on
this page? Call or send
an email to Wine Trail
Traveler.

Phone: 410-997-8138

email:
terry@winetrailtraveler.com