



Napa Valley of the East

Thanks to the Ice Age glaciers' thoughtful redesign of the New York State landscape 10,000 years ago, Western New York has near-perfect geologic and climatic features for grape growing. And where grapes thrive, wineries usually follow.

Second only to California in wine quality, according to some aficionados, New York State boasts some of the best wines in the United States. Over 100 of its wineries (half of the total number in the state) are located in the Finger Lakes Region, one of the world's premier wine regions. Finger Lakes wineries, which are all within a 90-minute drive of Rochester, produce 85 percent of New York State wines. In fact, Casa Larga Vineyards is just 20 minutes from downtown.

Many wine publications consider the Finger Lakes vineyards to be the most important for wine production in this country. The Vinifera Revolution, which proved that European grapes could not only thrive outside Europe but also produce world-class wines, was born in the Finger Lakes region.

The grapes' success is due to the influence of the Finger Lakes themselves. Each lake acts as a natural air conditioner, keeping its surrounding hillsides warmer in summer and cooler in winter. This serves as an insulating blanket for the vines, preventing them from experiencing the extreme temperature swings that can be so destructive to the quality of the grapes and the vines themselves. The results are wines of extraordinary quality.

Wineries eagerly welcome visitors who want to see their operations, taste their wines, and decide for themselves. Many tour operators provide guided tours of some of the area wineries; visitors are also welcome to visit the wineries on their own.

Here is a list of the major wine trails in the region:

Seneca Lake Wine Trail- www.senecalakewine.com

The twenty-six wineries along the shores of Seneca Lake offer individual and unique expressions from one of America's finest wine districts.

Canandaigua Lake Wine Trail- www.canandaiguawinetrailonline.com

A collection of unique wineries on the western edge of the Finger Lakes Wine Region. Enjoy spectacular scenery, fine wines, and many shops and attractions along the way.

Keuka Lake Wine Trail- www.keukawinetrail.com

Visit the nine wineries of the Keuka Lake Wine Trail, enjoying the unique tasteful experience each has to offer along the shores of beautiful Keuka Lake, one of the most picturesque of New York's pristine Finger Lakes.

Cayuga Lake Wine Trail- www.cayugawinetrail.com

As the first wine trail in New York, the Cayuga Wine Trail has become a model for other wine trails both in New York and around the country. Visit one of the thirteen wineries along the trail.

New York Wine & Culinary Center -www.nywcc.com

The New York Wine & Culinary Center is designed to engage, excite and inspire the people of New York State and the world in a celebration of New York wine and food. The Center is an educational and experiential gateway to New York State's incredible wine, food and culinary industries.

A complete list of Finger Lakes wineries can be found on the "Uncork New York" web site at www.newyorkwines.org.

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