

Southern Appalachia Reclaims Wine Country

By Katrina M. Randall 01-Apr-2017



In the 2012 song, *Appalachian Wine* by EleventySeven, Father Time falls in love with Mother Earth all because of Appalachian wine. While it's certain Southern Appalachia wine wasn't the spark that created civilization, winemakers today are re-establishing the region as a verifiable wine country.

In the early 1900s, Georgia was one of the nation's largest wine producers, but prohibition ended the glory days of Georgia wine, and the state didn't begin to regain its former foothold on the industry until the 1980s. Today, Georgia is the national leader in producing wines from the muscadine grape, which WineFolly.com described as one of "America's true native wine grapes." North Georgia alone has an abundant selection of wineries to tour, with many of them able to boast award-winning vintages. While there are a number of tours to choose from, the Georgia Wine Highway is an event to check out. Open four times a year in March, June, September, and December, the tour sponsored by the Georgia Wine Association is set up so that each wine taster can establish their own route.

Not to be outdone, in 2015 BizJournals.com reported that North Carolina's wine and grape industry contributed \$1.71 billion to the economy. AshevilleGuidebook.com noted that of the 90 or so wineries in the state, at least 20 of them are in the mountains. Western North Carolina, for instance, is home to the "most visited winery in the country." In 2015, the Biltmore Winery in Asheville celebrated 30 years. But don't stop at just one, the Travel Channel recently named Asheville as one of the New Top 10 Cities for Wine Snobs for 2017.

Much like Georgia, the impact of prohibition halted Tennessee’s wine industry and it’s still re-securing its foothold. However, in 2016, the University of Tennessee found that the industry is showing strong growth within the area. There are two wine trails of note to follow when in the eastern region of the state, including the Great Valley Wine Trail. This stretches between Thunder Road in Maynardville to Copperhead Road in Butler and follows the eastern portion of the historic White Lightning Trail. The High Country Wine Trail takes tasters between two states, from Tennessee’s Appalachian High Country to North Carolina.

Almost 100 years since prohibition demolished the thriving region’s wine industry, Southern Appalachia has put itself back on the wine country map by proving a combination of rich soil, hardy grapes, and commitment produce award-winning wines.

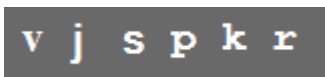
Get Your Free Digital Issues

Bi-monthly issues of our beautiful print magazine delivered to your inbox.

Name

Email Address

Enter Word Verification in box below



sharing is caring. please share...

Follow @montefinomag

1,095 followers

Tweet