

AGING TO PERFECTION

NORTH CAROLINA'S WINE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN GROWING IN PRODUCTION, VALUE AND POPULARITY.

BY HARRISON MILLER

North Carolina may be better known for its craft brewing prowess, but its wine industry is also aging well. The state's wine roots extend to the founding of the nation. Today, North Carolina's wine industry focuses on the production of native muscadine grapes in the eastern part of the state and European-style vinifera grapes out west. Muscadine grapes, which thrive in hot, coastal conditions, are used to produce scuppernong, sangria, and rosé wine. Vinifera grape varieties include cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot, syrah, chardonnay and viognier.

Historic wineries and vineyards facts

The **scuppernong** was the first grape cultivated in the U.S. and is the state's official fruit.

The Mothervine in Manteo on Roanoke Island is a **500-year-old** scuppernong vine and the oldest-known cultivated grapevine in the nation.

Medoc Vineyard in Brinkleyville was the first commercial winery established in North Carolina in **1835**.

Size of industry

North Carolina

rank in U.S. wine production

11th



number of wineries

186

525 individually owned grape vineyards and producers

2,300

grape-bearing acres



cases produced per year

2018

1.1 million

2013

569,000

96%

1.9 million

number of wine-related tourists



Value of industry

annual impact as of 2016/2017

annual economic impact of

\$1.97 billion

supports more than

10,000 jobs

retail value of N.C. wine sold

\$130 million

wine-related tourism expenditures

\$319 million

wages paid

\$375 million

federal taxes paid

\$113 million

state & local taxes paid

\$89 million

BILTMORE ESTATE WINERY

receives more than **1 million** visitors annually and is the most-visited winery in the U.S.

DUPLIN WINERY

is the largest and oldest winery in the state and the world's largest producer of muscadine wine.

1.2 million gallons produced in 2018

500,000 cases sold annually

TAR HEEL VITICULTURAL AREAS

Yadkin Valley

was established in **2002**. is located in northwestern N.C., and is home to about 400 acres of vineyard.

Swan Creek

was established in **2008**. is a sub-region of Yadkin Valley, and is home to six wineries.

Haw River Valley

was established in **2009**. It's located in central N.C. and is home to six wineries.

Upper Hiwassee Highlands

was established in **2014** in southwestern N.C. and is home to five wineries.

Appalachian High Country

was established in **2016**, includes five counties in the N.C. mountains and is home to six wineries.

Most popular wines

N.C.'s wine industry focuses on native muscadine grapes and European-style vinifera grapes.



western N.C. vinifera grapes

Vinifera grape varieties include cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot, syrah, chardonnay and viognier.



eastern N.C. muscadine grapes

These grapes thrive in hot, sandy coastal conditions and are used in scuppernong, sangria and rosé wine.



FAVORITE WINERIES

based on Trip Advisor reviews

NONI BACCA WINERY

Wilmington

SAINT PAUL MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS

Hendersonville

JOLO WINERY & VINEYARDS

Pilot Mountain

LINVILLE FALLS WINERY

Newland

SHELTON VINEYARDS

Dobson

RAFFALDINI VINEYARDS & WINERY

Ronda

GRANDFATHER VINEYARD & WINERY

Banner Elk

BURNTSHIRT VINEYARDS

Hendersonville

CHILDRESS VINEYARDS

Lexington

sources: The Economic Impact of North Carolina Wine and Grapes, 2016 Report - A Frank, Rimerman + Co. LLP, NC Wine, Duplin Winery & Vineyard