North Carolina’s wine industry has been growing in production, value and popularity.

**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.

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

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**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.

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**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 rose wine.

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**Favorite wineries**

Based on Trip Advisor reviews.

- Noni Bacca Winery
- Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards
- JOLO Winery & Vineyards
- Linville Falls Winery
- Shelton Vineyards
- Biltmore Estate Winery
- Childress Vineyards
- Burntshirt Vineyards
- Grandfather Vineyard & Winery
- Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery

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