

# Wineries

Wine has been enjoyed by cultures around the world for thousands of years, but how did it make its way to Maryland, and when did it become popular in the DMV?

In 2007, a team of UCLA researchers discovered evidence of the oldest (4100 BC) winery in Ancient Armenia. However, wine wasn't introduced to our little corner of the world until 1619 when the French began importing French grapevines and cultivating wine in Virginia. Although winemaking made its way up and down the Eastern Seaboard, it took another 100+ years for it to become popular in this area. When Thomas Jefferson was appointed as the Minister to France in 1785, his travels abroad exposed him to Bordeaux wine, with which he fell in love. Convinced that this quality of wine could be produced in the U.S., Jefferson returned with French grape cuttings and aspirations of cultivating exquisite wines in VA. To see the full historical timeline exploring the globalization of wine, visit VinePair's article, "[How Wine Colonized the World.](#)" We're now discovering that land in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve has "the potential to yield brilliant wines", as noted by distinguished geologist, Ernest "Bubba" Beasley in 2016 when exploring the soil characteristics and topography of farms in the area.

According to the [Maryland Wineries Association](#), Maryland has 98 wineries that together have an economic impact of \$200 million. Montgomery County is home to three farm wineries and are featured in this self-driving tour. There are also 3 new farm wineries in the planning and/or construction phases that will be added to this tour once their tasting rooms are open!



Image: ArtTower/Pixaba

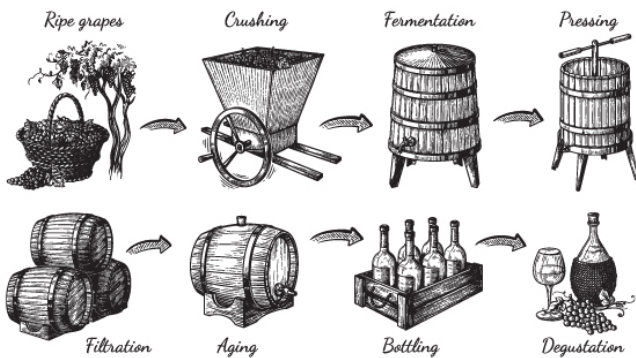
## SELF-DRIVING TOUR

From 270 N from Gaithersburg:

1. Take 270N 11 miles to Exit 22/MD-109S
2. Follow 109S for 3 miles and turn right onto Comus Road (1.6 miles)
3. [Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard](#) is located at 18125 Comus Road
4. Turn right out of SMV (0.8 miles)
5. Turn left onto Sugarloaf Mountain Rd (0.5 miles)
6. Continue onto Mt. Ephraim Rd (2.4 miles)
7. Turn left onto MD-28E/Darnestown Rd (9.9 miles)
8. [Windridge Vineyards](#) is located at 15700 Darnestown Road.
9. Turn left out of Windridge Vineyards onto Darnestown Road (1.1 miles)
10. Take a slight left onto MD-107/Whites Ferry Rd (0.2 miles)
11. Turn left onto Sugarland Road (1.5 miles)
12. Turn left onto Montevideo Road (1.2 miles)
13. [Rocklands Farm Winery](#) is located at 14525 Montevideo Road.
14. **Return to Gaithersburg** by turning left out of Rocklands Farm Winery and following Montevideo Road 1.1 miles to River Road. Turn left.
15. Follow River Road as it becomes Seneca Road (3.7 miles)
16. In Darnestown, turn right onto Rte. 28 (2.5 miles)
17. Turn left onto MD-124N/Quince Orchard Rd (2.7 miles)
18. Turn right onto MD-117 (0.3 miles) and follow signs to I-270.

\*Entire route is approximately a 1 hour and 15-minute drive without stops.

## Winemaking process



## BREWERIES

Whether or not Ben Franklin was correctly quoted as saying that "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy", you will find several farm-based breweries in Montgomery County that full-heartedly believe in the sentiment! Modern-day beer enthusiasts can credit their favorite beverage to the experimentation of interested drinkers from thousands of years ago. The world's oldest-known barley beer dates from 3400 B.C. and was identified from remnants in archaeological artifacts excavated in Iran. Since then, researchers have worked to uncover the role of beer in ancient cultures; from its use as payment to workers constructing the pyramids in Egypt to its inclusion in dozens of drinking vessels buried with King Midas in Turkey. For millennia, different cultures have experimented with the process of extracting sugars from various combinations of grains and fermenting them with wild or



## SELF-DRIVING TOUR

Domesticated yeasts. For a more in-depth guide through the fascinating history of beer, read the Smithsonian's article, "[The Beer Archaeologist](#)".

Today, brewers in Montgomery County and Maryland as a whole continue this storied tradition, producing beers that reflect seasonal preferences as well as the availability of locally sourced ingredients. These efforts are gaining popularity among residents of Maryland; in 2016, the Maryland Bureau of Revenue Estimates reported that the craft beer industry in Maryland had an overall economic impact of \$637.6 million and supported or created 6,541 jobs. In Montgomery County, we are excited to share this driving tour of our first four breweries that are open for business and look forward to adding more as they finish the conceptual and development stages! Cheers!



### From Olney:

1. From the Olney-Laytonsville Rd (Rt 108) north approximately 2.5 miles to [Lone Oak Farm Brewing Company](#), located at 5000 Olney-Laytonsville Road.
2. Leave Lone Oak Farm by turning right onto MD-108 take an **immediate left** onto Zion Road.
3. Continue straight on Zion Rd (0.6 miles).
4. Turn right onto Brookeville Rd (2.2 miles)
5. Turn left onto MD-97/Georgia Ave (0.7 miles) to 20315 Georgia Ave.
6. Turn right onto Bordly Dr. [Brookeville Beer Farm](#) will be on your right.
7. Leave Brookeville Beer Farm and turn right on Georgia Ave (2.2 miles).
8. Turn left onto MD-650 N (1.4 miles)
9. Turn right into [Waredaca Brewing Company](#), located at 4017 Damascus Road.
10. Leave Waredaca and turn left to head south on MD-650 (.04 miles)
11. Turn right onto Howard Chapel Road (0.2 miles)
12. Turn right onto Sundown Road (0.4 miles) and proceed to [Elder Pine Brewing & Blending](#), located at 4200 Sundown
13. Leave Elder Pine and turn left onto Sundown Rd toward Zion Road (3.2 miles)
14. Continue onto Brink Road (1.5 miles)
15. Turn right onto MD-124N/Woodfield Road (2.2 miles)
16. Turn left onto Watkins Road (1.4 miles)
17. Continue straight onto Wildcat Road (.05 miles) and then turn left into [Doc Water's Cidery](#), located at 22529 Wildcat Road.
18. Leave Doc Water's Cidery by turning left onto Wildcat Road (1.1 miles)
19. Continue straight onto Davis Mill Road (0.9 miles)
20. Turn left onto Blunt Road (1.9 miles)
21. Turn right onto Germantown Road (1.6 miles) and follow signs to I-270.

\* Entire Route is approximately a 50-minute drive without stops  
mileage noted is approximate