

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.

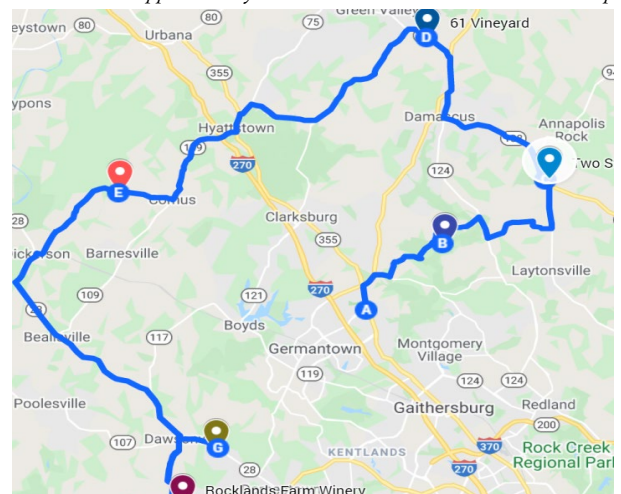
According to the [Maryland Wineries Association](#), Maryland has 98 wineries that together have an economic impact of \$200 million. Montgomery County is home to three farm wineries and are featured in this self-driving tour. There are also 3 new farm wineries in the planning and/or construction phases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



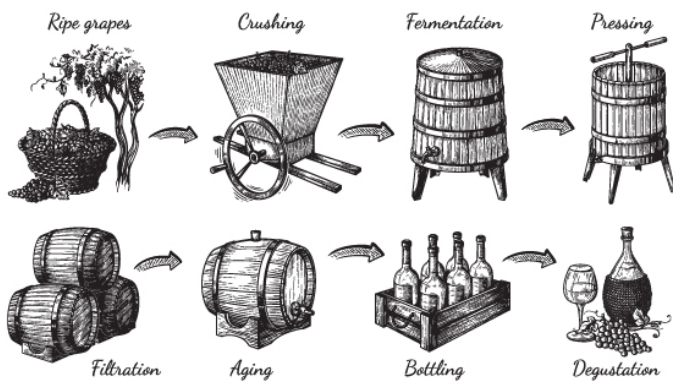
Image: Art Tower/Phxabay

12. Turn Left onto Damascus Road
13. [Two Story Chimney Ciderworks](#) is located at 7115 Damascus Road
14. Turn Right onto MD-108W/Damascus Road (4.12 miles)
15. Turn Right onto Woodfield Rd (.843 miles)
16. Turn Right onto MD-27N/Ridge Rd (1.31 miles)
17. Turn Left onto MD-80 W (.947 miles)
18. [61 Vineyard](#) is located on the left at 28712 Kemptown Rd
19. Turn Left onto MD-80W (.635 miles)
20. Turn Left onto Clarksburg Rd (4.38 miles)
21. Turn Right onto Lewisdale Rd (2.03 miles)
22. Turn Left onto MD-75S/Green Valley Rd (.499 miles)
23. Turn Left onto MD-355 S/Frederick Rd/Urbana (.618 miles)
24. Turn Right onto MD-109 S (3.41 miles)
25. Turn Right onto Comus Rd (1.65 miles)
26. [Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard](#) is located at 18125 Comus Road
27. Turn Right out of SMV (0.8 miles)
28. Turn Left onto Sugarloaf Mountain Rd (0.5 miles)
29. Continue onto Mt. Ephraim Rd (2.4 miles)
30. Turn Left onto MD-28E/Darnestown Rd (9.9 miles)
31. Turn Right onto Sugarland Rd (1.62 miles)
32. Turn Left onto Montevideo Rd (1.15 miles)
33. [Rocklands Farm Winery](#) is located at 14525 Montevideo Road
34. Turn Right onto Montevideo Rd (1.11 miles)
35. Turn Right onto Sugarland Rd (1.54 miles)
36. Turn Right onto MD-107 (1.033ft)
37. Slight Right onto MD-28E/Darnestown Rd (1.07 miles)
38. [Windridge Vineyards](#) is located at 15700 Darnestown Road.
39. Turn Right onto Rte. 28 (2.5 miles)
40. Turn left onto MD-124N/Quince Orchard Rd (2.7 miles)
41. Turn right onto MD-117 (0.3 miles) and follow signs to I-270.

* Entire route is approximately a 1 hour and 35-minute drive without stops.



Winemaking process



SELF-DRIVING TOUR

From Germantown:

1. Starting on MD-355 N/Frederick Road
2. Turn Right onto MD-27 N (.549 miles)
3. Turn Right onto Brink Rd (.472 miles)
4. Turn Left onto Wildcat Rd (1.42 miles)
5. Take sharp left to stay on Wildcat Rd (.82 miles)
6. [Doc Waters Cidery](#) will be on the Right at 22529 Wildcat Road, Germantown
7. Leave Doc Waters turning right on Wildcat Rd (.457 miles)
8. Take slight right onto Watkins Rd (1.41 miles)
9. Turn Right onto MD-124 S (.795 miles)
10. Turn Left onto Rocky Road (.555 miles)
11. Turn Left onto MD-108 W/Laytonsville Rd (1.53 miles)

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 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!



Image: ArtTower/Pixabay

SELF-DRIVING TOUR

From Olney:

1. Take Olney-Laytonsville Rd (MD-108) northwest approximately 2.5 miles.
2. [Lone Oak Farm Brewing Company](#) is located on your left at 5000 Olney-Laytonsville Rd.
3. Leave Lone Oak by turning right onto MD-108, drive 500 ft, and turn left onto Zion Rd.
4. Continue straight on Zion Rd (0.6 miles).
5. Turn right onto Brookeville Rd (2.2 miles).
6. Turn left onto MD-97/Georgia Ave (0.7 miles) to 20315 Georgia Ave.
7. Turn right onto Bordly Dr.
8. [Brookeville Beer Farm](#) will be on your right.
9. Leave Brookeville Beer Farm by turning left on Bordly Dr and turn right on Georgia Ave (2.3 miles).
10. Turn left onto MD-650 N/Damascus Rd (0.6 miles).
11. Turn left onto Sundown Rd (0.9 miles).
12. [Elder Pine Brewing & Blending](#) is located on your left at 4200 Sundown Rd.
13. Leave Elder Pine by turning right on Sundown Rd (0.4 miles).
14. Turn left onto Howard Chapel Rd (0.2 miles).
15. Turn left onto MD-650 N/Damascus Rd (0.4 miles).
16. [Waredaca Brewing Company](#) is located on the right at 4017 Damascus Rd.
17. Leave Waredaca by turning right on Damascus Rd (8.1 miles).
18. Turn right onto Woodfield Rd (0.9 miles).
19. Turn right onto MD-27 N/Ridge Rd (1.3 miles).
20. Turn left onto MD-80 W/Kempton Rd (1.1 miles).
21. [Stone Silo Brewery](#) is located on your left at 28800 Kempton Rd.
22. Leave Stone Silo by turning left onto MD-80 W (3.4 miles).
23. Turn left onto MD-75 S/Green Valley Rd (4.8 miles).
24. Turn left onto MD-355 S/Frederick Rd (0.6 miles).
25. Turn right into Old Hundred Rd (5.8 miles).
26. Turn right onto Barnesville Rd (500 ft).
27. Turn left onto Beallsville Rd (3.6 miles).
28. Turn left onto MD-28 E/Darnestown Road (1 mile)
29. Turn right onto Jerusalem Rd (0.3 miles).
24. [Landmade Farm Brewery](#) is located on your left at 19120 Jerusalem Rd Poolesville.

*Entire Route is approximately a 1h 10min drive (39 miles) without stops.

