

TRAVEL + LEISURE

September 9, 2008

10 Unexpected U.S. Wine Trails

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North Carolina

Trail: [Yadkin Valley](#)

Number of Wineries: 27

Distance: 200 miles

Description: Ranked 13th nationally in grape production and 14th for wine, North Carolina was one of the first states in the union to grow grapes. With tobacco farming declining in recent years, entrepreneurs have again turned to winemaking, especially in the Yadkin Valley, whose climate, soil, and growing season are like that of Burgundy, France. Sweet native grapes like Muscadines and Scuppernongs, as well as Cabernet Franc, thrive here. Because the trail is so large, it's best to hit wineries in Davidson, Davie, and Forsyth counties one day and those in Yadkin, Surry, and Wilkes counties the other.

Where to Sip: [Shelton Vineyards](#) is the largest family-owned winery in North Carolina, and sponsors a concert series on its 200-acre estate every summer.

Where to Stay: [Childress Vineyards](#), Yadkin's newest winery, is owned by legendary NASCAR team owner Richard Childress and consists of a 65-acre vineyard and winery and will include a hotel complex.

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Courtesy of Shelton Vineyards

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