

BLUE RIDGE ESTATES THE WINE REPORT

When you think of wine in the United States, what is the first place that pops into your head? I would bet the farm, that nine times out of ten Napa Valley, California would be the first place that comes to your mind. Well, let me tell you about a place known as the Yadkin Valley.

The Yadkin Valley, North Carolina's first American viticultural area, is bordered to the west by the Blue Ridge Mountains. This true river valley has a unique blend of climate with ancient soils that produce world class wines. Now, you are probably asking yourself "well where is this Yadkin Valley"? By becoming a property owner in Blue Ridge Estates, you are just minutes away from the area known as the Yadkin Valley. You are literally just a short distance away from world class wine tasting and great restaurants. Recently, this past November I was doing a little bit of exploring and I set off on a wine tasting tour. Given just two days time, we had the opportunity to visit only four different locations. There are 53 different wine locations in North Carolina, enough to keep any wine connoisseur exploring for a long time. So, here is a small report on my findings while exploring the North Carolina Yadkin Valley.



Websites to visit:

www.visitncwines.com

www.newwine.org



First Stop: Thistle Meadow Winery

Just a short 30 minute drive south from Blue Ridge Estates you will find Thistle Meadow Winery. A winery is not to be confused with a vineyard, it is a place where wine grapes are purchased from growers (vineyards) and are processed to make wines. The Thistle Meadow Winery is housed in what looks like a big red barn. Attached to the winery and tasting room is another establishment called grapestompers. Here you can purchase all your essentials for making your very own wine at home. Also, on the property is an old farm house that has been converted into a bed and breakfast. Thistle Meadow Winery is family owned, so don't be surprised if you find yourself discussing wine with one of the owners. On this visit a young woman named Petra was attending to me and my wine curiosity. 1-800-233-1505 www.thistlemeadow.com



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Second Stop: Round Peak Vineyards

Traveling a short 15 minutes northeast of Blue Ridge Estates you will end up at Round Peak Vineyards. Round Peak is on a 32 acre estate. Don't let its size fool you. This is a first class wine operation. As I soon found out from the gentleman behind the counter, George Little, who was in fact one of the owners of Round Peak. After tasting some of George's award winning wines and speaking with him I had gained a better understanding about the North Carolina wine industry and where it was headed.

336-352-5595 www.roundpeak.com



Third Stop: THE WOLF'S LAIR

Wolf's Lair is just a quick 40 minute drive from Blue Ridge Estates. Passing through the gates of Black Wolf Vineyard, you find yourself driving through the actual vineyard with rows and rows of vines. Wolf's Lair is open to all that want to enjoy great wine, delicious food and live entertainment. The Wolf's Lair restaurant hosts an incredible menu and has a very intimate wine tasting room. As some of your future neighbors can attest to after dining with the Development Team at The Wolf's Lair, a good time was had by all. Ask for Teresa when you call The Wolf's Lair. She was nothing more than a delight and dead on with her wine recommendations. 336-374-2532 www.blackwolfvineyards.com



Fourth Stop: Shelton Vineyards

Shelton Vineyards is within 5 minutes of Black Wolf's Vineyard. Shelton is the largest family owned estate vineyard in all of North Carolina. The grounds are immaculately landscaped with the Harvest Grill Restaurant next to the winery and tasting room which are both in the same building. The Harvest Grill boast an amazing menu with indoor and outdoor seating. Shelton Vineyards is nothing short of first class. 336-366-4724 www.sheltonvineyards.com

