



NEW YORK
WINES



CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

Way up and coming

There's an expression that says, "There's no place to go but up." When you're a young winegrowing region at a latitude that some say isn't ideal, it's tempting to think that sentiment applies to our AVA. But we look at that phrase in a different way.

Boldly, Ascending

We are the northernmost wine region in New York.

The safe and staid wine crowd says we can't make a go of it up here. But we're reaching new heights every day, making mellow, delicious wines that undeniably position us on our way up.



GRAPES: Hybrids, native, and small plantings of vinifera

SIZE: 21 farms, 122 acres (49 hectares) under vine

AVERAGE GROWING SEASON: ~160 days

We're a hardy bunch

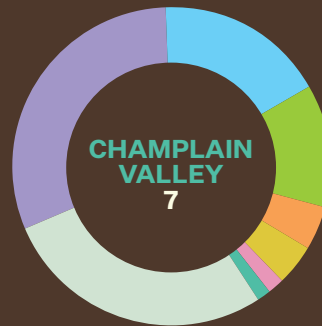
Like the people who live here, our grapes are hardy and handle the cold exceptionally well. Cold-hardy Minnesota French-American varieties thrive here. And some producers are experimenting with the most cold-hardy vinifera.

Marquette—features aromas of black fruit, such as cherries, black currants, plums, and blackberries, as well as spicy aromas, such as tobacco, leather, and black pepper.

Frontenac—characterized by red fruit flavors of cherry and red currant.

La Crescent—features aromas of citrus, apricot, pineapple, and muscat and lacks the "grapey" aromas associated with *Vitis labrusca* and herbaceous aromas associated with *Vitis riparia*.

Wineries in New York State BY AVA



FINGER LAKES / 144
LONG ISLAND / 82
HUDSON RIVER REGION / 59
LAKE ERIE / 20
UPPER HUDSON / 20
THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT / 8
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY / 7
OUTSIDE AVAs / 131
TOTAL 471

Wine haven

The Champlaine Valley AVA sits between the Adirondack Mountains to the west, the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east, the Taconic Mountains to the south, and Canada to the north.

A place to land

Since vineyards and wineries require land, our AVA is proving to be a destination for people looking to put down roots. Land is affordable, and the economic climate is inviting, so more new wineries are finding a home—and welcoming enthusiasts in—every year.

Adirondack Coast

Our winemaking region lies beside Lake Champlain, but the westerly winds that blow across the water warm Vermont to the east, not the AVA. As a result, the region's climate is governed more by the Adirondacks to the west, giving the area its nickname of the Adirondack Coast.

Surrounded—The AVA lies in a relatively flat valley between the Adirondack Mountains to the west and Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains to the east. The soils, a combination of sand and clay, are rich in minerals and tend to be well drained.

Laurentide Ice Sheet—During the last Ice Age, the region was covered by ice over a mile thick. As the ice retreated about 13,500 years ago, the land slowly rebounded.

Evolving landscape—With the receding ice, sea water from what is now the St. Lawrence River flowed in and formed the temporary Champlain Sea. As the land rose and the sea water was cut off, the water became fresh and formed present-day Lake Champlain.

Cool history

You might be tempted to see New York as a young winemaking region. But don't be fooled; the history of wine in the United States runs right through our state.

The natives—The native species of grapes that thrive in New York, Québec, and Vermont—*Vitis riparia*—are wild grapes that were first documented on the St. Lawrence River by French explorer Jacques Cartier in 1535.

The transplants—Almost a century later, Samuel de Champlain tried to transplant French vinifera vines, but the cold climate kept the plants from producing.

Delivery from home—While some wine was made from native grapes, the early French settlers in the Champlain Valley imported most of their wine from France.

Our time arrives—In the 1970s, farmers again began in earnest to experiment with grape growing. Twenty years later, viticulture had developed high-quality, disease-resistant grapes that could thrive and produce delicious wines.

When the levee breaks
As the last Ice Age retreated,
an ice dam formed and created
Lake Vermont from the waters
that flowed north. When
the dam broke, lake levels
dropped 300 feet (91 meters)
within hours.



Not only is our region stunningly beautiful, but more and more wineries, cideries, and microbreweries are opening every year. It makes the Champlain Valley an ideal destination for people who love nature—and all that it can offer. For more about New York wines and our AVAs, visit newyorkwines.org

**Boldly,
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