



...in print, and **online**

This article is from the Spring '17 issue.

© 2017

Carolina Mountain Life Magazine, Inc,
Linville NC USA. All Rights Reserved.



Start Planning Your High Country Wine Trail Getaway!

By Steve York

Got an afternoon or—better yet—a weekend? How about wine? Got wine? Well, “*If you’ve got the time...we’ve got the wine!*” In fact, we’ve got an exciting wine-lovers getaway adventure in store for you thanks to four incredible wineries that grace the hills from Linville Falls to Banner Elk to Foscoe and onward to Watauga Lake. And these wineries have a very special enticement to help you plan your wine-lovers getaway. It’s the new *High Country Wine Trail*. And it comes with extra bonuses when you take the time to tour each of these four wineries.

Your four wineries include Linville Falls Winery on Hwy. 221 in Linville Falls, Banner Elk Winery off Hwy. 194 on Lee Gaultney Road in Banner Elk, Grandfather Vineyards & Winery in Foscoe and their nearby Tennessee cousin, Watauga Lake Winery at beautiful Watauga Lake. Each of these wineries is known for its distinctive wines, its distinctive “Wine with A View” mountain setting, its distinctive charm and...for its distinctive association with the brand new Appalachian High Country American Viticulture Area, or Appalachian High Country AVA for short.

Now you may remember that a select group of wineries and vineyards spanning 2,400 square miles, at elevations above 2,000 feet, across three states and eight

counties was recently designated as its own AVA. And that designation is a big deal for our regional tourism and agricultural industries; in the same way as that Yadkin Valley or NAPA Valley AVA’s distinguish their brands of wines and boost their travel/tourism economies.

Our four *High Country Wine Trail* wineries within this new AVA have teamed up to bring you an extra treat when you visit all of the four locations. They’ve created a special “High Country Wine Trail Passport” that entitles you to receive special gifts as you make the tour, and to qualify for semi-annual prize drawings. Your “Passport” gets stamped when you visit one of these four wineries, and that stamp qualifies you for the gifts and drawings. It’s pretty simple. But there’s more!

All four of the *High Country Wine Trail* wineries will be sharing a big Kick-Off Celebration on the weekend of Friday, June 2nd through Sunday, June 4th. Their celebrations will include live entertainment, food, special gifts and an opportunity to win a grand prize. You’ll be able to sign up for your “Passport” and kick-off your own *High Country Wine Trail* Getaway. If you plan ahead, you can make a whole weekend winery tour adventure out of their collective kick-off celebration. Each winery is near restaurants, lodging and other attractions. And winery operators can help you plan your

weekend itinerary with tips on nearby accommodations.

Whether you hit all four wineries during the kick-off celebration weekend, or space out your visits one at a time, you’re in for a real treat. Part of that treat is the chance to experience the unique picturesque mountain setting of each winery. No two are alike. And, if you haven’t yet visited all of these locations, you’re also in for the special treat of tasting wines unlike any others in the country or around the world. You see, that’s what an AVA is all about. These wines are made from grapes grown in the conditions that are unique to our High Country region. That means the flavors and types of wines featured can’t be found anywhere else. Oh... and one more thing: Each of these wineries has received numerous awards for many of their wines; wines you can add to your list of favorites as well as your wine cellar.

So, like we said, “*If you’ve got the time...we’ve got the wine!*” All you have to do is hit the trail! Check out details at www.HighCountryWineTrail.com. Then make your plans to come celebrate the big *High Country Wine Trail* celebration June 2nd-4th.