

THE RED HORSE I ♦ N ♦ N

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Wineries & Waterfall

Traveling the mountains by train from the 1920s to the 1950s had its rewards -- sweet, moist grapes grown in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The surrounding mountains buffered the area, creating the perfect climate for growing grapes. The small town of Tryon was a train stop for Southern Railway and became a distribution point for "Tryon Grapes."

Two wineries called Polk County their home, but the region became known for its grapes, winning awards as far away as New York and Canada. But the 1920s brought prohibition followed by World War II. By the 1950s, serious competition existed from California grapes -- thus, grape growing died out in Polk County.

In the 1990s, 11 vineyards and two wineries were back to harvest the nectar of the vine. The area has also been known to spawn creative artists, drawn to the area by its natural beauty.

With this adventure, you will visit 4 wineries. Each will enchant and inspire you with the fulfillment of seeing their creators' dreams come to fruition. If you have time and energy, you will end day two on a beautiful secluded road that skirts the Green River and wind your way up the mountain to a charming village, then end the day visiting a beautiful waterfall.



Overmountain Vineyard

Your first stop is Overmountain Vineyards & Winery, a family owned artisanal winery and commercial vineyard. While the tasting might not be complimentary, it is well worth the stop. The vineyards were planted on hillsides to produce low yields with high quality fruit.

The winery takes this wonderful fruit and creates handcrafted wines.

Overmountain Vineyards features an intimate tasting room with a wraparound porch overlooking 10 acres of vineyards and breathtaking mountain views. Varieties include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Petit Manseng. Private events are welcomed. Open on most holidays.

Frank and Lita Lilly planted Overmountain Vineyards in 2002. The couple has been selling grapes to the Biltmore Estate Winery for many years.

The recognized Overmountain National Historic Trail runs through this property providing visitors the opportunity to hike the 2-mile segment of the trail.

In 2010, Overmountain Winery had their first commercial harvest, which included 75 cases of Chardonnay, 100 cases of Viognier, 75 cases of Merlot Rose' and 25 cases of Petit Manseng.

Tasting Fee: Varies, Paid to Overmountain
Hours of Operation: Wednesday / Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm
Friday / Saturday 12 pm - 7 pm
Sunday 12 pm – 6 pm

Address: 2014 Sandy Plains Rd, Tryon, NC 28782
828-863-0523

Driving Directions:

From the Inn, turn right out of the drive onto North Campbell Rd. Turn right onto Tugaloo Rd and take another right onto 11. At the junction of 11 and 14, take a left onto 14 and continue through Landrum, over Interstate 26. Continue another 7 miles outside of town. The road name changes to Landrum Rd and then Sandy Plains Rd. After it changes to Sandy Plains Rd the destination is 2 miles down on the right.



Russian Chapel Hills Winery

No product has a closer relationship to its raw material than wine does to its vineyard. At Russian Chapel Hills Winery, we are developing a heritage of fine viticulture.

Our vineyard rests below the beautiful St. Anna Chapel, which is a part of the Eastern Diocese of the Russian Church Outside of Russia.

Visitors to Russian Chapel Hills Winery will perhaps be most delighted at being able to visit an authentic, 17th century style Russian chapel. The chapel is not just a tourist draw attraction to us.

It is our heritage that such steps are taken, continuing in the footsteps of our ancestors who have built the beautiful churches around the world for hundreds of years.

As proprietors of an estate vineyard we use only our own grapes. This allows us to control the quality from the vine's bud break to the sorting table. Only the highest quality fruits are chosen for the production of Russian Chapel Hills Winery wines.

From seven estate-grown varietals Russian Chapel Hills Winery produces dry European style wines such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and whites Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. As well as our favorite dessert wine Muscadine.

Tasting Fee: Varies, Paid to Russian Chapel Hills
Hours of Operation: Thursday – Sunday 1 pm – 6 pm
Address: 2662 Green Creek Rd, Columbus, NC 28722
828-863-0540

Driving Directions:

Take a left out of Overmountain Vineyards on to Sandy Plains Rd. Drive 2 miles to NC-9 and turn left. Drive 2.9 miles and bear left on Chesnee Rd then take a left onto Green Creek Dr. The vineyard is .9 miles on the left.



Mountain Brook Vineyards

Nestled in the foothills of Polk County, NC and surrounded by tranquil horse farms, Mountain Brook Vineyard produces handcrafted wines from seven acres of grapes. The vineyard is resting on the crest of the hill and framed with views of the mountains.

Come see the winery where classic Bordeaux style red blended wines are nurtured to velvet smooth wines in French oak barrels.

The tasting room overlooks the vineyards and offers a commanding view of the vines and the mountains. The wines include a Bordeaux style red blend, Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Grigio and Petite Verdot.

They welcome your visit to their small winery and vineyard, which was established in 2000. Bring a picnic if you wish. Pets are welcome.

Tasting Fee: Varies, Paid to Mountain Brook Vineyards

Hours of Operation: Friday – Sunday 1 pm – 6 pm

Address: 731 Phillips Dairy Rd, Tryon, NC 28782

828-817-4376

Driving Directions:

To get to Mountain Brook Vineyard, retrace your path back to Chesnee Highway then Highway 9. Bear right on Coxe Rd and continue 2.4 miles to Phillips Dairy Rd then turn left.



Parker-Binns Vineyard

Karen and Bob Binns started their careers in the food and beverage industry. After a satisfying twenty-five years, they decided to head to Florida and begin a career in the tree farming and nursery industry. Their business grew and expanded over the next twenty years until the government approached them to purchase their land for an Everglades restoration project.

After a short retirement period, they decided to break into the burgeoning North Carolina wine industry. They purchased 35 acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and began clearing the land. With a lot of work, they turned the land into a beautiful vineyard with over 4000 grape vines! They have developed a vineyard with 5 1/2 acres of wine grapes, including Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Chambourcin.

At their newly completed Tasting Room, you'll find yourself relaxing as you try some of their most recent vintages. Their 2010 wines are based on several vine varieties and make up their Red Blend, Rose and Chardonnay. Also, take time to enjoy their farm animals.

Tasting Fee: Varies, Paid to Parker-Binns
Hours of Operation: Thursday – Sunday 12 pm – 6 pm
Address: 7382 NC-108, Mill Spring, NC 28756
(828) 894-0154.

Driving Directions:

Take a left out of Mountain Brook Vineyards and drive half a mile to Coxe Rd. Turn left and drive 1.1 miles. At the next intersection, stay right then take the first left across the road (Pea Ridge Rd). Continue on Pea Ridge for 6.1 miles and then turn left onto NC-108. Parker-Binns is on the left.
Take the drive back to the tasting room.



Green River Cove

Green Rive Cove is a lovely valley road that ambles along the Green River up to the back end of Saluda.

You can stop along the way and put your feet in the waters of the Green River. It's easy to see why the river earned its name from the clear green waters that flow from the mountains above.

You might not see much civilization, except for a tubing rental company or two and if you still have energy, you might just want to explore the river from the vantage point of a tubing trip. These tubing trips are gentle, slow floats down the river. If you're looking for more action you might want to wait until you reach the end of the drive and stop in at Green River Adventures in Saluda which will have a lower water adventure. If you are looking for more of a white water adventure, you will have to make a reservation and return by 8:30 in the morning when they open the floodgates. (800) 335-1530.

This is the perfect road to travel for viewing fall foliage or the admiring the freshness of spring. In the winter months, it might be difficult to traverse, as the last few miles include many switchbacks and may remind you of a ride at an amusement park!

Driving Directions:

Turn left out of Parker-Binns Vineyard and follow Highway 108 3 miles back to Highway 9. Turn right and proceed 1/10 of a mile. Turn left on Silver Creek Road. Go 4.4 miles and turn left onto Green River Cove Road.



Saluda

Welcome to the charming town of Saluda, what once was a crossroads for traders and herders. In the late 1870s a railroad was constructed to bring tourists seeking the fresh, cool mountain air. The town bustled with travelers and Victorian Inns. Celebrities of the era visited and drew even more attention to the tiny town.

The completion of the Southern Railroad in 1878 brought about a large change in Saluda. The Saluda railroad grade is unmatched by any main line east of the Rocky Mountains with a grade that drops 600 feet to the mile. It was originally built to connect the Asheville and Spartanburg Railroads. The railroad was built using convict labor, which marked the first use of convict labor on a large scale, and was supervised by Colonel Andrew Tanner who operated the first hotel in Saluda and was also elected the first Mayor of Saluda in 1881. In 1887, eight passenger trains passed through Saluda daily with about 3,000 visitors a year. The Saluda Grade is infamous for runaway train accidents, in 1880 alone, fourteen men were killed on the three mile stretch of track. The train no longer runs through Saluda although there is talk of future passenger train plans.

Enjoy the eclectic shops, restaurants, galleries, gift stores, The Gorge zip line tour and Green River Adventures for your whitewater adventure. For a memorable and delectable experience have a bite to eat at The Purple Onion.

Driving Directions:

Continue 7.3 miles on Green River Cove Road to the town of Saluda. Take a right on Holbert Cove Road and go 2/10 of a mile. The road will become Ozone Dr. as you cross over the Interstate. Turn right onto East Main Street to enjoy the wonderful mountain town of Saluda.



Pearson's Falls

Pearson's Falls is one of the most beautiful falls in the area.

As you stroll along the tranquil, easy path to the falls, notice the wonderful job the Tryon Garden Club has done at maintaining the beauty of the trails and the falls. The small entrance fee is well worth both the hike and the view of the waterfall. How else could you feel more relaxed and away from the normal rush of daily life? Allow yourself to unwind in this natural paradise.

Captain Charles William Pearson, who discovered this magical place, originally purchased Pearson's Falls Glen. He and his heirs owned the land until 1931 when Pearson's son was forced to sell a portion of his holdings. The Tryon Garden Club purchased several hundred acres to make into a botanical preserve. Many years later, wildflowers still grow along the side of the path. There is a \$5 charge per person.

The trail is open March 1st through October 31st, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The gates open at 12 p.m. on Sunday and close at 5:15 pm. Closed Mondays except Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Winter Schedule: November 1 through February 28, Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. May be closed during inclement weather.

Driving Directions:

From East Main Street, head east to 176. Go 3.1 miles to Pearson's Falls Road. Take a right and continue to The Gatekeepers.

Back to the Inn:

From the falls, go back to Rt. 176 and take a right. Continue down the mountain through Tryon until you reach Highway 14 in Landrum (about 7 miles). Take a right on 14 and travel to the junction of 11. From the junction of Routes 14 and 11, go south one mile on Route 11 to Tugaloo Road. Turn left onto Tugaloo. Go one mile to N. Campbell Road. Turn left onto N. Campbell Road. Go one mile. Watch for the blue street sign on the left for Winstons Chase Court. Turn left onto Winstons Chase Court.

The Millstone Gallery

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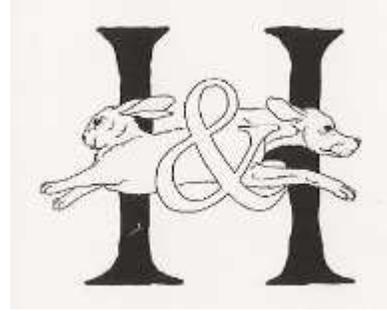
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The Millstone Gallery
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(Beside CVS)
(864) 457-2202
Facebook: The Millstone Gallery



Free Appetizer with Purchase of 2 Entrees



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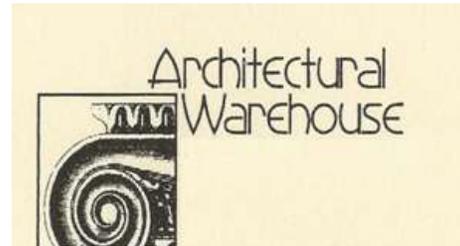
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