

SPRING 2026

ON THE VINE

CAROLINA WINE COUNTRY NEWS



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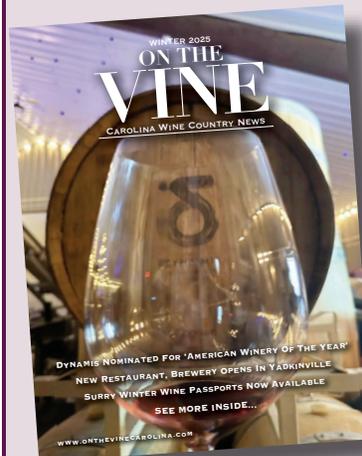
ON THE COVER:

COURTESY OF CASTELLO BARONE

A rainbow appears just above Castello Barone on Groce Road in Ronda.

ON THE VINE

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG

The Yadkin Valley



**KITSEY
BURNS
HARRISON**

I am thrilled to welcome you to our inaugural issue of our double-publication featuring *On The Vine* and *Mayberry Magazine*. From hence forth *On The Vine* will be published in this unique flip-book style format where you get two great magazines in one.

Readers will still get the same exciting stories featuring all the places to sip, stay, and play in the Yadkin Valley wine region, and now there'll be even more special stories from America's most famous small town, Mayberry aka Mount Airy.

In this issue of *On The Vine* you'll read all about our coming spring wine festivals in the region as well as a cool spot to stay in Elkin for your next weekend trip.

The Yadkin Valley, while known for its wine, also has several breweries nearby and those spots were celebrated earlier this year with the annual BrrrFest in Elkin. Be sure to mark your calendar for next February to sample local brews and stews in Elkin!

If you've not been to Castello Barone yet, now is the time! This lovely winery in the Swan Creek region will

make you feel right at home. In addition to award-winning wines, Castello Barone features live music events, wine dinners and more.

Springtime is upon us and I hope you'll be making time this season to visit the wonderful wineries (and more) in the Yadkin Valley!

Cheers!

Kitsey Burns Harrison, *Editor*

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Elkin festival showcases area BREWERIES



Tasters enjoy beer samples from a variety of North Carolina breweries, including TwoBoros at the 2026 Big Elkin BrrrFest. KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON | kburns@yadkinripple.com

The Yadkin Valley is known for its wine region, but that doesn't mean that beer lovers can't also have a good time. The area is now home to several breweries and their brews are receiving rave reviews. While the wine festivals are popular in spring and summer, Elkin puts on a special festival just for beer in the winter and it's worth making the trip to experience.

Snow was still lingering on the ground from back-to-back winter storms, but guests were plenty warm and cozy at the 2026 Big Elkin BrrrFest held inside the stunning Coley Hall, a refurbished tobacco warehouse turned wedding and event venue in downtown Elkin. The festival is held the second Saturday each February.

Featured at the 2026 festival were Elkin's own Angry Troll Brewing, as well as Red Buffalo Brewing Co., Lost Province Brewing Co., TwoBoros Brewery, Stardust Cellars, Brew Haus Events Center and Boondocks Brewery.

"We had a great turnout for the Big Elkin BrrrFest," said Natalie Eidson, of Explore Elkin, the local tourism group

which hosts the festival.

Among the beers on tap for tasters in Coley Hall were award-winners from nearby Wilkesboro brewery, TwoBoros.

"We love making great beers," said owner Seth Cohn. "We won a North Carolina bronze medal this year for our blond ale. So we're very proud of that."

The Brewery has also partnered with North Wilkesboro Speedway to create a special brew that will be available at this year's Points Race, Cohn said.

Cohn said beers that were popular with tasters at BrrrFest this year were their Mystery Machine brew with its nostalgic imagery of the famed Scooby Doo van on the can. A raspberry sour was another one that Cohn said tasters were surprised and pleased by.

Also featuring a unique ingredient was Boone's Lost Province Brewery with a pre-prohibition lager made with sweet potatoes.

In addition to jamming to great live music from area musicians, and tasting beer, attendees at BrrrFest could also



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON
Coley Hall is full of folks enjoying local beers, warm soup, and live music at the 2026 Big Elkin BrrrFest.

warm up with soup tastings as part of the annual charity soup cook-off benefiting The Ark, a shelter for women and families.

Soup chefs had a variety of flavors to serve up to tasters, some with longtime family recipes, and others with newer trends to try.

At the 2026 event, Amanda and Greg Brewer said their lemon orzo soup originally came to them by way of a meal kit recipe, but has now become a family favorite in their household.

“It’s a fresh and lemony veggie soup,” Amanda Brewer said.

Keith Stringer’s recipe this year was based on family tradition. He described his soup as essentially a cabbage roll in soup form. It was of Ukranian origin, where his great grandparents hailed from. Stringer is the owner and chef at Six28 House, a 103-year old home that is now a bed and breakfast located just 3/4 of a mile from downtown Elkin.

Also bringing some European flavors to the table at the 2026

festival was Bill Colvard who had prepared potage parmentier, a leek and potato soup.

“This is a very rustic version like every French housewife makes for her family,” he said.

If beer and soup sound like a perfect pairing to you, then be sure to mark your calendar to attend next year’s Big Elkin BrrrFest in downtown Elkin. Visit exploreeelkin.com/bigelkinbrrrfest for updates and ticket info for the 2027 event.



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Greg and Amanda Brewer serve up soup samples for tasters at the annual charity soup cook-off to benefit The Ark shelter, held in conjunction with the annual Big Elkin BrrrFest.

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rings in spring



BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

kburns@yadkinripple.com

For more than two decades, Elkin has been celebrating the many wineries of the Yadkin Valley region with its annual Yadkin Valley Wine Festival, held the third Saturday each May. This festival remains one of the region's most popular summer events, drawing crowds from near and far.

"This is a great festival," Elkin local Michael Brooks put it simply at last spring's event. Last year, the day started out with heavy rains but the skies cleared just in time for the start of the festival which is held at Elkin Municipal Park and features more than a dozen area wineries, food and craft vendors and live music.

The 2026 Yadkin Valley Wine Festival will feature live music from country rock band Black Pearl and popular local beach music



Guests browse a local pottery booth at the annual Yadkin Valley Wine Festival.



PHOTOS BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON
After a stormy morning the sun came out for a picture perfect day for the 2025 Yadkin Valley Wine Fest.





Folks find a shady spot to watch the music at the 2025 Yadkin Valley Wine Festival held at Elkin Municipal Park. KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

band Phatt City.

Brooks, along with his sister Kristi Sprinkle, were at last year's festival and though they are familiar with the local wineries, they were still excited to try some wines that hadn't had before. Brooks said he was eager to sample the dry reds, while Sprinkle was in search of the sparkling wines.

"A wine that I really really like is Petit Verdot, the grapes grow really well here," said Brooks.

While there are numerous visitors from outside the area that come to the festival each year, it's always popular with locals as well.

Bridget Matthews, not normally a rosé drinker, said at last year's festival she found one she loved from Surry Community College. She said she enjoys the festival and how convenient it is to get to experience multiple area vineyards all in one spot.

"I just love to try all the different wines from around the Yadkin Valley without having to drive all over," Matthews said.

Golden Road Vineyards owner Crista Guebert said she was thrilled with the turnout and response from guests at the 2025 festival.

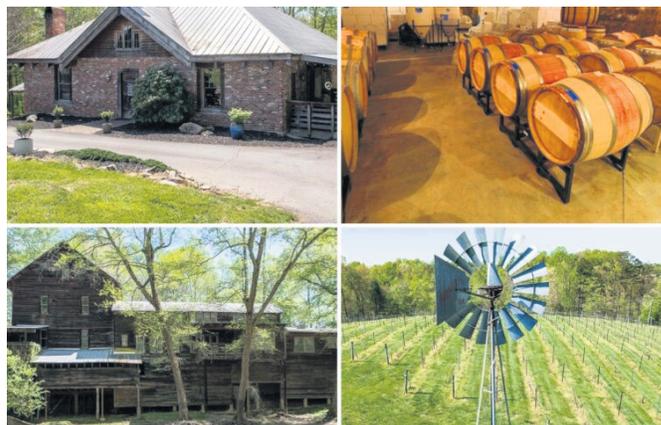
"The people have been fantastic and everyone has been very pro-North Carolina wine," she said. Guebert said their sparkling wine Emergency Blow as well as their rosé were big hits with customers at the festival.

Yadkin Valley Chamber President David Steelman called the 2025 festival a "great success."

The festival was originally started when the wine region was quite new as a way to bring awareness to the new industry. Though the industry has grown by leaps and bounds since then, the festival remains a great way to celebrate the Yadkin Valley wine region and bring wine lovers together.

This year's festival is slated for May 16 at Elkin Municipal Park, 399 NC 268 West, Elkin. For tickets and more info visit yadkinvalleywinefestival.com.

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 @erisball



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WIN



1 Adagio Vineyards

2 Brandon Hills Vineyard

336-463-WINE
1927 Brandon Hills Road,
Yadkinville, NC 27055
Website: www.brandonhillsvineyard.com
Owners: Larry & Elizabeth Muller
Hours: Friday 1pm - 5pm,
Saturday 12pm - 6pm, Sunday 1pm - 5pm
(Closed January, Open Sat & Sun 1pm - 5pm in February)

3 Carolina Heritage Vineyard & Winery

4 Cellar 4201

5 Childress Vineyards

6 Curran Alexander Vineyards

7 Divine Llama Vineyards, LLC



336-699-2525
4126 Divine Llama Lane, East Bend, NC 27018
Owners: Michael and Patricia West,
Paul Baumbach and Leslie Messick
Winemaker: Dana Aker
Tasting Room Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday
12-6 year round
Website: www.divinellamavineyards.com
Location: From NC Hwy 67, turn onto Macedonia Road in East Bend. Vineyard is .6 mi on left.

8 Elkin Creek Vineyard



336-526-5119
318 Elkin Creek Mill Road, Elkin, NC
28621
Tasting Room Hrs: Thursday - Sunday 11am - 5pm. Wine
Tasting & Light Foods Daily, Brick-Oven Pizzas Every
Sunday. Available for Weddings & Special Events - Private
Luxury Rental Cabins
Website: www.elkin creekvineyard.com

9 Flint Hill Vineyards & Century Kitchen

40 Golden Road Vineyards



336-466-7264
542 Golden Road, State Road, NC 28676
Website: www.grvwines.com
Owners: Crista and Chad Guebert
Hours: Friday 2pm-7pm; Saturday & Sunday
12pm-6pm

10 Grassy Creek Vineyard



336-835-2458
235 Cottage Circle,
State Road, NC 28676
Owners: Derrill and Lori Rice, Jim and

Cynthia Douthit
Winemaker: Jim Douthit
Website: www.grassyckeevineyard.com
Location: Surry/Wilkes Counties — West off I-77 at Exit
85 to US 21-Bypass North. Left after first traffic light onto
Klondike Road. Left into vineyard after about 1/2 miles.

11 Hanover Park Vineyard & Winery



927 Courtney Huntsville Rd
Yadkinville, NC 27055
336-463-2875
Family operated vineyard,
offering vineyard tours, tastings, views, and an all around
relaxing escape at our 1800s farmhouse. We look forward to
your visit.

37 Haze Gray Vineyards

12 Herrera Vineyards

41 Hidden Vineyard

13 JOLO Winery & Vineyards



336-614-0030, 1-855-JOLOWINE
219 JOLO Winery Lane
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041
Website: www.jolovineyards.com

Owners: JW & Kristen Ray
Location: Take exit 134 (NC 268) toward Pilot Mountain/
Elkin. After exiting 134, head west on Highway 268 and
go around the round-about, Continuing heading west
on Hwy 268. Travel approximately two miles and veer to
the left onto Pilot Power Dam Road, a slight fork in the
road. JOLO Winery & Vineyards will be your first left.

15 Jones von Drehle Vineyards & Winery

16 Junius Lindsay Vineyard

17 Lazy Elm Vineyard and Winery



336-909-4914
523 Danner Road, Mocksville, NC 27028
www.lazyelm.com
See Website For Hours

18 McRitchie Winery & Ciderworks

19 Medaloni Cellars

20 MenaRick Vineyard & Winery

21 Misty Creek Vineyards

22 Native Vines Winery

23 Old North State Winery & Brewery

38 Pilot Mountain Vineyards & Winery

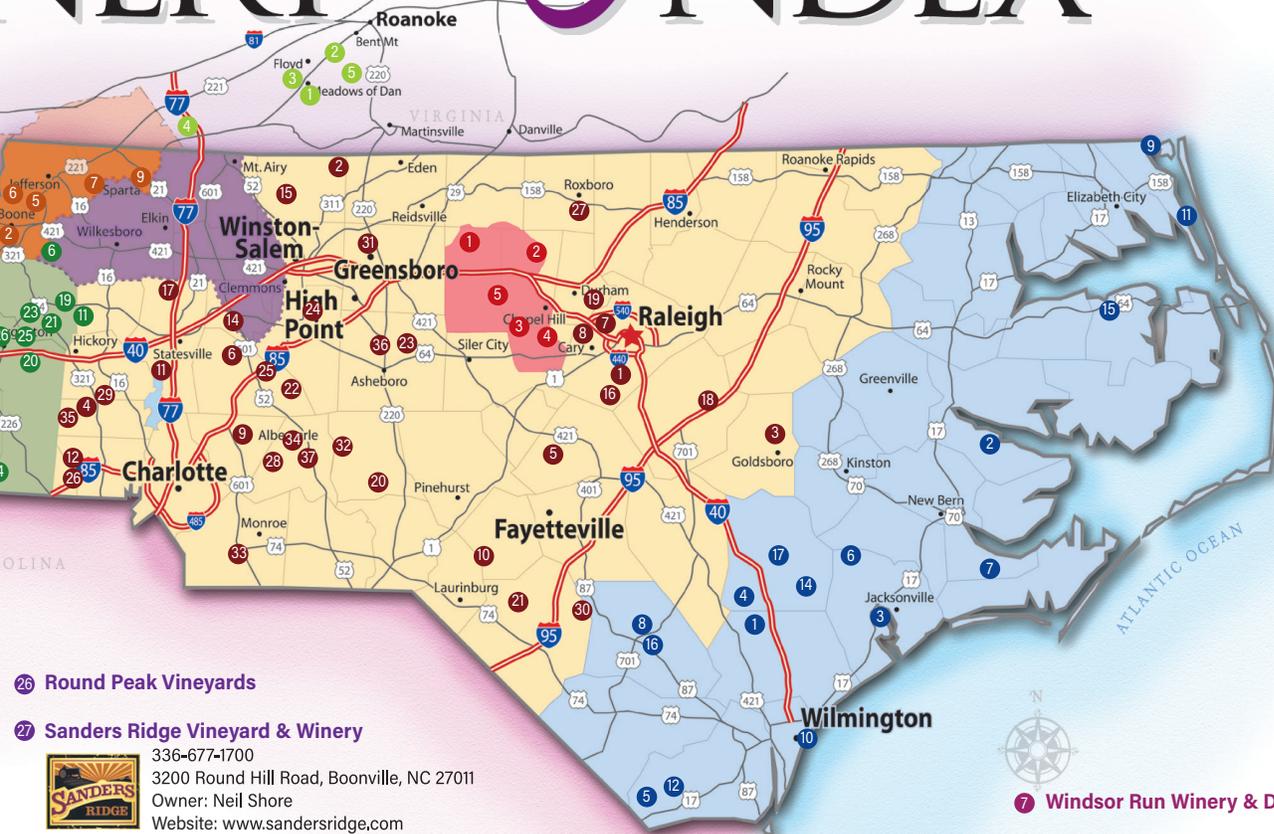
24 RagApple Lassie Vineyards

35 Roaring River Vineyards



336-957-2332
493 Brewer Mill Road, Traphill, NC 28685
Owners: Josephine & Tom Silvey
Wine Tasting Room & Restaurant Luxury
Lodgings, Business Meetings, Weddings, Rehearsal
Dinners, and Private Events.
Website: www.roaringrivervineyards.com

VINERY INDEX



26 Round Peak Vineyards

27 Sanders Ridge Vineyard & Winery



336-677-1700
3200 Round Hill Road, Boonville, NC 27011
Owner: Neil Shore
Website: www.sandersridge.com
Hours: Thur-Sun 12pm-5pm

39 Serre Vineyards

28 Shelton Vineyards



336-366-4724
286 Cabernet Lane, Dobson, NC 27017
Owner: R. Edwin Shelton
Winemaker: Gill Giese
Website: www.sheltonvineyards.com
Location: Surry County – I-77 to Exit 93 Dobson. Turn right, then take first right onto Twin Oaks Rd. Go 2.5 miles to the Shelton Vineyards entrance on the right.

36 Skull Camp Wines

29 Slightly Askew Winery



336-835-2700
913 N. Bridge Street, Elkin, NC 28621
Owners: Tim Gentry and Karen Defreitas
Website: www.slightlyaskewwines.com
Location: Surry County – Take Exit 85 from I-77. West on 268 bypass (CC Camp Rd) .9 miles turn left on S-21 (N Bridge St.) go .8 miles, winery on right (yellow house).
Wine List: Large selection of wines. 20+ wines from semi-dry to Dry Whites and Reds, and large selection of Fruit/Sweet wines

30 Stony Knoll Vineyards

31 Surry Community College Winery

32 Sweet Home Carolina Vineyard & Winery

33 Weathervane Winery

34 Westbend Winery & Brewery

SWAN CREEK AVA

1 Dobbins Creek Vineyards

2 Laurel Gray Vineyards

3 Midnight Magdalena Vineyards

4 Piccione Vineyards



336-571-1024
2364 Cedar Forest Rd, Ronda, NC 28670
Email: info@piccionewine.com
Tasting Room Hours: Every day 12:00 to 6:00pm. Last call at 5:30pm
Live Music Almost Every Weekend. Check our events at piccionevineyards.com or visit us at



5 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery, LLC

 RAFFALDINI VINEYARDS 336-835-9463
450 Groce Road, Ronda, NC 28670
Website: www.raffaldini.com
Email: info@raffaldini.com
Hours: Sunday 12pm-5pm
Monday 11pm-5pm
Wednesday - Saturday 11am-5pm

6 Shadow Springs Vineyard

7 Windsor Run Winery & Distillery

8 Stardust Cellars



336-466-4454
1202 Curtis Bridge Road, Wilkesboro, NC 28697
Website: www.stardustcellars.com
Owner: Nick von Cosmos
Hours: Thursday 4pm-9pm, Friday 4pm-10pm, Saturday 2pm-10pm, Sunday 2pm-8pm

9 Dynamis Estate Wines



336-468-6702
1004 Highland Road, Jonesville, NC 28642
Winemakers: Matheson Worrell & Katy Kidd
Website: www.dynamisestatewines.com
Hours: Wed - Sat 11am - 5pm, Sun Noon - 5pm

10 Castello Barone Vineyards & Winery



Owners: Scott & Elizabeth Barone
Respect The Land. Honor The Fruit.
Winemaker: Scott Barone
475 Groce Rd, Ronda NC 28670
336-571-1013
Hours: Mon 11-5, Thurs-Sat 11-5, Sun 1-5
www.castellobarone.com

11 Sotrio Vineyards and Winery

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hllamm@elkintribune.com
336-835-1513

PIEDMONT REGION

- 1 Adams Vineyards and Winery
- 2 Autumn Creek Vineyard
- 3 A Secret Garden Winery
- 4 Baker Buffalo Creek Vineyard & Winery
- 5 Black Rock Vineyards
- 6 Cauble Creek Vineyard
- 7 Chatham Hill Winery
- 8 Cloer Family Vineyards
- 9 Cougar Run Winery
- 10 Cypress Bend Vineyards

11  **Daveste Vineyards**
 Daveste Vineyards
 704-528-3882 info@daveste.com
 155 Lytton Farm Rd., Troutman, NC 28166
 Website: www.davestevineyards.com
 Tasting Room & Art Gallery
 Vineyard, Winery, Brewery and Event Venue. Offering dry to semi-sweet wines in both red and white varieties of grape.

- 12 Fiddler's Vineyard
- 14 Garden Gate Vineyards
- 15 Germantown Vineyard & Winery
- 16 Gregory Vineyards
- 17 Grietje's Garden Vineyard & Small Event Venue
- 18 Hinnant Family Vineyard
- 19 Honeygirl Meadery
- 20 Little River Wines
- 21 Locklear Vineyards & Winery
- 22 Morgan Ridge Vineyards & Brewhouse
- 23 Native Son Vineyard and Farm
- 24 Old Homeplace Vineyard
- 25 Old Stone Winery
- 26 Owl's Eye Vineyard & Winery LLC
- 27 Rock of Ages Winery
- 28 Rocky River Vineyards
- 29 Southern Charm Winery
- 30 Stephens Vineyard & Winery
- 31 Stonefield Cellars

32  **Stony Mountain Vineyards**
 Stony Mountain Vineyards
 704-982-0922
 26370 Mountain Ridge Road,
 Albemarle, NC 28001
 Website: www.stonymountainvineyards.com
 Owners: Ken, Marie and Devron Furr
 Location: Stanly County – Take Hwy 24-27 East from Albemarle.
 Turn left at Stone Mountain sign. Turn right on Mountain Ridge Rd.

PIEDMONT REGION

- 33 Treehouse Vineyards
- 34 Uwharrie Vineyards
- 35 Woodmill Winery
- 36 Zimmerman Vineyards
- 37 Dennis Vineyards

COASTAL REGION

- 1 Bannerman Vineyard And Winery
- 2 Bennett Vineyards
- 3 Botticelli Vineyards
- 4 Duplin Winery
- 5 Grapefull Sisters Vineyard
- 6 Huffman Vineyards Winery & Mirey Creek Gifts
- 7 Lake Road Winery

8  **Lu Mil Winery**
 910-866-5819
 438 Suggs-Taylor Road,
 Elizabethtown, NC 28337
 Website: www.lumilwinery.com
 Owner: Ron Taylor
 Tasting Room Hours: Monday - Saturday (10am - 6pm) & Sunday (1pm - 6pm)
 Wine List: Old Cumberland, Taylor Divine, Bladen Blush, Harmony Hall, Cape Owen Red, Merry Christmas, Sir Walter Raleigh, Red Sangria and White Sangria

- 9 Martin Vineyards
- 10 Noni Bacca Winery
- 11 Sanctuary Vineyards

12  **Silver Coast Winery**
 910-287-2800
 6680 Barbeque Rd.,
 Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
Southport Tasting Room
 910-777-5151
 105 S. Howe St., Southport NC 28461
 Owners: John and Maryann Azzato
 Website: www.silvercoastwinery.com
 Location: Brunswick County – From Hwy. 17 (7 mi. north of S.C. border) take Hwy. 904 west. After 1.5 miles, take right on Russtown Rd. After 1.5 miles, take 4th right on Barbeque Rd.

- 14 The Tippy Bee
- 15 Vineyards on the Scuppernong, LLC

16  **Cape Fear Winery & Winery**
 Winery Address: 195 Vineyard Drive
 Elizabethtown, NC 28337
 Phone (844) VINE-FUN
 Monday - Sunday Lunch 11:30 am - 4 pm
 Wednesday - Saturday Dinner 5:00 pm - 9 pm
 Website: www.CapeFearWinery.com

- 17 The Country Squire Restaurant, Inn & Winery

HAW RIVER AVA

- 1 Grove Winery
- 2 Iron Gate Vineyards & Winery
- 3 Silk Hope Winery
- 4 Starrlight Mead
- 5 Wolfe Wines

MOUNTAIN REGION

- 1 Addison Farms Vineyard
- 3 Biltmore Estate Winery
- 4 Burntshirt Vineyards
- 5 Calaboose Cellars
- 6 Cerninaro Vineyard
- 7 Cherokee Cellars Winery
- 8 Eagle Fork Vineyards
- 9 Elk Mountain Winery
- 10 FernCrest Winery
- 11 Ginger Creek Vineyards
- 12 Green Creek Winery
- 14 Mountain Brook Vineyards
- 15 Nottely River Valley Vineyards
- 16 Overmountain Vineyards
- 17 Parker-Binns Vineyard
- 18 Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards
- 19 Shadow Line Vineyard
- 20 Silver Fork Vineyard & Winery
- 21 Six Waterpots Vineyard & Winery
- 22 South Creek Vineyards
- 23 Twisted Vine Winery
- 24 Valley River Vineyards
- 25 Waldensian Heritage Wines
- 26 Lake James Cellars

APPALACHIAN HIGH COUNTRY AVA

- 1 Banner Elk Winery and Villa
- 2 Grandfather Vineyard & Winery
- 3 Linville Falls Winery
- 4 Plumtree Valley Vineyards
- 5 Raven Rock Vineyards
- 6 Spencer Mountain Vineyards
- 7 Thistle Meadow Winery
- 8  **Watauga Lake Winery and Vineyards**
 423-768-0345 or 423-768-3633
 6952 Big Dry Run Road, Butler, TN 37640
 Website: www.WataugaLakeWinery.com
- 9  **Williamson Mead and Brewing**
 661-827-7290
 3047 Shawtown Rd, Glade Valley, NC 28627
 Wed - Fri 12pm-6pm Sat 11am - 7pm; Sun 11am - 6pm
 Website: www.williamsonbrewing.com

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA REGION

- 2 Chateau Morrisette
- 3 Foggy Ridge Cider
- 4 Mt. Vale Vineyards
- 5 Villa Appalachia

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BUDBREAK

Celebrating wineries, breweries in Yadkin Valley

Mount Airy, even the greater Surry County community, is well-known for its connection to “The Andy Griffith Show.” The city, of course, is Griffith’s hometown and served as a loose model for Mayberry. All around the region are names and locations that made an appearance in the show in one way or another -- Fancy Gap, the Virginia community of Mayberry, Snappy Lunch, Pilot Mountain (Mount Pilot in the show), even The Mount Airy News.

But the region is so much more than its association with Andy Griffith. There is a thriving arts community with both local and international artists performing in the area; Surry County is ground zero for much of the bluegrass and old time music world; and with the Blue Ridge Mountains and many miles of hiking, riding, and boating available it’s a veritable paradise for outdoor enthusiasts.

It also is part of the Yadkin Valley Wine Region, home perhaps to the finest and best-known portion of the North



RYAN KELLY
Patrons are enjoying the 2025 Budbreak Craft Beer and Wine Festival in downtown Mount Airy on Saturday.

Eat, Drink, Shop, Play & Stay in the Yadkin Valley

1 **Yadkin Cultural Arts Center**

Yadkin Cultural Arts Center
226 East Main Street
Yadkinville, NC 27055
Website: YadkinArts.org
Phone: 336-679-2941
Located in Downtown Yadkinville

3 **Jonesville Tourism Development**

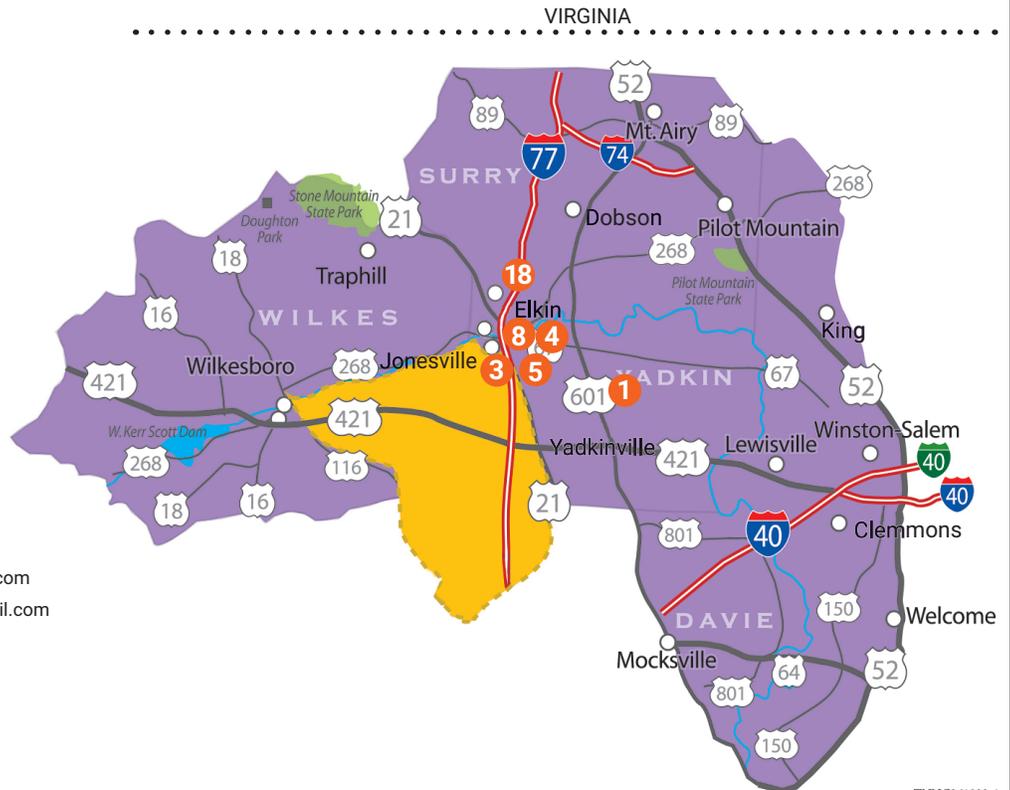
4 **Underdown Ball Real Estate**

5 **Lewis Furniture**

8 **Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce**

18 **Cypress Trails Event Center**

157 Interstate Way, Elkin, NC 28621
Phone: 910-574-5396
Website: cypressstrailsevents.com
Email: cypressstrailstara@gmail.com



TNNC261920-1



JOHN PETERS
Members of Ballet Folklórico del Museo de Mount Airy, from left, Tonia Bueno García, Cassandra Johnson, Esmeralda Torres, and Odily Martínez entertained the 2023 Budbreak and Cinco de Mayo crowds Saturday in Mount Airy. Although part of the Cinco de Mayo celebration of the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, the dancers will occasionally make their way over to the Budbreak festival to entertain.

Carolina wine industry.

So it makes sense that Mount Airy would host an annual festival known as Budbreak Wine and Craft Beer Festival.

The event started 16 years ago, known then simply as Budbreak Festival, named for the time of year when vineyards see buds on the grape vines breaking open. In addition to celebrating the burgeoning wine making industry in the region, it was designed as a fundraiser by the Rotary Club of Mount Airy, which uses the money raised to help many area charities and non-profits fund their operations.

Over the years, as ever-larger crowds started attending, area micro- and specialty-brewers likewise began taking part, building to what the event is today.

The gathering, which has been an annual festival except for one year during the COVID epidemic, brings between one and two dozen beverage vendors that will offer their wares, representing wineries and breweries from near and far. It is a chance for area breweries and the many wineries of the region to share some of their offerings. Throw in some live music, food trucks, and a few craft vendors and it often makes for a pleasing way for folks to spend a Saturday afternoon.

And not just local residents -- it is not uncommon to see folks from neighboring cities, even visitors from out of state who plan their trip to Mount Airy to coincide with the event.

A section of downtown Mount Airy is cordoned off for the gathering, and hundreds of visitors can often be seen -- sampling glasses in hand, wristbands firmly in place -- walking through the event to see which vendors were offering what. For some of them that means an array of traditional wines in various varietals. Other booth offer samples of beer, ale, mead, and a few booths offer some sort

of frozen drinks and wine-infused slushies as well.

And always folks attending are stopping to chat with others -- friends they haven't seen in a long time, strangers, most anyone. It's known as a friendly, laid-back fun event -- right in line with what visitors might expect on a visit to Mayberry.

Throughout the day there is often entertainment -- music blaring from a live DJ, occasionally some dancers from a nearby Cinco De Mayo festival will perform a number or two -- and a some point there's usually a live concert. This year's Budbreak festival will feature a concert by Cassette Rewind, a popular 80s band which travels throughout the Southeast entertaining crowds.

As the festival has grown, it has evolved into a multi-purpose event. It stands as an annual event for area wineries and breweries to show off their product; it has become one of many ever-changing engines drawing tourists to Mount Airy and Surry County, and it has become a major force for funding local groups and charities.

The Rotarians said Budbreak is their primary external fundraising each year, and through it they have been able to help local organizations with more than \$150,000 in support. "The success of this event allows the club to support nonprofit organizations and projects in our community and around the world," they said.

Proceeds from the annual event support the Rotary Club's efforts in aiding local school literacy programs, non-profit organizations, youth leadership programs, and more.

The 2026 Budbreak Wine and Craft Beer Festival is slated for May 2, from noon until 5 p.m. in downtown Mount Airy. Full tickets are \$24.67 if purchased by May 1. Day of the event ticket prices are \$30.37. To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit <https://budbreakfestival.com/>

YOU'RE FAMILY

at Castello Barone

BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON
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The winery at Castello Barone was a longtime dream for owners Scott and Elizabeth and one that has now come to fruition making award-winning wines, and most of all, welcoming all guests like family.

The Barones are a dynamic duo, with Elizabeth at the helm in the vineyard and Scott handling the winemaking duties. At their previous home in Florida, Elizabeth was a gardener extraordinaire and Scott was making wine even then, sourcing grapes from California and converting part of their exercise room into a home winemaking station.

The couple spent several years looking for land to purchase to begin their own winery in several different locations but said they kept coming back to the Yadkin Valley. They planted their first block of grapes at their location at 475 Groce Road in Ronda in 2021. The winery officially opened in 2023.

Even in their home winemaking days they won some awards so they knew they wanted to move on to bigger opportunities where they could be hands-on with the entire process and “manage it from vine to bottle.”

Their location, right near other wineries, Raffaldini,



COURTESY PHOTO
Elizabeth and Scott Barone with their dog Bacchus.

Piccione, and Sotrio was a “no-brainer” Scott said when they decided to purchase the property.

To see their dream come together now, the Barones said was “awesome.”

“It’s a labor of love,” Scott said.

Among the grapes grown on the property are Cabernet Franc, Vermentino, Montepulciano, Petit Verdot, Tannat, Petit Manseng, Tocai Friulano, and Saperavi. The Saperavi is a grape that hails from the country of Georgia and is often grown in the Finger Lakes wine region in New York.

Scott said their sparkling rosé is one of the most popular with customers.

“People like sparkling in general,” he said.

Their 2023 sparkling rosé won double gold in a recent competition.

The Petit Verdot, a red wine, is another popular pick.

Scott described his winemaking style as “old world.”

He wants to showcase the terroir (nature flavors from the soil/environment in the vineyard,) Elizabeth explained.

With several wineries in close proximity to one another, the Barones said the Swan Cree area is a “destination” spot for wine lovers. Travelers from nearby Winston-Salem, Charlotte and Raleigh, in addition to locals, are often in the tasting room.

“Our goal is that when you come in, as a customer, you’re met as part of a family, so we try to make this so it’s warm, lovely, inviting,” said the Barones. “We treat everybody with respect and



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO
Platings for a wine dinner
at Castello Barone.

“When folks come here for the wine dinner they start off with a wine reception. People mingle, they enjoy themselves, and they talk. [During the meal] we talk about the foods, we talk about the wines, what they’re getting ready to have,” Scott explained. The experience is meant to be more than just a nice meal, but an informative evening on wine and food.

For more information on tasting room hours, and special events, visit castellobarone.com

with care, and educate folks on our wines.”

Connecting with their land, the grapes, and their final product, as well as with customers on a personal level, is something the Barones said was integral to their philosophy for the business.

“We are on the property. We are doing the work. We are getting our hands dirty,” Scott said. “I feel we can relate to our customers. You know, they come in here at the end of a hard week, I want them to enjoy themselves. We’re here at the end of a hard week and we enjoy it here.”

“I think we look at it as everybody that comes in, the same as if I was to invite them as a friend to my house,” Elizabeth added.

In addition to plenty of indoor and outdoor space for customers to taste and enjoy the wines, Castello Barone also has a small space for private parties or guided tastings. The winery often features weekend music and on-site food trucks as well as specialty wine dinners. For the wine dinners, the couple works with a Winston-Salem based chef who customizes a menu to pair alongside the Castello Barone wines and is on site during the dinner to guide guests through the experience.

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STAY AND PLAY

in wine country at the E&A Cottage in downtown Elkin

BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

kburns@yadkinripple.com

A weekend getaway in wine country in the springtime is the perfect opportunity to get to know the region better and a stay in the heart of it all in downtown Elkin is the perfect spot. The E&A Cottage is an ideal rental for the couple or individual looking for a stay-and-play spot to experience the many wineries of the region, beautiful nature hikes, and small town charm.

The E&A Cottage, owned by Mitzi and Virgil Settle, has a rich history and is centrally located for visitors looking to explore the wineries in Surry, Yadkin and Wilkes Counties.

Located in downtown Elkin, the cottage offers guests convenient access to shops, bars, restaurants and live music venues on Main Street in downtown Elkin.

This beautiful cottage is housed in the former historic Elkin & Alleghany Railroad Office and offers a living room,



COURTESY PHOTO
The E&A Cottage in
downtown Elkin.

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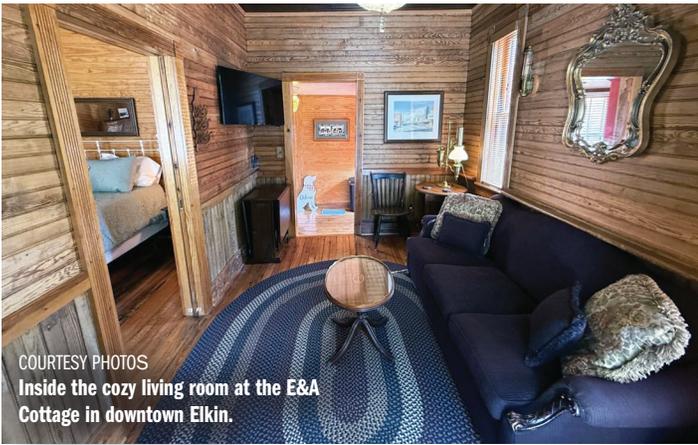
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COURTESY PHOTOS
 Inside the cozy living room at the E&A Cottage in downtown Elkin.



This former railyard office is transformed to a quaint one-bedroom cottage in downtown Elkin.

kitchenette, bedroom with queen bed, and a full bath.

Just behind the cottage, which also boasts a lovely private patio area, is the Elkin Railyard outdoor beer garden. This venue, which first opened in 2023, is also owned by the Settles and serves wine and beer in a nature-centric setting that honors the history of the local railroad. The venue is popular with locals and visitors alike and often has live music, food trucks on-site, and other special events. The beer garden is kid and pet friendly.

Also near the cottage is the historic Reeves Theater, a popular spot for live music featuring a variety of artists

throughout the year. The theater is also home to The Martha Bassett show which airs locally on WFDD. The Reeves House Band, which performs themed shows nearly every month, features artists/musical styles such as Fleetwood Mac, The Rolling Stones, 90s Country and much more.

For the outdoors enthusiast, the cottage offers a great opportunity to explore as it is located at the crossroads of the OverMountain Victory Trail, Mountains-to-Sea Trail, and Elkin and Alleghany Rail Trail.

For more details and booking information, find E&A Cottage on AirBnb or VRBO.

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