



The patio at Greenhill Winery in Middleburg, Va., one of two dozen wineries in Loudoun County, located about an hour's drive from Washington, D.C. VISIT LOUDON VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia is for wine lovers

Two dozen wineries within an hour's drive of Washington, D.C.

STACY A. ANDERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLEBURG, VA. Virginia is home to more than 250 wineries, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay. The state's Middleburg area, in Loudoun County, has two dozen wineries alone, and it's so close to Washington that it calls itself "D.C.'s Wine Country." Middleburg is about an hour's drive from Washington, D.C., or about 39 kilometres from Washington Dulles International Airport — perfect for a day trip or long weekend. Just in time for fall, October is Virginia Wine Month with special

events to take in autumn foliage and milder weather.

TASTINGS AND TOURS
Cana Vineyards and Winery of Middleburg is named after the town of Cana of Galilee where Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding feast. The winery offers the best bang for your dollar with eight tastings for \$10, US plus a souvenir glass. Here you could have a traditional Cabernet or merlot, but why not try their uniquely crisp and tart Blueberry Apple wine or Rhapsody in Red, a semi-sweet Pinot Noir. The winery — perched on a hill that overlooks the Bull Run Mountains — hosts

live bands every Saturday and Sunday. Cana celebrates its third anniversary on Sept. 19 with local vendors, food, live music, photo booths, face paintings and more. Greenhill Winery and Vineyards dubs itself the boutique destination winery. There's a historic stone house and outdoor seating on the 128-acre property, great for picnics and dog-friendly. A sampling of seven wines in the tasting room costs US\$14. Grapes to Glass, a two-hour, private tour through the vineyard and barrel room with a wine tasting is US\$35 per person. Sales and marketing director Rebekah Pizana said first

lady Michelle Obama has visited the winery and is a fan of Greenhill's 2013 and 2014 off-dry (mildly sweet) seyval blanc. The first lady's office declined to comment.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Luxury accommodations in the region include the Salamander Resort and Spa, opened by entrepreneur Sheila C. Johnson, co-founder of Black Entertainment Television, in summer 2013. Facilities include a cooking demonstration studio, wine bar, billiards room and a full-service equestrian centre with a riding arena. Bring your own horse or ride one of Salamander's horses — you don't

IF YOU GO

TOURISM: Loudoun County, visitloudoun.org; Virginia wine country: virginiawine.org
CANA VINEYARDS AND WINERY OF MIDDLEBURG: 38600 John Mosby Hwy., Middleburg, Va., 703-348-2458, canavineyards.com
GREENHILL WINERY AND VINEYARDS: 23595 Winery Lane, Middleburg, Va., 540-687-6968, greenhillvineyards.com
NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY AND MUSEUM: 102 The Plains Rd., Middleburg, Va., 540-687-6542, national-sporting.org
POPCORN MONKEY: 2½ E. Federal St., Middleburg, Va., 540-687-6539, popcornmonkeyllc.com
THE MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL: Oct. 22-25, middleburgfilm.org

need to be staying at the resort to book a trail ride. Salamander's spa includes a salon, fitness centre, steam room, heated stone lounge chairs and courtyard with a pool and private cabanas. Rooms at the resort start at US\$425 during the peak months of April, May, June, September and October. Watch for specials, like a \$149 US per night deal during Super Bowl festivities. For a more quaint stay, try the Red Fox Inn and Tavern. The inn — which opened in 1728 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places — has 15 guest rooms and the Middleburg House, a two-bedroom home. The inn is walking distance from many Middleburg businesses and shops on the main drag along Washington Street. The Martha Washington, an average-size room with a king bed and shower only, could run about US\$245 during peak season. Its Tavern offers more than 40 local wines and dishes including peanut soup, fried chicken and crab cakes.

Deltone L. Moore was inspired to open his Popcorn Monkey shop by memories of eating popcorn while watching baseball games as a kid in the 1970s. The store has more than 20 varieties including caramel corn, green apple, banana, lemon, strawberry, blue cheese, Buffalo wing, dill and Old Bay. It's open Wednesday through Sunday. For a little history and culture, visit the National Sporting Library and Museum. The museum's collection includes paintings, sculpture, works on paper and objects highlighting horsemanship and racing, shooting, fox-hunting, polo, coaching, fishing and wildlife. Current exhibits include photos by Colin Barker in Part of the Pack: The Hunt at Petworth and paintings of horses in Beverley Sanford McConnell: Portraits in Poetry. The Middleburg Film Festival from Oct. 22-25 will feature movie screenings plus question-and-answer sessions with filmmakers and actors. The festival's film slate typically ranges from Oscar nominees to indies, foreign films and documentaries.

Algonquin Resort serves up history

ROCHELLE LASH
SPECIAL TO MONTREAL GAZETTE

The prestigious and historic Algonquin Resort in New Brunswick will hold a Christmas-themed culinary weekend called Holiday Rescue from Nov. 20 to 22. The Algonquin Resort is a landmark overlooking a picturesque bay in St. Andrews by the Sea. The 233-room, Tudor-style castle was closed for 18 months and reopened in 2014 following a \$50-million renovation. This is an establishment with a fine pedigree. Opened in 1889, it has been host to every Canadian prime minister since then, as well as almost every U.S. president, although Barack Obama hasn't made it — yet. The guest register lists such royal visitors as Prince Charles and Princess Diana and showbiz stars from Diana Ross to Sylvester Stallone. The Algonquin is still hot. In 2014 it was ranked one of Canada's Top 10 hotels by Condé Nast Traveler and given a four-diamond award by the CAA for the second year. The Algonquin is a complete resort, and then some. The Algonquin Golf Course opened in 1894 and is home to the oldest clubhouse in Canada. There's a spa, a convention centre, an indoor pool with a water-slide and a summertime outdoor



The Algonquin Resort in St. Andrews by the Sea, N.B., reopened last year following a \$50-million renovation. ALGONQUIN RESORT

pool and rooftop garden. Dining options include Braxton's dining room, the Clubhouse, in-room dining and the Algonquin's "anyplace dining," which allows guests to order drinks or meals in any of the hotel's public spaces, including at the fireside in the lobby. The Algonquin's Holiday Rescue is designed to be a one-stop shop for all things Christmas, with cooking and craft demonstrations, a holiday market and a session in wine pairing. The two-night weekend will open with a reception on the night of Nov. 20 and will feature a feast on Nov. 21 prepared by David Garcelon, executive chef at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City.

IF YOU GO:
Algonquin Resort: 855-529-8693, 506-529-8823, algonquinresort.com; St. Andrews by the Sea, N.B. Holiday Rescue weekend, Nov. 20 to 22. Activities and meals Friday evening to Sunday morning: \$729 for two people for the two-night weekend, or about \$180 per night p.p. Regular autumn and winter rates start at \$129 and include indoor pool, fitness centre, touring bikes, firepits, Wi-Fi and self-parking. The cooking demos will be orchestrated by Line Pelletier and Marida Mohammed, the 2015 and 2014 runners-up in the MasterChef Canada competition.

The Caribbean season is almost upon us



Dave Frinton
Co-Founder
& President
CruisePlus

With the majority of the cruise ships soon arriving in Florida for the winter, you'd think that there would be loads of unbelievable bargains — but with higher than normal demand this year, finding the super deal on a desirable sailing is harder. The good news is that we do have a few. One is aboard the ms Oosterdam with the 10 day southern cruise departing on November 27. I love this itinerary as it ports in their gorgeous private island in the Bahamas, as well as Turks and Caicos, Dominican Republic, Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba. **\$2349** CAD per person includes roundtrip Montreal air (you'll fly to Fort Lauderdale on Nov 26), one night pre cruise in a 4 star hotel, a \$50 per person onboard credit and all taxes — and this is for a high category balcony stateroom. Ask about insides/ outsides and special pricing on suites too! Another option is a 15 night (back to back) cruise departing on November 22 aboard the ms Eurodam. This means you get 2 days (always weather permitting) in Half Moon Cay, plus Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Key West, Dominica, USVI, St. Kitts and Puerto Rico. Space is getting limited on this sailing, but high category balcony staterooms, one night in Florida, a \$50 pp onboard credit, roundtrip Montreal air (fly on Nov 21) and all taxes is a deal at **\$2599** CAD pp.



The ms Eurodam in the Caribbean

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