

Northern Mid-Hudson Valley Brewery and Wine Tour

Castleton, Chatham, Ghent, Valatie, Clinton Corners, Millbrook, Amenia, Marlboro, and Hyde Park, New York

By Christine Kingery

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I recommend completing this trail in the order I listed because it will allow you to maximize how many you can hit in one day. This trail takes 4 hours of driving time, not including tasting time. Hit the first location (Brookview Winery) at 10 a.m., and if you keep drinking at a reasonable pace, you should be able to get through it all in time. The last vineyards are listed as such because they are open the latest. Remember to drink responsibly; hire a designated driver. This route has 12 wineries and breweries proposed, so make sure that you have a designated driver.

If you don't want to make a full day out of drinking, you can pair a few of the northernmost beverage places with a visit to Olana historic home, or enjoy the boutique stores in Hudson and Chatham, NY. Both towns feature cute little downtown areas. For lunch options, you can check out Four Brothers Pizza & Inn, Café at Art Omi which has vegetarian and international fare, or Mexican Radio in Hudson (one of my favorite Mexican restaurants).

Total Driving Time: 4 hours
(154 miles from the first location to the last location)
Total Est. Tasting Time: 7 hours, assuming 15 minutes per location

1. Brookview Station Winery

(located at Goold Orchards)

1297 Brookview Station Road

Castleton, NY 12033

(518) 732-7317

<http://www.gooldwine.com/>

Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday

Brookview has a lot of fruit-based wines. \$6 for 6 wine tastings, or \$8 with souvenir glass. Check their website for a coupon.

2. Chatham Brewery

20 & 22 Main Street

Chatham, NY

(518) 697-0202

www.chathambrewing.com

Saturdays 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Free tastings. Kegs of 5-6 beers available for sampling. You can buy a growler/jug for \$15. They will do refills (including other brewery kegs) for \$12. Located in an alleyway between buildings. Call or email ahead of time to ask them to open a little bit early for you.

3. Hudson-Chatham Winery

1900 Route 66
Ghent, NY 12075
(518) 392-WINE
www.hudson-chathamwinery.com
Hours: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12-5 p.m.

Charge is \$5 for a wine tasting, which includes souvenir glass. You get to try about 9 wines. They have a good sampling of desert and sweet wines. They also make Hudson Valley artisanal cheese, which you can sample during the tasting. Call to see if they will open early for you. Dominique is extremely nice and accommodating, and Valerie is very knowledgeable.

4. Harvest Spirits (distillery)

3074 US Route 9
Valatie, NY 12184
(518) 253-5913
Hours: Every weekend, 12-5 p.m.

Cost is free. This appears out of logical geographical order, but I did that because the hours they are open don't fit with the hours of the rest of the places on the trail. It's a little out of your way, but not too far. They have samplings of vodka, whiskey and brandy. It's located at an orchard, so stop next door to get a cider donut for \$0.75. I loved the artwork on the aging barrels!

5. Clinton Vineyards

450 Schultzville Road
Clinton Corners, NY 12514
(845) 266-5372
<https://www.clintonvineyards.com/>
Tasting room is open year round, Thursday-Sunday, Noon-5 p.m.

Offers whites, champagnes, and dessert wines.

6. Millbrook Winery

26 Wing Road
Millbrook, NY 12545
(800) 662-9463
<http://www.millbrookwine.com/>
Open year-round, seven days a week, 12-5 p.m.; during the summertime the hours are 11a.m.-6 p.m..

They offer two tour/tasting options. One is a guided tour, tasting, samples of their olive oil, and a souvenir wine glass for \$10 per person. Reserve tasting includes all of the above, plus four Reserve-designated wines for \$20 per person.

7. Cascade Mountain Winery

835 Cascade Mountain Road

Amenia, NY 12501

(845) 373-9021

<http://www.cascademt.com>

Open Weekends and Monday holidays from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Offers traditional whites and reds, as well as a spice wine. In addition to their wines, they offer pate and cheese plates. Cost is \$7 per person to taste 7 wines. *If you need to cut one place out to make up some time, cut this one out.*

8. The Kedem Winery

1519 Route 9W

Marlboro, NY 12542

(845) 236-4000

<http://www.kedemwinery.com>

Has typical whites and reds. Free wine tastings.

9. Benmarl

America's Oldest Vineyard

156 Highland Avenue

Marlboro, NY

(845) 236-4265

<http://www.benmarl.com/>

Hours: Jan-March Fri, Sat, and Sun 12-5 p.m.; April –December 12-6 p.m.

Offers typical whites, reds, and sweet wines, including sangria.

10. Stoutridge Vineyard

10 Ann Kaley Lane

Marlboro, NY 12542

<http://www.stoutridge.com>

Open Friday –Sunday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Big, beautiful facility.

11. Hyde Park Brewing Company

4076 Albany Post Road

Hyde Park, NY 12538

(845) 229-TAPS

<http://www.hydeparkbrewing.moonfruit.com>

Hours: Monday and Tuesday 4-10pm; Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. – Midnight; Friday and Saturday 11a.m.-1a.m.; Sunday 11am-10pm

This seems out of geographical location, but this place is open late, you can grab food here, and it's convenient to visit on the way back home to Albany.

OTHER WINERIES AND VINEYARDS:

I had to cut the following places out of the route because of time restraints. Feel free to play around with your own route to fit these places in!

Glorie Farm

40 Mountain Road
Marlboro, NY 12542
(845) 236-3265

Hours: Saturday, Sundays, and Monday holidays May 2 – December 12-5; Sept & October 12-6 p.m.
Taste five wines for \$5 and keep the souvenir tasting glass. Note that it has limited months when it's open.

Keegan Ales

20 Saint James Street
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 331-BREW

<http://www.keeganales.com>

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 4-10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 12pm-12am; Sunday 1-10pm

El Paso Winery

742 Broadway
Route 9 W
Ulster Park, NY 12487

(845) 331-8642

<http://www.elpasowinery.com/>

Hours: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday; April through December
Free wine tastings.

Furnace Brook Winery

Route 295/508 Canaan Road
Richmond, MA 01254
(413) 698-3301

Hours: Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Taste any one of their 14 wines for free. Taste an additional 5 wines for \$5.

Les Trois Emme Winery

8 Knight Road
New Marlborough, MA 01230
(413) 528-1015

www.ltewinery.com

Hours: Thursday through Sunday 12 – 5 p.m. Tours are 20 minutes long and are free. Tastings include 5 wines of your choice and sample of Hors D'oeuvres, for \$5.

Oak Summit Vineyard

372 Oak Summit Road
Millbrook, NY 12545
(845) 677-9522

<http://www.oaksummitvineyard.com/>

Public tastings are not available.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Shawangunk Wine Trail

<http://www.shawangunkwinetrail.com/>

Hudson Valley Wine Trail

www.hudsonvalleywinecountry.org

Hudson Berkshire Beverage Trail

<http://hudsonberkshireexperience.com/>

WORTH MENTIONING:



Hyde Park, New York

If you are not from the area, you should know that Hyde Park has a lot of wonderful, historical places to visit. It is the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt's home as well as one of the Vanderbilt's mansions. Furthermore, the Culinary Institute of America is well worth a visit, but you must make reservations if you want grab dinner here. You could easily spend a whole day just in Hyde Park visiting some great sites. Fit tours of the mansions in after Hyde Park Brewing Company, or return to the Culinary Institute after your tour is over for some dinner.

Olana Historic Home

<http://www.olana.org>

Olana right outside of Hudson, NY. This is a magnificent historic home with beautiful gardens. It's well worth the visit, if you want to fit in a little sightseeing in with your wine and beer tour. This is the home of legendary landscape architect Frederic Church. It is a Persian style home with views of the Hudson River that will take your breath away. I like to come up here to enjoy the view and have a picnic outside. Cost is \$5 per car to park April – October; that \$5 credit is applied to the purchase of a house tour ticket. Tours cost \$9 for adults and \$8 seniors/students.



Hudson, New York

Hudson is a quaint little town with a fun downtown area. If you enjoy boutique store shopping, this is a great place to putter around for a few hours. Hudson also has a number of nice antique stores. This little town has a rich history, including the birthplace of the Hudson River School of painting founded by Thomas Cole in the 1830s, and this rich art tradition is still kept alive with the art galleries in town. In the summertime you can find a lot of fun events, festivals, music, art festivals, and other events. There are number of great restaurants in town, as well, including Mexican Radio, one of my favorite local Mexican places!