

Western Massachusetts (and Connecticut) Wine and Brewery Tour

East Canaan, Connecticut; New Marlborough, Great Barrington, Richmond, Chester, Holyoke, Shelburne, Northampton, Hatfield, Greenfield, Massachusetts

By Christine Kingery

Not yet tested; created June 2011

This is kind of a beer-heavy tour with a couple of wineries thrown in there for good measure. 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. Make sure that you have a designated driver. Please note that a lot of these wineries/breweries have limited hours, days, and months, so make sure they are open before you spend the time driving there!

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

1. Land of Nod Winery

99 Lower Road

East Canaan, CT 06024

(800) 824-5225

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

Hours: Friday through Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. April through November

Tasting Fee: \$3. They have seven wines available with one or two red wines available this fall (2011)

Lots of tasty desert wines, including fruit wines. Very sweet, very deserty. Stop for pictures at the Historic Beckley Furnace on the way! Picturesque!

2. Les Trois Emmes Winery and Vineyard

8 Knight Road

New Marlborough, MA 01230

(413) 528-1015

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

Hours: April 9 – May 22 Sat and Sunday 12-5; May 14-June 26 Fri, Sat, Sunday 12-5; June 30-Oct 30, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sunday 10-5; Nov 4 through December 17 Fri Sat and Sun 12-5.

Tasting Fee: \$6

Reservations: Tours available upon reservation

You may want to contact this winery to see if they will open 15 minutes early for your group.

3. Barrington Brewery & Restaurant

420 Stockbridge Road

Great Barrington, MA 01230

(413) 528-6274

<http://www.barringtonbrewery.net/>

Hours: Mon-Thurs 11:30 a.m. – 9:30 pm; Friday & Saturday until 10 pm; Sunday 9 pm

Tasting Fee: \$4.50 for 3 oz servings of five beers; Growlers \$5 and \$8 to fill

Reservations: Can take reservations for parties of 5 or more

4. Hilltop Orchards (Furnace Brook Winery)

508 Canaan Road

Richmond, MA 01254

(800) 833-6274

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

Hours: Open year round Thursday-Sunday 11 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tasting Fee: \$5 for six wines

Reservations: Tours and large groups contact 413-822-1681

This lovely 200-acre orchard is nested in the Berkshire Hills. Wine and hard cider products focus on varietal grapes such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, French Cidre and Johnny Mash hard Cider.

5. Chester Hill Winery

47 Lyon Hill Road

Chester, MA 01011

(413) 354-6315

Hours: Call for hours.

Specialize in blueberry wine.

6. Paper City Brewing

108 Cabot Street

Holyoke MA 01040

(413) 535-1588

<http://www.papercity.com/index.php>

Hours: Thursday and Friday 6-8 p.m.

Note their limited open days!

7. Mineral Hills Winery (Godard's Red Hen Farm)

592 Sylvester Road

Northampton, MA 01062

(413) 586-2575

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

Hours: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, during the months of April to December 11-5 pm and by appointment. *Note their somewhat limited open months!*

Tasting Fee: \$5.10 (including tax) for five one-once tastes, plus wine glass and tour of winery. They have 8 wines to choose from.

8. Northampton Brewery (and restaurant)

11 Brewster Court

Northampton MA 01060

(413) 584-9903

www.northamptonbrewery.com

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11:30-10pm; Friday-Saturday open until 11; Sunday 12pm-10pm

Tasting Fee: Samplers consist of 4 beers, 6 oz each, for \$8.25

Northampton Brewery is affiliated with The Portsmouth Brewery and Smuttynose Brewing Company.

9. Pioneer Valley Farm and Vineyard

41 School Street
Hatfield, MA 01038
(413) 387-7193

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

Hours: October-December, Sat + Sunday 12-5 pm

Note! Limited open months!

Continuing a family farming tradition for over 6 generations in the historic Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts, their wines are handcrafted from the highest quality grapes and the finest fruits.

10. Green River Ambrosia

26 Grinnell St
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 774-5350

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

This is a meadery. They don't really have a facility where they offer tastings. However, they are often at farmer's markets and local events. If you go to the next place (The People's Pint restaurant) they offer a mead sampler on their menu, so check them out there.

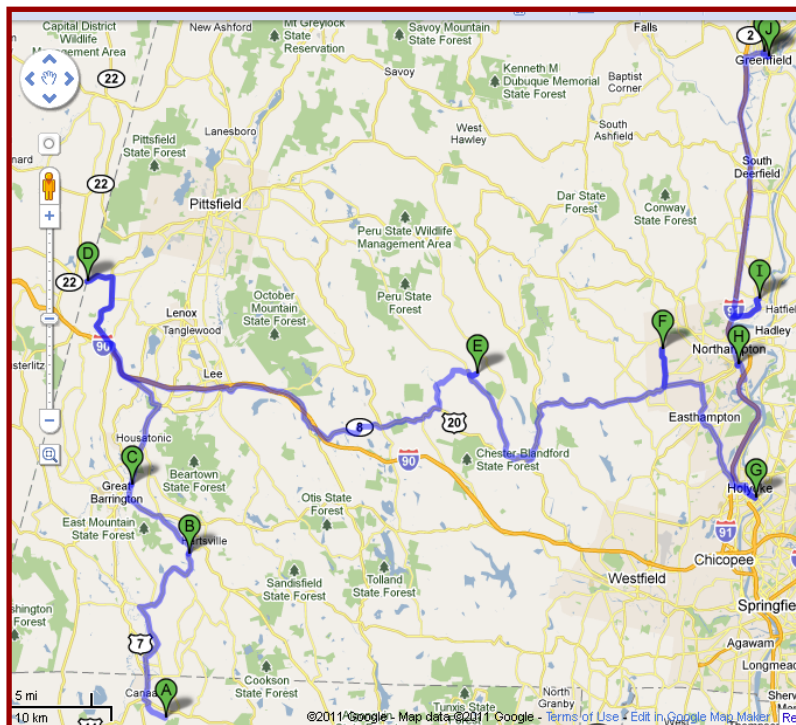
11. People's Pint (restaurant and Brewery)

24 Federal Street
Greenfield MA 01301
(413) 773-0333

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

Hours: Open daily at 11 a.m.; usually open until midnight

Tasting Fee: Half gallon growlers filled for \$10.50 (plus \$2 deposit)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Massachusetts Farm Wineries and Growers Association

<http://masswinery.com/web/>

Mass.gov Wine and Cheese Map

<http://www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/wineries.htm>

WORTH MENTIONING:

Here are some of my favorite things to do in Western Massachusetts:

MASS MOCA

<http://www.massmoca.org/>

The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in Adams, Massachusetts is located somewhere in-between where you start and where you end this tour. If you want a weekend away, consider staying in Adams and doing the wine tour one day and visiting the museum another day. They often have live museum, film, theater, and dance performances so check the schedule. If you're serious about staying in Adams, Mass, consider staying at the Topia Inn, a wonderful organic, "green" facility.

Chesterwood

<http://chesterwood.org>

This is a national historic private home site located in Stockbridge, MA (really close to the first site on this map). It was formerly the home of Daniel Chester French, the sculptor best known for the Lincoln Monument in Washington D.C. It's a beautiful little site with a wonderful garden and a really unique sculpting studio.

Norman Rockwell Museum

<http://www.nrm.org/>

This museum is located just down the street from Chesterwood (and is also close to the first winery on this route), also in Stockbridge. Get your art-geek on here!

Lee Outlet Malls

<http://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlets/outlet.asp?id=81>

If shopping is your thing, check out the Lee Outlet Malls. Located immediately off I-90 Exit 2 in Lee, Mass. It's located in between the first and second places on this list.

Northampton

If you're looking for a place to stay the night at the end of the route, then Northampton is the best place to pick. Northampton is a cute little town with a walkable downtown. It's a cute hippie little town, with cafes, boutique stores, and best of all...great live music. They have three music venues that get a decent turnout from popular artists. Check out: <http://www.nbotickets.com/> for shows coming to town.

J.A. Skinner State Park

I stumbled across this state park one day and was enchanted. Located in Hadley, MA (near the end of the route, outside of Northampton) it offers really beautiful views of the Connecticut River Valley. At the summit is the aptly named Summit House, a popular mountaintop hotel in the 1800s and now open as a little museum. There's a park at the top that is ideal for picnicking.