



For Immediate Release

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US Treasury Approves Middleburg AVA

7th Virginia AVA Joins 9 Virginia Wine Regions

Richmond, Va. (Sept 28, 2012) - A testament to the quality and growing prominence of Virginia Wine, the US Treasury Department has designated Middleburg Virginia AVA as the newest American Viticulture Area (AVA) in the Federal Registry. Virginia ranks fifth in the nation for number of wineries and for wine grape production.

The Middleburg Virginia AVA is located 50 miles west of Washington, DC and encompasses the Town of Middleburg. The AVA is bounded by the Potomac River to the north and mountains to the east, south and west. The proposed viticultural area covers approximately 190-square miles (121,600 acres) and contains 229 acres of commercial vineyards and 14 wineries and 10 vineyards:

- Barrel Oak Winery 2 Sisters Vineyard
- Boxwood Estate Winery Calucci Vineyard
- Chateau O'Brien at Northpoint Delaplane Vineyard
- Corcoran Vineyards North Gate Vineyard
- Doukenie Winery Seven Oaks Vineyard
- Hiddencroft Vineyards Short Hill Vineyard
- Loudun Valley Vineyards Spring Lot Vineyard
- Naked Mountain Vineyard Sycamore Springs Vineyard
- Piedmont Vineyards and Winery Vinecroft Vineyard

- Sunset Hills Vineyard Weatherlea Vineyard
- Swedenburg Estate Winery
- Three Fox Vineyards
- Village Winery
- Vintage Ridge Vineyard

The Middleburg AVA joins the Eastern Shore AVA, Monticello AVA, North Fork of Roanoke AVA, George Washington Birthplace AVA, Rocky Knob AVA, and Shenandoah Valley AVA. In addition to seven AVAs, Virginia has nine wine regions: Blue Ridge, Central Virginia, Chesapeake Bay, Eastern Virginia, Hampton Roads, Heart of Appalachia, Northern Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Southern Virginia <http://www.virginiawine.org/regions>.

An AVA is a grape-growing region that is defined by its geographic features which affect the type and style of the wine it produces. Wineries in the area can identify themselves as being in the AVA if their wines are made from a minimum of 85% of grapes grown in the area. Wines can be designated as "Estate Bottled" if the grapes are grown on the winery's estate. There are currently 198 AVAs in the United States, of which seven are in Virginia.

The landscape and climate of Virginia offers countless choice sites for vineyards. Each of the state's five main land regions – the Appalachian Plateau, the Appalachian Ridge and Valley Region, the Blue Ridge, the Piedmont, and the Atlantic Coastal Plain – boasts vineyards and wineries. Granite-based soils in western areas of the state and sandy loam soil in the eastern both offer prime grape-growing ground. And good drainage can be found on all landscapes at all elevations. Given Virginia's preponderance of well-situated grape-growing sites with ideal soil conditions, fine wines now come from all over the state.

Virginia's five distinct climate regions – the Tidewater, Piedmont, Northern Virginia, Western Mountain and Southwestern Mountain – provide a temperate climate that's not too hot or cold for extended periods. Virginia's varying weather patterns see the mountainous southwest and Shenandoah Valley average a 160-day growing season; and east of the Blue Ridge, an average of 200 days.

The effort to establish the Middleburg Virginia AVA was spearheaded by Rachel Martin, Executive Vice President of the Boxwood Estate Winery in Middleburg, Virginia. The process with the TTB and Treasury Department began shortly after Boxwood Estate Winery was established in 2006. The process includes compiling distinguishing information on geography, geology, soil, climate, and the history of the area. All information is rigorously analyzed by the Government Agencies and the public is notified at different stages of the application.

AVA Rule : <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-09-13/pdf/2012-22596.pdf>

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