

## Lake Erie Wine Country – Suggested Itinerary

Erie County is home to **Lake Erie Wine Country**, one of the largest grape growing regions in the U.S., featuring fragrant vineyards, twenty estate wineries and charming towns. Lake Erie Wine Country is situated along the southern shores of Lake Erie across Pennsylvania and New York. Group tours and tastings are offered year-round at most of the wineries.

### Day One

Follow the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, a National Scenic Byway (Route 5), east to begin your day of exploring **Lake Erie Wine Country** with tours and tastings at **Penn Shore Vineyards, Mazza Vineyards** and **South Shore Wine Company**.

**Penn Shore Vineyards** is one of the oldest and largest wineries in Pennsylvania, producing the finest varietals and blends from European and American grape wines grown nearby. Enjoy a glass of wine on their patio that overlooks hundreds of acres of grapes.

The Mazza family has been making craft beverages on the shores of Lake Erie for over fifty years serving wine, craft beer and spirits at three distinct locations: **Mazza Vineyards, South Shore Wine Company** and **Mazza Chautauqua Cellars/Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing**. Each facility boasts its own unique atmosphere, beverage list, and tasting experience. Mazza's family of brands includes numerous and award-winning wines, spirits, and beers. **Mazza Vineyards** is the family's original location and flagship winery, one of PA's largest producing wineries boasting a cozy, Mediterranean charm. Just a quick drive south of Mazza Vineyards is **The South Shore Wine Company**. South Shore stands as a tribute to the Lake Erie American Viticulture Area's storied heritage of sparkling wine production on the site of Erie County's first commercial winery, a 19th century facility and its historical stone cavern restored and re-established by the Mazza Family in the early 2000s.

**Lunch** – Press pause for a lunch break at **Arundel Cellars & Brewing Company**. Set inside a beautifully restored late 19<sup>th</sup> century barn, Arundel Cellars has rustic charisma with modern touches. The facility has a gift shop area, outdoor and indoor seating areas plus a menu that features shareable charcuterie trays, freshly prepared salads, sandwiches and wraps that all pair perfectly with one of their sparkling wines, craft beers or hard ciders.

After lunch, continue your journey through Lake Erie Wine Country to **Lakeview Wine Cellars** and **Arrowhead Wine Cellars**. Lakeview Wine cellars is a boutique winery specializing in oak aged dry reds, whites and Rieslings. Make sure to check out their unique tasting counter filled with sands from beaches across the country. The family-owned **Arrowhead Wine Cellars** boasts an expansive gift shop area filled with grape and wine-related trinkets, t-shirts, jewelry and of course, enough wine and fruit juices to stock up on. Arrowhead is home to Mobilia Farms, where guests can pick their own fruit or choose from pre-picked produce such as cherries, peaches and grapes.

Across the Pennsylvania/New York border in the town of Westfield, New York is the **Grape Discovery Center**, the official visitor's center for the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area. Explore the Center's interactive displays, taste the fruits of 16 different wineries and browse their gift shop for grape and wine-themed products. Admission to the Center is free. Just down the street, a half-mile west of the Grape Discovery Center is the third facility in the Mazza family of brands; **Mazza Chautauqua**

**Cellars/Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing.** Situated on 80 acres of farmland, Five & 20 is a grain-to-glass operation offering a wide array of craft beverages, an expansive outdoor patio, and plenty of covered and indoor seating. It is New York's first combination winery, distillery, and brewery.

### **Dinner**

End your day and unwind with great food, drinks and conversations at **The Skunk and Goat Tavern.** Located in the heart of North East, PA, a picturesque town that is home to several Lake Erie Wine Country wineries, the Skunk & Goat offers a unique and funky take on the American tavern experience, with focus on craft brews, prohibition-era inspired cocktails and eclectic dishes.

### **Lodging**

Rest up at the **Holiday Inn Express & Suites-North East**, conveniently located off of Interstate 90, exit 41 in the heart of wine country. Each room features free Wi-Fi, coffee and tea, lots of fluffy pillows, a soft comfortable duvet, black out shades and more to create the perfect quiet space for you to get some much needed shut-eye. The hotel also offers a complimentary hot express start breakfast and access to their heated indoor pool (complete with slides, whirlpool and spray areas!) business and fitness centers.

### **Day Two**

Begin your second Lake Erie Wine Country adventure with a visit to **21 Brix Winery.** Located in the Western New York town of Portland, it's easy to spot, just look for Ella the vividly pink elephant statue welcoming you at their main entrance. With their name inspired by the sweetness of the grapes (Brix is the measurement of the sugar content of grapes), this winery prides itself on the highest quality of wines and their beautiful tasting room and vineyards. Continue west to **Johnson Estate Winery**, the oldest continuously operating estate winery in New York State. This third-generation winery produces over forty estate-made wines including award-winning Chambourcin and Vidal Blanc ice wines and their Sparkling Traminette.

**Lunch** - Consider scheduling a catered picnic lunch from **Calamari's Squid Row** to enjoy at **Courtyard Winery's** beautifully landscaped outdoor patio, set among the vineyards. Courtyard Winery's distinct tasting room and two tasting bars, one for dry wine lovers and one for sweet, highlight handcrafted fruits of the vine from their estate vineyards. Next up is **Presque Isle Wine Cellars.** Presque Isle Wine Cellars supplies professional and amateur wine makers with winemaking supplies needed to produce quality fruits of the vine. They also sell and distribute their own line of wines and fruit juices.

Last, but certainly not least on your winery must-see list is **6 Mile Cellars Winery.** Here, the proprietors boast a wide selection of locally sourced and carefully crafted dry, semi-dry and sweet wines and ciders. Their wines are produced in small batches allowing them to focus on high quality standards of wine just waiting to be sipped!

**Dinner** – Wrap up your winery-filled day with dinner at **The U Pick 6 Harbor House.** Your group is invited to come experience a family-oriented pub style restaurant featuring a wood-fired oven and a variety of craft beer. Harbor House specializes in wood-fired pizzas, strombolis and flatbreads.

### **Private Tours**

Take the hassle out of planning a tour and use an expert! Private winery tours for various group sizes are available through [Rupp Limousine](#) and [Locale Wine Tours](#).