

NEW YORK STATE

2014 Wine Region of the Year

New York State's vineyards are experiencing a prolonged and profound rebirth.

In recent years, interest in New York State wines has exploded. Once one of the least-recognized wine-producing states in the U.S., it's now home to some of the nation's finest and most exciting cool-climate winemaking.

New York is home to five major American Viticultural Areas (AVAs)—the Finger Lakes, Long Island, Hudson River, Niagara Escarpment and Lake Erie. Geographically, New York pushes the northern limits of winemaking, but grape growing has prospered along with increased understanding of its diverse terroirs.

New York wines toe a fine line between the New World and the Old. At their best, they possess the fruit and power expected in New World climates, balanced by touches of minerality and acidity reminiscent of the Old World.

The wines can be nuanced and complex, but also quaffable and approachable. They hold a sense of vintage rather than constancy, reflecting New York's varied climatic conditions. New York wines are best savored with foods, friends and family.

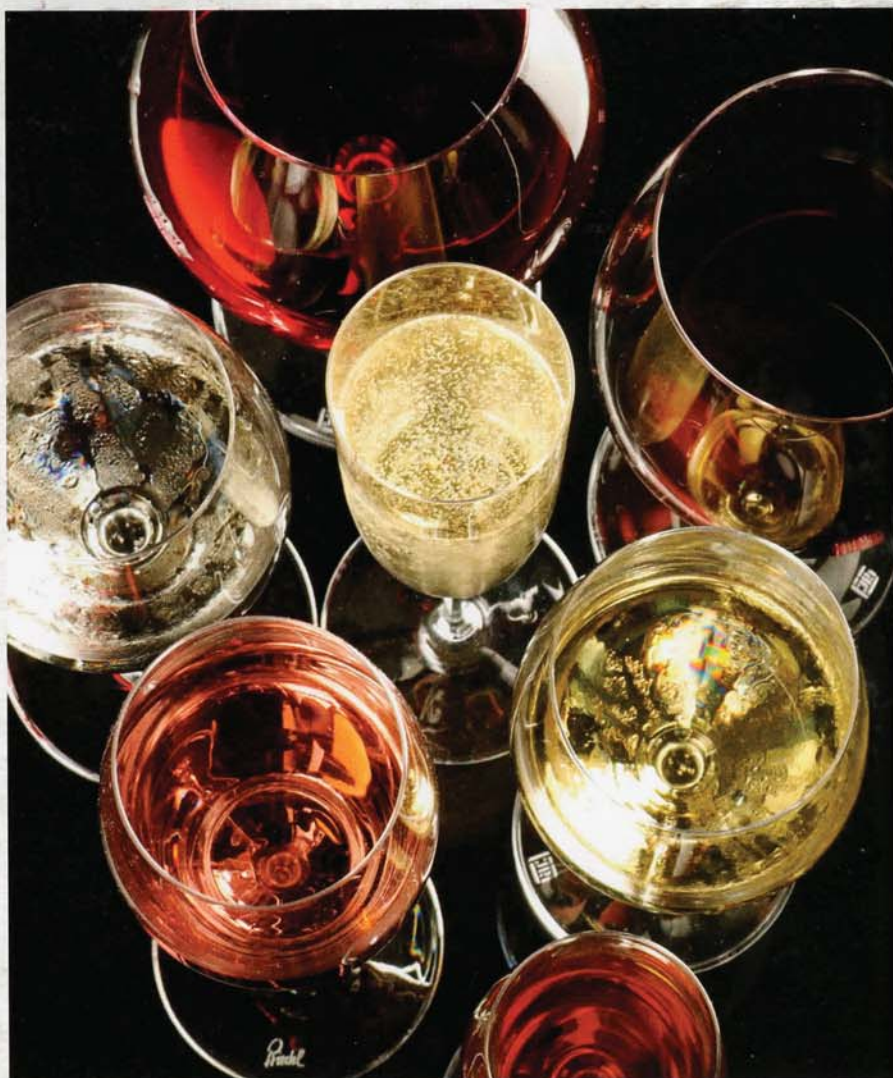
While New York wines have evolved dramatically, two areas in particular, the Finger Lakes and Long Island, have led the state's innovation in winemaking.

The Finger Lakes, in upstate New York, are known primarily for Riesling, but are increasingly home to a diverse array of grape varieties, everything from historic native and hybrid grapes, to vinifera varieties like Grüner Veltliner, Saperavi and Teroldego.

Long Island, east of New York City, is best known for Merlot and Bordeaux-style blends, but it's gaining prominence for its sparkling and white wines.

Family owned and operated vineyards and wineries are the mainstay of New York wine country, but wine isn't a casual backyard venture.

In 1985, New York had 37 wineries. In 2014, that number is 375. Wine tourism in New York exceeds 5.3 billion visits annually, and the industry's total annual economic impact exceeds \$5 billion. Of New



The ability of New York grape growers and winemakers to create focused, uniquely expressive wines has not gone unnoticed.

York's 62 counties, 56 have wineries, with some found in the unlikely urban environs of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

Production in New York ranges from miniscule to mass market, with some of the state's best wine producers producing no more than 2,000 cases a year. Yet, regardless of scale, the ability of New York grape growers and winemakers to create focused, uniquely expressive wines has not gone unnoticed by leading sommeliers and wine experts around the world.

New York wines are increasingly appearing on dining-room tables and restaurant menus across the country and abroad. Its success is recognition that wine is a real, tangible part of New York's history, agriculture and people.

For these reasons, *Wine Enthusiast* names New York as its 2014 Wine Region of the Year. —Anna Lee C. Iijima