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Located in west-central New York, spread between the cities of Rochester, Syracuse and Ithaca, the Finger Lakes region has close to 10,000 acres of vineyards clustered near the 11 long, thin lakes that lend the area its name. Most vineyards are centered around the four largest lakes—Canandaigua, Keuka, Seneca and Cayuga—and during the long, sunlit days of July and August, the grapes inch inexorably toward harvest.

Summer in the Finger Lakes is a time for road trips and winery visits, but it's also the season for festivals, farmer's markets and *alfresco* dining at every meal. Here, the region's slate, shale and mineral-rich terrain carved by continental glaciers is transformed into a distinctive terroir. From luscious Lembergers to curious Rkatsitelis and some of the most unconventional Riesling expressions around, there's plenty to discover in New York's Finger Lakes wine region, especially over a long summer weekend.

Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars

A little more than 50 years ago, experimental winemaker Dr. Konstantin Frank became one of the first in the Finger Lakes to show off the true potential of the region's terroir. Today, the winery that bears Dr. Frank's name is guided by his grandson, Fred Frank, and last fall, Fred's daughter Meaghan became the fourth generation of the family to make wine in the Finger Lakes. "Konstantin was a scientist at heart who was always experimenting and wasn't afraid to defy industry norms," says Meaghan Frank, adding that her great-grandfather sought a rootstock that would thrive in upstate New York's cool climate. Dr. Frank worked with Charles Fournier, a

French-born Champagne maker and the president of nearby Gold Seal Vineyards, to grow the delicate European vinifera grape varieties in the northeastern United States.

The winery that Dr. Frank founded in 1962 continues to produce unique expressions of Grüner Veltliner, Rkatsiteli and Lemberger—as well as its signature Rieslings. Dr. Frank wines remain among the most respected from the Finger Lakes region, with the winery's Rieslings in particular garnering high ratings and rankings among the wine press and professionals. In summer, visit the year-round main tasting room—housed in Dr. Frank's former home, overlooking Keuka Lake—and look for the 2012 Reserve Riesling, an aromatic semi-dry that balances a peach-bright acidity with

delicate mineral tones, and the 2013 Pinot Noir Dry Rosé, a crisp seasonal cooler with the lively character of watermelon and berries.

Margrit's Vineyard, the family's recent tribute to Margrit Frank (Meaghan's grandmother), is especially notable for its exceptional fruit, slate and minerality. "The wine comes from a small plot located on the

eastern side of Seneca Lake," Meaghan says. "It was chosen by my father for its loamy soils and steep slope—the ideal terroir for Riesling."

Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars, 9749 Middle Rd., Hammondsport, NY; drfrankwines.com

