

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS[®]
#LOVEVA

A close-up photograph of a white plate filled with oysters on the half shell. Several bright yellow lemon wedges are scattered among the oysters. In the bottom right corner, a white ceramic dipping bowl contains a pinkish sauce. The background is softly blurred, showing a metal grater and other kitchen items.

**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
OYSTER
LOVERS™**

#VAOYSTERS



♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR OYSTER LOVERS

Virginia now has eight different oyster regions producing oysters with distinct flavors, offering an oyster for every palate. The flavor of “The Virginia Oyster” from each region is unique, unlike any others in the world (a concept called “merroir,” similar to the wine concept “terroir”). These exceptional tastes range in salinity, creaminess and sweetness.

Virginia has numerous festivals celebrating The Virginia Oyster:

- 60th anniversary of [Urbanna Oyster Festival](#), Nelson County, Date TBD
- 45th anniversary of [Chincoteague Oyster Festival](#), Chincoteague, Oct. 7
- **Oyster Roast at Cardinal Point Winery**, Afton, Date TBD
- [Terroir & Merroir: Oyster Extravaganza](#), Machipongo, Date TBD

Virginia has developed “The Virginia Oyster Trail,” that connects producers and purveyors with seafood restaurants and raw bars in Virginia’s distinctive bay and river towns for the ultimate oyster tourism experience. The stories of The Virginia Oyster and the culture of the Chesapeake Bay’s watermen are unique in the world. These depictions offer personalized understandings into a way of life, which through generations has shaped the people and communities of the region, and connect with today’s visitor.

- Virginia’s River Realm presented **“Waterman’s Way,”** a public art project that honors the men and women who work the water and have helped shape so much of our regional identity.

Visit virginia.org/oysters for more information.