

WHAT'S NEW TO LOVE IN VIRGINIA

2018



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS



January 2018

Issue No. 2

A curated guide to Virginia in 2018.



VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION

Public Relations and Communications

Virginia Tourism Executive Team

Rita McClenny
President & CEO

Diane Bechamps
Vice President of Marketing

Lou Hammond Group

Rachel McAllister
Vice President
VTC@louhammond.com

Public Relations and Communications

Caroline Logan
Director of Communications
804. 545. 5572
CLogan@virginia.org

Danielle Emerson
Deputy Director of Communications
804. 545. 5576
DEmerson@virginia.org

Andrew Cothorn
Communications Manager
804. 545. 5570
ACothen@virginia.org

Jenna Eckel
Communications Coordinator
804. 545. 5573
JEckel@virginia.org

Christi Braginton
International Media Relations Manager
505. 500. 7396
CBraginton@virginia.org

About Virginia Tourism Corporation

The Virginia Tourism Authority promotes and develops the tourism and motion picture industries to stimulate Virginia's economy and enhance the quality of life of all Virginians.

Image Requests

Virginia Tourism Corporation maintains a library of photographs and video covering the beauty and activities across the Commonwealth. Please contact Andrew Cothorn at ACothen@virginia.org and Jenna Eckel at JEckel@virginia.org for images.

Virginia.org | Pressroom.Virginia.org

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

of Life

A vacation in Virginia is about doing the things you love with the people you love most. This year, there's a whole lot more to love in the Commonwealth.

In 2018, Virginia will welcome a multitude of new wineries, breweries, distilleries, and cideries, helping to solidify our reputation as a bona fide destination for craft beverages. There will also be an influx of new restaurants, cooking up fresh flavors and dishes that represent the bounty of the Commonwealth's diverse farm-to-table offerings.

New outdoor recreation attractions and updates to parks across the state will be sure to delight nature enthusiasts and adrenaline junkies alike. And keeping true to our roots as the most historically rich destination in the country, there are plenty of new stories and legends to uncover here in the Birthplace of the Nation.

Whether you're soaking up the sun on one of our warm sandy beaches, sipping wine overlooking mountainous vistas, or enjoying our vibrant arts and culture, we can't wait for you to discover for yourself why Virginia is for Lovers.

On the following pages, Virginia Tourism Corporation is pleased to showcase the many new things Virginia will enjoy in 2018.

Cheers!

Caroline Logan
Director of Communications



HIGHLIGHTS NOT TO MISS IN 2018

Overall in Virginia

- In 2016, tourism in Virginia generated \$24 billion in revenue, which supported 230,000 jobs and provided \$1.7 billion in state and local taxes for the Commonwealth. Dollars invested in tourism are proven to provide a 7:1 return in tax revenue for Virginia, and grant awards and matching funds provide a stimulus to localities seeking to increase tourism, visitation, and revenue.
- Virginia Tourism Corporation will launch its **Project: Time Off “Crush Friday”** campaign on National Plan for Vacation Day, Jan. 30. Project: Time Off is a niche campaign geared to remind ‘work martyrs’ of the importance of taking a vacation.
- In 2018, Virginia will welcome its 100th Virginia is for Lovers’ iconic LOVE letters artwork. Also known as LOVEworks, these artworks are a great way to celebrate that “love is at the heart of every Virginia vacation.” Visitors are encouraged to share their photos with the LOVEworks on social media using **#LOVEVA**.
 - In October, Virginia will celebrate Wine Month.
 - More than 25 new lodging properties will open in Virginia during 2018.
 - In April, nearly 25,000 visitors will tour beautiful homes and gardens during The Garden Club of Virginia’s 85th annual Historic Garden Week, April 21-28.
 - The Virginia Arts Festival is pleased to present “Bernstein at 100”, April 13 & 14.



HIGHLIGHTS

Northern Virginia

- This spring, the **CEB Tower Observation Deck** will be opened to the public. Situated in Arlington’s Rosslyn Business Improvement District (BID). The 31-story building will offer an outdoor cantilevered terrace that will give visitors a truly spectacular view of the DC skyline. The 15,000-square-foot space will also be used as an exhibit space and feature a restaurant and bar.
- Alexandria-based **Potomac Riverboat Company** has launched a high-speed, low-wake water taxi service from Alexandria’s marina to The Wharf. In the fall of 2018 visitors can take in 180° panoramic views of the Potomac River with the opening of **Interim Fitzgerald Square**, a new public plaza connecting Alexandria’s historic retail district with the water.
- During construction of the Hotel Indigo in Alexandria, archaeologists discovered an 18th century ship along the historic waterfront. The 50-foot-long fragmented hull was excavated and is undergoing an extensive conservation process. A new exhibit **Archaeology on the Waterfront** at the **Alexandria Archaeology Museum** is opening in January 2018 and will feature artifacts from the excavation.
- Loudoun County will host the **2018 National Beer Bloggers Conference**, Aug. 10 & 11.
- **George Washington’s Mount Vernon** will reopen its Revolutionary War Theater in early 2018, marking the completion of a year-long \$2.2 million renovation of the 4-D theater and an overhaul of the feature film.
- **The Inn at Little Washington** will celebrate its 40th anniversary during 2018. The Inn will celebrate by rolling out a year-long series of events, both in the United States and in Europe.
- **George Washington’s Ferry Farm** in Fredericksburg has recreated the house where George Washington spent his youth.

HIGHLIGHTS

Central Virginia

- **Valley Road Vineyards**, located in the heart of the Monticello Viticultural Area, bottled its first wines in April 2017.
- **Richmond Raceway Reimagined**, a \$30 million infield redevelopment project, will launch Richmond Raceway's NASCAR playoff weekend on Sept. 21-22.
- Virginia Commonwealth University's **Institute for Contemporary Art** will officially open to the public on April 21 in Richmond.
- **Hotel Weyanoke** in Farmville is scheduled to open in spring 2018.
- Governor Terry McAuliffe broke ground on Capitol Square for the **Virginia Women's Monument**. Of the estimated 5,193 public statues in the United States, fewer than 400 are of women. In Richmond, of the 15 statues on Capitol Square, only one is a woman. The Virginia Women's Monument, Voices from the Garden, is an attempt to make up for this omission and to finally give Virginia women the historic honor they deserve.
- Completion of Lynchburg's historic Academy of Music Theatre will be completed fall 2018.



HIGHLIGHTS

Coastal Virginia, Chesapeake Bay, and Eastern Shore

- The **Virginia Space Flight Academy**, held near NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, will celebrate its 20th anniversary.
- The long-awaited renovations of **The Cavalier** are complete. The historic Virginia Beach hotel will reopen in February 2018 with an onsite bourbon distillery.
- **Ditchley Cidery**, outside of Kilmarnock, opened and is the first cidery in the Northern Neck.
- **Cape Charles Brewing Company**, located in Cape Charles, and **Black Narrows Brewing Co.**, located in Chincoteague, are both opening on Virginia's Eastern Shore.
- **Historic Hilton Village**, a neighborhood built to provide wartime housing for workers at Newport News Shipbuilding, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Commemorative events start in January 2018 and culminate in a Centennial Grand Celebration, July 4-7.

HIGHLIGHTS

Shenandoah Valley

- Shenandoah County's first distillery, **Filibuster Distillery**, opened in late 2017. The distillery is committed to using 100% local corn in order to produce locally sourced whiskey.
- An organic winery, **Briede Family Winery**, in Winchester will open during the fall 2018.
- Shenandoah Valley's Conference Center, **Hotel Madison**, in Harrisonburg will open May 2018.
- Journey back in time and experience what it was like to work in a jewelry factory during the Industrial Age at the **Museum of American Jewelry Design and Manufacturing Company** in Harrisonburg. This is only museum of its kind in the United States.



HIGHLIGHTS

Southern Virginia

- **Philpott Lake** will celebrate its 65th anniversary.
- **Preservation Ale and Smokehouse** will open in the oldest tobacco prizery in downtown Danville. The restaurant and brewpub will serve southern barbecue with some twists, incorporating Nashville, Memphis, and Korean-style flavors.
- A nine hole disc golf course will be constructed at North Bend Park on John H. Kerr Reservoir/Bugg's Island Lake.



HIGHLIGHTS

Southwest Virginia and Virginia Mountains

- **Spearhead Trails** recently opened new ATV trails in Southwest Virginia.
- Southwest Virginia will have two new hotels opening in 2018: **The Bristol Hotel** in Bristol and the **Western Front Hotel** in St. Paul.
- The new **Amtrak** platform in downtown Roanoke opened Oct. 31.
- **Devils Backbone Distilling Company**, will open in Roseland January 2018.
- **Creek Bottom Brewing** in Galax expanded to its third and largest location which now includes a full-service restaurant.
- **Breaks Interstate Park** in Dickenson County opened new zip line tours, spanning 2,200 feet on three lines over the canyon rim.



INSPIRED?

Good!

If you have an amazing story idea about the great Commonwealth of Virginia and would like some assistance from Virginia Tourism Corporation, please contact:

Caroline Logan,
Director of Communications
CLogan@virginia.org / 804-545-5572

High-resolution photos of attractions and properties are available upon request.

Visit pressroom.virginia.org for more information.



NEW PLACES TO STAY IN VIRGINIA

From the luxurious Cavalier in Virginia Beach to the cozy and charming Le Fay Cottage at Little Washington, Virginia will welcome more than 25 new lodging properties in 2018.

NEW PLACES TO STAY

Inns, Boutique Hotels, and Resorts

- The long-awaited renovations of **The Cavalier** are complete. The historic Virginia Beach hotel underwent an extensive \$75 million renovation and will reopen in February 2018. The Cavalier is a 5-star member of Marriott's distinguished Autograph Collection with 85 guest rooms, an onsite bourbon distillery, a ballroom for events, and a world-class restaurant.
- **Hotel Madison**, in Harrisonburg, is Shenandoah Valley's Conference Center opening in May 2018. As the premier venue in the area, Hotel Madison invites guests to surround themselves with top-notch facilities, exceptional service, and the energy of the James Madison University campus and downtown Harrisonburg.
- The **Western Front Hotel** is a historic boutique hotel in downtown St. Paul situated between the Spearhead Trails and the Clinch River. The hotel will feature Milton's, an upscale Appalachian cuisine restaurant. It will also include a rooftop bar, gift shop, music hall, outdoor lawn and stage for performances, and a billiards/pool room. The Western Front Hotel is slated to open in early 2018.
- Steeped in history, the development of **The Bristol Hotel** will repurpose downtown Bristol's notable Executive Plaza, which dates back to 1925. Looking to connect the past and the present, the building's historic value will be preserved by maintaining and enhancing its original stucco exterior, display windows, and main facade. The 65-room remodeled boutique hotel will feature a rooftop bar providing sweeping views of the scenic Appalachian Mountains, street-front dining serving farm-to-table style cuisine, and the utilization of the original historic arcade for unforgettable social gatherings and events. The hotel is projected to open in spring 2018.
- **Hotel Weyanoke** in Farmville is scheduled to open in spring 2018.
- **The Draftsman**, a vibrant upscale boutique hotel beautifully situated on West Main Street in downtown



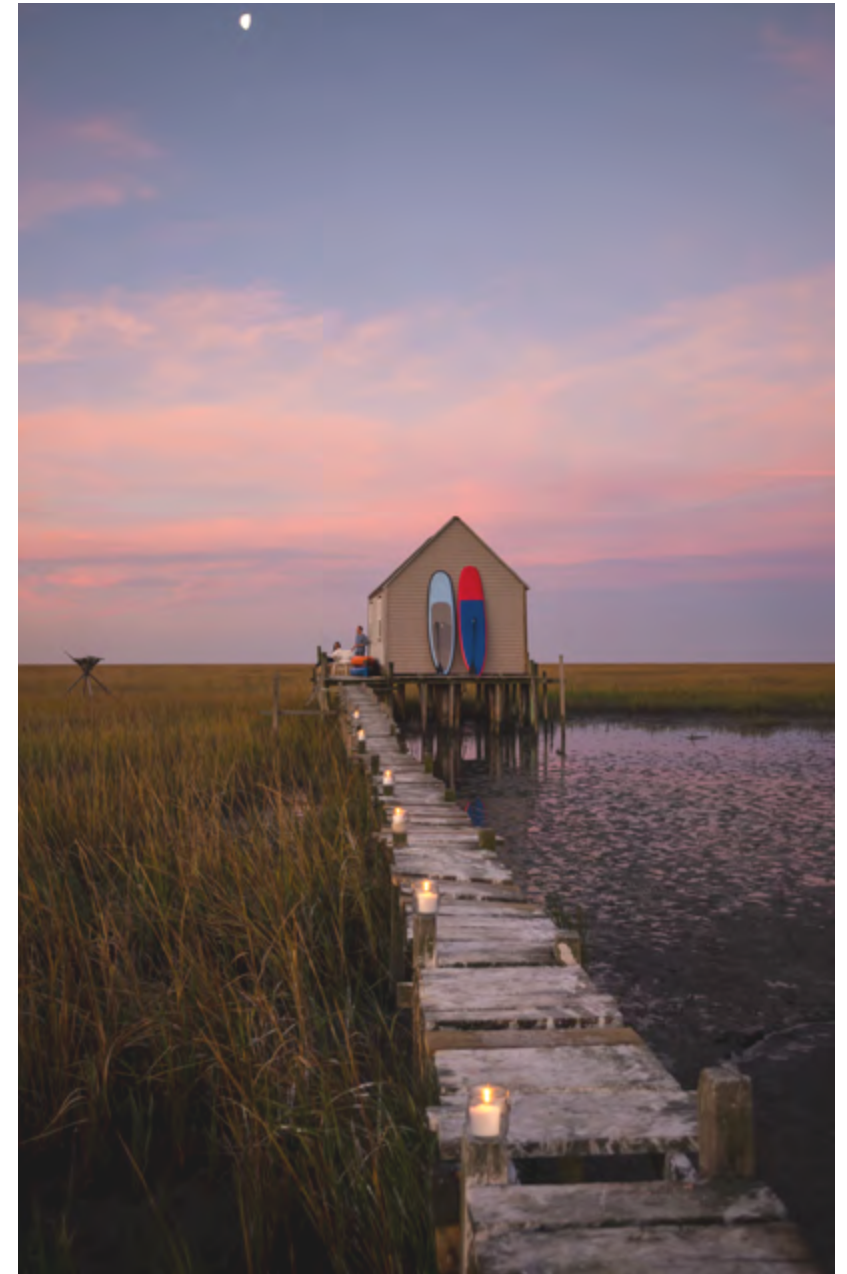
Charlottesville, is forecasted to open in March 2018.

- **The Virginian Hotel**, a centerpiece of downtown Lynchburg, is scheduled to open April 2018.
- **Marina Bay Hotel and Suites** is located on Virginia's Eastern Shore in the heart of Chincoteague Island. Combining the warmth and elegance of an exclusive property with all the facilities of a modern hotel, this is Chincoteague Island's first boutique hotel.
- **The Main**, downtown Norfolk's newest world-class, \$147 million, mixed-use entertainment, meeting, dining, and hotel destination opened in 2017.
- **The Graduate Hotel** opened in Richmond late 2017. It offers a unique experience to visitors, paying tribute to the local college and its culture. The walnut paneled lobby, complete with a chandelier made of Arthur Ashe's signature frames, is one of the many nods to Richmond's rich history. Grab a bite to eat in Brookfield, the lobby café and watering hole, or travel up to Byrd House, the rooftop pool and beer garden perched on the sixteenth floor.
- Historic Old Town Alexandria welcomed its first waterfront hotel, **Hotel Indigo**, April 2017. The new property adds to the bustling development of Alexandria's riverfront district, which includes a new Waterfront Market and a new water taxi service linking Alexandria to the monuments and museums of DC's National Mall.

NEW PLACES TO STAY

Cottages, B&B's, and Petite Retreats

- **The Oyster Bed at Merrior** provides a relaxing option on Virginia's famed Middle Peninsula, located in Topping. The cottage is just a short stroll from the award-winning, riverfront tasting room, Merroir, as well as the oyster operation that started it all, Rappahannock Oyster Co.
- **Le Fay Cottage at Little Washington** is a charming refuge nestled at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Inside this three-bedroom, two-bath cottage, French and English antiques and chandeliers adorn each room. The cottage is walking distance to Little Washington Winery and a short driving distance to other wineries and Copper Fox Distillery.
- The historic **Stoneleigh Estate**, Stanleytown, is now a bed and breakfast. Stoneleigh was completed in 1932 and was the home of former Virginia Governor Thomas B. Stanley. This gorgeous Tudor revival-style estate is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Gardens, intricate woodwork, brick walkways and exquisite details make this 22,000 square foot mansion a sight of beauty.
- Nelson, Greene, and Accomac Counties now offer petite retreats to rent. **Grace's Place** located in Roseland is now open offering an environmentally sustainable lodging experience. Getaway, a house service that builds collections of tiny houses on wooded plots of land, has a tiny house located in Stanardsville.
- **The Little Red House** on Virginia's Eastern Shore offers an adorable, rural cottage nestled between farm fields, woods, saltmarsh, and creek.





NEW PLACES TO STAY

Vineyards and Breweries with Lodging

Looking for a weekend of wineries, breweries, distilleries, and cideries, but want a nearby location to rest your head? Check out these new accommodations:

- **The Inn at Blue Mountain Brewery** opened in December 2017 and is adjacent to the Blue Mountain Brewery on Rt. 151 in Afton.
- **Beech Grove Cabins**, located in Roseland, is ¾ mile from Devils Backbone Brewing Company and three miles from the entrance to Wintergreen Resort.
- **The Farmhouse at Veritas**, located in Afton, is a 10 minute walk to Veritas Vineyards and Winery. Seven wineries, three breweries, a cidery, and a distillery are all located within a 10 mile radius of the farmhouse.

NEW PLACES TO STAY

Other Accommodations and News

- The **Goodstone Inn & Restaurant** in Middleburg opened a new conservatory dining room.
- In early 2018, **Kimpton Lorien Hotel & Spa** in Old Town Alexandria will complete a multimillion-dollar, phased redesign to all 107 guest rooms including 16 suites, hallway corridors, public areas, adjacent restaurant BRABO, and its 5,600 square feet meeting and event space, including two main function rooms accommodating up to 100, as well as the hotel's signature outdoor suite terraces overlooking King Street.
- The 168-unit **Homewood Suites** by Hilton in Arlington will be a LEED Gold-certified, upscale, full-service, extended stay, all-suite hotel, opening spring 2018.
- **The Inn at Tabbs Creek Bed and Breakfast**, located in Port Haywood on the Chesapeake Bay, has added a luxury suite.
- Beginning November 2017, the **Stonewall Jackson Hotel & Conference Center** will undergo a refresh of all guest rooms and public spaces, including the conference facilities, swimming pool, and fitness center.
- **The Inn at Wise** completed its renovations in fall 2017.
- **The Pine Tavern Lodge** in Floyd has been fully renovated.
- **Lydia Mountain Lodge** in Stanardsville is under construction, with a projected opening in late 2018. It is the first lodge in Greene County.
- **Bryce Resort** in Shenandoah Valley is undergoing a major renovation to their buildings following the 2018 winter ski season. The project will include expanded meeting facilities and a fitness area.

Visit virginia.org/placestostay for more information.



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
OUTDOOR
LOVERS™





#VAOUTDOORS

Approachable, accessible, unforgettable—that’s Virginia outdoors in a nutshell. Whether you are a hard-core adrenaline junkie or someone just getting their feet wet, historic moments and memories await. New trails, parks, outdoor lodging, and more add to Virginia’s diverse mix of outdoor recreation opportunities in 2018.

- **Spearhead Trails** recently opened new ATV trails in Southwest Virginia. The Mountain View ATV Trail has trailhead locations in Coeburn and St. Paul. The Ridgeview Trail recently opened in Haysi, connecting to Coal Canyon in Grundy, which is over 200 miles. Hiking and mountain biking are also permitted on these multi-use trails.
- **Breaks Interstate Park** in Dickenson County opened exciting new zip line tours, spanning 2,200 feet on three lines over the canyon rim in late 2017.
- Open to mountain bikers, hikers, and trail runners in Norton, **Flag Rock Area Trails**, a multi-use trail system with more than eight miles, will grow to more than 30 miles in 2018. Norton also recently launched the **Woodbooger GeoTrail**.
- **The Powell River Trail** connecting Appalachia and Big Stone Gap opened in late 2017. Hike or pedal through Bee Rock Tunnel, known locally as the “world’s shortest railroad tunnel,” at 47 feet and seven inches. Featuring two bridge river crossings, the trail meanders beside the beautiful Powell River for more than two miles.
- **Mendota Trail**, a project that’s been more than a decade in the making, opened the first mile with more coming in 2018. An old rail corridor has long been the site of the planned Mendota Trail, a rails-to-trails conversion inspired, in part, by the

nearby Virginia Creeper Trail. The Mendota Trail will run from Mendota to Bristol.

- Floyd County launched **Cycle Floyd** in late 2017, the county’s first outdoor recreation initiative. Look for bike racks, repair stations, cycling guides, and major cycling events in 2018.
- New outfitters opened in 2017 including **James River Adventures** in Lynchburg and **Chesapeake Bay Paddling Company**, a full service facility in Mathews County, offering kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals, lessons, guided tours, and retreats.
- **Go Ape! Zip Line & Treetop Adventure** opened the a woodland obstacle and zip line course in May 2017. It’s the largest zip line course to date in Springfield, including a junior course for kids. The course also includes Tarzan swings, giant rope nets, general monkey business, and more fun for the whole family.
- On a peninsula at the confluence of Aquia Creek and the Potomac River, **Widewater State Park** is slated to open in Stafford in late 2018. Widewater will provide public access to both bodies of water. Once complete, the park will highlight the area’s natural, historic, and recreational resources.
- In October 2017, Franklin County opened **Black Water Junction Wake Park**, a cable park that offers wakeboarding and wakeskating for riders of all skill levels, just off Smith Mountain Lake in Union Hall.
- **The Waynesboro Water Trail**, the newest edition to the Waynesboro’s city park system, has completed boat ramps at Ridgeview and Basic parks that allow for easy access to the South

River, where paddlers can expect to encounter Class I and Class II rapids. Waynesboro will also expand the **South River Greenway Trail**, which currently has about one mile of paved pathway.

- **Greenwood Park**, a brand new 88-acre, tournament-quality athletic complex in Henrico County, will feature an eight-court premium sand volleyball facility. Opening in March 2018, the man-made volleyball courts will be sized and spaced based on NCAA standards. In addition, Greenwood Park will feature four lighted multi-purpose organic infill synthetic athletic fields, a pavilion, a children’s play area, and a one-mile nature walk.



VIRGINIA IS FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

More for Outdoor Lovers

- New bike trails and disc golf recently opened at **Moneta Park**. Future plans for Moneta Park include a trail system for walkers, hikers, mountain bikers, and others, as funding permits.
- Rock climbers will love the new climbing area in Abingdon, **Hidden Valley**, a sandstone cliff band ranging to about 70 feet.
- **Jamison Mill Park at Philpott Lake** reopened in September 2017 after a long closure.
- Disc golf is growing in Virginia with a new course open in Carroll County

and a new course coming to Roanoke's **Explore Park** in spring/summer of 2018. In Giles County, **Camp Success** has expanded to offer a public 18-hole disc golf course along the New River, in addition to a public boat landing for the New River Water Trail and primitive campsites.

- **Appalachian Backroads** in Wise County launched new motorcycle touring routes to be completed in 2018.
- **Zavazone Trampoline and Indoor Adventure Park** is now open in Sterling.

- **Lansdowne Resort and Spa** now has bike rentals for guests to use on property or on the W&OD Rail Trail.
- **Natural Bridge State Park** in Lexington is expanding their programming to include archery in 2018.
- In downtown Roanoke, **Zagster Bike Share program** launched in September 2017, with plans to expand in 2018.
- **Stone Bridge Equestrian Center** located in Natural Bridge began trail rides in 2017.

- **Mary Ingles Trail** in Giles has new life as the Army Corps and volunteer trail maintenance groups are expanding the 7.8 mile (one way) trail from Glen Lyn to the West Virginia state line. The trail follows the river and is an easy grade for biking, walking, and family outings.
- **Twin Depot Scenic Trail** was recently designated in Giles County and follows Route 61 along Wolf Creek connecting two identical Norfolk Southern Train Depots.

VIRGINIA IS FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

New Outdoor Lodging

- In Giles County, **Walker Creek Cabins** expanded lodging options by opening their Red Pine Cottage. In May 2018, they will also open Walker Creek Barn for weddings and events.
- **Kairos Wilderness Resort** opened in July 2017 and since began renting UTV's onsite (2018 Polaris models). Amenities include new yurts, primitive campsites, RV sites, and wilderness sites. Kairos offers 40+ miles of trails and campsite turndown service.
- **Sandy River Retreat** opened new luxury glamping teepees in Farmville.
- Nelson County's **Devils Backbone Brewing Company** will open an RV and rustic campground in Roseland, May 2018.

Visit virginia.org/outdoors for more information.





**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
FOOD
LOVERS™**



#VAFOOD

Virginia's red-hot culinary scene continues to wow visitors and Virginians alike. From Appalachian heritage cuisine to the fresh tastes of Coastal Virginia, it's easy to see why Virginia is for Food Lovers.

Virginia chefs continue to elbow their way into the top echelon aided enormously by top Virginia-based purveyors in homegrown meat, seafood, and produce, along with artisanal cheese makers, bakers, and salumeria. For that, and for the major tourism driver food has become in Virginia,

we owe a lot of gratitude and credit to our farmers and growers – the people who leverage their products to showcase Virginia as a premier destination to experience the bounty of our soil and our people. Agritourism is also an important part of diversifying our economy. There are an impressive number of new offerings across the Commonwealth, from coast to cliff.

- **NIKS Broiler Room** opened in Berryville. The restaurant offers a full service bar and the same wonderful

Italian dishes that are served at Neighborhood Italian Kitchen, TripAdvisor's #1 ranked restaurant in Winchester. There is also a wonderful selection of aged prime beef and an open-view aging cooler.

- Richmond welcomed several new restaurants in 2017, including: **The Jasper**, a new cocktail bar which is the brainchild of celebrated Richmond mixologists Mattias Hägglund (Heritage) and Thomas "T" Leggett

(The Roosevelt); **The Broken Tulip Social Eatery**, a reservations-only, multi-course concept; **Brenner Pass**, an Alpine cuisine concept in Scott's Addition from Brittany Anderson(Metzger's); and **Little Saint**, featuring New Virginia Cuisine in the Museum District. **Little Nickel**, a project from acclaimed Richmond restaurateur Johnny Giavos, will open on Richmond's Southside in 2018.

- In Danville, **Preservation Ale and Smokehouse** is set to open late 2018 in the oldest tobacco prizery downtown. The restaurant and brewpub will serve up southern barbecue with some twists, incorporating Nashville, Memphis, and Korean-style flavors.
- The Blue Ridge Highlands have seen an influx of new culinary offerings, including: **128 Pecan** (Abingdon), **27 Lions** (Marion), **Hob Knob** (Gate City), **Heartwood** (Abingdon), **Sugar Hill Brewery** (St. Paul), **Fisher & Company** (Tazewell), **MoJo's** (Damascus), **Al's on First** (Pulaski), **Draper Mercantile** (Draper), **Oddf3llows** (Floyd), **Riverside** (Chilhowie), **Hardware Bar and Grill** (Hillsville), **Log House 1776** (Wytheville), **Galax Smokehouse** (Galax), and **Graze on Main** (Wytheville).
- Mecklenburg County will soon welcome the **Southern Virginia Food Hub**, a site where locally-sourced meats, fruits, and vegetables can be sold and commercial kitchen equipment will be available for use by farmers and others to produce value-added products. **The Hub** is due to be open in mid-2018.
- The Shenandoah Valley has several new farm-to-table and culinary offerings. **Cristina's Cafe** started their own farm, **Cerdonia Farms**, where they source all their pork products and vegetables. **Holiday House Bed & Breakfast** now offers high-end five to six course meals to guests and occasionally opens the restaurant to the public. **Ridge Runner Farm Brewery** offers local craft beer and farm-to-table food available at their facility on Back Road just outside of Woodstock. **Swover Creek Farm Brewery** has installed brick ovens, offering delectable brick oven pizzas featuring their farm-crafted sausages from neighboring Country Rhoades Farms. The Reuben pizza is also a favorite,

as well as the dessert pizzas, which they rotate seasonally. Recent offerings include a fresh berry pizza with gorgonzola and walnuts or an apple pizza.

- Alexandria has a bevy of new restaurants for travelers to enjoy. **Hummingbird**, a new restaurant located within Hotel Indigo, opened in July 2017. **Sunday in Saigon** opened in April 2017 by the owners of local favorite **Caphe Banh Mi** and combines Vietnam's rich regional diversity with the modern urban atmosphere of Saigon. Their menu features iconic dishes such as Bun Cha Ha Noi from the North and Bun Bo Hue from Central Vietnam. Also new is Ethiopian restaurant **Mekeda**, opened by a local investor and New York Chef Philipos Mengistu known for Manhattan's Queen of Sheba.
- Coming soon to Alexandria are **Whiskey & Oyster**, which will feature a 20-foot oyster bar, a 50-foot bar, and outdoor dining with fire pits, and **Mia's Italian Kitchen**, by Alexandria Restaurant Partners, which will feature Italian favorites such as freshly-made pastas, Sicilian-style pizza, and sandwiches.
- Also new to Northern Virginia: **The Conche**, which opened in May 2017 in Leesburg. **The Conche** is a chocolate-themed restaurant, bar, chocolate boutique, and chocolate lab from award-winning Chef/Owner Santosh Tiptur who was formerly with CoCo Sala in DC. **Cocina on Market** opened in the summer of 2017. Cocina on Market is a seasonally-inspired Mexican restaurant that utilizes partnerships with local restaurants in order to source locally and keep the menu changing with the seasons. The cuisine mostly centers around the Puebla, Vera Cruz, and Oaxaca areas of Mexico. The owners, Rebecca Dudley and Jason Lage, have traveled there many times and fell in love Mexican cuisine and art. Finally, **Bites**, a new grilled cheese and wine bar opened in October in historic Leesburg. The restaurant is the brainchild of the people behind **Senior Ramons**.

Visit virginia.org/food and virginia.org/agritourism for more information.

**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
OYSTER
LOVERS**



#VAOYSTERS

The best food tells a story of the place it is from. Eating an oyster in Virginia captures the character of our waters with one quick, complex taste. The Virginia oyster tells visitors a story in every shell. This is why Virginia is for Oyster Lovers.

Growing in the world-famous Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic Ocean, and its tributaries, Virginia oysters thrive in eight different 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.

The Virginia Oyster pairs perfectly with another recognized Virginia product: Wine! Some of our oyster regions share watersheds with Virginia wineries, proving the point that “what grows together, goes together.”

Oyster Travel Experiences

- **The Virginia Oyster Trail** connects producers, farmers, purveyors, seafood restaurants, and raw bars in Virginia’s distinctive bay and river towns for an authentic oyster tourism experience.
- Visit **Merroir** for the ultimate oyster “tasting room” experience. Featuring the celebrated farms of Rappahannock Oyster Company, everything is served raw or cooked on an outdoor grill, small-plate-style, and paired with craft brews and world-famous wines.
- Sign up for the **Chef’s Table Tour** at Pleasure House Oyster Farm. Hosted by Capt. Chris Ludford, owner and oyster farmer, this is a dining experience you won’t forget as you stand in waders knee-deep in the Lynnhaven River at a table set up directly in the water at the oyster farm.



VIRGINIA IS FOR OYSTER LOVERS

Oyster Festivals

Virginia has numerous festivals celebrating The Virginia Oyster.

- **Urbanna Oyster Festival**, Urbanna, Nov. 2-3
- 45th anniversary of **Chincoteague Oyster Festival**, Chincoteague, Oct. 6
- **Terroir & Merroir: Oyster Extravaganza**, Machipongo, fall 2018

New for 2018

- **The Inn at Tabbs Creek** offers regularly-scheduled Crab Steams & Local Virginia BBQ dinner weekends during summer months and regularly-scheduled Oyster Roasts & Local Virginia BBQ dinner weekends during fall months. All dinners feature locally sourced farm-to-table fare with local tours and “live like a local” experiences.
- **Whiskey & Oyster**, a new restaurant in Alexandria set to open in 2018, will feature a 20-foot oyster bar, 50-foot bar, and outdoor dining with fire pits.
- **King Street Oyster** in Leesburg has expanded its operation by opening a second location in Middleburg in the fall of 2017.

Visit Virginia.org/oysters for more information.



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
WINE
LOVERS™



#VAWINE

With more than 300 wineries scattered across seven different American Viticultural Areas throughout the Commonwealth, Virginia continues to be the fifth largest wine producing region in the U.S.

The sheer number isn't what stands out to those who know great wine. The 400-year history behind the vines, the unforgettable experiences, the awe-inspiring scenery, the incredible food matched with a glass, and of course, the world-class quality that you taste in a Virginia bottle makes it easy to see why Virginia is for Wine Lovers.

New Virginia Wineries

- **Seven Doors Winery**, Huddleston, offers an alternative to your typical winery experience with activities such as Goat Yoga and Wine Meditation.
- **Effingham Manor Winery**, Nokesville, is located at Effingham Manor, a historic home built in 1767. Effingham Manor Winery is adult's-only.
- **Mermaid Winery** is expanding to Virginia Beach in early 2018. The new 8,084-square-foot location will allow the winery to increase wine manufacturing capabilities. Mermaid Winery's first location is located in Norfolk and was Virginia's first urban winery.
- **Garden Grove Brewing and Urban Winery** is Richmond's first production facility to serve both beer and wine.

- **Briede Family Winery**, Winchester, is a Certified Organic vineyard that also practices sustainable and biodynamic farming technique. Briede Family Winery's tasting room will open in fall 2018.
- **Valley Road Vineyards**, is located in the heart of the Monticello Viticultural Area (Afton). Valley Road Vineyards planted its first vines in 2016 and bottled its first wines in April 2017.
- Virginia offers many unique wine experiences, including America's first rural coworking space opening at **Notaviva Vineyards** in Purcellville. The building has been reconfigured to support several tiers of coworking memberships, in addition to serving Notaviva's current winery clientele.

Virginia also provides convenient access to its wine regions. In April 2018, you will be able to sip your way across Southwest Virginia with the launch of the **Southwest Virginia Wine Trail**. The trail will include all wineries in Southwest Virginia's 19 county footprint. During fall 2017, Loudoun County created the **DC's Wine Country Passport**. With over 40 wineries in Loudoun County, it's hard to choose which ones to visit during a weekend trip or for a day. The passport offers exclusive perks to more than 20 wineries.

Visit virginia.org/wine for more information.

VIRGINIA
IS FOR
CIDER
LOVERS™





#VACIDER

Virginia is the sixth-largest apple producing state by acreage in the United States and cider is a rich part of the Commonwealth's heritage. Cider styles vary from dry to sweet, still to sparkling, simple to complex. Virginia cider makers craft a range of balanced dry cider that will delight the palate. Enjoy Virginia cider by pairing it with different foods and enjoy the wide range of styles available in the Commonwealth.

New in Cider

- **Ditchley Cidery**, outside of Kilmarnock, opened and is the first cidery in the Northern Neck.
- **Potters Cider** is opening a new tasting room in Charlottesville.
- **Halcyon Days Cider Co.** in Shenandoah Valley will open in summer 2018.
- **Coyote Hole Ciderworks** is a new cidery located in the heart of Lake Anna, VA. They craft premium hard cider made from 100% Virginia apples.
- **Bold Rock Cidery** is opening a new "Barrel Barn" Tap Room & Innovation Facility opening December 2017 in Nellysford.
- **Mt. Defiance Cidery and Distillery** opened a new tasting room in Middleburg.
- **Courthouse Creek Cider** is opening a location in Richmond.

Visit virginia.org/cider for more information.



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
CRAFT BEER
LOVERS™**

#VACRAFTBEER

The Virginia craft beer scene is booming. With more than 200 craft breweries in Virginia, existing breweries, like **Hardwood Park Craft Brewery** and **Starr Hill Brewing**, are expanding, and big brands, like **Stone Brewing**, **Deschutes Brewing Company** and **Green Flash Brewing**, now call Virginia home.

New Breweries:

- **Beale's Brewery**, Bedford
- **Black Narrows Brewing**, Chincoteague
- **Olde Salem Brewing Company**, Salem
- **Ober Brewing Company**, Salem
- **Preservation Ale and Smokehouse**, Danville
- **State Street Brewing**, Bristol
- **Cape Charles Brewing Company**, Cape Charles
- **Third Street Brewing**, Farmville
- **Buffalo Mountain Brewery**, Floyd
- **Front Royal Brewing Company**, Front Royal
- **Gloucester Brewing Company**, Gloucester
- **The Friendly Fermenter**, Harrisonburg
- **Eavesdrop Brewery**, Manassas
- **Box Office Brewery**, Strasburg

- **Siblings' Rivalry Brewery**, Strasburg
- **757 Brewing Company**, Smithfield
- **Painted Peak Brewing Company**, Tazewell
- **Vibrant Shore Brewing Company**, Virginia Beach
- **Blazing Barrel Brewing**, Stuarts Draft
- **Nostrum Brewing Company**, Fairfax
- **Bike TrAle Brewing Company**, Leesburg
- **Rocket Frog Brewing Company**, Sterling
- **Canon & Draw Brewing Company**, Richmond
- **Billsburg Brewery**, Williamsburg
- **Amber Ox Kitchen & Brewery**, Williamsburg
- **Broken Window Brewing**, Winchester
- **Blue Ridge Bucha**, (a kombucha brewery), Nelson County



VIRGINIA IS FOR CRAFT BEER LOVERS

Expansions:

- **Hardwood Park Craft Brewery** to open its West Creek location in Goochland.
- **Stone Brewing Company** to open its World Bistro & Gardens in Richmond.
- **Strangeways Brewing** recently opened a second location in Fredericksburg.
- **Smartmouth Brewing Company** to open second location in Norfolk, **Smartmouth Brewery Pilot House**.
- **Caboose Brewing Company** to open new location in Fairfax.
- **Starr Hill Brewing** recently opened a new location in Roanoke, **Starr Hill Pilot Brewery & Side Stage**.
- **Big Lick Brewing Company** recently expanded to a new downtown Roanoke location.
- **Alewerks** tasting room recently opened in Williamsburg Premium Outlets.

On the Horizon:

Loudoun County will host the 2018 **National Beer Bloggers Conference**, Aug. 10 & 11.





VIRGINIA IS FOR CRAFT BEER LOVERS

Explore Virginia Craft Beer Scene

Want to make a day of beer tasting? Virginia's Beer Trails offer convenient and fun ways to discover several breweries within a few miles of each other.

- The **Southwest Virginia Mountain Brew Trail** includes all breweries in Southwest Virginia's 19 county footprint.
- The **Shenandoah Valley Beerwerks Trail** features 13 craft breweries in Staunton, Augusta County, Waynesboro, Rockbridge, and Harrisonburg.

- The **Richmond Beer Trail** is quickly becoming a major craft beer destination. With more than 20 craft breweries and more on the way, it's clear why the Wall Street Journal said Richmond "is home to one of the region's fastest growing beer scenes."

- The **LoCo Ale Trail** will continue to expand, with seven new breweries slated to open in 2018. With the new openings, Loudoun County will be home to almost 30 breweries – the most for any county in Virginia.

Visit virginia.org/craftbeer for more information.



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
SPIRITS
LOVERS





VIRGINIA IS FOR SPIRITS LOVERS

Virginia is the Birthplace of American Spirits—the first batch of whiskey was distilled right here in 1620. From there, George Washington went on to be the biggest producer of Virginia whiskey during his time, producing more than 11,000 gallons in 1798 alone. To honor these roots, **George Washington’s Rye Whiskey** was recently named the Official State Spirit of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The unaged whiskey is produced just twice a year using the same recipe and 18th century methods as in Washington’s day and can only be purchased at Mount Vernon.

Today, Virginia boasts more than 45 distilleries that are making some of the finest whiskey, bourbon, vodka, moonshine, and liqueurs in the United States, with more opening regularly.

New Virginia distilleries

- One of two distilleries in Virginia Beach, offering a portfolio of great tasting spirits, is **Tarnished Truth Distilling Company** at **The Cavalier**. The distillery will open its door in early 2018 as part of the highly anticipated renovations of the historic hotel. The distillery’s product portfolio will consist of its flagship bourbon, rye whiskey, and a special release.
- **Twin Creeks Distillery** opened August 2017 in Henry and **Franklin County Distilleries** opened December 2017 in Boones Mill, both in Franklin County, the “Moonshine Capital of the World.”
- **Devils Backbone Distilling Company**, Roseland, opening January 2018, will distill gin, silver rum, and fine brandy (next to Devils Backbone Brewing Company in Nelson County).
- **Ironclad Distillery** tasting room will open in 2018 in Newport News.
- **Filibuster Distillery** opened October 2017 in Maurertown, Shenandoah County, using locally sourced corn.
- **Dry Fork Fruit Distillery** of Meadows of Dan in Patrick County plans to move its entire production to downtown Danville.

Visit virginia.org/distilleries for more information.



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
MUSIC
LOVERS™



#VAMUSIC

Virginia's music scene boasts an array of genres, from symphony and opera at some of the nation's grandest concert halls, to rock, jazz, and blues at city nightclubs. Virginia's music venues provide music lovers with hundreds of performances a year by world-famous musicians performing on stages around the state.

New Live Music Venues

- **Farm Brew Live** in Manassas, Virginia is an eight-acre campus that features craft beer, food, and live, local music. Included in phase one of the opening are 2 Silos Brewing Co. and tasting room, The YARD outdoor live music venue, The Pit BBQ and beer garden, and La Gringa Food Truck. Farm Brew Live is part of Innovation Park in Prince William County on the site of the historic Thomasson Barn.
- **Boat House Live** in Newport News is a live music venue and restaurant

that has the capacity to handle 1,000 concert goers. Boathouse Live will pay homage to the original Boathouse, open from the 1980s through the early 2000s in downtown Norfolk. The music will be presented on a specially designed stage, with care being taken to provide all patrons with a great view of the show.

- The Academy Center of the Arts presents an indoor concert series hosted at the Academy's Warehouse theatre in Lynchburg. **The Warehouse Concert Series** will feature national, regional, and local music acts, and

will continue the Academy's efforts to serve the community through arts and culture by bringing world-class music to downtown Lynchburg.

- Staunton's newest listening room **The Acoustic Taphouse** opened in the fall of 2017 and features the rising stars on the bluegrass, alt-country, and southern rock music scenes.

VIRGINIA IS FOR MUSIC LOVERS

Music Festivals and Events

Virginia is home to many music and arts festivals. Here are some can't miss Virginia festivals and events in 2018:

- **Tom Tom Founders Festival**, April 9-15, Charlottesville
- **Rooster Walk Music and Arts Festival**, May 24-27, Martinsville (10th Anniversary)
- **Mountains of Music Homecoming**, June 8-16, various areas on The Crooked Road
- **Hampton Jazz Festival**, June 22-24, Hampton
- **Red Wing Roots Music Festival**, July 13-15, Mt. Solon
- **FloydFest**, July 25-29, Floyd
- **Galax Old Fiddlers Convention**, August 6-11, Galax
- **Staunton Music Festival**, Staunton
- **Lockn' Festival**, August 23-26, Arrington
- **Richmond Jazz Festival**, August 2018, Richmond
- **Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion**, Sept. 21-23, Bristol
- **The Festy Experience**, October 2018, Nelson County
- **Richmond Folk Festival**, October 12-14, Richmond

Visit virginia.org/music for more information.



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
HISTORY
LOVERS™



#VAHISTORY

Virginia is an American history icon. As the first, largest, and most prosperous of the British colonies in America, Virginia is home to four of the first five presidents of the United States, and eight in total more than any other state. Homes of the first four presidents (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe) have been and/or are in the process of major upgrades including renovations and exhibit expansions.

- The most visited historic estate in the U.S., **George Washington's Mount Vernon** will reopen its Revolutionary War Theater in early 2018, marking the completion of a year-long \$2.2 million renovation to the 4-D theater and an overhaul of the feature film. The theater, which first opened in 2006, features state-of-the-art 4-D effects, including: snowfall, fog, and rumbling seats to tell the story of General George Washington's major victories during the American Revolution. With these updates, guests will feel like they are in the midst of the action of the Revolutionary War. The new 17-minute film focuses on the same

major battles as its first iteration: Washington's victories in Boston, Trenton, Princeton, and Yorktown. The updated production includes improved live action and animated sequences, as well as a two-minute pre-show that provides background of the causes of the Revolution.

- **George Washington's Ferry Farm** in Fredericksburg has recreated the house where George Washington spent his youth. The George Washington Foundation is charging forward with its multi-year venture to physically develop George Washington's Ferry Farm into an outdoor living museum.
- **Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest Parkway** will be a trail system that connects visitors to the deep history of Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest while also serving as a recreational opportunity for local residents. The trail systems are designed to be implemented in phases and, when complete, will provide six miles of trails that traverse the majority of its 600 acres.

- In 2017, James Madison's Montpelier opened **The Mere Distinction of Colour**, a groundbreaking exhibition on slavery. The culmination of nearly two decades of historical and archaeological research, this exhibition explores how the legacy of slavery impacts today's conversations about race, identity, and human rights. The exhibit shows Montpelier's connection to the national story of slavery, and the economic, ideological, and political factors that cemented it in the newly created American nation and Constitution.
- The reconstruction of the **Birthplace of President James Monroe**, just outside of Colonial Beach, will include a rebuilt colonial home, a scenic walk (complete with granite historical markers along the trail telling the story of Monroe's career), a bicycle trail, a canoe launch, benches, an overlook, and a picnic pavilion.

Other Historic Events

A few other historic events, happenings, and anniversaries in 2018:

- 2018 is the 200th anniversary of the town of Clarksville.
- May Faire celebrates the county's cultural history at the **Mathews County Historical Museum** on May 5.
- Memorial Day 2018 will mark the 150th anniversary of the very first Decoration Day National Observance at **Arlington National Cemetery**.
- The **Naval Support Facility Dahlgren** in King George County will celebrate its 100th anniversary in coordination with the Dahlgren Heritage Museum on Oct. 16

Other Virginia History News

Lee Hall Depot is the last remaining station from the C&O Railroad's expansion into Warwick County. Newport News is restoring the depot to preserve an entity important to the city's development. The Lee Hall Train Station Foundation is a support group assisting with this effort.

Visit Virginia.org/history for more information.





**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS**

VIRGINIA IS FOR ALL LOVERS

#VAPRIDE

Our LOVE story is bigger, better, and more inclusive than ever before. Since 1969, our famous state slogan has inspired travelers from all over the world to visit the Commonwealth. Virginia is also a welcoming destination for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender families, couples, and friends.

Our virginia.org/LGBT website lists self-designated, LGBT-friendly events, lodging, dining, shopping, attractions, and outdoor experiences, statewide. The website also includes meeting spaces, itineraries, and all the resources needed to plan a dream wedding or honeymoon.

Follow us on Twitter [@VisitGayVA](https://twitter.com/VisitGayVA) and Instagram [@visitgayva](https://www.instagram.com/visitgayva) for daily LGBT travel ideas, travel deals, and inspiration.

Virginia Pride

Virginia's robust 2018 Pride Season occurs June through October:

- **Roanoke Pride**
April 14-15, Roanoke
- **Pride on the Peninsula**
June 27, City of Hampton
- **Hampton Roads Pridefest**
June 30, Norfolk
- **FloydPRIDE**
June 2018, Floyd
- **Shenandoah Valley Pride**
July 21, Harrisonburg
- **Charlottesville Pride Festival**
September 2018, Charlottesville
- **Petersburg Out & Proud**
September 2018, Petersburg
- **Virginia Pridefest**
September 2018, Richmond
- **Northern Virginia Pride**
October 2018, Centreville

Visit virginia.org/LGBT for more information.



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS[®]**



VIRGINIA WEDDINGS

When you turn with your partner to face your friends and family for the first time as a married couple, it's a moment you never forget. Since Virginia is for Lovers, it makes sense to marry the love of your life here. Virginia offers the perfect backdrop for every couple, whatever their style: modern, classic, whimsical, vintage, or edgy. Whether you want to get married in a historic hotel or at a beautiful vineyard, Virginia has a world of choices just waiting to be discovered. Combine this with epic views, delicious local food, and perfect local wine pairings and it's easy to see that Virginia is the perfect spot for a destination wedding.

- Virginia is the 12th most popular state for weddings and the 5th most popular on the East Coast.
- Couples will find more than 200 venue options for a perfect wedding day, including rustic farms on rolling hills, majestic wineries nestled amongst acres of Virginia vines, and historic hotels with opulent staircases and lavish details.
- Virginia boasts 28 miles of warm, sunny beaches; 21 luxurious resorts; 200 bed & breakfasts; more than 300 wineries; and more than 3,000 miles of scenic roadways, taking your out-of-town guests to coastal beauty, mountain vistas, quaint small towns, and peaceful countryside en route to your wedding venue.
- Virginia is a great place to celebrate almost any milestone. Anniversaries, engagements, bachelor or bachelorette parties, and family reunions.



LOVE Letters

Virginia is for Lovers' iconic LOVE letters are now available to rent for your special day! These giant signs just scream fun, and are a great way to add personality to your big day. The LOVE letters offer a perfect backdrop for photo opportunities for the bride & groom, family, and friends.

For more information about the LOVE letters, please visit:

virginia.org/weddings/loveletters

Virginia Wedding Events

Visit Alexandria presents the second annual **Alexandria Wedding Showcase** Feb. 18. The first Alexandria Wedding Showcase, held in February 2017, was a huge success, welcoming over 500 guests and 200 unique weddings. The 2018 showcase will be an extraordinary event for both the exhibitors and attendees by implementing new initiatives and experiences. The showcase will again be partnering with Brides Across America and fortunate to have Select Event Group and Republic National Distributors as sponsors.

For more information on Virginia honeymoons, wedding packages, LGBT-friendly venues and vendors, elopement packages, anniversary trips, and more, visit virginia.org/weddings.

For a full list of wedding venues in Virginia, visitvirginia.org/directory/weddingvenues.



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
FILM
LOVERS™

#VAFILM

The film industry has a significant economic impact in Virginia, building on an innovative film incentive program and a strong homegrown industry. In 2015, the total economic impact of Virginia's film industry was \$615.6 million. Since fiscal year 2011, film projects receiving incentives in Virginia have produced a return of \$11 to the Virginia economy for every \$1 invested.

The seventh season of the award-winning Showtime series **"Homeland,"** starring Claire Danes and Mandy Patinkin, began filming in Central Virginia in September 2017, and is expected to continue through March 2018. The presence of the high-caliber show has generated significant economic activity, jobs, and media buzz in each locality touched.

AMC's **"TURN: Washington's Spies,"** PBS' **"Mercy Street,"** along with the films, **"Juanita," "Permanent," "Believe," "Burning Sands," "Swing Low," "Art Show Bingo,"** and **"Public Affairs,"** were also filmed in Virginia in 2016 and 2017.

While both **"TURN: Washington's Spies"** and **"Mercy Street"** ended their respective four-year and two-year runs in 2017, the economic impact continued through tourism opportunities and products built around themed experiences. Popular film and history trails brought visitors to Alexandria, Petersburg, Richmond, and Williamsburg, all of which either served as the film location or story setting for the two fan-favorite series.

Film Festival News

The inaugural **Pocahontas Reframed: Native American Storytellers Film Festival** took place at the historic Byrd Theatre in Richmond Nov. 17-19, 2017. The landmark festival featured three days of film, music, and live performances, with special guests from around the world. The festival's 13 films and three performances by and/or about First Nations and Native American people drew full attendance to the event, sponsored largely by the **2019 Commemoration,** local businesses and organizations, and

celebrated filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. The festival is led by representatives of Virginia's state-recognized tribes, with creative support from a team of leaders in the Virginia arts community.

The **Virginia Film Festival** celebrated its 30th year in 2017 in Charlottesville, hosting special guests such as filmmaker Spike Lee (**"4 Little Girls"**) and actor William H. Macy (**"Krystal"**) to ring in the milestone celebration, alongside producer, Virginia native, and VFF board member Mark Johnson, who brought along his film **"Downsizing,"** starring Matt Damon and Kristin Wiig.

Upcoming Virginia Film Festivals

- **French Film Festival,**
Richmond, March 22-25
- **Richmond International Film Festival,**
Richmond, April 23-29
- **Experimental Film Virginia,**
Cape Charles, July 2018
- **Afrikana Independent Film Festival,**
Richmond, September 2018
- **PUSH! Film Festival,**
Bristol, October 2018
- **Middleburg Film Festival,**
Middleburg, October 2018
- **Washington West Film Festival,**
Washington, October 2018
- **Virginia Film Festival,**
Charlottesville, November 2018

Visit filmvirginia.org and virginia.org/virginiafilmfestivals for more information.



