

# WHAT'S NEW TO LOVE IN VIRGINIA

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2018



VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
LOVERS



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A curated guide to Virginia in 2018.



# VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION

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### *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



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](http://Virginia.org/oysters) for more information.