

History of Region



Established in October of 1982, the Finger Lakes AVA (American Viticultural Area) is the largest wine-growing region in New York State with approximately 11,000 acres of labrusca (native), French-American and vinifera (European) grapes and just over 100 wineries. The region is often times compared to that of Germany's Rhine region due to similarities in growing conditions.

The four main lakes of the Finger Lakes AVA include Canandaigua Lake, Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake. Each lake boasts of its own unique viticultural characteristics lending to unique flavor profiles with both Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lakes recognized as officially recognized AVAs.

Quick Facts

- Established October 1, 1982
- 130 wineries
- 9,393 acres under vine
- 850 acres of Riesling
- 220,000 cases of Riesling
- Small, specific producers whose wine reflects place and personality
- Strong, regional aromatic whites with a focus on Riesling.
- The average producer makes 2-3 styles of Riesling wine a year.
- The Finger Lakes is home to over 200 Riesling brands.