

## History Timeline

**1829** | Reverend William Bostwick plants first vineyard in the Finger Lakes in his rectory garden in Hammondsport, NY.

**1848** | Edward McKay plants the first vineyard on Canandaigua Lake.

**1850** | Andrew Reisinger, a “vinedresser” from Germany, plants a vineyard and introduces pruning and training to the Finger Lakes.

**1860** | Charles D. Champlin and several partners establish the Pleasant Valley Winery, hiring champagne makers from the Ohio Valley.

**1860** | Pleasant Valley Wine Company in Hammondsport, NY becomes the first bonded winery.

**1866** | Seneca Lake Grape Wine Company opened a winery on the western shores of Seneca Lake.

**1880** | Mastercooper, Walter Taylor, arrive in Hammondsport to build barrels for growing wine industry; shortly thereafter establishes a vineyard.

**1882** | New York Agricultural Experiment Station founded in Geneva, NY.

**1882** | The Taylor Wine Company established.

**1888** | Widmer’s Wine Cellars established in Naples, NY.

**1919** | Prohibition

**1941** | Widmer’s Wine Cellars begins labeling their wines with varietal names.

**1945** | Canandaigua Industries Company founded by Marvin Sands.

**1953** | Gold Seal hires Konstantin Frank as a consultant to begin production of vinifera varieties. Experimental plantings of numerous varieties and root-stocks begins.

**1961** | Taylor Wine Company buys the Pleasant Valley Wine Co. (Great Western).

**1962** | Dr. Konstantin Frank creates Vinifera Wine Cellars which quickly gains reputation for making excellent Riesling.

**1964** | Taylor subsidiary Great Western introduces the first French-American hybrid varietal wines.

**1970** | Charles Fournier, a young European, planted 20 acres of Vinifera on the east side of Seneca Lake while at the same time German native, Hermann Wiemer, bought and planted 140 acres of Vinifera on the west side of Seneca Lake.

**1972** | Canandaigua Industries changes its name to Canandaigua Wine Company.

**1973** | Canandaigua Wine Company goes public.

**1976** | New York Farm Winery Act is passed permitting wineries to sell directly to the public.

**1977** | Coca-Cola buys the Taylor Wine Company.

**1978** | Glenora Wine Cellars becomes the first winery on Seneca Lake, followed by Wagner Vineyards, Herman J. Wiemer, and Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards.

**1980-1990's** | Dozens of new wineries began to pop up in the Finger Lakes focusing on vinifera.

**1983** | Coca Cola sells Taylor and Great Western to the Seagram Wine Company.

**1983** | Cayuga Lake establishes first organized and longest wine trail in the Finger Lakes.

**1984** | Canandaigua Wine Company buys Batavia Wine Cellars.

**1985** | Keuka Lake Wine Trail established.

**1986** | Seneca Lake Wine Trail established.

**1987** | Widmer Wine Cellars in Naples, N.Y. and Manischewitz brand assets of the Monarch Wine Company in Brooklyn acquired by Canandaigua Wine Company. The Manischewitz brand is currently produced at Widmer, as well as a number of wines formerly produced at the Taylor Wine Co. in Hammondsport, N.Y.

**1987** | Taylor, Great Western and Gold Seal are sold as part of a package to Vintners International.

**1987** | Cayuga Lake first individual lake of the Finger Lakes to earn AVA approval in 1988.

**Mid 90's** | Canandaigua Wine Trail begun.

**1993** | Canandaigua Wine Company, already expanding through the acquisition of other companies and brands, purchases certain labels from Vintner's International Company Inc. - New York labels acquired include Taylor and Great Western.

**1995** | The facilities of Pleasant Valley Wine Company/ Great Western Winery were purchased and re-opened as a wine making facility.

**1996** | New York wineries number in excess of 110, compared with just 19 in 1976 and 63 in 1985, with all growth in the small, premium sector and concentrated primarily in the Finger Lakes and on Long Island.

**1997** | Canandaigua Brands, Inc. is formed as the parent company of Canandaigua Wine Company and Barton Incorporated after a decade of acquisitions resulting in a diversified product portfolio expanding beyond the wine business.

**1998** | Arbor Mist launched by Canandaigua Wine Company. This is the creation of a new category – wine with fruit –and sales expanded rapidly shipping 100 million cases in the first 100 days of distribution.

**1998** | Canandaigua Brands, Inc. acquires Mathew Clark, plc, a company based in the United Kingdom, leading to increased access to that market. Name changes to Constellation Brands, Inc.– to better illustrate the scope of the companies’ product base and the number of brands covered.

**1998** | Rieslings win Gold in Alsace – 1996 Semi-Dry Rieslings from Dr. Konstantin Frank’s and Fox Run Vineyards each win a Gold medal in competition in Strasbourg’s Rieslings of the World Competition.

**2013** | Currently there are 7 wineries on Canandaigua Lake, 25 wineries on Cayuga Lake, 19 wineries on Keuka Lake, and 61 wineries on Seneca Lake.