



Long Island Wine Region: Fact Sheet

- New York is the 3rd largest wine growing region in America; Long Island is considered the premier region in the state for the production of vinifera wines.
- Long Island is the youngest and fastest growing wine region in New York.
- Located 75 miles – a convenient 1 1/2 hour drive – from New York City.
- First winery established in 1973.
- There are three AVAs (American Viticultural Areas): The Hamptons, The North Fork, and Long Island, established in 1984, 1985, and 2000, respectively.
- There are over 50 wine producers on Long Island, with most offering tours and tastings.
- Long Island produces over 500,000 cases of wine annually.
- Number of acres planted in 1973: 17
- Number of acres planted in 2004: approx. 3,000
- Long Island's vineyard acreage is devoted to the production of premium vinifera wine grapes.
- The most popular red varietals include Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc, often used together for hand-crafted blends. The most popular white varietals include Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Riesling.
- Grape growing on the East End benefits from a long growing season, maritime climate, moderate temperatures, and good soil conditions.
- Annual number of visitors to East End wineries: 1,200,000
- Long Island was the first region to execute a formal land preservation program. To date, over 16,000 acres of land have been preserved via the Peconic Land Trust, assorted private land trusts, and through the efforts of local towns and counties.

** Facts and figures were last amended on February 20, 2008*



Long Island: Regional Specialties

With an agricultural heritage dating back to the earliest native Americans, it is certainly no secret that Long Island's soils and climate provide perfect conditions for a wide range of fruits and vegetables, many of which are now produced to strict organic standards. From April through November, a visit to any one of the East End's many farm stands demonstrates the close, seasonal connection between land and table as wonderful local products are picked daily and displayed at the height of ripeness. From the earliest days of the growing season, when spinach and strawberries arrive at the farm stands, to the last days, when the stands are overflowing with pumpkins and winter squash, the region's bounty is a source of the freshest ingredients for both home cooks and professionals. In addition to this amazing array of fresh produce, there are other local products that have earned the region world renown.



Long Island boasts one of the world's largest and most diverse fishing industries, including fishing as a recreational sport. Some favorites from the waters off Long Island include sea bass, striped bass, fluke, flounder, bluefish, and blackfish. Clams, mussels, and oysters are also abundant. The famous Blue Point oyster is named after the town on Long Island's South Shore. Peconic Bay scallops, once the pride of Long Island, have seen a strong comeback after nearly being decimated 20 years ago.

Equally well-known is the Long Island duck industry, which got its start in the late 19th century with the arrival of Pekin duck eggs from China. Duck farming was at its height in the 1940s, but has since declined due to economics and stricter environmental regulations. Today, a "Long Island duck" label still connotes quality.

Meanwhile, other food-based industries are emerging or enjoying resurgence. There's also been success among small farms devoted to specialty items, such as award-winning cheeses and oriental-style vegetables. Long Island farmers are typically small producers committed to quality, as opposed to quantity.





Long Island: An epicurean escape

The wine industry on the East End of Long Island has evolved over 30 years within the agricultural context of the region. What has emerged is a destination for visitors seeking world-class wines along with the best in fresh, local cuisine. A convenient 90-minute drive from New York City, this picturesque region can be an easy weekend getaway or an extended vacation. And, with miles of beaches, cultural events, and recreational activities, it all adds up to an unbeatable combination.

Tastings and Touring

Tastings and vineyard tours top the must-see list for visitors. From New York City, take the LIE to either the North or South Fork, and follow the green "Wine Trail" road signs. The Long Island Wine Council's website, www.liwines.com, offers directions and links to individual wineries and upcoming events. Many Long Island wineries host special activities year-round, featuring live music, art exhibits, and local specialty foods to complement their wines.

North Fork

In addition to being home to most of the Island's wineries, the North Fork has much to offer with its charming towns, antique shops, farm stands, and historic sites. Traditionally more rural and low-key than its neighbor to the south, the North Fork is undergoing a wave of agri-tourism and is keeping pace by opening new high-end restaurants and bed and breakfasts.



South Fork/The Hamptons

World-famous beaches, stunning estates, exclusive clubs, and designer boutiques rank high on the list of attractions in the Hamptons. It is also home to four wine producers and an active restaurant scene. The region also offers an active cultural calendar, including museum exhibitions, film festivals, and walking tours.

Agricultural History

Long Island has a rich farming heritage dating back to the arrival of woodland, Native Americans some 2000 years ago. Roadside stands grew out of the need to accommodate the developing tourist industry, as well as the local population.

In fact, the prevailing philosophy on the East End of Long Island can best be described as a farm-to-table mentality – a focus on eating and drinking local products. Certainly, farming and sustainable agriculture are topics of environmental concern, and a number of organizations are actively involved in community issues. The Long Island Farm Bureau publishes a free Farmstand Guide at www.lifb.com.

The Great Outdoors

The list of recreational activities on Long Island is vast – golf, sailing, surfing, kayaking, hiking and horseback riding are just a few. Biking on Long Island, always a popular sport, now has a designated bike route that winds for 85 miles from Cold Spring Harbor to Orient Point. Many spectator sports, ranging from polo matches to whale watching expeditions, are also available. With such an array of choices, it's no wonder visitors keep returning to the East End of Long Island year after year.





The Region

Long Island

The Long Island wine region, the most rapidly growing in the state of New York, is located about 75 miles east of New York City. The region includes Nassau and Suffolk Counties, although most of the wineries and vineyards are clustered at the East End. To date, three AVAs (American Viticultural Areas) have been established: Long Island, The North Fork, and The Hamptons. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the south, the Great Peconic Bay divides the two peninsulas and Long Island Sound borders the Island to the north.

