



# **11 Wineries Located Minutes From the Twin Cities**

A local guide to the best wineries  
and vineyards of Minnesota

by Jenn Singer

## Types of Minnesota Grapes

Thanks to the University of Minnesota, we now have our own variety of local wines that you will only find here. These grapes created by the University were designed to withstand the cold climate of Minnesota. When visiting, make sure to keep an eye out for these varieties to ensure that you are getting locally sourced grapes.

Frontenac – Makes a Red Wine with notes of Cherry and Plum.

Frontenac Gris – Makes a White Wine, with a Peach notes.

Frontenac Blanc – Makes a White Wine with notes similar to a Riesling.

La Crescent - Makes a White Wine with notes of Apricot, Citrus, and Tropical Fruit.

Marquette – Makes a complex Red Wine with notes of Cherry, Berry, and Black Pepper.

Itasca – New for 2017, makes a Sweet White Wine.

# Wineries By Distance from Minneapolis

## 30-39 Minute's Away

Two Rivers Vineyard and Winery, Ramsey

Northern Vineyards Winery, Stillwater

Saint Croix Vineyards, Stillwater

Woodland Hills Winery, Delano

Alexis Bailly Vineyard, Hastings

Winehaven Winery, Chisago

## 40-49 Minute's Away

Parley Lake Winery, Waconia

Sovereign Estates Wine, Waconia

Schram Vineyards Winery and Brewery, Waconia

65 Vines, Roberts WI

Cannon River Winery, Cannon Falls

## 50-59 Minute's Away

Buffalo Rock Winery, Buffalo



## Two Rivers Vineyard and Winery

6111 US-10 #200, Ramsey, MN 55303 [www.tworiversvineyardandwinery.com](http://www.tworiversvineyardandwinery.com)

Since March 2014, this winery has been providing the community with award winning flavors. They are very proud of their Minnesota Varieties.

When you arrive for a tasting, their educated specialists will teach you how proper tasting techniques, how to serve and pair your wines as well as how to open and store your wine.

In addition to regular wines to purchase, they sell wine pouches. A portable way to drink with out the hassle of the bottle. They are perfect for camping, biking or at the beach.

### DISTANCE

30 minutes away

### COST

### HOURS

Thur 4 - 8 pm

Fri 4 - 8 pm

Sat 1 - 5pm

Sun 1 - 5pm

\*Seasonal

### WHAT I LOVE

You can bring your own food!



# Northern Vineyards Winery

223 Main St N, Stillwater, MN 55082 [www.northernvineyards.com](http://www.northernvineyards.com)

Their winemaker has been perfecting the art since 1989. Get a glass and head out to the patio for a view of the St. Croix River. The views are breathtaking.

They offer free tours of their winemaking operation on Fridays and Saturday. Stop into the winery or give them a call at 651-430-1032 to make a reservation. Otherwise stop in during normal business hours for a tasting.

## DISTANCE

35 minutes away

## COST

\$6 for 7- 0.5oz

Samples

## HOURS

Mon 12–7 pm

Tue 12–7 pm

Wed 12–7 pm

Thu 12–7 pm

Fri 11–9 pm

Sat 11–9 pm

Sun 11–6 pm

\*Seasonal

## WHAT I LOVE

The downtown location and amazing views.



# Saint Croix Vineyards

6428 Manning Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082 [www.scwines.com](http://www.scwines.com)

Saint Croix Vineyards have been making some of the best wines for the past 27 years. They offer wine tastings, wine-making tours, and live music. If you have time, take a stroll through their vineyards, relax on their deck or bring a picnic lunch and hang out on the grounds.

They also offer a free 30 minute tour of Saint Croix Vineyards winery! April - August every Saturday & Sunday at 12. September - November Sundays at 12.

## DISTANCE

35 minutes away

## COST

\$6

## HOURS

Mon 10–6 pm  
 Tue 10–6 pm  
 Wed 10–6 pm  
 Thu 10–6 pm  
 Fri 10–6 pm  
 Sat 10–6 pm  
 Sun 10–6 pm

\*Seasonal

## WHAT I LOVE

Exploring the grounds.



# Woodland Hills Winery

731 County Rd 30 SE, Delano, MN [www.woodlandhillwinery.com](http://www.woodlandhillwinery.com)

Woodland Hills grows a variety of over 4000 grapes vines on their 20 acre farm. In addition they also have rhubarb, apples, and strawberries, all used to use create their award winning wines.

Enjoy your favorite variety while sitting inside the tasting room, or outside under the gazebo.

## DISTANCE

36 minutes away

## COST

\$6

## HOURS

Sat 12–5 pm

Sun 12–5 pm

\*Seasonal

## WHAT I LOVE

Getting there is half the fun, this location is off the beaten path but well worth the drive.



# Alexis Bailly Vineyard

18200 Kirby Ave S, Hastings, MN 55033 [www.abvwines.com](http://www.abvwines.com)

“Where the Grapes Can Suffer” and suffer they have for over 43 years. Alexis Bailly Vineyards is known for producing some of the first commercial wine that were grown from 100% Minnesota grown grapes.

In addition to the University of Minnesota’s variety of grapes, they also grow some little know French/American hybrid varieties. Their amazing staff will explain to you all there is to know about wines.

## WHAT I LOVE

It is close to a lot of bike trails, so feel free to peddle in!

## DISTANCE

37 minutes away

## COST

\$6 for 7 Samples

## HOURS

Fri 11–5:30 pm

Sat 11–5:30 pm

Sun 11–5:30 pm

\*Closed Christmas–  
March



# Winehaven Winery

10020 Deer Garden Ln, Chisago City, MN 55013 [www.winehaven.com](http://www.winehaven.com)

It may be on the way to Taylors Falls but after visiting, you'll find that it was more than just a roadside stop. It is a destination. Their vineyard is massive and has views overlooking the lake. It's stunning.

Inside their massive barn you will find some amazing staff. The owner of Winehaven started out as a beekeeper. His first wine was a honey wine. That is why you'll notice a Bee is still on the labels. While you can still get their honeywines, they also produce some of the most unique flavor fruity flavors. These include: Cranberry, Raspberry, Strawberry-Rhubarb, Just Peachy, Pumpkin Wine. In case your wondering, they have the traditional MN varieties as well.

## DISTANCE

39 minutes away

## COST

\$5 for 6 Samples

## HOURS

Fri 12–4 pm

Sat 12–4 pm

Sun 12–4 pm

\*Seasonal

## WHAT I LOVE

Winner of the most amazing views!



# Parley Lake Winery

8280 Parley Lake Rd, Waconia, MN 55387 [www.parleylakewinery.com](http://www.parleylakewinery.com)

Starting out as an Apple Orchard, this winery first started to produce wine in 2009. All of their wines are made from Minnesota Grown grapes. One includes some apple as well.

Their support of the local artists is what makes this place so unique. In addition to their annual art fair they host, you can also get a portrait drawn the weekends. The resident artist is Deb Zeller.

They are very excited to have just planted the newest U of M grape, the Itasca. It will be on the tasting menu by 2020.

## DISTANCE

41 minutes away

## COST

\$10 for a flight

## HOURS

Fri 12–6 pm

Sat 11–6 pm

Sun 12–6 pm

\*Seasonal

## WHAT I LOVE

How they incorporate art in everything



# Sovereign Estate Wine

9950 N Shore Rd, Waconia, MN 55387 [www.sovereignestatewine.com](http://www.sovereignestatewine.com)

This winery serves up a good variety of different wines guaranteed to quench anyone's thirst. They have a handful of wines that utilize just grapes grown on site.

The staff is very knowledgeable on all the varieties. In addition to wines, they offer cheese boards and meats, as well as offering up beers. This makes it a perfect place for those companions that may not love wines. They also have picnic space available and are pet friendly.

## DISTANCE

41 minutes away

## COST

\$10 for 5—1oz

Samples

## HOURS

Fri 11—6 pm

Sat 11—6 pm

Sun 11—6 pm

\*Seasonal

## WHAT I LOVE

Try the Ice Wines, You Won't Regret it!



# Schram Vineyard Winery

8785 Airport Rd, Waconia, MN 55387 [www.schramvineyards.com](http://www.schramvineyards.com)

City Girl meets County Boy and what becomes is a great winery! Schram Vineyards is impeccably styled. This place has everything, including beer and a bocce ball pit. From Hyland Games, to Bon Fires, there is always something going on here. Check their event calendar to find out more.

Stay inside and listen to the weekend bands. When the weather is nice, head out onto their sprawling grounds and find a table. Friday night this place can get a little busy, but come Sunday morning, it can be very relaxing.

## DISTANCE

41 minutes away

## COST

\$12

## HOURS

Thu	1- 9 pm
Fri	1- 9 pm
Sat	12-9 pm
Sun	12-5 pm

## WHAT I LOVE

They have a food truck on hand most weekends!



# 65 Vines Winery

1105 Coulee Trail, Roberts, WI 54023 [www.65vines.com](http://www.65vines.com)

The first licensed winery of St. Croix, this winery is the only one from Wisconsin that made the list. This winery is still in the beginning stages. Most of their grapes are sourced locally. They hope soon that all of their grapes will come right from their vineyard.

One unique aspect of this winery, is that they allow you to take stock in some of it by adopting a vine. For \$50 you can watch your own vine grow up without having to do all the work. Your vine will be marked with a custom sign. A portion of the fee goes to the Kinneckinnic River Land Trust, helping to preserve the area.

## DISTANCE

42 minutes away

## COST

\$5.49 for 5 Samples

## HOURS

Fri 12–6 pm

Sat 12–6 pm

Sun 12–6 pm

\*Seasonal

## WHAT I LOVE

It's a family affair. Even the toddler takes part in the action.



# Cannon River Winery

421 Mill St W, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 [www.cannonriverwinery.com](http://www.cannonriverwinery.com)

Located in downtown Cannon Falls, this winery transformed an old dance hall into their winery. They took great care to preserve the history of the building. Inside, the tasting room provides a glimpse at the wine making operation. On nice days, the large doors stay open and views of Mill Street set the tone for your experience.

When you go, try a wine flight. You get 3-2oz pours, instead of a traditional 1 oz tasting. I found this a lot better way to enjoy your drink, especially if you have an idea of what types you like.

If you are free in the Fall, sign up for their grape harvest. You get to help them pick the grapes, learn about the wine making process and are rewarded with dinner after. The following year you can stop by and try some of the wine you helped to create.

## WHAT I LOVE

It's downtown location and urban feel.

## DISTANCE

43 minutes away

## COST

\$6 for 5 Samples

## HOURS

Wed 12–7 pm

Thu 12–7 pm

Fri 12–9 pm

Sat 12–9 pm

Sun 12–5 pm

\*Seasonal



# Buffalo Rock Winery

4527 23rd St SE, Buffalo, MN 55313 [www.buffalorockwinery.com](http://www.buffalorockwinery.com)

This winery is located just east of the town of Buffalo. In the heart of gift boutiques and antique stores. This is a one woman-owned winery located right off hwy 55.

They offer a large variety of different wines, inspired by family. Some of the more unique ones are made with cranberries. In addition to the wine they also brew some hard ciders and serve locally sourced meats.

On a nice summer day, hang out on the patio and get a drink. While you are there, get your picture with the buffalo!

## DISTANCE

51 minutes away

## COST

\$5.49 for 5 Samples

## HOURS

Fri 12–4 pm

Sat 12–4 pm

Sun 12–4 pm

\*Seasonal

## WHAT I LOVE

Amazing staff and ownership, very informative.

## Tips For Before You Go

Pick up a Minnesota Wine Passport before you leave. For \$25 you'll receive a passport book that allows you to get 10 free wine tastings. That's only \$2.50 per tasting. It's a great value considering most locations charge \$5 or more for a tasting. All of the wineries included in the guide all participates in the program. The book doesn't expire either, so you don't have to do all 10 tastings in one year.

Check with all wineries before you leave for their hours. While most are open year round, they may have limited hours during the winter months.

If you are thinking about doing multiple wine tastings, bring a designated driver or consider getting a Uber/Lift ride share.



**Day Tripper**  
**By Jenn Singer**