Major Wine Producing Countries

Country Profiles - USA Eastern States - North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia

North Carolina
In a short span of time, North Carolina has grown to the 9th largest grape production state. It has a $1.7 billion impact on the state’s coffers. Wine is proliferating in North Carolina due to the climate which is diverse and suitable for growing the crop.

There are six wine regions in the state, more than 400 growers covering 730 ha and 140 wineries.

Harvest time for wine grapes usually occurs from August to October, and winemaking season lasts through December. Wineries in North Carolina use a variety of different grapes to create a multitude of different wines, each selecting the type of grapes that will grow best under mountain, piedmont or coastal conditions. There is much scope for further development on wine in this state.

South Carolina
South Carolina lags in terms of its wine industry and is traditionally a beer-drinking state. However, there are signs of an awakening wine drinking culture and therefore a growing wine production trend with 14 wineries. The climate is a challenge with hot and humid summers. As yet, South Carolina has no designated AVA.

Virginia
Virginia is a burgeoning wine state. It currently ranks 5th in the number of wineries in the nation with more than 255 covering 1 200 ha and an annual production of over 7 500 tons. Virginia is also the nation’s fifth largest wine grape producer.

The Virginia wine industry employs more than 4,700 and contributes almost $750 million to the Virginia economy on an annual basis. In addition, more than 1.6 million tourists visited Virginia wineries in 2013. It is certainly a market that could be further explored.