

# Oenology, Viticulture, and Viniculture in

VIRGINIA

## Helpful Terms:



*oenology*: -noun, the science of viniculture (also enology)

*viticulture*: -noun, 1. The culture or cultivation of grapevines; grape-growing 2. The study or science of grapes and their culture

*viniculture*: - noun, the science or study of making wines

## History:

Over 400 years ago, Jamestown settlers aspired to establish a prosperous wine industry in Virginia. It was required by law that each male settler plant at least ten grape vines. Stricken with pests and disease and complicated by an unfamiliar climate, the vines were unsuccessful and the flourishing tobacco industry proved to be a more realistic focus for settlers. Even Virginia's own first and third presidents (George Washington and Thomas Jefferson) failed to grow healthy vines, inevitably producing no wine in a combined 41 years!



Virginia's wine fate took a turn in the 1800s when a Virginia Norton was named "best red wine of all nations" at the Vienna World's Fair in 1873. Nearly sixteen years later, a Virginia Norton won a gold medal at the Paris World's Fair. Battling through Prohibition, Virginia's wine industry made another comeback in the mid-1900s when Virginia winemakers began a state-wide wine revitalization effort (Virginia Wine: Virginia Wine Today, 2009).

## Today:

Virginia proudly boasts 169 wineries and has received national recognition for the production of the Viognier and Cabernet Franc grapes (Growth of the U.S. Wine Industry, 2008). The State of Virginia has the fifth highest number of wineries, by state, in the nation. Visit the Virginia Winery Association at [www.vawine.org/wineries](http://www.vawine.org/wineries) to view a list of Virginia wineries!



## References

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