

Food & Wine Itinerary

Discover the bounty of the Chesapeake region with a tour of the area's intriguing wineries, fresh produce farms, sources of seafood, and historic food and wine traditions. Enjoy unique experiences like boating past crab pot workers in action, the open-air market near the Tides Inn, and fabulous dining at the resort.

Day 1 - Welcome to Irvington

Begin your culinary adventure in Virginia's Northern Neck with a delicious dinner for two at the Tides Inn, featuring fresh, regional cuisine boasting the finest products and flavors of the Chesapeake region.

If you are visiting the Tides Inn on the first Saturday of the month, May through December, visit the Irvington Commons for an open-air market featuring local produce, herbs, flowers, meat, seafood, cheese, baked goods, art and handcrafted items, as well as live music and activities for children.

Day 2 - Virginia Wine Trail

Embark on the Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail for a day filled with vineyards and the breathtaking scenery of Virginia's Northern Neck. Take along the Tides Inn's famous "Taste of the Northern Neck" picnic-for-two basket including a selection of fruit, cheese, roasted vegetables and pasta salad, as well croissant sandwiches, homemade cookies and plenty of snacks for your day. Explore nearby vineyards including Athena, Belle Mount Vineyards, and Ingleside Vineyards -- built in 1834, with more than 50 acres of gently rolling countryside. Enjoy tours and tastings at one of Virginia's oldest and largest wineries.

Stop by the Westmoreland Berry Farm to stock up on the farm's own line of gourmet fruit preserves, plus fresh fruit and produce in season. Enjoy a fresh fruit sundae on their pavilion deck overlooking the river.

Day 3 - Williamsburg Winery

Travel to historical and cultural Colonial Williamsburg, where you will discover Williamsburg Winery -- Virginia's largest winery, open daily for tours, tastings and lunch. The guided tour includes a video presentation on grape growing and winemaking, a stroll through the barrel cellar, and a visit to the production area. In the museum you will enjoy a collection of unique and rare vintage wine bottles with a grand finale tasting of seven of their wines...in an etched wine glass that is yours to take home as a keepsake.

(Continued on next page)

Day 4 - Seafood Journey

Learn about the area's strong maritime heritage and its importance in the seafood industry. Depart the Tides Inn after breakfast and travel to Reedville to see this turn-of-the-century fishing village historic district. Visit the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and its exhibits detailing the traditions of the working watermen and fishermen of the Chesapeake Bay. Also tour several boat restorations including the replica of John Smith's "The Spirit of 1608" barge, a third-generation working boatyard and the Walker House, a modest 1875 fisherman's home.

Walk down Main Street to lunch at a casual waterfront setting, The Crazy Crab, located at 902 Main Street.

Cruise aboard the skipjack *Claude W. Somers* from Reedville. Watch the crabbers in their traditional Chesapeake Bay workboats tending their crab pots and unloading their catch at a local crab house. Available on various Saturdays during the season; for reservations call 804.453.6529.

Tour The Gables, one of Reedville's fine Victorian sea captain's mansions. You'll learn how Captain Fisher built his stately home from bricks brought from England as ballast and how he included the mast of his favorite schooner in the construction.

the Tides
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Irvington, Virginia | tidesinn.com | 800.843.3746 | 804.438.5000