



Wines of Nova Scotia

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 Wine Growers Nova Scotia

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Nova Scotia

Canada's Original Wine Region

The Wine Growers of Nova Scotia

Wine Growers Nova Scotia was formed in 2002 to represent the interests of farm wine producers in the province, to serve as a voice for local industry, and to promote the growth and development of Nova Scotia wines. Wine Growers Nova Scotia is committed to building excellence throughout every aspect of the industry, forging partnerships and attracting potential investors, ultimately catapulting the Wines of Nova Scotia onto the world stage.

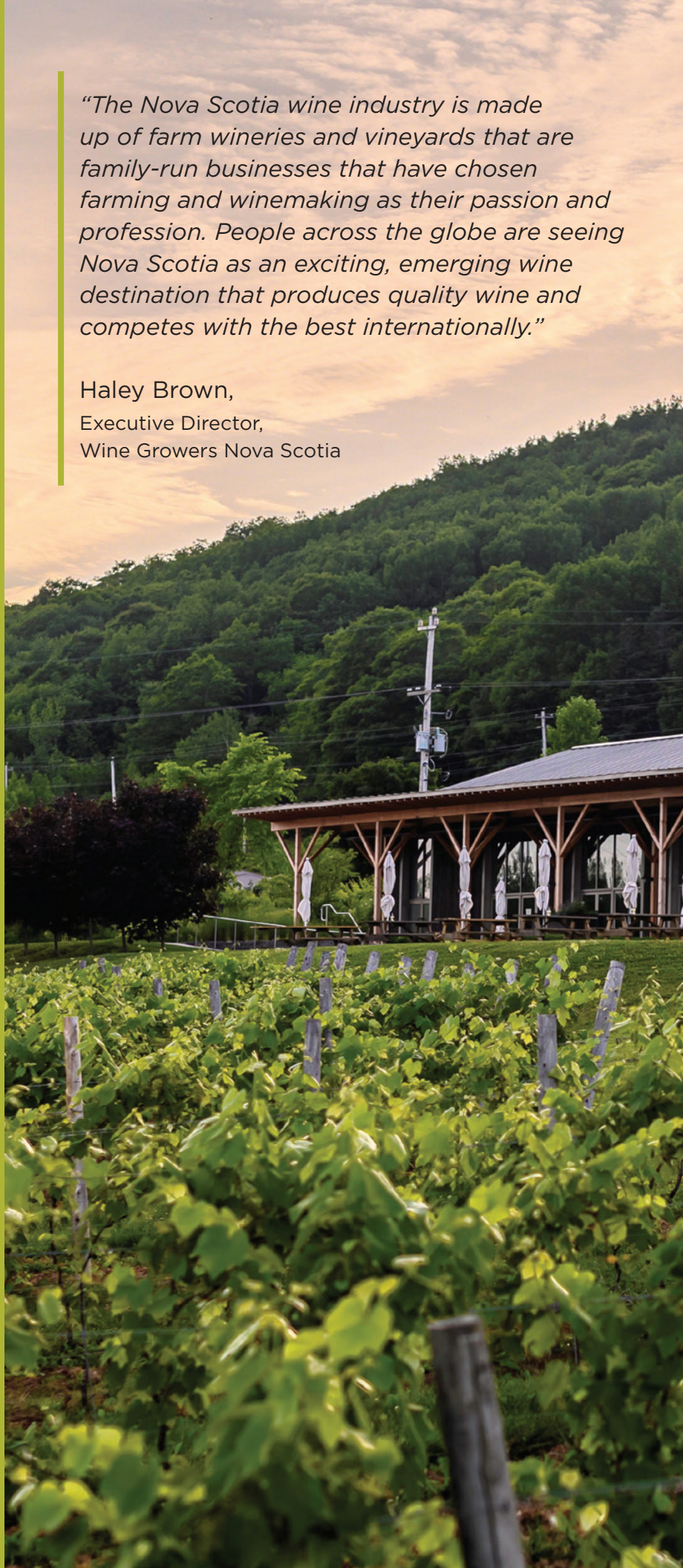
WGNS has evolved to focus on these main objectives:

- Be a strong and effective advocate for Nova Scotia's wine industry.
- Promote the Nova Scotia wine industry's interests in the overall market through effective marketing and regulatory efforts.

While experiencing considerable industry growth, WGNS has moved forward significantly to achieve these objectives. In recent years, the wine industry has experienced unforeseen hardship with the global COVID-19 pandemic and most recently, the 2023 polar vortex. However, it is vital to remain focused on adapting to the changing market conditions and aligning objectives and strategies to meet the challenges brought on by the pandemic, changing climate, and other unforeseen instances that might arise. WGNS remains successful in supporting its member wineries throughout these circumstances.

“The Nova Scotia wine industry is made up of farm wineries and vineyards that are family-run businesses that have chosen farming and winemaking as their passion and profession. People across the globe are seeing Nova Scotia as an exciting, emerging wine destination that produces quality wine and competes with the best internationally.”

Haley Brown,
Executive Director,
Wine Growers Nova Scotia



Canada's Original Wine Region

In 1611 Louis Hebert, the apothecary at The Habitation in Port Royal, planted a hillside vineyard in Bear River. According to Canadian wine expert Tony Aspler's book *Vintage Canada*, Hebert "loaded his canoe with vines he brought with him from France" and paddled to Bear River "to plant himself a vineyard."

It's a natural progression for a place where the continent's first dinner club, the Order of Good Cheer, was created. Samuel de Champlain organized the Order of Good Cheer to raise the morale of the men suffering the long, cold winter of 1606 at The Habitation.

Pairing this historic social aspect of the Order of Good Cheer with the later vineyard planting laid the foundation for over 400 years of subsequent food-and-drink-based celebrations in Nova Scotia.

While it's assumed the Vikings found grapes in Vinland (something disputed by Helge Ingstad, who with his archaeologist, Anne Stine Ingstad, discovered Lief Erikson's colony at L'Anse Aux Meadows) and Jacques Cartier found wild grapes growing along the St. Lawrence, Bear River is the first reference to European vines planted in what would become Canada. Bear River's first vineyard was created 200 years before those planted in Ontario and 248 years before British Columbia, launching the community and province as an original wine region.

The location for this first vineyard appears to have been chosen for the benign microclimate offered by the inland location. The twice-a-day flushing of the Bay of Fundy tides into and out of the Annapolis Basin and upstream to Bear River creates a type of natural heat bank, mitigating extremes in weather and temperature.

The province's next recorded vineyard was planted in 1633 in Petite Riviere. These early plantings confirm Nova Scotia's position as one of the oldest new world wine regions.

And in 1963, when federal agricultural scientists wanted to seriously study the potential for a Nova Scotian wine industry, they seemed to take their lead from history, planting a vineyard in Bear River. That experimental vineyard is on the land occupied by the Bear River Vineyards. While none of the 1611 vines exist, some of the 1963 vines do. And scientists recently determined that vines on nearby property, where a new vineyard is being planted, are 80 years old. Those vines are so tall only the birds enjoy their harvest.

Now our formal grape and wine research has returned to the vineyards and labs at the Agricultural and Agri-Food Canada Research and Development Centre and a teaching vineyard at the Nova Scotia Community College in Kentville, and a wine research laboratory at Acadia University, Wolfville.



68 growers (including farm wineries) produce grapes for the production of Nova Scotia wine



20 licensed farm grape wineries



Over **1,200 acres (485 ha)** of vineyards were under production in 2022, of which 413 (167 ha) acres were located at farm wineries.



Production capacity at Nova Scotia farm wineries is about **211,000 cases** or just under 1.9 million litres of wine per year.



1,943 metric tonnes of wine grapes in 2022 harvest

Over a ten year average, farm gate sales made up 43% of total Nova Scotia farm winery sales



All growers and wineries together support more than **1100 jobs**.



More than 150,000 visitors to Nova Scotia included a farm winery visit as part of their overall trip



Nova Scotia's unique terroir supports the cultivation of both vinifera and hybrid varieties, allowing our vineyards to thrive in a diverse climate. While many farm wineries and growers focus on vinifera varieties prized for their classic wine profiles, a significant portion of our vineyard acreage is dedicated to hybrids. These hybrid vines offer a perfect balance, combining the natural hardiness and disease resistance needed for our cooler climate with the wine quality typically associated with vinifera. This adaptability ensures that Nova Scotia's farm wine industry can excel in producing exceptional wines across a range of varieties with quality being at the forefront and differentiating our boutique farm wine region from other wine producing regions.

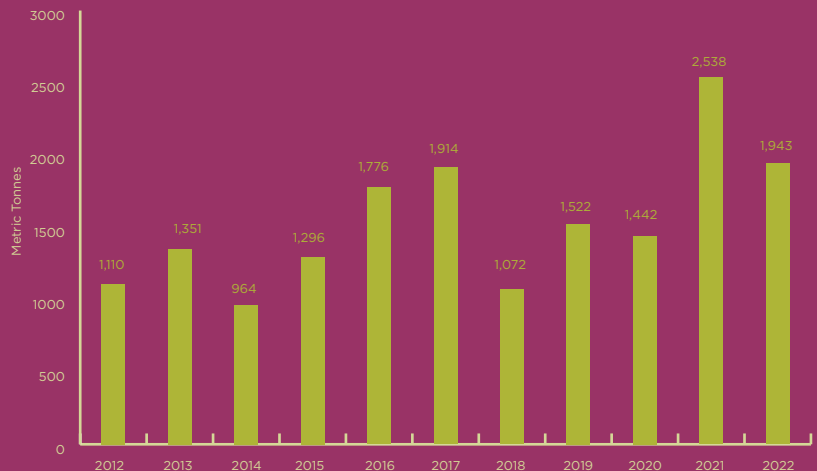


Averages approximately 1000 Growing Degree Days (GDD) across all regions



Nova Scotia's wine region is at the same 45 degree latitude as wineries in Bordeaux

Nova Scotia Grape Production 2012-2022



Did You Know?



61 grape varieties harvested

Five grape varieties made up **61%** of total harvest tonnage

L'Acadie Blanc (39%)

NY Muscat (6%)

Vidal Blanc (6%)

Chardonnay (6%)

Riesling (4%)



The Wines STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

NOVA SCOTIA SPARKLING WINE

Nova Scotia has ideal climatic and geological conditions for producing exceptional sparkling wines. Our warm summers, complimented by the temperate influence of the Atlantic Ocean, create a cool growing season. This gives our sparkling wines their notable brilliance and intensity, while still retaining the all-important acidity required for balance and structure.

RED WINES

Due to Nova Scotia's cooler climate and shorter growing season, producing red wines can have its challenges. However, sourcing grape varieties and inspiration from other climatically similar, international regions have local producers investing in both new and old world varieties. Grapes such as Lucie Kuhlmann, Baco Noir, Marechal Foch, Leon Millot, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Franc grow particularly well in Nova Scotia, along with continued experimentation in developing hearty cross breeds and German varieties.

WHITE WINES

Nova Scotia's most recognised wine style is bright, crisp and aromatic whites, with pronounced acidity and flirtatious character. Influenced by their Atlantic climatic conditions, they are the perfect complement to our lobster, scallops and salmon. White hybrids such as L'Acadie Blanc, Seyval Blanc, Vidal, and New York Muscat have had much success. This growing success has also been seen with Vinifera such as Chardonnay, Ortega, and Riesling.

ROSÉ WINES

Many local producers have produced a Rosé style to compete with the market's growing fashionableness of the wine. These wines tend to have more colour and complexity, more traditionally similar to the Tavel style of Rosé from the Rhone Valley in France. Wineries make their Rosés with both Vitis Vinifera and more commonly, Vitis Riparia. Keeping to the local style, these wines have quenching acidity and much freshness.

What Makes Nova Scotia Unique?

A great wine harnesses the soil, the climate, and the surrounding landscape to craft an incredible taste that reminds you of the place it was grown. Here in Nova Scotia, our vineyards are never more than 20km from the ocean, and the vines grow in the remains of an ancient seabed.

Having the World's highest tides, a mixture of sandstone and slate soil and being surrounded by large bodies of water all contribute to a unique yet ideal viticultural climate. Each style of wine we produce has a mouth-watering freshness with a hint of salinity reminiscent of an ocean breeze. Over 200 international and national awards have been given for our Nova Scotia Wines. Even the famously hard-to-please Gordon Ramsay has a Nova Scotian sparkler on his wine list.

Tidal Bay is a one-of-a-kind appellation in North America and is an ode to Europe's wine regions. These fresh whites must meet a strict set of rules

and pass a tasting panel's evaluation before they can proudly stamp Tidal Bay on their label. The result is true terroir. Each winery may put their twist on it, but at its heart, each Tidal Bay tastes truly Nova Scotian and pairs expertly with our local seafood.

The sparkling wines crafted in Nova Scotia are garnering worldwide attention and comparisons to Champagne in terms of quality. It helps that some of our winemakers have grown up or studied in Champagne but what makes Nova Scotian bubbles truly sparkle is the mouth-watering acidity that is created naturally in our cool climate.

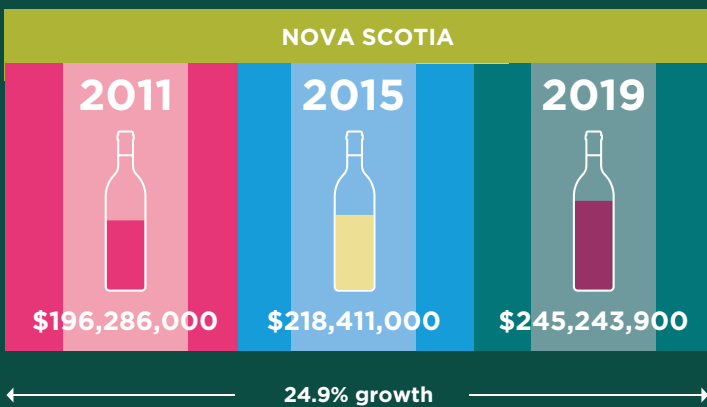
Acidity is a gift of our unique cool climate. Often imitated but never duplicated naturally anywhere else in the world with the same intensity that our Nova Scotia climate creates. Acidity adds a spark of life to a wine, a backbone of structure and a positive zippy finish. It's naturally Nova Scotian.



History

1611	Louis Hébert, a French settler plants a small vineyard in Bear River, Nova Scotia.			
1980	1986	1999	2002	2004
Nova Scotia's first commercial vintage by pioneer Roger Dial at Grand Pré	Farm policy passed allowing Nova Scotia wineries to sell directly to consumers	Three wineries operating in Nova Scotia: Jost, Blomidon, Sainte-Famille	Winery Association of Nova Scotia (WANS) is established	Nova Scotia Wine Standards for Nova Scotia grown and produced wine is created
2010	2012	2015	2018	
The concept of Tidal Bay is born and a few wineries release a vintage	Tidal Bay officially launches as Nova Scotia's signature white wine	17 wineries operating in Nova Scotia, 94 grape growers, and 658 grape bearing acres of grapes	Close to 1000 acres of grapes planted in the province, 22 wineries in operation	
2020		2022		
19 grape wineries. The Winery Association of Nova Scotia rebrands to Wine Growers Nova Scotia		Tidal Bay's 10th Anniversary celebration. 250 ml can format for Tidal Bay released		

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NOVA SCOTIA WINE, 2011 TO 2019



ECONOMIC IMPACT GENERATED PER BOTTLE OF WINE PURCHASED IN NOVA SCOTIA



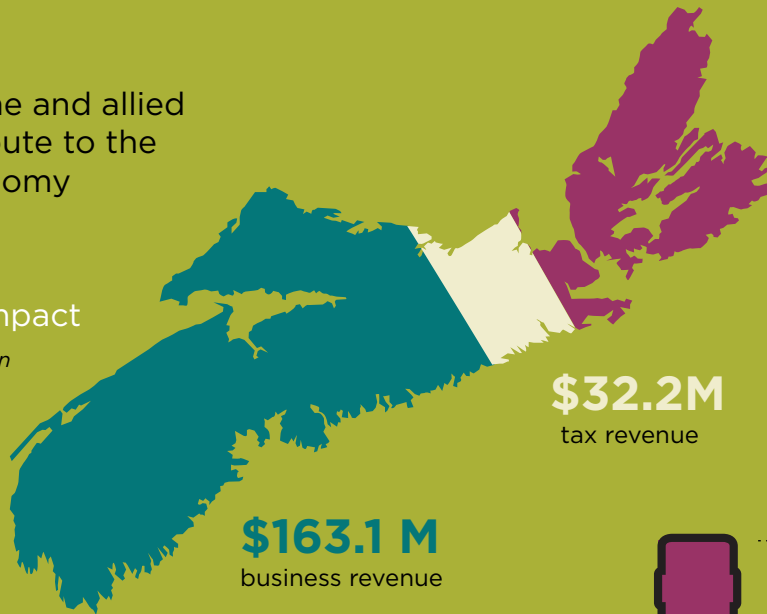
Nova Scotian Wine: Economic Impact

Nova Scotia's wine and allied industries contribute to the Nova Scotia economy

\$245.2M

total economic impact

an increase of \$26.8 million from 2015 to 2019



Broader effects include:

■ **\$32.6 M**
indirect revenues

■ **\$26.9 M**
direct revenues

■ Supported over
1,100+
full-time jobs

An average bottle of Nova Scotia produced wine sold generates approximately:

\$95.78

total per bottle

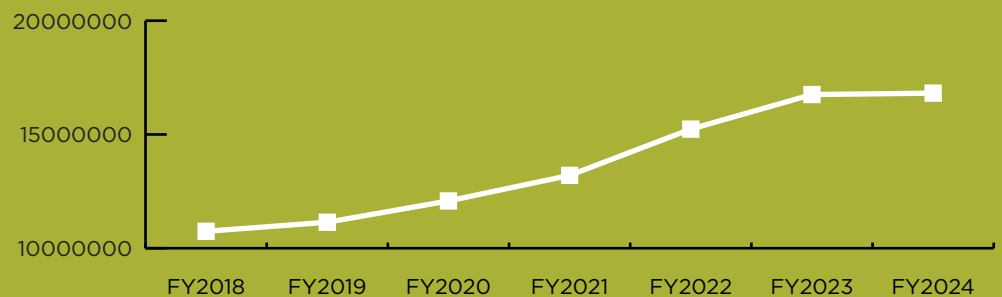
For every \$1.00 spent on Canadian wine in Nova Scotia, \$3.10 in business revenue is generated across the province

In contrast, each purchase of a bottle of imported wine or wine with imported grapes generates \$16.57 in local economic impact.



The Nova Scotia wine industry attracts well over 150,000 visitors every year and in 2022 generated \$85,807,800 in tourism dollars for the province.

Nova Scotia Produced Wine Sales Year over Year





The Beginning

Nova Scotia has a long history of grape growing. The earliest vineyards date back as far as the 17th century when French settler Louis Hébert planted the first vineyard in Bear River, Nova Scotia, in 1611. The governor of Acadia, Isaac de Razilly, documented the grape growing industry in a note that stated, “Bordeaux vines have been planted that are doing very well.”

In 1980 and Nova Scotia’s first commercial vintage, Domaine de Grand Pré, opened and shortly after, in 1985, Jost Vineyards opened.

Sainte Famille made the transition from grape growers to a commercial winery in 1990. When owners Doug and Suzanne started, they were initially going to plant strawberries. Suzanne was

a part of the Fruit Growers Association and saw that Rodger Dial was having success growing grapes in Grand Pré, and Hans Christian Jost was also having success in Malagash. Being wine lovers themselves, Doug and Suzanne saw an opportunity to produce something unique. They grew grapes for approximately ten years before deciding to open Sainte Famille Wines. It was a natural progression for the business.

The industry expanded slowly but steadily after, as Gasperau Vineyards and Blomidon Estate Winery both came onto the scene in the 1990s.

In 2000, Domaine de Grand Pré opened and changed Nova Scotia’s wine landscape by welcoming guests to a destination winery.

As a province that hadn't established a commercial wine region before 2000, what inspired Domaine de Grand Pré to take the chance in the wine industry? Jurg Stutz, the owner of Domaine de Grand Pré, says, "It was a combination of a few different things. From embracing the challenge of working with mother nature to starting this adventure together with family, but also creating a legacy while also making a difference in the culinary and experiential tourism sector in Nova Scotia".

"When 80% of the world's wines are made with the same 20 grapes, we choose to be different."

Haley Brown,
Executive Director,
Wine Growers Nova Scotia

By 2005 there were nine wineries in operation and 125 acres of grapes growing across Nova Scotia.

The concept of Tidal Bay, Nova Scotia's appellation wine, was born in 2010 and officially launched in 2012, propelling the Nova Scotia industry. "The wine industry has grown exponentially, we are one of the largest tourism sectors, and we are competing on the world stage with quality. Our uniqueness as a region, which was thought to be a weakness in the beginning, is now our calling card. We now have an appellation wine, and we are known around the world for our white and sparkling wines," says Lauren Lake, from Sainte Famille Wines.

The Present & The Future

As the industry grows, so does the professionalism surrounding it. "With the industry's growth, there has been a big leap in knowledge, and there are many well-educated folks that can stake a claim in shaping where the industry is heading. From the production side with growers and winemakers to the retail side with tasting room managers and sommeliers, it has been great to see how quickly people have taken it on themselves to constantly learn and improve. Simultaneously, the appreciation for a fine bottle of wine has grown significantly on the consumer side, which keeps the pressure on us to keep producing quality wines," says Stutz.

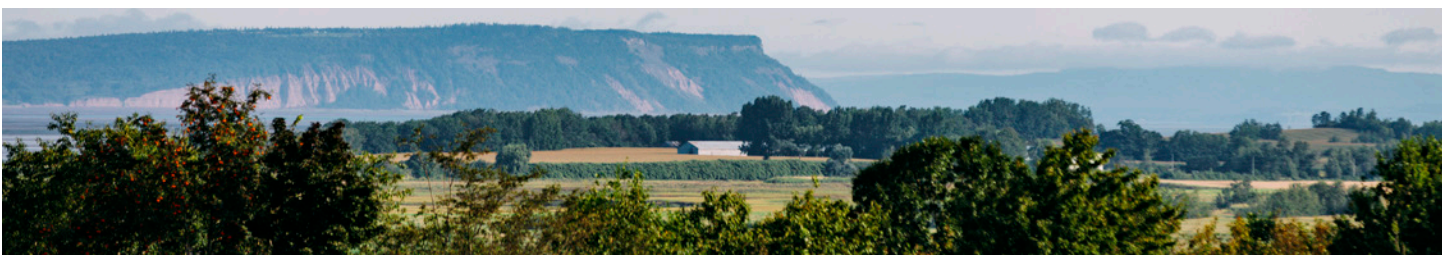
Thanks to the growing loyal and local customer base, and increasing national and international attention, there is tremendous potential for the Nova Scotia wine industry. "It wouldn't be surprising if the number of wineries doubles over the next decade or so," says Stutz.

From its humble beginnings in the 17th century to now, a vibrant and growing industry, the Nova Scotia wine industry continues to evolve.

Nova Scotia has embraced grapes such as L'Acadie, Seyval Blanc, and New York Muscat and we celebrate our terroir driven appellation, Tidal Bay. The only appellation wine in North America.

Whether it is a Chardonnay or a Pinot Noir, Nova Scotia wines have a real sense of place and a style that is crisp and lively. With characteristic minerality and dynamic acidity that we are proud of, recognised for, and celebrate in setting us apart.

Come for the wine and stay for the view.



TIDAL BAY

Nova Scotia's Signature Wine





Every wine region hopes to have wines that stand out and get recognized for defining what they do best. Grown on a mix of sandstone, slate, and ancient seabed, the briny Tidal Bay sets itself apart. In Nova Scotia, our wines have consistently been known for their fresh, firm, and bright style. With this in mind, Nova Scotia developed a signature wine that revealed these characteristics, and so began Tidal Bay.

Officially launched in June 2012, Tidal Bay is the first wine appellation for Nova Scotia and one-of-a-kind for North America. A racy, aromatic white wine, it displays the Nova Scotian characteristics of our very cool climate, maritime terroir region and pairs flawlessly with the local seafood we're known for. The name TIDAL BAY was inspired by the influence of the sea and being home to the biggest Tidal changes in the world.

Although all Tidal Bay wines must follow the same set of standards, each wine is slightly different, and wineries can express their individuality.

Tidal Bay is described as the very essence of Nova Scotia in a glass, it is cool, crisp, lively and aromatic. The perfect pairing for our local seafood or for socializing with friends.



THE DETAILS

The concept for the Tidal Bay appellation is to create a premium white wine made from a blend of 100% Nova Scotia grown grapes that exhibit what our region does best - fresh, crisp, aromatic white wines. Winemakers producing a Tidal Bay must follow a set of strict standards, including putting their samples in front of an independent tasting panel to assess whether or not the wine exhibits the “signature Nova Scotia” aromatic component. Only wines that are given a “pass” from the independent tasting panel (ITP) are allowed to create a Tidal Bay. The Tidal Bay program is managed by Wine Growers Nova Scotia.

The Tidal Bay Standards were established in 2011, though a pilot of the appellation was done for vintage 2010, which included a handful of wineries. However, the true launch of the program was vintage 2011, which was launched at the Atlantic Canada Wine Symposium in late May 2012.

Stylistically, the wine is a fresh, crisp, dry-ish, still, white with a bright ‘signature Nova Scotia’ aromatic component.

Along with the Tidal Bay standards, wineries producing a Tidal Bay must also adhere to a set of labeling guidelines which includes rules for bottle type and enclosure as well as front and back labeling.

Wines can be a combination of the approved grape varieties but must demonstrate the distinctive taste profile that reflects the classic Nova Scotian style: lively fresh green fruit, dynamic acidity, and characteristic minerality. Tidal Bay wines must also be relatively low in alcohol and no more than 11%.

Approved Tidal Bay Grape Varieties



51%

A minimum of 51% (combined) of the final blend must be made up of the primary grape varieties:

L'Acadie Blanc
Seyval Blanc

Vidal
Geisenheim 318

49%

The following secondary grape varieties are optional, but may be included up to a (combined) total of 49% of the blend:

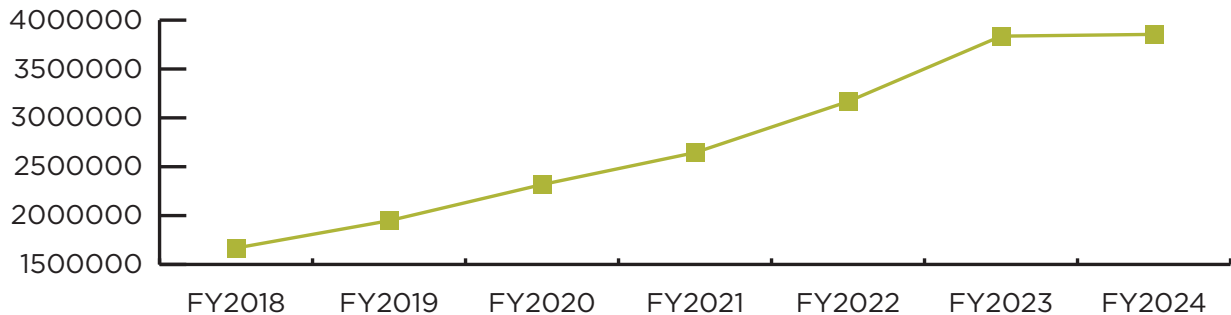
Riesling
Chardonnay
Pinot Gris
Chasselas

Ortega
Siegfried
Osceola Muscat
Frontenac Gris

Frontenac Blanc
Petit Milo
Cayuga

Other grapes grown in Nova Scotia are permitted to be included in limited amounts (up to 15% of the blend).

TIDAL BAY SALES YEAR OVER YEAR




Wines sales at Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC)

DID YOU KNOW

- All grapes used to make Tiday Bay must be grown in Nova Scotia, making it a 100% Nova Scotian wine
- Winemakers are allowed to choose from over **20 identified grape varieties** to make their Tidal Bay. **L'Acadie, Seyval, Vidal, and/or Geisenheim 318** must make up the majority of the final blend.
- The **maximum** permitted alcohol to be displayed on the label is **11%**
- **Every Tidal Bay** has to pass a **blind tasting** by an independent tasting panel to be approved as a Tidal Bay wine.
- Tidal Bay takes inspiration from European appellations like Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC that encompass technical standards and stylistic parameters in order to create wines which showcase the unique terroir of a specific area. It is the first wine appellation for Nova Scotia and one-of-a-kind for North America

Tidal Bay Timeline

- 2009** Peter Gamble pitches the concept of a uniquely Nova Scotia white wine.
-
- 2010** Appellation Implementation Committee formed. By the end of the year, the board of the Winery Association of Nova Scotia votes to accept the proposed appellation and recommendations. The concept of “Tidal Bay” is born.
-
- 2011** The Tidal Bay standards are established. First Tidal Bay vintage (2010) released by 6 Nova Scotia wineries.
-
- 2012** Official launch of Tidal Bay at the Atlantic Canada Wine Symposium.
-
- 2014** 12 Tides, the first annual celebration of Tidal Bay, launches in Halifax.
-
- 2017** Tidal Bay celebrates its 5th anniversary. WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada (NWAC) creates a new category for Tidal Bay. 260 acres of new vineyards are planted.
-
- 2018** New branding launched, describing Tidal Bay as the essence of Nova Scotia in a glass. Capturing one story by many authors.
-
- 2021** There are now 14 Tidal Bays.
-
- 2022** A 250 ml format can approved as a new format for Tidal Bay, allowing further innovation. Additional lab testing included for all Tidal Bays once bottled and/or canned to ensure quality remains at the forefront of Nova Scotia’s appellation wine
-
- 2024** WGNS designates the second Friday of June as the annual Tidal Bay Day



“Why squeeze your acidity when you can drink it.”

Amy Savoury,
Sommelier

L' Acadie Blanc

L' Acadie Blanc is a grape with an amazing story, spanning decades, before finding its rightful home here in Nova Scotia. The story starts from humble beginnings of agricultural research in Ontario, to a tale of collaboration between provinces, scientists, farm wineries, and grape growers, all dedicated to finding the perfect place for this unexpected varietal.

The grape was first crossed in the early 1950's at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO), Vineland station. It was simply known as cultivar V-53261 and initial research in Ontario found the grape not ideal for the climate, as it ripened with low levels of acidity. When field trials began in our cooler Nova Scotia maritime climate in the 1970's, to the delight of researchers and growers alike, it ripened with stunning levels of acidity. The right place for this grape proved to be Nova Scotia. By the early 1980's, V-53261 was unofficially bestowed the name L' Acadie Blanc, by pioneer of the Nova Scotia farm wine industry, Roger Dial.

It did not take long for the grape to be widely planted in Nova Scotia as it is perfectly suited for our growing conditions in the province. It is very winter hardy, ripens early, produces great yields, and has loose bunches which helps minimize the risk of mould & mildew that can develop in our maritime vineyards. L' Acadie Blanc produces wines with vibrant acidity, good weight and distinctive apple and citrus notes. It is a grape with astounding versatility. Through wine making techniques such as blending, oak aging, sur lie, and skin contact, it gets transformed into delightful wines when young. Additionally, through extended tirage in traditional method sparkling production it gets crafted into complex wines that have incredible longevity.

Today L' Acadie plays a pivotal role in the Nova Scotia farm winery industry. It is not only our most widely planted grape variety in the province but is the backbone to our Tidal Bay wines. As the story goes, it is a grape to truly call our own!

L' ACADIE GENESIS & DETAILED LINEAGE

Cross: Cascade × Seyve-Villard 14-287

Lineage: *Vitis vinifera* (53.5%), *V. rupestris* (22.7%), *V. aestivalis* (8.8%), *V. labrusca* (8.6%), *V. riparia* (3.1%), *V. cinerea* (1.8%) and *V. berlandieri* (1.5%)



"You asked for Pinot Grigio, we give you L'Acadie Blanc"

Beatrice Stutz,
CEO, Domaine de Grand
Pré Wines



Detailed Timeline of the L'Acadie Grape

- 1953** Cultivar V.53261 developed and crossed by researcher Ollie A. Bradt at the Horticulture Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station
- 1953** Dr. Donald L. Craig at the Kentville Research & Development Center (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), begins attempts at grape breeding in Nova Scotia
- 1962** Researchers from Nova Scotia visit the Ontario research center and begin working with Ollie Brandt searching for the right grapes for Nova Scotia
- 1972** Dormant cuttings of V.53261 sent to Kentville (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada). Vines were planted in the research center vineyard by Dr. Don Craig
- 1975** Kentville research station gives a small quantity of grapes to Roger Dial to test for wine quality, one gallon of wine was made, and results warrant further investigation
- 1977** Kentville Research station propagated V.53261 and supplied Dr. Norman Morse at Pre View Gardens with cuttings to plant a vineyard
- 1978** Ollie Brandt retires from HRIO, Vineland Station, and Dr. Helen Fisher becomes the new plant breeder
- 1980** Grand Pre Wines- Nova Scotia's first farm winery was founded by Roger Dial, V.53261 was given the unofficial name of L' Acadie Blanc by Roger
- 1995** V.53261 with the unofficial name L'Acadie Blanc is widely planted in Nova Scotia, by the farm wineries in existence, along with the many grape growers of the province.
- 1995** Dr. Helen Fisher begins the process of getting L' Acadie Blanc into the books as the official grape name of V.53261 and publishes the paper "*L'Acadie: A New White Wine Grape for Nova Scotia*". In August of 1995 Dr. Fisher presents the manuscript of this paper at a grape breeder's conference in California, L' Acadie is officially introduced
- 1998** Dr. Andrew Jamieson, a Kentville based fruit breeder with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada introduced L'Acadie Blanc to the world at an international symposium on breeding and genetics in Montpellier, France
- 2024** August 16th is designated as the annual L'Acadie Blanc Day to celebrate the grape

Indicates happening in Ontario

Indicates happening in Nova Scotia

Grape Growing Regions

WINERIES

1365 Church Street
Beausoleil Farmstead Winery
Blomidon Estate Winery
Domaine de Grand Pré
Lightfoot & Wolfville
Mercator
Planters Ridge

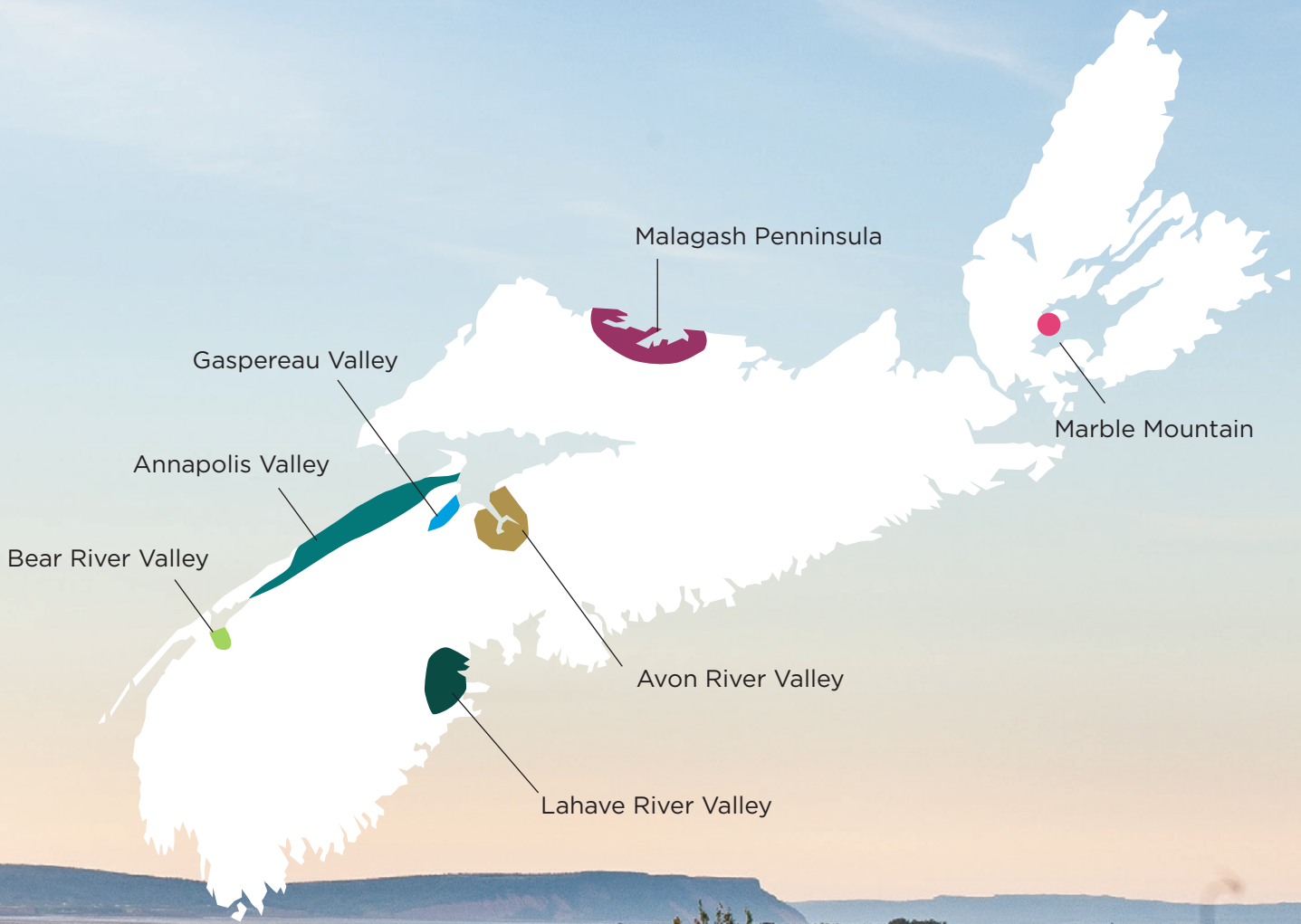
Benjamin Bridge
Gaspereau Vineyards
L'Acadie Vineyards
Lockett Vineyards

Avondale Sky Winery
Lost Bell Wines

Jost Vineyards

Bear River Vineyards

Eileanan Brèagha Vineyards





ANNAPOLIS VALLEY

Start by paying tribute to the Acadian settlers at the historical Grand Pré national historical monument. Toast their successes and struggles with a tasting at the winery of the same name Domaine de Grand Pré, historical in the wine world for being the first commercial winery in Nova Scotia. Enjoy lunch at their internationally recognized Le Caveau restaurant. Then proceed on to Mercator to explore what single-vineyard wines can taste like in Nova Scotia. Finish off with a wood-fired pizza at the impressive Lightfoot and Wolfville winery. Known for excellent bubbles and an award-winning Pinot Noir. These three wineries are in such close proximity to the town of Wolfville you can enjoy this entire day on a bike if you like.

Next up, plan a hike up Cape Split and be rewarded with a picturesque view of the Bay of Fundy. Reward yourself afterwards with a glass at Blomidon Estates Winery. See if you can taste the seaside influence in the wines. With fun events like yoga in the vineyard and movie nights, Planters Ridge delivers more than just great wines. Stop in to learn about some of the rare varieties they are growing. Spend the rest of the day exploring Acadia University's campus or the fruits and herbs at the Tangled Garden.

AVON RIVER VALLEY

The drive through lush green rolling hills feels more like a European escapade, especially once you take in the panoramic view at the tasting room of Lost Bell Wines. Basque in the sun in one of Nova Scotia's warmest vineyard sites, and let one of their lively whites keep you cool. Finish off the day learning how a retired church was floated down the river to become the tasting room for Avondale Sky. With wines like Bliss and Nirvana in their arsenal, Avondale Sky will send you off feeling divine.

BEAR RIVER VALLEY

Drink in the views provided by the South Mountain and the Bay of Fundy while you head to Bear River Valley. Here you will learn how granite soil and gravity-fed winemaking can influence the flavour in wines and hear how vineyards in Bear River date back to 1611. Head to Myrtle & Rosie's Café for a riverside lunch. Then learn how Bear River Vineyards utilizes their four and a half storey bank barn for gravity-fed winemaking and taste their nationally awarded Pinot Gris. Originally built in 1883, it has been masterfully renovated and even has guest rooms available if you wish to stay here for the night.



GASPEREAU VALLEY

Gaspereau Valley rewards you with a breathtaking view of the Bay of Fundy just before you hit the small town of Wolfville. Park your car at Gaspereau Vineyards and pick up a bike. Enjoy a short 6-minute ride to one of the most acclaimed sparkling wine houses in Canada, Benjamin Bridge. A newly renovated tasting room provides excellent views of the Gaspereau Valley. Then head up the hill working up your appetite, and spend lunch at Luckett Vineyards, learning about their buried wine line. After your mid-day meal, you can use the authentic London phone booth in the vineyard to call home and tell everyone about the stunning view and amazing wines Nova Scotia has. Next, if you want to better understand organic viticulture, there is no one better to explain it than the people at L'Acadie Vineyards. Finally, finish off the day with a glass and a snack at the vine side patio at Gaspereau Vineyards, their dry version of Muscat will have you swirling and sniffing for hours.

MALAGASH PENINSULA

While working your way up to the Malagash Peninsula, stop in at Shubenacadie for an adrenaline-inducing experience we call Tidal Bore rafting. It will really help drill home why the tides have such a huge impact on the wines and why we named the province's signature white wine Tidal Bay. Experience this exceptional style of wine for yourself at Jost Vineyards. The province's largest

winery and a pioneer of the industry. Their Seagrape Café is the perfect place to assess the theory of what grows together, goes together. The menu has several seafood options available to match with their coastal-inspired wines.

MARBLE MOUNTAIN

Follow the Bras D'Or Lakes scenic drive to explore Cape Breton's inland sea and when you approach Marble Mountain, keep an eye out for Eileanan Brèagha Vineyards. The name means beautiful islands, and the vantage point from their tasting room does not disappoint. Sit back with a glass and let the liquid libations improve your Gaelic. Cape Breton may be home to only one winery, but you can supplement this tour with trips to breweries like Breton Brew Co. and Big Spruce Brewing Company. With Cape Breton having such a strong Scottish influence, it is no surprise you can find a whisky distillery too, called Glenora.

LAHAVE RIVER VALLEY

Soak in the rocky coastline views while driving along the south shore and explore how vineyards in this area rely on the unique terroir of one of the oldest grape growing regions in North America to make distinctive wines. Taste how the rocky Drumlin Hills can influence the wines, all while surrounded by the blues and purples of the lavender gardens. Enjoy the idyllic, and serene area located within 5-miles of three of the province's most beautiful beaches.



Sustainable Agriculture

Wine enthusiasts worldwide are discovering Nova Scotia as a captivating and emerging wine destination, celebrated not only for its exceptional wines but also for its unparalleled tourism experiences. Amid a global trend toward monoculture, our vineyards are dedicated to sustainable agriculture practices, fostering biodiversity, and integrating innovative technologies to minimize waste and reduce carbon footprints. Beyond environmental stewardship, our wineries are committed to diversity and inclusivity, drawing new immigrants and young professionals to build meaningful careers in rural Nova Scotia. Additionally, they play a vital role in rural communities and fostering local economic growth. Nova Scotia's wine industry is a model of sustainability, enriching both the environment and rural regions throughout Nova Scotia's incredible landscape.

L'ACADIE VINEYARDS

L'Acadie Vineyards has three main pillars to their sustainability practices. First, they are a certified organic vineyard and adhere to certified organic winemaking. Second, their wines are Biocyclic Vegan. And third, they are a geothermal winery.

LIGHTFOOT & WOLFVILLE

Lightfoot & Wolfville is certified organic by Ecocert Canada and biodynamic by Demeter Canada. They have been farming organically since the vineyards were first planted in 2009 and achieved their full certification status in 2016. They are the first winery in Nova Scotia to achieve the stringent Demeter certification, and one of just a small handful across Canada. Farming organically and biodynamically means they do not use synthetic chemicals and focus on natural processes and enhancing biodiversity.

Their biodynamic practices take this a bit further by following lunar and cosmic cycles for planting and harvesting, integrating livestock in the vineyard, and incorporating preparations made from fermented herbal and mineral mixtures to stimulate soil and plant vitality.

BENJAMIN BRIDGE

Benjamin Bridge is dedicated to integrating sustainability into their daily business operations, and weaving it into the fabric of everyday life. As of 29 February 2024, Benjamin Bridge farm winery is B Corp Certified, joining a vast community of corporations that use business as a force for good. Benjamin Bridge is the second winery in Canada and one of only 25 other wineries in the world to achieve this rigorous sustainability certification.

DOMAINE DE GRAND PRÉ WINES

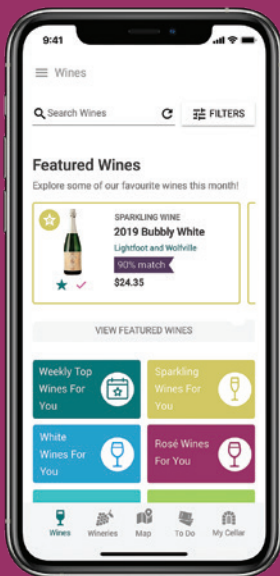
Grand Pré Wines Ltd operates under three core pillars of sustainability. First, they strive to eliminate waste and pollution in all aspects of their business. Second, They source low-impact products and materials for use within the business. And third, they are working to regenerate and care for the natural systems on their vineyard.

LUCKETT VINEYARDS

Luckett Vineyards farming operation is deeply committed to sustainable practices; encompassing soil improvement, erosion control, water management, energy conservation, and farmstead improvements.

To learn more about each winery's sustainability practices, please visit their website or speak with an employee at their winery

Plan a Trip



Wines of Nova Scotia aims to limit the amount of paper we use and encourage Nova Scotia wine fans to download our Wines of Nova Scotia explorer app, a sustainable alternative to print. With seven different wine regions located all over the province, you can incorporate a wine tour with any other adventure you have planned for your Nova Scotia experience. We have a number of itineraries available on our website. Mix and match these suggested wine itineraries to savour a taste of Nova Scotia.

Plan your trip to Nova Scotia wine country using the Wines of NS Explorer App. Uncover personalized expert recommendations on wines and wineries you are going to love. Discover exciting local Nova Scotia wines and experiences at locations near you. From light and refreshing rosé, sparkling, and white wines, to cool-climate red wines, and other locally grown products, Nova Scotia wineries have something for everyone. With the Wines of NS explorer map, no matter where you are in the province, you can find wines and wineries that are right for you as well as other tourist hot spots to make your trip complete.



DOWNLOAD FOR FREE



Awards + Recognition

Three Tidal Bay wines earned Silver at the **2021 WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada**, all from the 2020 vintage:

- Planters Ridge
- Gaspereau Vineyards
- Domaine de Grand Pré

AWARDS BY WINERY:

LUCKETT VINEYARDS:

Wine Align

- 2020 Tidal Bay - 90 points
- 2020 Chardonnay - 89 points
- 2020 Riesling - 89 points
- 2019 Rosetta - 91 points

Atlantic Canadian Wine Awards 2019

- Old Bill NV - Best in Class Red Blend
- Fizz - Best in Class Non-traditional Sparkling

Lieutenant Governor Awards for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wine

- 2017, Black Cab

LIGHTFOOT & WOLFFVILLE

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines

- In 2022 - 2015 Blanc de Noirs
- In 2024 - 2018 Brut, 2021 Brut Rosé

National Wine Awards of Canada 2022 - Gold Medal

Atlantic Canadian Wine Awards

- Best Winery 2017, 2018, 2019

Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce

- Best Winery 2019

The Coast (Halifax) & The Grapevine (Annapolis Valley) People's Choice

- Best Winery 2019

2024 WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada

- 2021 Brut Rosé, Silver Medal
- 2018 Brut, Silver Medal

L'ACADIE

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wine

- Winery - Twice awarded, 2015 and 2021

Effervescents du Monde - silver medals

- Prestige Brut - 2011 and 2015

Decanter World Wine Awards

- Prestige Brut - 2019, 2020, 2022 - 92 points, 92 points and 88 points
- 2017 Prestige Brut Estate, Gold Medal (95 points)

DOMAINE DE GRAND PRÉ

2019

All Canadian Wine Championships

- 2018 Tidal Bay - Silver
- 2017 Castel - Gold

Atlantic Canadian Wine Awards

- 2017 Riesling - Best of Class white single vinifera, Best of Show
- 2018 Tidal Bay - Best of Class Tidal Bay

2020

All Canadian Wine Championships

- 2019 Tidal Bay - Silver
- 2019 Rosé - Silver
- 2018 L'Acadie - Gold

2021

All Canadian Wine Championships

- 2017 Millot - Gold

WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada

- 2020 Riesling - Bronze
- N/V Riesling Sparkling - Bronze
- 2020 Ortega - Bronze
- 2020 Tidal Bay - Silver



Gary MacDonald Culinary Ambassador Award from Taste of Nova Scotia Awarded to Hanspeter Stutz from Domaine de Grand Pré

BLOMIDON

2024 WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada

- NV Cuvée L'Acadie, Silver Medal
- NV Brut Reserve, Bronze Medal
- NV Cremen, Bronze Medal

2022 WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada

- 2011 Blanc de Blancs, Gold Medal (92 points)
- 2021 Tidal Bay, Gold Medal (92 points)

2021 WineAlign Guide to Canada's Best Wines:

- 2018 Chardonnay, Gold Medal (92 points)
- NV Cuvée, Silver Medal (90 points)
- 2014 Brut Réserve, Silver Medal (90 points)
- NV Crémant, Silver Medal (90 points)

Decanter World Wine Awards:

- NV Cuvée, Silver Medal (90 points)
- 2014 Brut Réserve, Bronze Medal (89 points)
- 2021 Chardonnay, Gold Medal (95 points)

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wine

- In 2020 - NV Cremen
- In 2019 - 2011 Brut Reserve
- In 2024 - Brut Reserve

WineAlign Guide to Canada's Best Wines - Top 10 Sparkling Wines in Canada

- 2011 Brut Reserve
- NV Cuvee L'Acadie

AVONDALE SKY

2021

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines

- 2015 L'Acadie

2020 Savour Food & Wine

- Best White Wine (2016 Cheverie)

2019

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines

- 2011 Blanc de Noir Extra Brut Reserve

2018

RANS Annual Restaurant Awards 2018

- Best Restaurant Bay of Fundy & Annapolis

Taste of Nova Scotia Awards 2018

- Restaurant of the Year

All Canadian Wine Championships

- Gold, white hybrid blend (2017 Tidal Bay)

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines 2018

- 2014 Martock

Tasters Guild International

- Gold, 2017 Muscat
- Silver, 2015 Tennycap
- Silver, 2017 Bliss
- Silver, 2014 Walton Reserve
- Silver, 2017 Tidal Bay
- Silver, 2017 Riesling
- Silver, 2017 Lady Slipper

GASPEREAU VINEYARDS

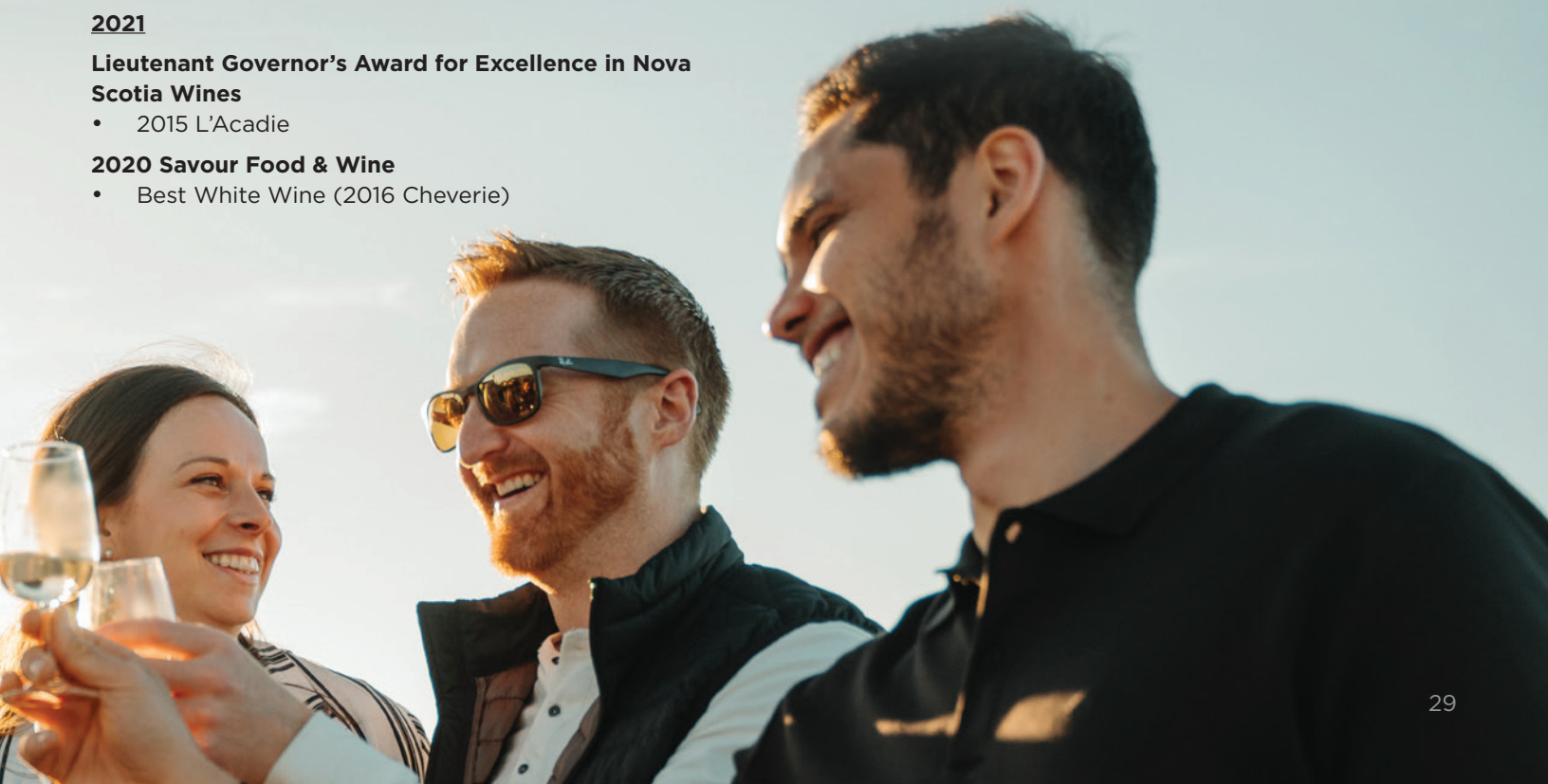
Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines

- 2020 Reserve Riesling

PLANTERS RIDGE

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines

- 2022 Chardonnay



Media

“I predict that Tidal Bay will become Nova Scotia’s calling card, like Sauvignon Blanc in New Zealand or Malbec in Argentina or Shiraz in Australia.”

Tony Aspler, June 2015

“What really makes a fine wine? The root is: it’s not a sure thing...and there’s some impressive sparkling wine coming from insanely cool Nova Scotia, of all places...”

Matt Kramer, Wine Spectator, March 2016

“Talk long enough to just about any passionate winemaker and there’s a strong probability you’ll hear the word ‘terroir’ in your conversation. In Nova Scotia’s small but impressive wine industry, there’s an equally evocative and uniquely local term for much the same thing: Tidal Bay.”

Beppi Crosariol, Globe and Mail, October 2015

“Somewhere at the intersection of the adages that ‘good things come in small packages’ and ‘great wines come from fringe places’, you’ll find Nova Scotia’s wine industry.”

Treve Ring, Wine Enthusiast Magazine, June 2017



“Shocker: Nova Scotia is an emerging wine region that produces naturally sparkling and crisp whites that win awards internationally.”

**The Guardian (United Kingdom),
September 2017**

“Canada’s next great wine region is Nova Scotia.”

**Melanie Patten, The Canadian Press,
March 2016**

“Tidal Bay is a maritime appellative blend of genius creation, a terroir specific concept so specific to Annapolis Valley/Bay of Fundy/ Minas Basin vineyards in Nova Scotia. A veritable East Coast marketing and economic juggernaut from true Canadian wines of quality and efficiency.”

Michael Godel WineAlign 2021

“Sparkling wine is the hero here. Producers are making everything from simple to tank-method fizz to pet-nat to long-lees-aged traditional-method sparkling - some of which could, I suspect, put some champagnes to shame.”

**Tamlyn Currin for Jancis Robinson
May, 2023**

“The sparkling wines are remarkably high in quality and approachable”

**Andrew Catchpole for Harpers Wine & Spirit
April, 2023**

“Every wine region aspires to have a wine that stands out and is widely recognized for defining what the region does best, and Nova Scotia wines are best known for their fresh and bright style.”

**Peder Lehmann Larsen for lehmannlarsen.com,
January, 2024**

“Grown on a mix of sandstone, slate, and ancient seabed, the briny Tidal Bay terroir also sets itself apart from the more full-bodied and fruity offerings in neighbouring Quebec and Ontario due to its proximity to the ocean.”

**Kaitlyn McInnis for Condé Nast Traveler
February, 2022**

Stay

The perfect, leisurely getaway awaits in Nova Scotia's wine country. You'll find the inspiring, panoramic views compliment the beauty of the wines. Whether you find yourself wandering alongside the vines or watching the sunset over the ocean after a day of wine touring and whale watching, you'll want to plan to stay and explore at your own pace. From spas to wineries to golf, choose your route using the pre-planned itineraries at WinesofNovaScotia.ca.

FARM WINERY ACCOMMODATIONS

The Inn at Grand Pré Winery offers 6 suites, each with its own unique ensuite bathroom. There is one Queen room, four King rooms, and the top floor has a 2-bedroom suite. The 2-bedroom suite features one King room and one adjustable room that can either have a Queen-King size bed or two Twin beds upon request. All rooms have been designed for your ultimate comfort.

Planters Ridge recently renovated a farmhouse, which was built in 1864, into 3 luxurious bedrooms that will provide an authentic vineyard experience for any traveler looking to get away. They homage to the old farmhouse by showcasing its original features while adding modern flourishes and embellishments. An artisanal breakfast is included in your stay.



Eat

Farm to table makes sense in an agriculturally diverse area such as Nova Scotia's wine regions, with the coastline for a backyard. Create a memory you'll remember for a lifetime and enjoy the freshest seafood you'll ever have alongside a crisp, aromatic glass of Tidal Bay or world-class sparkling wine.

One of the best ways to discover Nova Scotia wines is to enjoy them with a leisurely paired tasting menu at a winery restaurant, many grow ingredients on site. Or perhaps a picnic in the vineyard, or at the beach, is more your speed? Hit one of the many farmer's markets for supplies, or shop the tasting rooms for locally sourced provisions.

Enjoy the panache without any pretension.

EXPLORE FARM WINERY RESTAURANTS

- Avondale Sky Winery & Restaurant
- Le Caveau Restaurant at Grand Pré Winery
- The Crush Pad Bistro and Sunset Dinners at Luckett Vineyards
- Lightfoot & Wolfville Vineyards Restaurant

Many Nova Scotia farm wineries, such as Benjamin Bridge and Planters Ridge Winery, provide lite-bite, food pairings with their tastings. View WinesofNovaScotia.ca for a list, and links, to the wineries of Nova Scotia. Or visit individual winery websites to see what is offered for tasting and pairing options.

Tours

There are many ways to discover Nova Scotia's farm wine regions - a DIY tour with a designated driver, by bike, or book-in for a guided tour offered by one of the many experienced, and knowledgeable tour partners in the regions. Reserving with a tour guide is an incredibly informative, and responsible, way to enjoy Nova Scotia wine country.

The Wines of NS Explorer App will help you discover all your new favourite wine regions, wineries, wines, restaurants, and tour guides. Download the app and start planning your tour today!

You can link to the app and explore our Tour Guide partners, Magic Winery Bus Ltd, Grape Escapes, and Atlantic Ambassatours Limited, on our website at WinesofNovaScotia.ca.

Events

Wine country events are like no other! These events always feel like time has paused as you step into the magical and stunning vineyard settings or beautiful, architecturally impressive wineries. People come from all over to take in these fun occasions. You can find wine country events happening during every season in Nova Scotia.

AN EVENT FOR EVERY SEASON:

- Annual Tidal Bay Launch (Spring)
- Behind the Vine (November)
- Nova Scotia Winter Wine Festival (Feb.)
- Wines on the Waterfront (June)
- Summer winery events from live music to long table dinners to exclusive wine club events

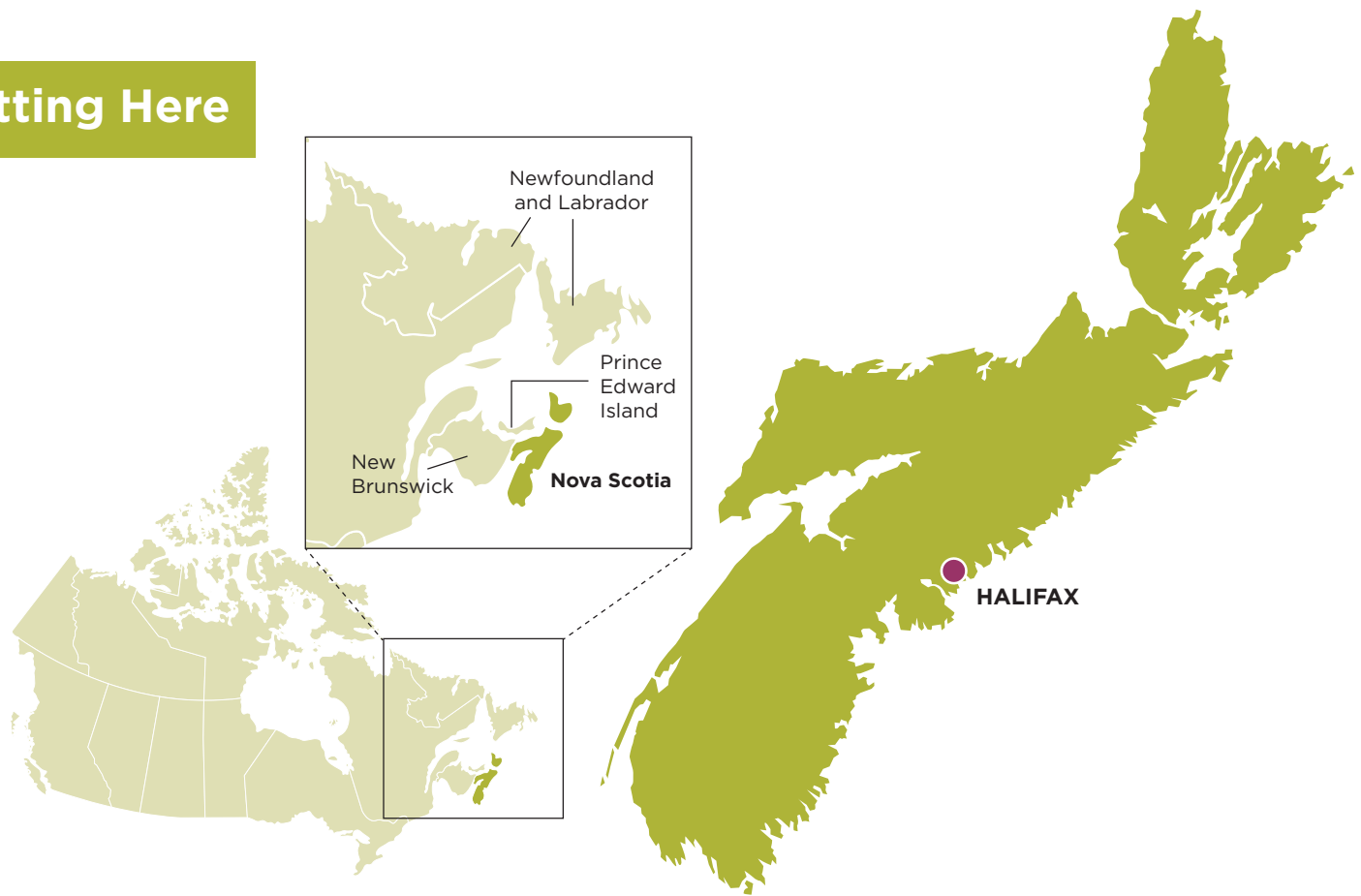


“One of the greatest things about wine is discovering the regions of the world where it’s grown, meeting the people behind the industry, and learning about the terroir that makes that region special. Nova Scotia is a wine region with an amazing story to tell.”

Karl Coutinho,
President & Operations
Manager, Avondale Sky Winery



Getting Here



Talk to Us

Wines of Nova Scotia is active on social media and encourages media and trade to interact with us online. Help us tell the world about the #WinesofNS and #TidalBay wines.

FOLLOW US

  @winesofns

 @winegrowersns

 Wine Growers Nova Scotia

TAG US

#TidalBay #WinesofNS

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(Android and iPhone)



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