



SAMPLE CULINARY GROUP TOUR ITINERARY

Anyone who is passionate about food and wine will delight in a tour of the greater Charlottesville area. Virginia was recently named one of the top-ten wine destinations in the world and more recently, Charlottesville was proclaimed one of the top five foodie destinations in the nation by Wine Enthusiast magazine... and Charlottesville boasts over 30 wineries in a 30-mile radius! As for food, we have local bounty-a-plenty and our renowned chefs all embrace the farm-to-table approach, with menus changing on a daily basis to ensure that only the freshest ingredients are served.

Day One

Start your day with a delightful brunch at [The Boar's Head](#) and enjoy unique Virginia ham and their signature peanut soup.

Then, head out to [Monticello](#), the home of President Thomas Jefferson and UNESCO World Heritage site; Although Jefferson is best remembered as the author of the Declaration of Independence, he was also scholar, writer, scientist, architect and most definitely, an epicurean – among others, he is credited with bringing the first wine in America, as well as macaroni and cheese!

After walking around the Monticello property, you will have worked up an appetite. Why not stop in at [Michie Tavern Ca. 1784](#) for a traditional 18th century lunch (including the best fried chicken in town), catered by staff dressed in period costume?

Time to get busy again and by coincidence, [Carter Mountain Orchard](#) is only a 5-minute drive away! Do it yourself and **pick fruit** right off the tree and sample the juicy local harvest, with scrumptious peaches or apples available in season.

Continue your exploration with a short drive to local wineries such as [Trump Winery](#) (yes, owned by THE Donald!), [Jefferson Vineyards](#) and Dave Matthews' [Blenheim Vineyards](#). There, you will taste award-winning wines, learn about the art of wine-making in Virginia and even perhaps meet the winemakers.

Time to eat again (oh, goody!) and you are formally invited to [Dine with a President](#) at locals' favorite spot and meet one of the Founding Fathers in a lively first-person interpretation!

As the day comes to an end, check-in to one of Charlottesville's awesome hotels and get some rejuvenating rest.

Day Two

Start your day on the right foot by exploring the [City Market](#), which features local, fresh organic produce and handmade goods – be sure to get the freshly made-on-the-premises doughnuts and coffee, and shop for souvenirs to bring home to your loved ones.

Time to talk food again, this time through a custom [cooking class](#) featuring fresh Virginia produce. You will learn how to cook like a pro, thanks to the expertise of one of our talented local chefs. And here is the best part: You will get to eat what you created for lunch!

Hit the road again, to the rural side of Albemarle County where you will make a few stops along the [Monticello Artisan Trail](#). Agri-artisans, artists and winemakers await you for a unique encounter where they will share their passion for their craft.

Then, it's back to Downtown Charlottesville, where you will enjoy a walking tour of [Historic Court Square](#) – where Jefferson, Monroe, and Madison practiced law. Also, discover the locals' secret eateries on the [Historic Downtown Pedestrian Mall](#) – full of dynamic and hidden hot spots! The Mall is also a great place to visit art galleries and of course, to shop!