

Charlottesville



The Pippin Hill Guide to Wine, Food and Fun

When savvy marketers rolled out a Virginia tourism campaign more than 50 years ago, taglines and branding were barely a thing. But “Virginia is for Lovers” hit a bull’s-eye, and remains iconic, for good reason. There’s so much to love about Virginia, and no better place than Charlottesville for discovering it all.

Whether you’re a wine lover, history lover, outdoor lover, architecture lover, or whether you’re a foodie or fashionista, a horticulture fan or horse fanatic or hiking fiend, Charlottesville offers much to charm and delight. True it’s one of America’s loveliest college towns, and so much more. The Charlottesville Airport offers easy access (with various airport shuttle options, including one offering a wine/brewery tour) and it’s a jaw-dropping gorgeous drive from points north or south, making Charlottesville an ideal wedding weekend destination, family vacation spot or romantic getaway.

Think of our Pippin Hill Explorers Guide as your updated “Virginia is for Lovers” dating manual. (*Disclaimer, if you indeed must depart after 72 hours, we bear no responsibility for heartbreak.)

Stay:
THE QUIRK

WHERE: 499 W MAIN ST.

Perfectly situated between the Downtown Mall and UVA’s famed Grounds, this hip boutique hotel wows with art, dining, and a sweet rooftop bar.



WINE + DINE WITH CHEF OVERLOOKING THE VINEYARD

WHERE: PIPPIN HILL FARM & VINEYARDS, 5022 PLANK RD., NORTH GARDEN, VA

The Vintner’s Table experience at Pippin Hill sums up the best of Charlottesville: the beauty and bounty of these fertile hills; the culinary dazzle of Pippin Hill’s kitchen; and great food paired with excellent wines from this very soil. This memorable agritourism experience includes a guided garden tour and a custom 4-course or elevated 5-course food and wine pairing.

Pro-Tip: Book ahead (available for parties of 6 – 16) to ensure availability, and splurge for the Reserve Vintner’s Table, with exclusive wines.



CIDER PIT-STOP AFTER PIPPIN HILL

WHERE: POTTER’S CRAFT CIDER 1350 ARROWHEAD VALLEY RD.

Good craft cider is always worth a stop but the towering stone walls of this former church turned-artist enclave-cum-cider hall makes it truly unique

TAVOLA

WHERE: 826 HINTON AVE.

A local favorite, Tavola is cozy and friendly, serving up authentic rustic Italian fare full of heart and soul.

Pro-Tip: Make a reservation—it’s a popular spot! Go early for a cocktail at Tavola’s Cicchetti Bar, tucked down an alley.



Explore Belmont

MAKE A BEELINE TO BE JUST

WHERE: 407 D MONTICELLO RD.

Be Just is just what shopping should be: inspiring, fresh, unique. This neighborhood church studio/showroom offers housewares and décor of exceptional quality and imagination.

Pro-tip: Need a hostess gift, wedding present or souvenir? Say no more.

RISE AND SHINE, BREAKFAST AT MARIEBETTE

WHERE: 700 ROSE HILL DR.

Fuel up for another full day with killer baked goods and the best brunch in town. (Pippin Hill serves their bread – so good!)

Pro-Tip: Go early on weekends, but if crowded, never fear, there's a second location on the Downtown Mall.



WALK THE LAWN AT UVA

WHERE: 400 EMMET ST.

The Lawn on The Grounds is haloed ground in TJ's town. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the center of Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village and home to the classic Rotunda at the north end and Old Cabell Hall at the south with the Pavilions and Lawn rooms connecting them.

REFUEL AT SELVEDGE BREWING

WHERE: 1837 BROADWAY ST.

Sample culinary-inspired beers and locally sourced fare at this restaurant/taproom located at The Wool Factory, a newly restored 19th-century textile mill.

Fun Fact! Their beers are named after the original wool fabrics the mill produced.

GO MALL WALKING (of a different sort) ON THE CHARLOTTESVILLE DOWNTOWN MALL

WHERE: E MAIN ST.

The Downtown Mall is the hub of Charlottesville's dining, entertaining, and shopping district, and one of the country's longest pedestrian malls. This terrific example of historic repurposing and revitalization is always a vibrant scene.

Pro-Tip: Get your caffeine fix at *Petit Marie Bette* or *Mudhouse*, or a cocktail at the basement of *C&O*. From April to September, check out *Fridays After Five* for live music on the Mall.

DINNER AT CAFE FRANK

WHERE: 317 E MAIN ST.

James Beard-nominated Chef Jose De Brito brings you everyday food from a classic French kitchen. Cafe Frank is nestled in the Downtown Mall.

Pro-Tip: Don't limit yourself to just food for this experience. Take it from us, their wine list is extensive and impressive!

BREAKFAST AT BODO'S BAGELS

WHERE: 505 PRESTON AVE.

Every college town worth its salt has a great bagel shop, and Charlottesville is no exception. Bodo's is a staple. Fresh, filling and fun.

Pro-Tip: The line moves fast, so don't be deterred. And grab a to-go bag for late afternoon snacking or travel noshing.

TOUR OF THOMAS JEFFERSON'S MONTICELLO

WHERE: 931 THOMAS JEFFERSON PKWY.

Okay, you probably didn't need us to tell you to go see Monticello. But go! It's a US history refresher course, plus Architecture 101 and Agriculture 101, all in one. The tours are a must.

MEANDER ALONG THE SAUNDERS-MONTICELLO TRAIL

WHERE: 931 THOMAS JEFFERSON PKWY.

This easy, accessible trail is an arboreal wonderland, with beautiful native trees, ample shade and a good sampling of some of the stellar hiking in the Charlottesville area. Begin at Carter's Mountain on gravel paths and boardwalks and end at the Monticello Visitor Center.



72 HOURS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

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Above: Illustration of Pippin Hill Had Gardener Diane Burns