

Blue Ridge Food & Wine Festival

Sample Itinerary

for the Early Bird

Blowing Rock is the perfect place to get outdoors and greet the sun. Make your way to Blowing Rock on Thursday and get settled. Take a walk around town and enjoy great shopping and galleries. You can find everything from fresh fudge to candles made before your eyes. The Tanger Outlets are definitely worth a look as well. Start each day early, and take your time enjoying all the village has to offer.

Thursday, April 10:

7pm-til Take in the tastes of Blowing Rock at a Vintner's Dinner. The Library at The Green Park Inn and Dominic's Table at Crestwood will both be hosting a wonderful multi-course dinner complete with wine pairings. Call the restaurants for reservations.

Friday, April 11:

7am-11am: Stop in for breakfast at one of our historic local eateries, like Sonny's or Knight's on Main. After your meal, make your way to Broyhill Park for an early stroll. You are likely to see other early risers like yourself out for a walk. Annie Cannon Gardens and Glen Burney Trail are adjacent to the park. The trail is beautiful, and a good opportunity to listen to and view some spring birds, and waterfalls, as well! Be careful on the trail, it is steep, and sometimes slippery. Be sure to dress in layers, too; the elevation change is dramatic, and it can get quite chilly in early Spring.

11am-6pm: Wine classes and tasting seminars are going on all afternoon. Times and prices vary. Purchase tickets online. Seminars are within walking distance of each other and downtown, so be sure to spend some time on Main Street, stopping in various shops to find the items on the Scavenger Hunt list. Don't forget about the coffee tasting workshops (Coffee Cupping) at Tucker's on Main!

7-till: Attend the "Wine, Dine & Dance" party at the Meadowbrook Inn. The ticket (available online) includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, entertainment, & gratuity. Full bar available. Or try another fabulous Vintner's Dinner at participating restaurants: Gamekeeper Restaurant, Manor House at Chetola, Crippen's, Bistro Roca, and the Library at Green Park Inn. Reservations are needed for these as well.

Saturday, April 12:

- 7am- 8:30am: Take the self-guided Historic Walking Tour of Blowing Rock. This tour goes the length of the village, and has some remarkable buildings along the route. You can [download and print this pdf](#) and take it with you, or stop to get one at our visitor center when you come into town. Good hint: if you start at #5 on the tour, you will end near Kojay's, another great spot for breakfast or coffee.
- 8:30am-10am Enjoy breakfast at a Blowing Rock restaurant.
- 10am- 4pm: The Fire on the Rock Chef's Challenge begins today. Watch area chefs battle for the title of Best Chef. One ticket is good for all-day entry to the different rounds. Purchase tickets online. Check out some local writers and their works between rounds. The High Country Writers will be hosting an open reception and book signing at the Hayes Center. The Grand Tasting, the signature event of the festival, will be on the grounds at Chetola Resort, beginning at noon. Enjoy over 100 wines from around the world, and live music by Pudding Stone. Be sure to say 'hi' to Bob Timberlake! Shuttles will be available between events.
- 4pm-7pm: After the excitement of the two big events, take a stroll downtown and check out the great shops, continue your scavenger hunt, and have dinner.
- 7:30- 9:30pm: Head over to the Hayes Center for a great Jazz performance by the Todd Wright Quartet. "Wine, Women, and Sinatra" celebrates the music of Frank Sinatra, and is sure to be a fantastic show. Purchase tickets online from the Hayes Center box office.

Sunday, April 13:

- 7am- 11am: Eat breakfast at your favorite restaurant so far, or try a new one. Head up to Moses H Cone Memorial Park to take in the views and great walking trails. The Southern Highland Craft Guild shop in the lower floor of the mansion opens at 9am, and is worth a peek.
- 11am- 2pm: Have your pick of some relaxing Champagne Brunches. Canyons and Blowing Rock Grille will be hosting their own, while the Meadowbrook will be putting on a fashion show to go along with the meal.
- 12pm- 4pm: Fire on the Rock Chef's Challenge continues. Be sure to grab a seat for the final round where the Best Chef will be named. Again, the High Country Writers will be around to provide a place to mingle with the authors and chat with your friends about your favorite chefs.

Please stop by our Visitor Center on Valley Boulevard (321 bypass) in Blowing Rock. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. We also have a variety of maps and lots of area info. We are open Monday-Saturday, 9am- 5pm. You can also reach us by calling the Wine Festival toll-free number: 1-877-295-7965