

Blue Ridge Food & Wine Festival

Sample Itinerary

for the Late-Nighter

Blowing Rock may be a small town, but there is no shortage of late-night fun here. Enjoy the Festival by day, and go out on the town each evening!

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.

Thursday, April 10:

6pm-9pm: Start the weekend right with the "Uncork the Festival" bash at Crippen's Country Inn. Live music, great hors d'oeuvres, and Argentinean wines. Purchase tickets online.

10pm-til: Head over to Canyons Restaurant, where The Everybodyfields are performing. Cover charge to be announced. Go to www.canyonsbr.com for more info. If you want to spend your evening helping others, check out the fundraising party at the Meadowbrook. The \$5 cover charge is donated to the Wine to Water organization. Go to www.meadowbrook-inn.com and www.winetowater.org for more.

Friday, April 11:

After sleeping in a bit, try out one of our great restaurants for a late breakfast or early lunch. Some of the following would fit into your schedule nicely:

11am-4:30: 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 at Tucker's on Main.

5pm: Head back to your hotel room to refresh, relax, and get ready to go out!

7-9:30pm: 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 out one of our fabulous Vintner's Dinners at participating restaurants. Reservations are needed for these.

10pm-til: You can head to Canyons, or try Twigs Restaurant for tonight's entertainment. Both have late-night music every Friday. If you decide to stay at the Meadowbrook, there will be a live band performing after the party. **Simplified** was named one of Charlotte's 10 best bands, and will appeal to fans of Jack Johnson and Dave Matthews.

Saturday, April 12:

You might sleep in again, but no worries! You won't feel like you missed anything. There is still so much to do!

- 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.
- 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.
- 9:30pm- til: Head out on the town for one more night of fun! Ask around to find out where the locals go on Saturday nights. And of course, you can enjoy live music and a lively scene at Twigs or Canyons.

Sunday, April 13:

The last day of the festival is still a big one...

- 11am- 2pm: Have your pick of some relaxing Champagne Brunches. Canyons and Blowing Rock Grille will be hosting their own, while the Meadobrook 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