



THE FINGER LAKES REGION OF NEW YORK • SEPTEMBER 19–23, 2018



New York's Finger Lakes region takes its name from 11 freshwater lakes placed like a handprint between Lake Ontario and the Pennsylvania border. While local wineries produce many wines, with the cool climate grape, Riesling, has become the signature Finger Lakes varietal wine known the world over. Among the top ten wine regions in the world, the area offers a culinary bounty, with an emphasis on farm-to-table cuisine. Join us, as The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society visits this, the largest and most acclaimed winemaking region in the Eastern United States.

Above Right: A vineyard in the Finger Lakes region.
Left: Taughannock Falls, a gorgeous 215 foot waterfall found in the Finger Lakes region.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018:
WELCOME DINNER

Join the WineGeese in one of New York City's most unique settings, The River Café. Nestled riverside under the Brooklyn Bridge with sweeping views of the New York skyline and the Statue of Liberty, the River Café is owned by Buzzy O'Keefe, a longtime member of the WineGeese Society. Buzzy is recognized as one of the most legendary restaurateurs in New York and the restaurant has been awarded a Michelin star.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018:
WELCOME TO THE FINGER LAKES & CAYUGA LAKE

Depart New York City in the morning via coach for the Finger Lakes with a stop for lunch enroute. That afternoon, arrive and check into Hotel Ithaca. Following check in, depart the hotel for Taughannock Falls Overlook.

Following Taughannock Falls Overlook visit Sheldrake Point Winery, a beautiful lakeside winery on the shores of Cayuga Lake. Here you will enjoy a private vineyard tour with the owner followed by tasting of their award-winning vinifera wine paired with local cheese. Featured on this tasting will be the opportunity to taste the Wild Ferment Ice Wine, which was recognized at the Canberra International Riesling Challenge as the best Riesling in the world.

Finally, Good Life Farm and the Finger Lakes Cider House for a tour and a cider pairing dinner curated by the owner and made with local ingredients from the farm and its neighbors.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018:
EXPLORE SENECA LAKE

*Optional Activity—Hot Air Balloon Ride over Cayuga Lake. Guests will have the option to sign up in advance for a hot air balloon experience over Cayuga Lake.**

Arrive at Silver Thread Vineyard, a sustainable boutique winery that has one of the oldest vineyard sites on Seneca Lake. Owned by Shannon and Paul Brock since 2011, their premium-crafted, single vineyard Rieslings have been annually recognized by Wine Spectator as some of the best in the region.

Then, a private Irish-inspired wine-pairing lunch at Suzanne Fine Regional Cuisine. The accolades bestowed upon the restaurant include: One of the Ten Best Places to Dine in New York State from Frommer's; 2011 NY Wine and Grape Foundation's Restaurant of the Year; and a wine list awarded Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence multiple years running. Arguably most significant is Chef Suzanne Stack's recognition as a semi-finalist for the James Beard Award for Best Chef of the Northeast US.

Following lunch travel to Damiani Wine Cellars for a Sommelier-led wine tasting paired with locally crafted chocolates. Damiani has an unparalleled dedication in the region to crafting quality red wines. They have received more accolades for their red wines than any other winery in the Finger Lakes. Grapes for their wines come from 3 distinct vineyards, Damiani, Davis, and Sunrise Hill each meticulously tended to and specializing in specific varietals from Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, to Lemberger and Syrah.

That evening, enjoy a private dinner at The John Thomas Steak House. Choose your cut of their USDA Prime and Brandt Natural beef, which is dry-aged in house and turned weekly by hand with sommelier wine service.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018: MUSEUMS AND SAILING

Following breakfast depart your hotel to head for the Corning Museum of Glass. This is a world-renowned museum, home to the world's largest collection of glass, showcasing 3500 years of glass art and history. A private lunch will then be served at the museum.

Experience a custom tasting at the historic, family-run Lakewood Vineyards with grapes planted in 1952 by the original owner, Monty Stamp.

In the afternoon, board the historic Schnoer True Love for a private sailing experience on Seneca Lake. Built in 1926 as a racing sailboat, her beauty caught the eye of Hollywood. Her featured role came in *High Society*, where Bing Crosby serenades Grace Kelly with the song "True Love" aboard her actual deck.

Dinner on the last evening will be at Coltivare Farm to Bistro Culinary Center. Enjoy a three-course demonstration dinner with regional Finger Lakes chef, Brud Holland in the center's cooking amphitheater. Each course will be paired with the Finger Lakes wine presented by a certified sommelier.

The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society celebrates wine, food, and art of Irish provenance from around the world. All activities are funded by WineGeese Society members.

Below Left: Cayuga Lake, Below Right: Seneca Lake

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018: BRUNCH AND FARMERS MARKET

Breakfast al fresco and lake-side at The Ithaca Farmers Market. Recognized by Zagat as one of the "8 Must-Visit Farmers Markets" in the country.

Before departing the region, enjoy a unique and special wine and port experience at Ports of New York. Meet sole-proprietor Frederic' Bouche', a fourth-generation winemaker from Normandy France, as he shares with you a tour of his cellar and the port-making process. This will be followed by wine and port tasting with featured pairings and exhibit talk on his personal antique French wine-making collection before departing for New York City.

ACCOMODATION:

HOTEL ITHACA

222 South Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 • www.thehotelithaca.com
The beautiful, renovated Hotel Ithaca is located in the heart of downtown Ithaca. Ithaca is home to a multitude of wineries, the Cayuga Wine Trail, rambling gorges, hiking trails, pristine waterfalls and Cornell University.

Price per person: \$2,750

(includes return transport from New York City to the Finger Lakes, accommodation in the Finger Lakes, meals and excursions)

To reserve a place, please contact Cliona Doyle at cdoyle@irelandfunds.org or 212.689.3100

**Flights are highly weather dependent. There is additional cost for this activity.*



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