



**OFF THE BEATEN PATH<sup>®</sup>**  
**UPSTATE NEW YORK** →

A GUIDE TO UNIQUE PLACES

## THE FINGER LAKES

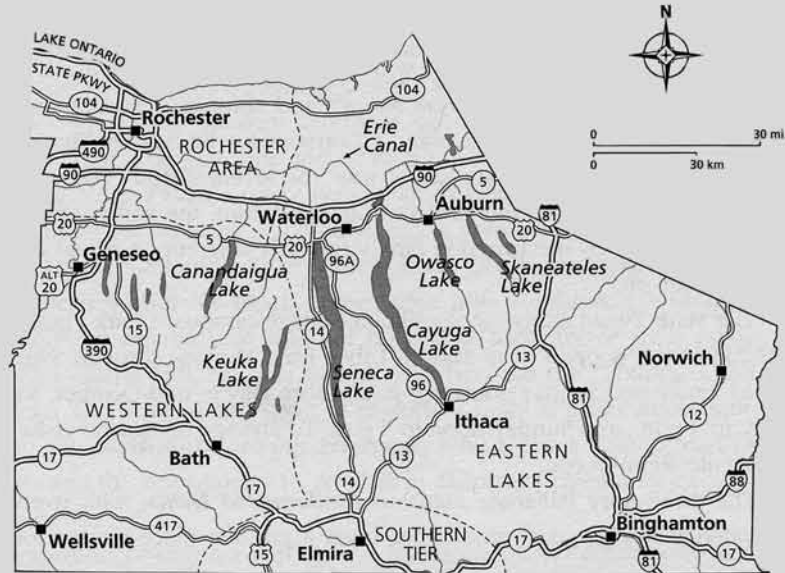


Between New York's "northern seaboard" along Lake Ontario and the Pennsylvania border lies the region that many visitors consider to be the most beautiful part of the state. South of the Lake Ontario plain, the Finger Lakes area appears to be furrowed on a vast scale, with hilly farmland descending toward each of the lakes only to rise again before the next. The aptly named elongated lakes extend roughly north and south across an 80-mile swath of the state, offering vistas reminiscent of parts of Switzerland. It's no wonder the city at the northern end of Seneca Lake was named Geneva.

Another distinctly European aspect of the Finger Lakes area is its status as New York State's premier wine-growing region. No longer limited to just the cultivation of native grape varieties, New York's vintners have come a long way. Visits to individual vineyards and the wine museum described in this section will demonstrate their vast history and achievements.

Scenes of well-tended vines in rows along steep hillsides may be reminiscent of Europe, but the Finger Lakes region is rich in Americana with museums of coverlets, Victorian dolls, and horse-drawn carriages. You'll even find Mark Twain's study and a museum devoted to Memorial Day.

# THE FINGER LAKES



## AUTHOR'S FAVORITES—FINGER LAKES

Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars

House of Guitars

Letchworth State Park

Mark Twain Study

National Soaring Museum

Paleontological Research Institution

Pat Mitchell's Homemade Ice Cream

Rockwell Museum of Western Art

Willard Memorial Chapel

### Uncork New York

There are about one hundred wineries, large and small, peppered throughout the Finger Lakes. Visitors can either let serendipity be their guide, taking a leisurely drive through the area and stopping when the spirit moves, or can carefully plan a tasting route with the help of several Web sites: [www.fingerlakeswinecountry.com](http://www.fingerlakeswinecountry.com) (800-813-2958); [www.senecalakewine.com](http://www.senecalakewine.com) (877-536-2717); [www.keukawinetrail.com](http://www.keukawinetrail.com) (800-440-4898); [www.cayugawinetrail.com](http://www.cayugawinetrail.com) (800-684-5217); and [www.newyorkwines.org](http://www.newyorkwines.org) (585-394-3620). You can find listings of wineries as well as places to eat, shop, and stay overnight; download the information you need or request maps and brochures.

#### 100 Off the Beaten Path

There's hardly anyplace more off-the-beaten-path than **Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars**, on the western banks of Keuka Lake. Yet oenophiles still wind their way through the vineyards to reach the tasting room, eager to sip Pinot Noirs, Gewürztraminers, sparkling wines, and Rieslings. Dr. Frank's wines have won dozens of gold medals and have been ranked among the country's best wines by tastemakers like *Wine Spectator* magazine, finally bringing New York vintages into the national spotlight.

Back in the 1950s, when Dr. Frank arrived from Europe speaking not a word of English, vintners in the Finger Lakes were using indigenous American grapes to make wine that was pretty harsh and unsophisticated. A doctor of viticulture in his native Ukraine, Dr. Frank believed that the *Vitis Vinifera*, the wine grapes of Europe, could be cultivated here, even with the cold winters. He proved it by grafting the varietal vines onto hardy rootstock, and today we can savor the fruits of his labor.

Seek out Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars at 9749 Middle Rd., Hammondsport (800-320-0735; [www.DrFrankWines.com](http://www.DrFrankWines.com)), or purchase some of Dr. Frank's finest at your local wine merchant.