

Flavour Trails Itinerary: Grapes to Grains

Whether you're a wine collector or a new wine taster, a craft beer fan or a cidery novice, you are sure to enjoy the Flavour Trails grapes to grains agritourism experience. Be pleasantly surprised as you travel through vineyards, orchards and farms just minutes from downtown Victoria. Whatever the season, visitors can expect to be enchanted as knowledgeable proprietors, dedicated hosts and award-winning makers pour their product and share their stories. This is an à la carte itinerary where visitors pick and choose their stops, as well as some local restaurants we feel pair brilliantly with them along the way. In geographical order, heading north from downtown Victoria (with your designated driver or tour operator!).

Macaloney's Island Distillery & TWA Dogs Brewing

Discover how beer and whisky is made on a guided tour of an operational brewery and distillery. Macaloney's Island Distillery & TWA Dogs Brewery crafts elegant single malt whiskies and superb craft beer. An onsite lounge and visitor centre allow guests to enjoy the atmosphere with a pint in hand or take home their favourite bottle of whisky.

Fireside Grill

Towering garry oak and landscaped gardens surround you in this historic, urban acreage nestled on West Saanich Road. For the ambiance, think rich earth tones, classic planked flooring, elegant woodwork, and warmth. This award-winning restaurant serves a distinctively Victorian dining experience focusing on fresh farm-to-table fare. If you're visiting on the weekend, don't miss their famous weekend brunch, consistently ranked as one of the best in Canada.

Niche Grocerant

The one-stop shop for the flavours of Victoria, Niche Grocerant is a locally focused specialty food retailer with a fully licensed restaurant. Find all your favourite foods from the Flavour Trails, Victoria, and Vancouver Island. Niche is the perfect spot to load up on local delicacies in your picnic basket for your day of exploration along the Saanich Peninsula.

Junction Orchard & Cidery

Junction Orchard & Cidery is a rustic eight acre farm rolling out the west coast welcome to cider fans, families, and even our four-legged friends. Using whole, fresh in-season fruit from the Saanich Peninsula and Vancouver Island allows for minimal processing and richer, fuller flavours. After exploring the orchards and tasting room, it's time to hit the saddle again and keep rolling down the Flavour Trails.



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Church & State

What could be better than a beautiful vineyard on the Peninsula? Fifteen minutes down the road, arrive at Church & State Wines. Their Tasting Bar is the perfect place to linger a while. Especially when seated overlooking the vineyard on their expansive patio. Make a note to return soon with your mat for one of their outdoor yoga classes.

Category 12 Brewing

Category 12 believes there is a fundamental basis of biology and chemistry that guides the fermentation process and enables the creation of consistently great beers. Category 12's head brewer and founder, Michael Kuzyk, has been brewing beer for more than 20 years and has his doctorate in microbiology and biochemistry. With Michael's continual tinkering, you can expect a continually expanding line of seasonal releases, including those that pay homage to his favourite big Belgians and hoppy Northwestern ales.

The Arbutus Room

The Arbutus Room is a celebration of the best ingredients the island has to offer. Carefully curated rotating menus blend elevated culinary technique with the finest local ingredients to showcase the depth of west coast cuisine. The Arbutus Room offers an excellent opportunity to taste the best our region has to offer, bringing together locally sourced fish, produce from the Cowichan Valley, and one-of-a-kind ingredients from the unique micro-climates of the Gulf Islands.

Victoria Distillers

Victoria Distillers produces some of Canada's finest handmade spirits and award-winning gins. As one of Canada's oldest small-batch spirits companies, the success of Victoria Distillers comes together through the help of talented mixologists, the world's best-tasting water (found here on the Canadian west coast), and only the highest quality of ingredients. The magic happens on a unique waterfront location in Sidney, where copper pot stills produce their wide range of both classic and innovative cocktail spirits.

