



## **Bearwallow Mtn.: Superb Views. And Cows, Too**

Bearwallow Mountain Trail, created by Conserving Carolina, offers a one-mile hike to exceptional views. At 4,232 feet above sea level, with a grassy meadow summit, the mountain features a nearly 360° view that includes Mt. Mitchell and Mt. Pisgah. Its vistas also provide a birds-eye view of Hickory Nut Gorge, downtown Hendersonville, and the high country of South Carolina. An historic fire tower occupies the summit, along with grazing cows. Conserving Carolina worked with the landowners to protect nearly 500 acres, while allowing the family's cows to keep their meadow home. The summit trail is one mile each way. You can follow a gravel road back to the parking area for a loop hike.

## **NC's Newest Wine Country is in Hendersonville**

It's official! The Crest of the Blue Ridge wine region is North Carolina's newest federally designated American Viticultural Area. The AVA designation puts the region on par with other designated wine regions, like Yadkin Valley, Napa Valley and the Finger Lakes. Warm days and cool nights during the growing season create ideal conditions for growing classic European grape varietals and French-American hybrids. Six picturesque vineyards, including Marked Tree (pictured) comprise the AVA, with a seventh to open in 2022. Crest of the Blue Ridge wineries fared extremely well in the most recent NC Fines Wines Competition, with wines from Marked Tree and Stone Ashe earning best of show.



## **Horse Shoe Farm is Different Kind of Spa Retreat**

Horse Shoe Farm retreat and spa is a relaxing mountain getaway. Located on 85 acres along the French Broad River, the farm offers comfy, upscale lodging for up to 50 guests, along with Western North Carolina's most unique spa experience. The Stable Spa occupies a refurbished horse barn and the former stables serve as treatment rooms. Guests choose from traditional body and foot massages and aroma therapies, or opt for a more holistic approach. Services include biodynamic cranial touch and crystalline sound therapy, as well as Thai yoga massages, sacred Lomi Lomi massages and intuitive energy therapy.



### **Cheers! Trail: 23 Tasting Rooms in the Blue Ridge Mountains**

North Carolina's only craft beverage trail featuring beer, wine, cider and mead is the Hendersonville Cheers! Trail. The trail guides people to 11 breweries, six wineries, three cideries and one meadery. Two wineries also have off-site tasting rooms that are on the trail. Roam the Blue Ridge to discover mountaintop wineries, cideries making hard cider from Henderson County's bumper apple crop, and craft breweries ranging from the palatial Sierra Nevada Brewing in Mills River to the trail's newest brewery, D9 Brewing on Main Street in Hendersonville. A passport program allows visitors to earn cool swag along the way.

### **Ballybunion to Hendersonville: Super Velvety Ice Cream**

A velvety, ultra-creamy ice cream recipe has made its way from Ballybunion, Ireland, to downtown Hendersonville. Kim Hogan recently opened Celtic Creamery in the Historic 7th Avenue District. Three years ago, Kim's brother, Jeff, opened the nation's first Celtic Creamery in Carolina Beach. It was such a success that Kim decided to bring it to their NC hometown. The ice cream is made in-house, adhering to the original recipe from McCarthy's Ice Cream in Ballybunion. Joanna McCarthy flew from Ireland to train Jeff Hogan and oversee the opening of the Carolina Beach shop in 2018. Jeff did likewise for his sister earlier this year.



### **Echo Mountain Inn Celebrates 125 Years**

Echo Mountain Inn opened in 1896 as a vacation home for Floridians escaping summer's heat. In the 1920s, it began to welcome guests, a tradition that has continued over the years through various owners. The current owners are a family comprised of four generations who have restored the inn to its rightful place as a welcoming mountain getaway. There are 23 renovated guest rooms & suites, outdoor pool, several sitting areas and a restaurant with grand views. Chef Tom Makowski received his masters in Italian cuisine at the culinary institute for foreigners in Asti, Italy.

### **Multiple Events on Tap During Home for the Holidays**

Hendersonville welcomes folks "Home for the Holidays" from mid-November through Christmas. This annual celebration combines downtown events, holiday shows at the Flat Rock Playhouse, carriage rides on Main Street, the Peppermint Bear Scavenger Hunt, greenery markets and more. Visitors can stay at one of several cozy bed-and-breakfast inns and make a long weekend out of it, or stay longer. Events are listed and continually added on the Visit Hendersonville website at:

<https://www.visithendersonvillenc.org/home-for-the-holidays>

