



Mount Airy, NC

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Two New Additions to the Surry Sonker Trail

Prudence McCabe Confections on Main Street in Mt. Airy and the Tilted Ladder restaurant on Main Street in Pilot Mountain have joined the Surry Sonker Trail. The trail showcases a heritage dessert passed down through generations in Surry County. Sonker is described as a juicy hybrid of pie and cobbler, consisting of cooked fruit and crust. Some have a liquid batter poured on top the fruit, others have a rolled dough for their crust. Recipes depend on family tradition and often include a secret ingredient or two. Prudence McCabe makes sonker in small pie tins. Just before they're done, owner Sue Heckman grates butter on top, sprinkles sugar, and places them under the broiler to make a golden-brown top.

Market Street: the Hipper Side of Mount Airy

Although known far and wide as Mayberry, Andy Griffith's hometown of Mount Airy has a hipper side. The Market Street Entertainment District, just a block off Main Street, is home to two breweries, a vintage clothing and music store, unique shops and a cool alley featuring a mural of a famed singer who called Mount Airy home in the latter years of her life. In 2020, the town passed an ordinance to allow Market Street to close to vehicle traffic on weekends and become a pedestrian-friendly district. Each weekend from May through October, the street comes to life with artists, craft vendors, musicians, and locals and tourists enjoying the vibe. Folks are even allowed to carry beer and wine from the breweries out to the street.



Walk, Run, Hike, Bike or Fish on GC Greenway

Mount Airy's Granite City Greenway, which began as two separate trails systems, ties together some of the Yadkin Valley town's most impressive natural resources and outdoor amenities. Following along the Ararat River and Lovills Creek, the greenway — measuring 6.6 miles one way and 13.2 miles roundtrip — forms a horseshoe around Mount Airy's southern border. The 10-foot-wide paved route is used for walking, running, cycling, trout fishing in the Ararat River, and more.



Mount Airy's Newest Winery Features Spectacular Sunsets

A new Yadkin Valley vineyard showcases wine, mountain views and sunsets on 70 acres bordering the Fisher River. Serre Vineyards opened last September. The name Serre rhymes with "care" and is the French word for glass greenhouse. The centerpiece of the estate is a 3,000-square-foot modern farmhouse tasting barn with European accents. Outside is a grass terrace facing the North Carolina mountains to the west, providing spectacular views of sunsets framed by Blue Ridge peaks.

Wine is Celebrated Each Spring During Mt. Airy's Budbreak Festival

Mount Airy honors its place in Yadkin Valley wine country every spring with the Budbreak Wine & Craft Beer Festival. After missing 2020 because of the pandemic and moving to August in 2021, the festival returns next year to its traditional date of the first Saturday in May. Budbreak is a boutique festival showcasing around 20 wineries and craft breweries on Main Street in front of Old North State Winery. Wine and beer are complemented by live music on the main stage, food vendors and shopping along Main Street.



Mayberry, Mayberry and More Mayberry

Folks flock to Mount Airy because of native son Andy Griffith. They come to enjoy a town that embraces its role as the inspiration for Mayberry. Griffith's eponymous show sprinkled in more than 150 references to real Mount Airy people, places and things. Learn more about the town (and show) while taking a squad car tour from Wally's Service Station, and visit the Andy Griffith Museum and Andy Griffith Playhouse. Snap a picture at the TV Land statue of Andy & Opie, and check out the Mayberry shops downtown.

Famous Pork Chop Sandwich at Snappy Lunch

Snappy Lunch, which opened in 1923, is known for two things. One, it was mentioned on an episode of The Andy Griffith Show. And two, it is home to the famous pork chop sandwich created by longtime owner Charles Dowell. Dowell created this culinary sensation in the 1960s and it remains popular today – a messy, tasty conglomeration of a fried pork chop, bun, slaw, chili, onions, mustard and a tomato slice. People often line up out the door to taste this delicacy!



Surry County Wine Trail: 20 Vineyards in the Heart of Yadkin Valley

Mount Airy and Surry County are located in the heart of NC's Yadkin Valley wine country, and the Surry County Wine Trail offers a great way to visit 20 of the 48 wineries in the valley. The trail meanders through the towns of Mount Airy, Pilot Mountain, Dobson and Elkin. Options range from urban wineries to small boutique wineries to large estate vineyards framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains. The trail expanded from 16 to 20 wineries in the fourth quarter of 2020 thanks to a flurry of new wineries opening in Surry County.