



Niagara Lakeshore

Wineries to visit: *Konzelmann Estate Winery, Palatine Hills Estate Winery, Stratus Vineyards, Stonechurch Vineyards, Strewn Winery and Sunnybrook Farm Estate Winery*

Put aside the map for this tour as the wineries on the route are located on, or are just a short jog away from, Lakeshore Road. The road winds by vineyards sweeping down to the shores of Lake Ontario and breezes from the lake take the heat off a cloudless summer's day. This sub-appellation stretches from the Welland Canal towards the historic town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The vineyards and orchards receive abundant sunlight and temperatures are moderated by lake breezes. Light sand and silt soils provide good drainage and the grapes and fruit grown here produce full-bodied, flavourful wines.

When you tour **Konzelmann Estate Winery** and take in the expansive vineyards and lake views, you sense that Herbert Konzelmann picked the site as much for its aesthetics as its being an ideal location for grape growing. Herbert Konzelmann hails from Stuttgart Germany, where his family founded a winery over 100 years ago. He has carried on the traditions of German winemaking - with a touch of new world finesse - in his wines and in the impressive winery building.

The owners of **Palatine Hills Estate Winery** have been in the business of growing premium grapes since the early 1970s, but it was only as the century came to a close that they embarked on winemaking. Their Icewine was an immediate success. Winning awards, devotees and further triumphs with other fine wines indicated it was time to build a smart retail boutique amidst the 120 acres of vineyards.

Stratus Vineyards is a gravity-flow winery, distinguished by its LEED® certified facility, its commitment to sustainability and wines of outstanding quality. Through its flagship wines, Stratus Red and Stratus White, Stratus allows wine lovers to rediscover the noble tradition of assemblage, the art of combining several grape varieties to make a single wine. Stratus became the first building in Canada to achieve LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the Canadian Green Building Council and is the first winery worldwide to fully achieve this designation. The architecture and design has earned the winery numerous awards.

Stonechurch Vineyards has been producing fine wines since 1990. The winery is located in a peaceful spot just off Lakeshore Road and if you're looking for a few quiet moments to yourself, the self-guided vineyard trail is a great place to start. In-depth guided tours provide a behind-the-scenes understanding of the winemaking process. Follow with a structured wine tasting and take a few minutes to indulge your inner foodie with the boutique's selection of gourmet food items.

Strewn Winery is home to Canada's only winery cooking school and the Terroir La Cachette restaurant. If you'd like to learn the secrets of pairing wine and Niagara regional cuisine, enrol in a day, weekend or five day cooking class. You will learn the basics and beyond of wine and food pairing. At the winery, be sure to sample the small production and super-premium wines.

For a fruit wine experience guaranteed to blow away any preconceptions, stop by **Sunnybrook Farm Estate Winery**. This family-run enterprise is the first winery in Canada to specialize in wines made from 100% Niagara grown fruit and berries. The wines are naturally fermented, light and balanced. Most are Fruit Wines of Canada Quality Certified (QC), which is the fruit wine equivalent of VQA. There's a wide range of luscious flavours to taste including peach, blackberry, pear, apple and the gloriously decadent 'Chocolate Embrace', a blueberry wine infused with rich chocolate.