

Great River Road – Winetinerary



Discover life on the Mississippi River through prominent historic sites and quaint Missouri wineries nestled along the river. Formed in 1938 from a network of roads and highways, the Great River Road allows travelers to follow the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Louisiana. One of the greatest sections of this river road is its path through the Show-Me state.

Start your trek down the east side of the state in the town of Hannibal. Known as “America’s Hometown,” the city was home to famous American author Mark Twain. Today, Hannibal offers historic tours through the backdrop of Twain’s books. Visit the [Mark Twain Boyhood Home and](#)

[Museum](#), explore in the [Mark Twain Cave Complex](#), appreciate local artists in one of Hannibal’s many art galleries and look out over the Mississippi River from the [Cardiff Hill Park Lighthouse](#). The Hannibal area also offers great Missouri wineries. [Cave Hollow West Winery](#), located in the Mark Twain Cave Complex, features a café and exclusive Mark Twain inspired wines. The wines served at Cave Hollow West are from nearby [West Winery](#) in Macon. Venture to Macon to visit the winery’s renovated 1800s tasting room that overlooks the winemaking facility. Another stop just outside of Hannibal is the birthplace of Mark Twain: Florida, Missouri. Florida is also the home to [Florida Winery](#) where you can enjoy a glass of wine while being surrounded by the peaceful setting of Mark Twain Lake. If you can’t fit in all of your Hannibal and Florida area stops, Florida Winery offers lodging on their property.

From Hannibal, continue south along the river stopping in St. Charles at [Little Hills Winery & Restaurant](#). Enjoy Missouri wines with lunch or dinner in their historic building or outdoor garden. As you continue south, don’t be afraid to veer a bit off the beaten path to try the persimmon fruit wine at [Persimmon Ridge Vineyards](#) in Barnhart, or the Italian style wines and cuisine at [Villa Antonio Winery](#) in Hillsboro, or to discover the family history of [LaChance Vineyards](#) in DeSoto.



The next winery hub along your drive will be in Ste. Genevieve. This French influenced area nestled along the river provides its very own wine trail. Make your way through the [Route du Vin](#) trail that stretches across the Ste. Genevieve and Farmington countryside and boasts six wineries and special events. Other wineries in the area include [Crown Valley Winery](#) and [Weingarten Vineyard](#) in Ste. Genevieve and [St. Francois Vineyards, Winery & Brewery](#) in Park Hills.

From Ste. Genevieve, follow the river south toward Perryville. In Perryville, dine and enjoy wine at the secluded and relaxing setting of [The Barrens Winery](#). Just outside of Perryville, visit the old general store location of [Hemman Winery](#) nestled in the quaint town of Brazeau. Be sure to try the café at [Apple Creek Vineyard and Winery](#) in the nearby town of Friedheim or visit the unique tasting house at [Vance Vineyards & Winery](#) in Fredericktown.

Further south along the river is Jackson. Here you can overlook the Mississippi from [Trail of Tears State Park](#) and enjoy glass of wine from [Steele Crest Winery](#)’s large wraparound porch. Just ten miles from Jackson, is the great river town of Cape Girardeau. The town is home to historic sites including the [Common Pleas Courthouse](#), [The Glenn House](#) and [Fort D Historic Site](#). While in town, browse the outdoor sculpture park and relax on the deck overlooking a two-acre lake at [Hunter Valley Winery](#). Then venture 25 minutes to Commerce where [River Ridge Winery](#) provides the perfect settings to enjoy a meal, wine and a night’s stay in their Little Log Cabin.



Life on the Mississippi River is a setting unlike any other. Discover the history, landscape, people and Missouri wine that make these areas so unique on the Great River Road.