



**WINERY OF THE MONTH
JULY 2018**



A FAVORITE TASTING ROOM OF VIRGINIA WINE LOVERS

Hill Top Berry Farm and Winery in Nellysford is perched on a hilltop in the rolling hills of the Rockfish River Valley. Surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains, there are spectacular views of Pilot Mountain, Three Ridges and the ski slopes of Wintergreen Mountain. Hill Top was originally a pick your own berry farm which became the fifty-first winery to open in Virginia in 1998. Visitors have the opportunity to taste award-winning “True to the Fruit” wines and “Authentic Honey Meads”.



Both are handcrafted in small batches by owners Gregory and Kimberly Pugh. These “other than grape” wines are unique and delicious and range from dry to sweet. Hill Top uses natural cork on all 32 varieties of fruit wines and meads which are made and bottled on the farm.

The “True to the Fruit” wines are made from various fruits such as blueberries, blackberries, plums, apples, peaches, cherries and cantaloupes, among others. You will recognize the fruit as you taste the wine.

The Honey Meads are ancient alcoholic beverages made from fermented honey. At Hill Top as you experience and savor these drinks of your ancestors, you will learn a little about their history and how they are made, stepping back in time to experience the ancient drinks long associated with love, poetry, sex and religion.



Hill Top is beautiful year round. July is Blackberry season and you can still "pick your own" at this second generation family farm. The berry patch is home to several families of bluebirds, and hummingbirds are drawn to the pollinator gardens with many varieties of flowers and herbs, including almost a hundred rose bushes. A small herd of registered Scottish Highland Cattle roam the property and can often be seen from the covered pavilion adjacent to the main tasting room. The farm is pet friendly and you are likely to be greeted by Lucy, the winery dog, or you can feed the goats that will meet you at the pasture fence.

Hill Top Berry Farm and Winery hosts several events every year. The Annual Blackberry Harvest and Music Festival takes place on the first Saturday in August. Sweet Hearts Weekend in February occurs on or close to Valentine's Day, and there are periodic live concerts.

The winery turned 20 this year and recently expanded operations by opening HILL TOP AT THE LAKE, a tasting room in Clarksville at Buggs Island Lake. Hill Top also attends several wine festivals each year across Virginia and they ship directly to the consumer in 38 states. **You will not find Hill Top wines or meads in Virginia outlets, so if you want to taste you have to visit!**

Over the years, Hill Top Berry Farm & Winery has consistently been voted one of Virginia's favorite wineries. It was a Top Ten Favorite Tasting Room in 2017 of the Official Virginia Wine Lover (www.vawinelover.com).

HILL TOP BERRY FARM & WINERY
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