

# Local Spirits

Delta County is home to craft beer breweries, numerous wineries and cider makers. Whether you prefer a locally made pale ale or a glass of Colorado pinot noir, you can find it at a number of restaurants, pubs, tasting rooms or wineries throughout the county.

The demand for locally-made craft beer is driven by a desire for beers that offer more taste and variety than traditional domestic beers. If a crafted microbrew is your preferred beverage, then be sure to visit **Paonia United Brewing** (PUB) in Paonia. **Chrysalis Beer**, is aged in oak barrels to create their own "farmhouse style" beverage. Both breweries use locally grown hops and fruit for their beers, resulting in some of the best craft beers on the Western Slope. **Stoik Beer** in downtown Delta is a relatively new brewery which focuses on Belgian and American style ales and specialties. Try one of the many varieties of locally made hard ciders at **The AppleShed** in Cedaredge or at **Delicious Orchards** in Paonia where "Drink Locally" is their motto.

We invite you to take an afternoon to tour the breweries and wineries in Delta County. The Beer & Wine Tour map and legend can be found on page 48 in this guide.



*Local Spirits and the Self-guided Beer & Wine Tour are courtesy of the High Country Spotlight/Shopper. Read more about Delta County in the 2023 Local Living Visitor Guide.*



## West Elks American Viticultural Area

The West Elk American Viticultural Area (AVA) extends throughout Delta County on the Western Slope of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. Some of the highest vineyards in North America are located here. This high mesa area seems an unlikely place to grow wine grapes, but you will find some of the best wine in the state produced here. It's also not a bad place to enjoy an afternoon glass of wine with friends as most of the local wineries offer unparalleled views of the surrounding mountains and valleys.

West Elks AVA is noted for its production of white wines. Riesling and gewürtztraminer grow very well here, as do pinot gris and chardonnay. The high elevation and low humidity, coupled with cool nights, help retain a high degree of acidity as the grapes ripen. This is a positive for all varieties grown in the region.

Reds also do well in this area. Pinot noirs and outstanding merlots have found a home on the mesa slopes. The cool nights and warm days are especially kind to these varieties. The growing season is too short for Cabernet sauvignon but cab franc is being experimented with by several growers. Hybrid grape varieties are particularly well suited here.

The wineries bring two different events to the North Fork Valley during the summer months. **North Fork Uncorked** usually occurs in early June with a tasting of new releases from the West Elk wineries. It's an annual event where you can meet local winemakers, take part in vineyard tours and

tastings and enjoy farm-to-table dinners and food and wine pairings featuring the region's artisan cheesemakers, organic farmers and world-class chefs.

The first weekend in August features the annual **West Elk Wine Trail**. Visitors can set their own route for a fun and relaxing day or weekend and come home with delicious wine and memories. Start your tour by stopping by any of the West Elk wineries in the Paonia and Hotchkiss area to pick up your trail map for the weekend. Each winery features pairings with a focus on locally produced foods, and will hand out the recipes just for stopping by. The tasting rooms offer a wide variety of activities from vineyard tours, art displays, barrel tastings, pairings, mountain views and more.

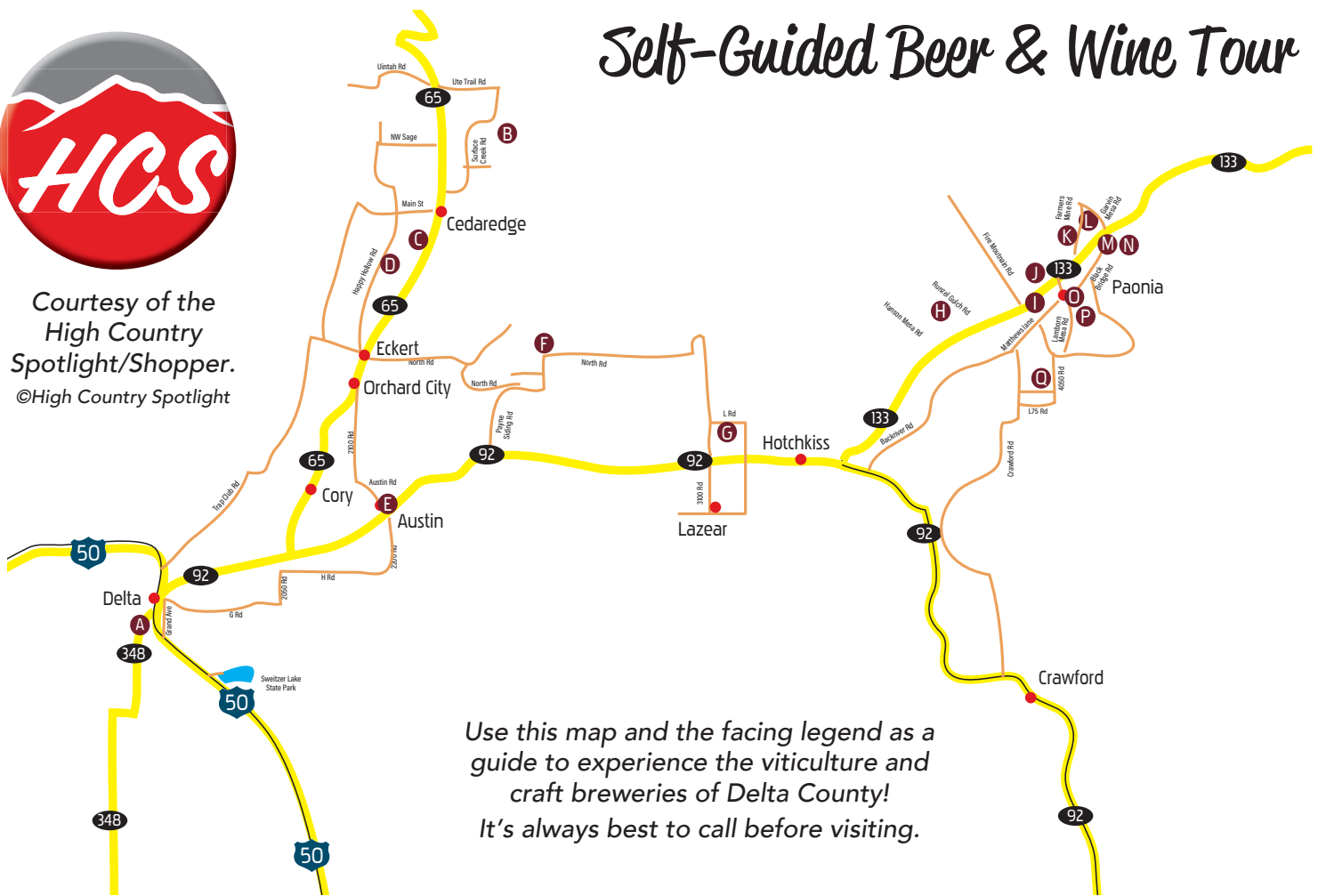


*Photo courtesy of Stone Cottage Cellars*



Courtesy of the  
High Country  
Spotlight/Shopper.  
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# Self-Guided Beer & Wine Tour



Use this map and the facing legend as a  
guide to experience the viticulture and  
craft breweries of Delta County!  
It's always best to call before visiting.

A

## STOIK BEER COMPANY

1064 Main Street, Delta • (720) 537-7000

B

## CHILL SWITCH WINES

24621 Tannin Road, Cedaredge • (303) 518-0581  
chillswitchwines.com

C

## WILLIAMS CELLARS & SNOW CAPPED CIDER AT THE APPLE SHED

250 S. Grand Mesa Drive, Cedaredge • (970) 856-7007  
williamscellars.com

D

## STONE MESA WINERY

16199 Happy Hollow Road, Cedaredge • (970) 856-9463  
stonemesa.com

E

## THE YARROW TAPROOM

22018 Main Street, Austin, CO 81410 • theyarrowcollective.com

F

## JACK RABBIT HILL - PEAK SPIRITS

26567 North Road, Hotchkiss, CO 81419 • (970) 361-4249

G

## MESA WINDS WINERY

31262 L Road, Hotchkiss • (970) 250-4788

H

## THE STORM CELLAR

14139 Runzel Gulch Road., Hotchkiss  
By appointment via stormcellarwine.com

I

## DELICIOUS ORCHARDS ORGANIC TASTING ROOM AND MARKET

39126 Highway 133, Paonia • (970) 527-1110 • bigbs.com

J

## ROOT & VINE TASTING ROOM OUTORI WINES

40823 Highway 133, Paonia • (970) 527-3236  
rootandvinemarket.com

J

## 5680' VINEYARDS AT ROOT & VINE TASTING ROOM

40823 Hwy. 133, Paonia • (970) 527-3236 • rootandvinemarket.com

K

## AZURA CELLARS

16764 Farmers Mine Road, Paonia • (970) 390-4251  
azuracellars.com

L

## STONE COTTAGE CELLARS

41716 Reds Road, Paonia • (970) 527-3444 • stonecottagecellars.com

M

## BLACK BRIDGE WINERY

15836 Black Bridge Road, Paonia • (970) 527-6838  
blackbridgewinery.com

N

## PAINTED VINEYARD

15805 Black Bridge Road, Paonia • (970) 471-2145  
thepaintedvinyard.business.site

O

## PAONIA UNITED BREWING (PUB)

325 Grand Avenue, Paonia • paoniaunitedbrew.com

P

## CHRYSLIS BARREL AGED BEER

201 A First Street, Paonia • chrysalisbeer.com

Q

## ALFRED EAMES CELLARS AT PUESTA DEL SOL VINEYARDS

11931 4050 Road, Paonia • (970) 527-3269 • alfredeamescellars.com