



Colorado Wine Regions

FORGET FRANCE AND CALIFORNIA, COLORADO'S GROWING AND BOOMING WINE REGIONS ARE GAINING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND PRAISE.

Colorado's vineyards are grown on unique soil, free from humidity and sitting at some of the highest altitudes in North America. These unique attributes help Colorado create a unique taste in wine with an excellent presentation.

THE WEST ELKS AVA

The West Elks AVA Region spans across the North Fork region of Delta County. From Bowie Mines, to Paonia & Hotchkiss, into Redlands Mesa & the 'dobbies', you will find a variety of delightful wines from this region as ten wineries make up this AVA region. Many of the vineyards are open during the late Spring and Summer seasons for tastings and tours, I recommend attending the West Elks Wine Trail Event in August. This unique event pairs the best wine of the region with the best cuisine. For more information, please visit westelksava.com.

THE GRAND VALLEY AVA

The Grand Valley AVA is the most popular of the Colorado AVA regions, spanning throughout Palisade, Grand Junction, DeBeque Canyon, Orchard Mesa and along the Colorado National Monument, outside of Fruita, CO. This area, which began growing in the late 1800's, is said to resemble the Pyrenees Mountains in Spain, which is why it can grow some of the best grapes in Colorado. The Grand Valley AVA covers almost 80,000 acres and over 20 wineries including, St. Kathryn's Winery, Talon Wine, The Meadery, Two Rivers Winery & Chateau, Graystone Winery, Garfield Winery, Grand River Vineyards, Red Fox Cellars and Mesa Park Vineyards. For more information please visit visitgrandjunction.com/wine-country.

The areas below are not designated AVAs but are producers of grapes and other fruits that are used for Colorado wine.

MONTROSE, OLATHE AND SURFACE CREEK, OR SOUTH GRAND MESA

Like the terrain in the West Elks AVA, Montrose and Olathe not only have the perfect climate for growing grapes and other fruits used for wine, but it also has the right mix of soil. These areas have some of the best winters in the state for producing fantastic Lemberger, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnays. On the south side of the Grand Mesa, in Cedaredge and Eckert (Delta County), the soil has never eroded and has created a stellar environment to grow Riesling and Pinot Noirs, two of the favorites. Make sure to check out Williams Cellars in Cedaredge! Learn more at winecolorado.org.

THE FRONT RANGE

East of the Continental Divide, spanning between Canon City and Estes Park, you can find over a third of Colorado's wineries in this area. With colder temperatures and more extreme weather patterns, these vineyards have the challenge of growing in limited space and areas. Traditional European varieties struggle in this area, but many farmers are experimenting with hybrids (French, Minnesota and Norton) and are producing some stellar selections. This is definitely the area to watch in the future. Learn more, frontrangewineryassociation.org.

Although you can find Colorado wines in just about every inch of this state, the Tax and Trade Bureau only recognizes two designated American Viticultural Areas (AVA) in Colorado. For many Coloradoan's, we know we have plenty more to offer than that.

McELMO CANYON AND MONTEZUMA COUNTY

Just east of Cortez and only 10 miles from Mesa Verde National Park, these two areas have the disadvantage of a difficult climate but are overcoming in strides. Many of the wineries in this area have been gaining national recognition especially for lovers of Napa Valley, as the fruit of this valley makes incredible Merlot and Riesling.

FREMONT COUNTY

Fremont County is protected from the majority of icy weather that hits the rest of the state by being close enough to Pikes Peak. Pikes Peak, a natural shield, makes this area an excellent growing environment. Some of the vineyards are planted at 6900 feet! Although still evolving, this area is very promising for Colorado wine.

+ Story // Felicia Sabartinelli

Colorado's National Conservation Areas

DESIGNATED BY CONGRESS, NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS (NCA'S) EXIST NOT ONLY FOR PROTECTIVE OR CONSERVATIONAL PURPOSES, BUT TO ALSO ENHANCE THE LAND'S BRILLIANCE AND BEAUTY AND ALLOW IT TO BENEFIT FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Each designated area holds its own legislation, each dictating the particular lands value and unique attributes.

Colorado is home to three of the sixteen National Conservation areas in the country; Dominguez-Escalante, Gunnison Gorge and McInnis Canyons. With unbelievable landscapes, these Colorado conservation areas offer resources that are perfect for activities of importance such as recreational, archaeological, historical, educational, cultural and wildlife use.



ROB KURTZMAN

Recreationally, you can easily find yourself enjoying one of the NCA's popular activities that include: biking, hiking, backpacking, camping, boating, horseback riding, and even hunting. And if you're not the active type, taking photos of the beautiful flora and fauna of the area can be just as promising.

Flora in the Area: Douglas fir, sagebrush, willow, cottonwood, juniper, tamarisk, alder, river birch, and horsetail.

Fauna to be Seen: Bighorn sheep, rattle or bull snakes, lizards, elk, deer, turkeys, mountain lions, coyotes, gray fox, great-horned owls, squirrel, raccoon, black bear and even golden eagles.

Elevation: 4,700 to 8,200 ft.

With unbelievable landscapes, the Colorado conservation areas offer resources perfect for recreational, archaeological, historical, educational, cultural and wildlife importance.

Noteworthy Areas to View: The Escalante, Cottonwood, Little & Big Dominguez Creeks, and the Uncompahgre Plateau are among the favorite landscapes of the locals. But take a little detour off the beaten path and you may find yourself looking at historical and cultural history that spans over the last 10,000 years.

THE GUNNISON GORGE NCA

The Gunnison Gorge NCA makes up 62,844 acres that span Delta and Montrose county. The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness makes up over 17,000 acres of this NCA and was designated in 1999. The area, best known for its thriving fish population, may be the smaller of the three but it thrives on its recreational appeal.



ROB KURTZMAN

DOMINGUEZ- ESCALANTE NCA

Dominguez-Escalante NCA includes 209,610 acres that span over Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties. The Dominguez Canyon Wilderness makes up over 66,000 acres of this NCA and was designated in 2009. The area itself is home to many different landscapes that include deserts, sandstone canyons, waterfalls and unbelievable scenery that is home to a vast array of wildlife.

Recreationally, you can take part in biking, hiking, backpacking, camping, boating, rafting, kayaking, canoeing, horseback riding, OHV riding, and hunting and photography.

Flora in the Area: Sagebrush, juniper, and shrubs.

Fauna to be Seen: Deer, elk, mountain lion, coyote, fox, bats, bald eagles, river otter, and even tropical birds and other small mammals. For the fishing enthusiast: Rainbow, grouse, cutthroat and brown trout.

Elevation: 5,200 to 8,000 ft.

So, feel free to pack the entire family, including any dog-children you may have and explore one of the many hiking trails offered.

Noteworthy Activities: The Gunnison River, part of the Gunnison Gorge NCA, is a designated Gold Medal Trout Fishery by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and has become a favorite for fly fisherman in the area. Keep a camera handy as hiking in the area can be unpredictable, you may find yourself discovering prehistoric sites and rock art, mines or even grazing wildlife.



ROB KURTZMAN



ROB KURTZMAN

THE MCINNIS CANYONS NCA

The McInnis Canyons NCA consist of over 122,750 acres in Mesa County. The Black Ridge Canyons make up over 75,000 acres of this NCA and was designated in 2000. An additional 5,000 acres extend into the state of Utah. The area, best known for being the second-largest for natural arches in the US, is home to many wonderful natural attractions, which include the Old Spanish Trail, known internationally for the excavation of important fossils, pictographs and petroglyph's.

Recreationally, you can take part in; Canyoneering, rock climbing, hiking, backpacking, biking, hunting and taking photos of the massive rock formations.

Flora in the Area: Juniper, a variety of wildflowers, cottonwood, box elder, willow, cactus and even native grasses to the area.

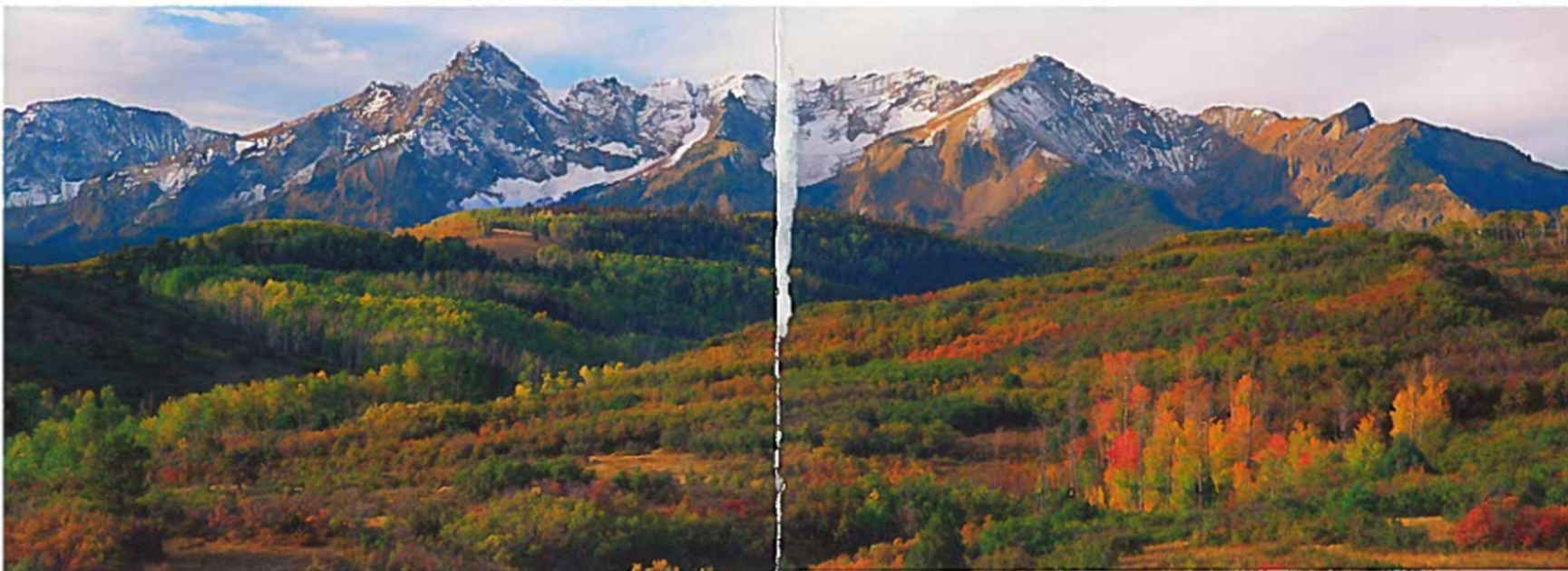
Fauna to be Seen: Bighorn sheep, lizards, river otters, deer, elk, mountain lions, bald and golden eagles and even falcons.

Elevation: 4,300 to 7,130 ft.

Noteworthy Attractions: Pack a bag, a large water bottle and hike around Rattlesnake Canyon, Dinosaur Hill, Mee Canyon and my personal favorite, Devils Canyon.

These National Conservation Areas are also pet friendly. So, pack up the entire family – pets & kids to go exploring on one of the many hiking trails offered. For additional information; maps, licenses and camping information visit: www.blm.gov. You can also visit the Colorado Canyon Association, coloradocanyonassociation.org, a non-profit organization that has a strong relationship with the BLM and helps foster community stewardship with the NCA's. 🐾

✦ Story // Felicia Sabartinelli



ROB KURTZMAN

Climb This Way – Colorado Fourteeners

COLORADO HAS BEEN NAMED ONE OF THE HAPPIEST AND HEALTHIEST STATES IN THE US BY NUMEROUS MEDIA OUTLETS. WITH MANY OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, IT'S NO WONDER WHY NATURE ENTHUSIASTS FLOCK TO OUR STATE TO PARTAKE IN MANY OF OUR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. ONE ACTIVITY IN PARTICULAR HAS QUICKLY BECOME A BUCKET LIST ITEM FOR MANY; CLIMB A FOURTEENER!

Colorado is home to over 58 fourteeners (14ers). Fourteeners are peaks that reach or exceed 14,000 feet above sea level and produce some of the most amazing & breathtaking views that you will ever see. Colorado's tallest fourteener, Mount Elbert (14,433 ft) sits sixteen miles northeast of Leadville and is considered a Class 1 hike (perfect for beginners). The second tallest peak, Pikes Peak (14,115) inspired the poem "America the Beautiful" by Katharine Lee Bates.

Although many fourteeners are open to the public, anyone interested in hiking a peak should do research on the terrain, skill level needed, and how weather could effect the climb. Hikers should also be hydrated and aware of the effects associated with the change in altitude. Drinking plenty of water (1-3 quarts for the trip) and not over-exerting yourself can lessen the chance of headaches, fatigue and weakness, which are just a few of the symptoms associated with altitude sickness. Packing easy-to-eat meals like granola, jerky or fruit can also help.

What do I wear?! Depending on the location and time of the year, it's always safe to wear layers on the trail that could be added or taken off. Rain jackets or a bulky jacket are almost always a must as the weather could change drastically with little or no warning. Hiking boots or comfortable shoes, sunscreen, and hats are also recommended by many hiking enthusiasts.

Although many fourteeners are open to the public, anyone interested in hiking a peak should do research on the terrain, skill level needed, and how weather could effect the climb.

For beginners we recommend visiting Quandary Peak, Colorado's 13th-highest peak located just six miles from Breckenridge. Quandary has a well-marked trail that makes for a nice steady climb, perfect for beginners. Mt. Bierstadt near Fairplay only requires a 3-mile ascent to the top and is the closest 14er to Denver. Bierstadt is also very popular among novices for its ease and accessibility.

Once you make your decent, please be considerate and kind to the environment you are visiting. The Leave No Trace (LNT) program is dedicated to "building awareness, appreciation, and most of all respect" to public recreation areas. Please leave what you

find where you find it; flowers, berries, animals, etc. Do not leave trash on the trails, especially food, waste and toilet paper. You'll also want to make sure you pack out all materials that you bring on the hike. Lastly, stay on the trail as we want to avoid creating multiple trails and disrupting the beautiful eco-system.

Below you will find a list of the Colorado 14ers, listed by elevation & location. Happy Hiking! Learn more at 14ers.com

♦ Story // Felicia Sabartinelli



ROS KURTZMAN

COLORADO'S FOURTEENERS

▲ Mount Elbert	14,433 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Mount Massive	14,421 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Mount Harvard	14,420 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Blanca Peak	14,345 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ La Plata Peak	14,336 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Uncompahgre Peak	14,309 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Crestone Peak	14,294 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ Mount Lincoln	14,286 feet	Mosquito Range
▲ Grays Peak	14,270 feet	Front Range
▲ Mount Antero	14,269 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Torreys Peak	14,267 feet	Front Range
▲ Castle Peak	14,265 feet	Elk Range
▲ Quandary Peak	14,265 feet	Tenmile Range
▲ Mount Evans	14,264 feet	Front Range
▲ Longs Peak	14,255 feet	Front Range
▲ Mount Wilson	14,246 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Mount Shivano	14,229 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Mount Belford	14,197 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Crestone Needle	14,197 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ Mount Princeton	14,197 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Mount Yale	14,196 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Mount Bross	14,172 feet	Mosquito Range
▲ Kit Carson Peak	14,165 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ El Diente Peak	14,159 feet	San Juan Range
▲ South Maroon Peak	14,156 feet	Elk Range
▲ Tabeguache Peak	14,155 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Mount Oxford	14,153 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Mount Sneffels	14,150 feet	San Juan Range

▲ Mount Democrat	14,148 feet	Mosquito Range
▲ Capitol Peak	14,130 feet	Elk Range
▲ Pikes Peak	14,115 feet	Front Range
▲ Snowmass Mountain	14,092 feet	Elk Range
▲ Mount Eolus	14,083 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Windom Peak	14,082 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Challenger Point	14,081 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ Mount Columbia	14,073 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Missouri Mountain	14,067 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Humboldt Peak	14,064 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ Mount Bierstadt	14,060 feet	Front Range
▲ Sunlight Peak	14,059 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Handies Peak	14,048 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Culebra Peak	14,047 feet	Culebra Range
▲ Ellingwood Point	14,042 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ Mount Lindsey	14,042 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ Little Bear Peak	14,037 feet	Sangre de Cristo Range
▲ Mount Sherman	14,036 feet	Mosquito Range
▲ Redcloud Peak	14,034 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Pyramid Peak	14,018 feet	Elk Range
▲ Wilson Peak	14,017 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Wetterhorn Peak	14,015 feet	San Juan Range
▲ North Maroon Peak	14,014 feet	Elk Range
▲ San Luis Peak	14,014 feet	San Juan Range
▲ Mount of the Holy Cross	14,005 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Huron Peak	14,003 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Sunshine Peak	14,001 feet	San Juan Range

Honorable Mention

These peaks are above 14,000 feet high but do not meet the official USGS or Colorado Mountain Club criteria for being separate Fourteeners.

▲ North Massive Peak	14,340 feet	Sawatch Range
▲ Mt. Cameron	14,238 feet	Mosquito Range
▲ Conundrum Peak	14,060 feet	Elk Range





From Our Farm to Your Table - Colorado's Agricultural Movement

JUST HOW BIG IS COLORADO'S AGRITOURISM MARKET? HUGE! ACCORDING TO COLORADO.GOV AND THE LAST USDA CENSUS IN 2012, 864 COLORADO FARMS OFFERED AGRITOURISM AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES, TOTALING NEARLY 30 MILLION IN FARM INCOME. THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO DOUBLE IN THE COMING YEARS, AS PEOPLE ARE CONTINUING TO ADOPT A MORE HEALTHY AND ORGANIC LIFESTYLE.

Agritourism presents the opportunity for tourists to connect and interact with wineries, farms & ranches, and take part in unique agricultural tours and events. This concept gives the public a chance to learn and take part in the crops, foods and activities they already love and enjoy.

Farm to Table, just a small part of agritourism, is not only appealing to your stomach but has become a staple of healthy living. Popular and widely sought out, Farm to Table restaurants are popping up all over the state and have become their own industry.

Although there is no current directory for the state, a simple google search can provide a list of farm to table locations.

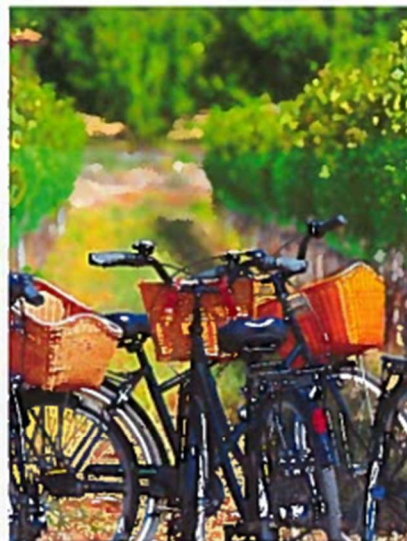
Colorado offers an abundance of specific agritourism events such as, corn mazes, beer and wine festivals, fruit festivals and recreational events. Paonia Cherry Days in Paonia Colorado, is one of the longest running agritourism festivals in the state. The Palisade Peach Festival in Palisade, CO, is just another example of a community that has created a hugely successful event based on the agricultural landscape of the community.

Popular and widely sought out, Farm to Table restaurants are popping up all over the state and have become their own industry.

For farms or operations interested in taking advantage of agritourism resources, please visit colorado.gov. Many grants are available including a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) that offers up to \$25,000 to help provide assistance and promote state and regional tourism.

We encourage you to experience Colorado's booming agricultural heritage by taking part in our events and recreational activities. A full list of events, agritourism news and happenings, can be found at coloradoagritourismassociation.org.

+ Story // Felicia Sabartinelli + Photos // Jim Cox



Colorado View - Outdoor Art

WHEREVER YOU FIND YOURSELF IN COLORADO, CHANCES ARE A PUBLIC ART PROGRAM CAN BE FOUND AS THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT COLLECTIONS TO FIND THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

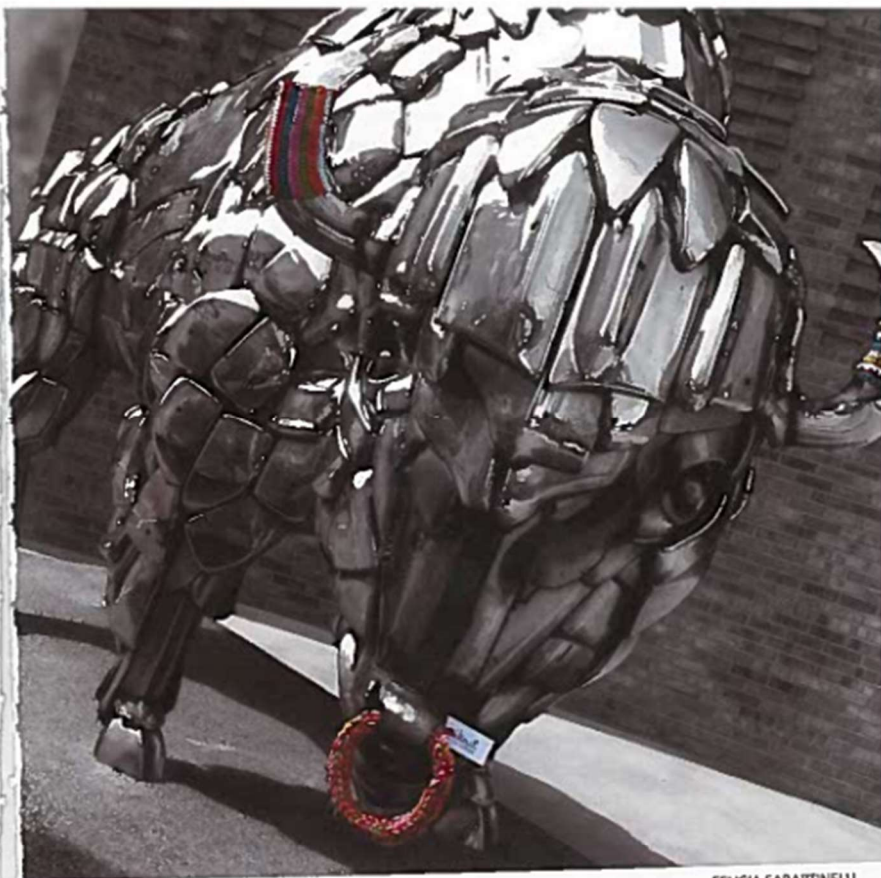
With over 40 public art programs, you're sure to find artwork from relatively unknown community artists and some of the biggest names in the field hiding in some of the most unlikely places. And you may recognize these pieces or have heard about some of the controversies surrounding them, but for those of us that don't know, what is public art and how do we find it?

Public artwork can be seen in a variety of pedestrian-friendly areas including libraries, parks, government buildings, schools, and downtown districts.

Public Art can be described as artwork that has been purchased or commissioned by a government agency. Most of these pieces are created or purchased with grants, tax-dollars, or even donated by wonderful partners and members of a community. Public artwork can be seen in a variety of pedestrian-friendly areas including libraries, parks, government buildings, schools, and downtown districts. The purpose of public art can not be easily defined as each piece is so uniquely different. Some public art pieces are treated as memorials or dedications for groups or individuals while other pieces act as a catalyst to inspire a community, give it identity or raise art awareness.

A popular public art program in Colorado, a variety of sculpture-on-loan programs, allow artwork to be temporarily shown and purchased in communities for a designated period of time. These pieces are usually picked by a jury process, or a committee with the goal of showcasing a vast array of artwork to a community that may otherwise never be introduced to it. Programs like this, cost nothing for the public to view. So view away!

Colorado is home to one of the first temporary outdoor art exhibits in the country. Art on the Corner, founded in 1984 in Grand Junction, CO, houses over a 100 permanent pieces that are valued at over one million dollars. In the recent past, the program had a temporary exhibit that showed anywhere between 10-40 pieces of temporary artwork



CHROME ON THE RANGE

FELICIA SABARTINELLI

each year. If you ask most people in the Grand Valley, and many will say that the 'buffalo' on the corner of 4th & Main has become the mascot for Downtown Grand Junction. Created by Lou Willie, 'Chrome on the Range II' is made of chrome car bumpers/parts and is actually listed as a bison, not a buffalo. You can find its sister piece in Aspen, CO. The piece itself has been viewed and adored by people throughout the world, who continue to make the journey from the interstate into Downtown Grand Junction.

Since 1984, Loveland's Art in Public Places program has acquired over 300 pieces of artwork, valued at over seven million dollars. Loveland also hosts two of the largest outdoor sculpture events in the US. The Loveland Sculpture Invitational and Sculpture in the Park, bring over 25,000 people to Loveland each year as well as over 450 artists. This year mark your calendars for the weekend of August 9, 2014, for the 31st Annual Sculpture in the Park event. For more information please visit : sculptureinthepark.org

The Denver International Airport (DIA) has some of the most popular pieces that have garnered much public speculation. The Mustang, also known by locals as "Bluecifer" or "DIABlo" was created by New Mexico's well known International artist, Luis Jimenez. The Mustang was Luis's last piece completed before his death in 2006. Many people believe the Mustang looks evil, standing tall at 32-ft high with glowing red eyes, outside the airport near Pena Blvd. Valued at over two-million dollars, the community can't agree whether they love it or dislike it enough to have it removed. Many residents of

Denver have signed numerous petitions to have the piece removed, but for now it stays and has become just a small piece of DIA's ongoing art controversy.

In addition to the Mustang, DIA has many other pieces that have gained national recognition. In the Jeppesen Terminal, Level 5, of DIA you can find the famous mural, "In Peace and Harmony with Nature" by Leo Tanguma. The mural has been covered in countless documentaries as a foreshadowing of events based on beliefs of the freemasons. But if art truly is in the 'eye of the beholder', then we encourage you to visit the galleries and artwork located at DIA and make your own conclusion if they're a part



THE BIG SWEEP

FELICIA SABARTINELLI



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

of some hidden conspiracy or just simply 'art'. Needless to say, DIA has an impressive collection of public artwork and galleries that deserve to be viewed with open minds. Learn more at: flydenver.com/artatdia

Although there are currently no statistics defining the importance of public art in Colorado, we do know that it is an integral part of a nation's fight for the arts. Public art is an important part of our mission to spread the arts from one community to another. If a public art program does not exist in your community, start one or volunteer for an existing program by contacting your local government or tourism office.

There are many different collections, pieces and stories to be told in Colorado. We encourage you to visit one of the 40 public art programs in Colorado and in the meantime keep an eye out for the following pieces and programs.

Salida, CO : Over the River by Christo; this 42 mile fabric panel installation will be the talk of the art world, if and when it is installed. Still pending due to litigation issues, the piece is still scheduled to stretch high above the Arkansas river and gain international attention and tourism. overtheriverinfo.com

Pueblo, CO : The Riverview Economic Development Association is spending time and money to conserve and restore many of the murals in the city. The Arkansas River Levee mural is definitely something to see in the West Side neighborhood's commercial corridor.

Durango, CO : The City of Durango has invested in public art since the inception of the Public Art Master Plan in 2004, with the promise to increase public art in a variety of areas throughout Durango. Their most impressive piece of public art is the mosaic 'Trout Wall' by The Arts Collaborative on the Animas River Trail in Downtown Durango. For more info: durangogov.org

Fort Collins, CO : Always impressive, Fort Collins Art in Public Places program has a vast array of artwork to delight any viewer but what is most impressive and interesting is their collection of transformer cabinets (electrical boxes) that have been painted and even dolled up as large mosaics around town. We highly recommend visiting to see what they come up with next. fcgov.com/artspublic

Denver, CO : It's almost impossible to be anywhere in the Denver-Metro area without discovering multiple pieces of public artwork, but check out some of our favorites; "I See What You Mean", also known as the Blue Bear by Lawrence Argent, sits outside the Denver Convention Center in Downtown Denver. Also keep an eye out for "The Big Sweep" by Claes Oldenburg. The piece is a large broom and dust pan that sits outside the Denver Art Museum and has become a popular photo hotspot.

Vail, CO : Although small, Vail's Art in Public Places program has over 40 pieces of public art spread over seven different locations in the Vail valley. Visit: <http://artinvail.com> for maps and events. Make sure to stop by Breckenridge, CO and view the always impressive Doyle Svenby's work, "Popsicle".

For more info on Colorado's Public Art programs, visit : coloradocreativeindustries.com.



+ Story // Felicia Sabartinell

FRONT RANGE



The mile high city of Denver has a skyline to match and its museums and galleries are world class, though in any season of the year visitors will have an incredible array of opportunities to choose from. Skiing, snowboarding, hiking and outdoor activities abound, while cities such as Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Fort Collins and Loveland offer unparalleled cultural choices. And you may want to check out the many wonderful microbreweries and wineries of the area while you're at it. In Denver, kids will love the zoo, and Elitch Gardens. The Loveland Sculpture Show in August brings the best artists from around the country. Take a day and drive through Rocky Mountain National Park for the most spectacular scenery you can imagine. Watch herds of elk graze on high mountainsides. Whether its city or mountains you are craving, you will be within easy reach in the Northeast part of Colorado.

S.F. SUTLER



Palisade... A Peach of a Town!

IT'S HARD TO NOT FALL IN LOVE WITH PALISADE, COLORADO. BETTER KNOWN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS THE MECCA OF THE COLORADO WINE INDUSTRY. BUT WHAT MANY DON'T KNOW IS THAT PALISADE HAS REALLY ONLY JUST BEGUN MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF AS THE NEW CULTURAL HUB OF WESTERN COLORADO.

Ask many of the locals of the area and you'll quickly learn that there is a grand vision for the future of this intimate community. And no one can argue that Palisade is not paving the way for a bright future with numerous festivals, wineries, galleries, breweries and distilleries to be found open throughout the year.

Palisade was recently named, "The next wine country" by Sunset Magazine. And that's of no surprise as the Colorado Mountain Wine Festival shuts the town down with tourists from all over the world dying to try one of the many delicious wines made right on the Western Slope. The festival runs over the course of one weekend in September and brings in thousands of visitors. This year you can grape stomp, visit the wineries or artisan vendors, and indulge in wine and delicious food during September 18-21, 2014. And if you're looking to try something a little bit more intimate and exclusive, you can take one of the many bike, bus or limo tours to the vineyards for group tastings and events.

Over 14,000 people visited the Palisade Peach Festival last year and this year the event is set to be bigger and better than ever. August 14-17, 2014, families can enjoy numerous food & artisan vendors, live music, culinary events and children's activities. And for the adults there is the Peach Pit Bar located right within the festival.

...the Colorado Mountain Wine Festival shuts the town down with tourists from all over the world dying to try one of the many delicious wines made right on the Western Slope.

The only Lavender Festival that happens in the state of Colorado happens to be in Palisade. Save the Date for the 4th Annual Lavender Festival, July 11-13, 2014. Here you are sure to find a variety of lavender plants, products and ideas from the very



KAY CRANE

people who are responsible for this new industry boom. My favorite item, the lavender margarita mix is sure to be the talk of your next barbecue or party. If you're looking for a smaller dose of lavender, stop by Sprigs and Sprouts Lavender Farm's gift shop and partake in their yummy vinegar and oil tastings. You can also tour Sage Creations Lavender Farm located in East Orchard Mesa to take a personal lavender tour.

There are over twenty wineries located just in Palisade. This doesn't count the numerous wineries & vineyards located throughout Mesa County. Colorado Cellars may be Colorado's oldest and largest family owned winery, but it's also a crowd favorite as it's won hundreds of awards over their thirty-year history. With open tastings in the summer and winter, you can also coordinate for a private wine tour or join their wine club. Check out www.coloradocellars.com for more info. Learn more about the other equally wonderful wineries located in Palisade by visiting www.palisadetourism.com. Most offer free tours and tastings.

If you're looking for an alternative to wine tasting try out the Peach Street Distillers. Located on Kluge Ave in Palisade, the distillery is open seven days a week and offers free tours on Friday afternoons. The distillery has become a new hot spot for the area,



as many enjoy the tasty beverages, local live music and chilled back atmosphere. You may also want to stop by the Palisade Brewing Company and try their famous beer; Dirty Hippie. Their Dark American Wheat is also mouth watering. Check them out on Wednesdays for 50 cent wing night and Friday nights for amazing live music. Learn more at: peachstreetdistillery.com and palisadebrewingcompany.com.

There are definitely noteworthy galleries to visit while in downtown Palisade, such as The Blue Pig Gallery. This large, beautiful and unique space houses some of the best artwork on the Western Slope. Here you can find a variety of events, classes and rotating artwork that is sure to bring you back time and time again. New to the area, The Art Cellar, located downstairs from The Blue Pig Gallery, works with emerging artists who not only need space to show their artwork but also the knowledge and education of how to market their brand. Which is exactly what The Art Cellar gives. Although fairly new, the venue will host classes and workshops in the future, and will ultimately be a new staple to the ever-growing Palisade art community. For more information visit: www.theartcellarpalisade.com And while you're in the area check out Wedel Pottery Studio and Parker Pottery also located in Palisade.

And something sure to add to the allure of Palisade is the new Fruit & Wine Byway. The Colorado Department of Agriculture awarded funding to the project, which will hopefully increase tourism for Palisade orchards, vineyards, wineries and agri-tourism. The hope is that even more people traveling on the interstate will pull off to enjoy the true beauty of Palisade, CO. Stay up-to-date by visiting: facebook.com/PalisadeFruitandWineByway

So, the next time you find yourself in Palisade, take part in just another piece of Palisade's cultural charm.

To learn more about Palisade please visit: palisadetourism.com

Story // Felicia Sabartinelli

West Elks Wine Trail

July 31 - August 3
Hotchkiss and Paonia
colorado.com/events/west-elks-wine-trail
R Southwest

AUGUST

Crested Butte Arts Festival

August 1 - 3
Elk Avenue, Crested Butte
colorado.com/events/crested-butte-arts-festival
R Southwest

27th Annual Beaver Creek Art Festival

August 2 - 3
76 Avondale Lane, Avon
colorado.com/events/27th-annual-beaver-creek-art-festival
R Northwest

Palisade Peach Festival

August 14 - 17
Riverbend Park, Palisade
colorado.com/events/palisade-peach-festival
R Southwest

Steamboat All Arts Festival 6th Annual

August 14 - 17
Steamboat Springs
colorado.com/events/6th-steamboat-all-arts-festival
R Northwest

Golden Fine Arts Festival

August 17 - 18
11th and Arapahoe, Golden
colorado.com/events/golden-fine-arts-festival
R Front Range

Food Wine and Art Festival

August 22 - 24
Cortez City Park, Cortez
colorado.com/events/food-wine-and-art-festival
R Southwest

48th Annual Evergreen Fine Arts Festival

August 23 - 24
Heritage Grove Park, Evergreen
colorado.com/events/48th-annual-evergreen-fine-arts-festival
R Front Range

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

Colorado Pork 'n Hops

BBQ Challenge
September 12 - 13
1340 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction
colorado.com/events/colorado-pork-n-hops-bbq-challenge
R Southwest

Colorado Mountain Winefest

September 18 - 21
Riverbend Park, Palisade
colorado.com/events/colorado-mountain-winefest
R Southwest

Uncorked Wine & Music Festival

September 20
230 Silver Street, Lake City
colorado.com/events/uncorked-wine-music-festival-0
R Southwest

Fruita Fall Festival

100th Anniversary
September 26 - 28
Downtown, Fruita
colorado.com/events/fruita-fall-festival-100th-anniversary
R Southwest

Breckenridge Craft Spirits Festival

October 24 - 26
Breckenridge
colorado.com/events/breckenridge-craft-spirits-festival
R Front Range

Rocky Mountain High

SINCE JANUARY 1, 2014, IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT COLORADO'S RECREATIONAL DISPENSARIES HAVE BROUGHT IN OVER \$300 MILLION. THAT EQUALS OUT TO OVER \$60 MILLION IN TAX REVENUE FOR THE YEAR.

Revenue that will directly impact Colorado communities and local governments, and funds that will go into a general state fund. How that money will be allocated is still in question but one thing remains the same, Rocky Mountain High is here to stay.

Although the verdict is still out whether or not recreational marijuana has more pros than cons and everyone has their own opinion, here is what we do know...

- You must be 21 and older to buy, possess or use retail marijuana.
- It is not legal to consume marijuana in public. Sorry we're not the Vegas of pot, yet.
- 322 recreational dispensaries were open in Colorado in 2014 and over 17 tons of retail marijuana was sold.
- Over 4.8 million edibles were sold as candy, candy bars, cookies, etc. Over 2.6 million of those sales were from Denver, CO.

- Mandatory testing of pot edibles began in July of 2014 and many batches have failed due to their high potency.
- Over 16,000 jobs were created in 2014 due to the recreational marijuana boom.
- 67 jurisdictions allow retail (recreational) sales which include these counties that are selling it, Boulder, Clear Creek, Costilla, Denver, Eagle, Grand, Huerfano, Larimer, Park, Pitkin, Pueblo, Saguache, San Miguel and Summit County.
- Adults 21 and older are allowed to possess and purchase up to 1 ounce of marijuana at a time. Non-residents are only allowed to purchase 1/4 ounce at a time. Penalties for possession of more than an 1 ounce include fines, jail time, and even a prison sentence.
- Universities and employers are allowed to place their own action for any related marijuana infractions. It is up to you to adhere to those specific policies and procedures.
- DUI for driving under the influence of marijuana?! Yep! Just five nanograms or more of THC found in blood will result in an arrest and a DUI.

Over 16,000 jobs were created in 2014 due to the recreational marijuana boom.

Before purchasing or using recreational marijuana always check the county or city website for up-to-date information on legal use in your area. You can also visit coloradopotguide.com for locations and information. ☺

+ Story // Felicia Sabartinelli

