

3 WONDERFUL DAYS OF TOURING AND TASTING IN THE NORTH FORK VALLEY

PAONIA, HOTCHKISS AND CRAWFORD COLORADO

The North Fork Valley is becoming known as the "Culinary Capital" of the Rockies. The abundance of Farms and Wineries in the Valley are fueling the organic "Farm to Table" movement that's sweeping the region. Fine cuisine and spectacular scenery combine to offer a unique experience and relaxing escape.

This **"INSIDERS"GUIDE** is intended to be objective, selective and particularly helpful to those with interest in wine and food. There is no paid advertising and the recommendations are based solely on my 13 years of experience in the Valley.

NOTE:

There are a plethora of other businesses' and attractions that haven't been included due to lack of space. For a more inclusive guide we recommend the "North Fork Visitors Guide". We hope you will take time to explore on your own.

	DAY ONE	DAY TWO	DAY THREE
ONE	 <p>THE LIVING FARM CAFE will start your day with a real farm to table breakfast. The Gillespies own the farm and their son, who went to culinary school, serves up delectable cuisine with ingredients that couldn't be fresher! They have a nice deck too. 120 Grand Avenue (Main St), Paonia / 970.527.3779</p>	 <p>BACK COUNTRY BISTRO may remind you of a small, cozy European coffee house. Organic coffees, fresh pastries and creative fare will get your day started right. They also offer tapas throughout the evening. A good stop for a lite bite on your way to catch a show. 210 3rd St, Paonia / 970.527.5080</p>	<p>On day 3 you will have to pick and choose or maybe just stay for a couple of extra days.</p>
TWO	 <p>CIRQUE CYCLERY rents very cool electric bikes. Grab one of their winery maps and your off on your own magic carpet tour of this wonderful Valley. These bikes take the hell out of hills and are great on all surfaces. While you're there, sample some of the juices and pastries they offer in the back. 232 Grand Avenue (Main St), Paonia / 970.527.2221</p>	 <p>AZURA YACHT CLUB: Around 11 am on Sunday mornings the fun begins. Come sail Micro-magic r/c sailboats on the Azura Winery Pond. No sailing experience is necessary and everyone is welcome (including the kids). There's no charge. Just come and have some fun! 16764 Farmers Mine Rd, Paonia / 970.390.4251</p>	
THREE	 <p>BLACK BRIDGE FARM AND WINERY sells it's wine and produce only a short bike ride from Town. Their wines are grown and vinted right on the farm. Tastings are complimentary and in season plan to pick your own produce (their peaches are my favorite). You might even be lucky enough to score a tractor ride. 15836 Black Bridge Rd, Paonia / 970.527.6838</p>	 <p>DELICIOUS ORCHARDS is on your way to Hotchkiss. They offer tastings of their nationally distributed Big B's ciders. There are hard and sweet varieties and all are delicious. They also offer tastings of ALFRED EAMES wines - some of the best in Colorado. This would be a good place for a quick bite at their cafe or to pick up some produce from the farm 39126 CO-133, Hotchkiss / 970.527.1110</p>	 <p>BLACK CANYON No trip to the North Fork would be complete without visiting this spectacular landmark!!! Look closely at the opposing shear granite face and you might see climbers scaling this massive wall. If you're inclined, the hike to the bottom is about 1-1/2 hours. Maps and info are available at the headquarters building. Allow at least 1/2 day for the drive and visit. Approx 16 mi beyond Crawford / 970.641.2337</p>
FOUR	 <p>AZURA CELLARS AND GALLERY is all up-hill so you'll really appreciate your electric bike. The sophisticated art, delectable wines and spectacular views make this a great stop. A bottle of wine and their tasty cheeseboard would make a perfect light lunch for 4. Little known fact: AZURA is the only winery in America with it's own Yacht Club! 16764 Farmers Mine Rd, Paonia / 970.390.4251</p>	 <p>HARDIN'S NATURAL FOODS is located on the left a couple of miles past Hotchkiss. Although it may not look like the "big box", Scott and Lisa Fairchild have created the Walmart of natural foods. From Tofu Salad Sandwichs to organic dog food they specialize in all things good for you and the planet. 31424 CO-92, Hotchkiss / 970.872.3019</p>	 <p>MORROW POINT BOAT TOUR is offered by the National Park Service. This trip has been on our "to do" list for years. While I can't give you a personal account, I can tell you that Trip Advisor gives the tour great reviews. The boat leaves every day but Tuesday at 10am and 12:30pm. The trip takes 1.5 hours and reservations are necessary so check out their website. video@Curcanti boat tour / 970.390.4251 ext 205</p>
FIVE	 <p>STONE COTTAGE CELLARS is on up the road. Before Brent Hellickson turned in his calculator for pruning shears he was a rocket scientist. As you might expect, he and wife, Karen, have figured out how to produce some of the finest wines in the Valley. Ask them to show you around the Vineyard. They're a wealth of knowledge. 41716 red's Rd., Paonia / 970.527.3444</p>	 <p>MESA WINDS FARM AND WINERY is the next stop on the tour. Max and Wink operate a working organic farm and also make some good wines. Their estate grown Munier Noir is delicious and unique in the Valley. They are open on the weekends from 11 to 5. 31262 L. Rd., Hotchkiss / 970.250.4788</p>	 <p>NORTH RIM GLASS is a great stop in Crawford and on your way back from the Black Canyon. There aren't many art venues in the Valley that we regard as highly as this one. Jared and Nicole produce custom pieces that might grace any cosmopolitan gallery. With a little luck you will catch them in the studio doing what they do. 191 Hwy 92, Crawford/ jarededavis.com/ 970.921.4527</p>
SIX	 <p>TERROR CREEK WINERY is just across the road and up the hill. Here's your chance to visit the highest Winery in North America! Joan Mathewson was trained in Switzerland and brings a unique perspective to the winemaking craft. The view is amazing. You can see the whole beautiful Valley from their yard. 17445 Garvin Mesa Rd, Paonia / 970.527.3484</p>	 <p>LEROUX CREEK VINEYARDS offers an authentic "taste of Provence". Yvon is a master french chef, winemaker and generally entertaining character. He makes award winning wines from the Chamborcin grapes that he grows on the property. Joanna, Yvon's wife, also produces a line of skin care products from the same varietal. Check out their B&B while your there. 12388 3100 Rd, Hotchkiss / 970.872.4746</p>	 <p>NEEDLE ROCK ROAD is a nice side trip on your way back from the Black Canyon. It is hardly out of the way and it can be quite spectacular. Before his death, Joe Cocker, the English rock star, had a mansion just to the left of the rock. Beyond the rock is one of the nicest and most exclusive guest ranches in the Country - SMITH FORK RANCH. Needlerock Rd., Crawford</p>
SEVEN	 <p>DESERT WEYR, your next stop, is 1/4 of a mile downhill on the left. Ken and Oogie are one of the foremost proponents of Black Welsh sheep in the U.S. There are almost always cute little lambs romping around and Oogie will be glad to give you a tour of the farm. They sell all things mutton- wool, horns, brats, chops- all raised right at the farm. 16870 Garvin Mesa Rd, Paonia / 970.527.5360</p>	 <p>HIGHWIRE RANCH - where the buffalo roam. Dave and Sue raise buffalo, elk and even some ducks. Their stock is 100% grass fed, Non-GMO and gluten free. This is a great stop with kids because you'll get an up close look at the herd. Just let them know your coming. 970.835.7600. Their buffalo tenderloin is melt in your mouth delicious and for sale at the ranch. 27497 Buffalo Rd, Hotchkiss / 970.835.7600</p>	 <p>"JUMBO" The North Fork Valley is a biking paradise. If you like it technical, with steep drops, rocks, trees and narrow bridges "Jumbo" is the place for you. Otherwise, just biking the lightly traveled, paved rural roads offer miles and miles of cruising through farms and ranches with spectacular views. Azura Cellars has some excellent maps. Paonia / info: Cirque Cyclery - 970.527.2221</p>
EIGHT	 <p>REVOLUTION BREWING is in a small church in Town. Peanuts on the floor, often local entertainment and some exceptional micro brews make this an interesting and relaxing stop. It's bit of a cultural experience too since the "Rev" is the local watering hole. You can't help but meet a few friendly locals. 1325 Grand Avenue, Paonia / 970.260.4869</p>	 <p>PJ's Pub is our recommendation for dinner in Hotchkiss. Pete, the owner chef, has created a sophisticated but relaxed venue with great food receiving rave Trip Advisor reviews. If your lucky Pete will be having one of his special evenings: "Italian night", "Sushi night" or "Ladies night Wednesdays". Check their website. 107 Bridge St, Hotchkiss / 970.872.4582</p>	 <p>GUNNISON RIVER PLEASURE PARK: Roughly halfway between Hotchkiss and Delta is the source for everything related to the river. Guided fishing tours on the "gold medal" river, raft rentals and shuttle service. They can even "jet boat" you to the bottom of the Black Canyon for an overnight campout. Check out their website for details! 8949 Pleasure Park Rd, Hotchkiss / 970.872.2525</p>

WHERE TO STAY

WINERY STAYS

One of the very best ways to experience our Valley is to stay in one of the unique, quaint Winery accommodations

- **AGAPE FARM AND RETREAT** \$\$
PAONIA: Agape Farm and Retreat.com (904) 910-1957
- **ANGEL COTTAGE AT AZURA CELLARS** \$\$\$
PAONIA: AzuraPaonia@aol.com (970) 390- 4251
- **LEROUX CREEK INN & VINEYARDS** \$\$\$
HOTCHKISS: info@LerouxCreekInn.com (970)872- 4746
- **MESA WINDS FARM AND WINERY** \$
HOTCHKISS: Wink@MesaWindsfarms.com (970)250-4788
- **STONE COTTAGE CELLARS** \$\$
PAONIA: info@stonecottagecellars.com (970)527-3444

MOTELS / B&B

- **BROSS HOTEL** \$\$
PAONIA: Paonia-Inn.com (970) 527-6776
- **LIVING FARM INN** \$
PAONIA: TheLivingFarmCafe.com (970) 527-3779
- **ROCKY MOUNTAIN INN** \$\$
PAONIA: RockyMountainInn.net (970) 527-3070
- **REDWOOD ARMS** \$
PAONIA: RedwoodArmsMotel.com (970) 527-4148

VRBO/AIR B&B

There are many good choices in the North Fork. These are only the ones we know.

- **"AGAPE FARM AND RETREAT B&B"** \$\$
- **"CAROL'S PLACE"** \$
- **"COTTAGE STUDIO IN DOWNTOWN PAONIA"** \$\$
- **"TRICKEDOUT YURT ON ITS CURVED RIVER"** \$\$\$\$