

Long Island, New York



Castello di Borghese Vineyard & Winery, Long Island, New York

While it's likely that settlers in "Lange Eylandt" were training native grapes onto their backyard arbors as early as the 1640s, the modern viticulture era on Long Island—in a familiar pattern—didn't begin until the 1970s, when the first wine grapes (cabernet sauvignon, pinot noir and sauvignon blanc) were planted. The first winery, now Castello di Borghese Vineyard & Winery, was founded by Alex and Louisa Hargrave. It opened in 1975 and launched an industry that now encompasses 4,000 acres of grapevines and 56 wineries spread throughout three AVAs.

Proving that what's good for the grape is good for meetings, Long Island's maritime climate produces long, warm summers tempered by cool breezes and winters that are buffered from frost. Convenient to Manhattan, the 1,401-square-mile island has myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation, championship golf, historic home tours and—as any New Yorker will tell you—excellent beaches.

According to Long Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, Long Island beaches have twice been crowned first place on Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman's Top 10 Beaches list. Accommodations range from full-service hotels and estates with conference centers to historic inns, and many wineries have meetings-worthy event spaces. (See the Long Island insert in this month's magazine for more information.)