



## THE FIRST PEAK OF THE BLUE RIDGE - RICH IN RURAL HERITAGE

Historic Saluda, Tryon and Columbus, N.C.

The [First Peak of the Blue Ridge](#) is a scenic mountain destination that provides nature’s playlist – but the ‘volume’ of your experience is up to you. Keep the volume low with peaceful hikes to waterfalls, local wine tastings, and quiet ‘porch time’ at one of our cozy inns, B&Bs or cabins. Or, turn up the volume with America’s steepest canopy zip line, guided whitewater adventures or local music.

### NEXT STEPS FOR TRYON’S NINA SIMONE CHILDHOOD HOME



2018 was a good year for Nina Simone, born Eunice Waymon in Tryon in 1933. The world famous jazz singer known as the High Priestess of Soul was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and her childhood home was designated a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



2019 is no different. Her childhood home received a facelift – the outside is now protected but there is much to be done. Her statue in Nina Simone Plaza in downtown Tryon will be joined by an interactive kiosk where visitors can listen to her music and learn more about her life.

Young Simone had natural musical talent and the Tryon community came together to support her musical development through lessons and performances. Her childhood home was spared from demolition when four New York City-based African American artists bought the home. Working with the artists, the National Trust is developing a rehabilitation plan and models for the home’s future use. Listen to audio stories of her

childhood on [UGo Tour](#) and follow news of her birthplace at [savingplaces.org/NinaSimone](http://savingplaces.org/NinaSimone).

### BUYING THE FARM



Husband and wife team Jen & Andy Perkins have bought the farm - a 226-acre dairy farm! [Looking Glass Creamery](#) has been making award-winning artisan cheese using milk from this farm for ten years, but the family farm had no one to take over operations and was at risk of closing. Since 2018, they’ve been learning how to farm and building a new creamery with proper aging cellars nestled underground. It will open soon – fall 2019 – when visitors can see cheese being made, peek into an

underground aging cellar and, of course, sample and buy cheese (ice cream and caramel too). Visitors can also U-pick sunflowers from a field near the creamery.

- more (over) -

## [ENJOY A DAY OF WINE TASTING – OR STAY ALL NIGHT](#)



Our five wineries with tasting rooms continue to expand, offering visitors an amazing experience. [Mountain Brook Vineyards](#) has added several buildings to take advantage of their amazing vineyard views, [Parker-Binns Vineyard](#) has moved to a larger tasting room overlooking its vineyards and [Overmountain Vineyards](#) has opened two luxury vacation villas on site. All are located near Tryon and offer tours, tastings, scenic mountain views and picnic spots.

## [TRYON INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER SHOWCASES TRYON HORSE COUNTRY](#)

More than 80 years of Tryon Horse Country's local equestrian tradition helped pave the way for the 2014 opening of world-class [Tryon International Equestrian Center \(TIEC\) at Tryon Resort](#), offering first-class facilities for all FEI disciplines in addition to showcasing hunter/jumper, equitation, steeplechase, polo, and multidiscipline events in Mill Spring, NC. From carousel to competition, the mission of Tryon Resort is to celebrate the magic of the horse, grow equestrian sport, and increase access to this majestic animal. The site will also host some non-equestrian events in the off season.



TIEC is a 1,600-acre equestrian lifestyle destination featuring spring, summer and fall sanctioned horse shows, 12 riding arenas, more than 1,200 permanent stalls plus a variety of year-round restaurants, shops, lodging and local events including the family-friendly 'Saturday Night Lights' festivals. Plans include a 180-room resort hotel and a village featuring mixed-use retail, condos and a visitor center.

## [HOUSE OF FLAGS MUSEUM ADDS PERMANENT PRESIDENT'S FLAG EXHIBIT](#)



Since 2001, the [House of Flags Museum](#) in Columbus, N.C. has been telling the stories of a group's struggle for identity and freedom through the display of more than 300 flags, including all 27 U.S. flags. New for 2019 is a President's Flag exhibit, highlighting the genealogy of the Flag of the President of the United States of America starting with the unusual George Washington's Headquarters Flag from 1777. Visitors will see authentic reproductions including a proposed 1817 President's flag, the Navy's first president's flag from 1882 (with an error that lasted until 1903), and the two different president's flags that confused Teddy Roosevelt in 1901.

## [WHERE IS THE FIRST PEAK OF THE BLUE RIDGE?](#)

We are four hours west of Raleigh, N.C. Head to Charlotte and we are just 90-miles to the west. You will be rewarded with long-range views of Tryon Peak – the First Peak of the Blue Ridge – as you follow Hwy. 74W to our front door. Take Exit 170 for Tryon Resort, Exit 161 for Columbus and Tryon, or continue onto I-26W and take the next exit to discover Saluda. Welcome to the Blue Ridge Mountains! You choose what's next: get out and explore, or rest and rejuvenate. This area features a wonderful blend of scenic beauty and small town charm, with great lodging, restaurants, shops, events and outdoor activities. Historic Saluda, Tryon and Columbus are within a few miles of each other, but each has its own distinct personality.

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