



KING FAMILY VINEYARDS in Crozet, VA

TOP 10 DETOURS

NELLYSFORD TO WILLIAMSBURG

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**BEST COUNTRY ESTATE**

A highlight of the Nelson County tour (April 21-22), **Solliden** features three homes and 7 magnificent acres with a formal garden and lavender hillside. [vagardenweek.org](http://vagardenweek.org)

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**BEST LOCALLY SOURCED TO-GO**

Visit **Greenwood Gourmet Grocery** for locally sourced salads, sandwiches, and frosting-drizzled tea cakes made with farm-fresh milk, butter, and eggs. 540/456-6431

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**BEST SIP AND STROLL**

Sip an Orange Dreamy (orange soda and vanilla ice cream; \$3.95) at **The Nook**, at landscape architect Lawrence Halprin's pedestrian mall in Charlottesville. [thenookcville.com](http://thenookcville.com)

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**BEST OVERNIGHT SPLURGE**

The Pathfinder Suite at **Maury Place at Monument** (rates from \$289) overlooks 100-year-old homes on Richmond's Monument Avenue. [mauryplace.com](http://mauryplace.com)

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**BEST PATIO TABLE FOR TWO**

At **The Continental Westhampton**, chef Stuart Lowrie dazzles Richmond with lobster hushpuppies (\$9) and pork belly tacos (\$12.95). [thecontinentalrva.com](http://thecontinentalrva.com)



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**BEST OUTDOOR ART**

Don't miss the outdoor sculpture garden, part of the **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' \$200 million** makeover in 2010. [vmfa.museum](http://vmfa.museum)

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**BEST PRIVATE MANOR**

Perched by the James River, **Westover Plantation** (c. 1730) is one of the country's loveliest Georgian mansions. [westover-plantation.com](http://westover-plantation.com)

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**BEST PORCH DINING**

Enjoy a crab cake sandwich (\$13) on the breezy porch at **Charles City Tavern**, housed in an 1880 farmhouse. [charlescitytavern.com](http://charlescitytavern.com)

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**BEST COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE**

Williamsburg's **Kingsmill and Colonial Area garden tour** (April 23) features five homes. (Tickets \$30 in advance.) [vagardenweek.org](http://vagardenweek.org)

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**BEST ALFRESCO MEAL**

End at Williamsburg's **Fat Canary** with a heritage pork chop (\$29) and Gruyère bread pudding. [fatcanarywilliamsburg.com](http://fatcanarywilliamsburg.com)

**DRIVER'S ED: HOW TO PLAN THE PERFECT PICNIC**

**1. Start with a sandwich.** Pull over at Greenwood Gourmet Grocery (540/456-6431) just outside Crozet to pick up the Araucana sandwich (\$6), made with homemade farm-fresh egg salad, Virginia bacon, and sliced local tomatoes.

**2. Add a crisp white wine.** Follow a country lane 2 miles to the King Family Vineyards ([kingfamilyvineyards.com](http://kingfamilyvineyards.com)), and choose a Viognier (\$25). They'll cork it in the tasting room, slide it into an icy bucket, and give you wineglasses. (Tastings are \$5/person.)

**3. Stake out the perfect spot.** Spread a blanket or grab a picnic or patio table at the winery, which offers a view of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains beyond equally scenic rows of grapevines. Time to toast spring. ☺