

# Elli Jay

2022  
VISITORS GUIDE

9

## Exhilarating Outdoor Adventures

## RAISE A GLASS

Experience the region's  
flourishing wine country

## Ripe for the Picking

SAVOR THE  
FLAVORS OF  
GEORGIA'S  
APPLE CAPITAL



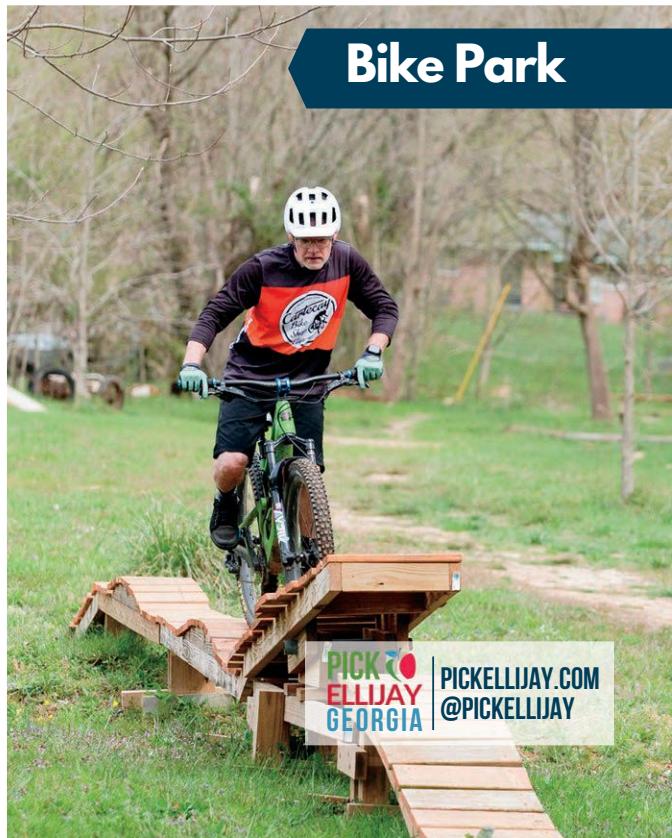


## Renowned Trails

Experience the Adventures that Made Us the  
**MOUNTAIN BIKE CAPITAL OF GEORGIA**



**IT'S ALL ELLIJAY**



**Bike Park**

PICK  
ELLIJAY  
GEORGIA

PICKELLIJAY.COM  
@PICKELLIJAY



# WELCOME



Welcome to Gilmer County, Georgia—the Mountain Bike Capital of Georgia, the Apple Capital of Georgia, and Georgia's Mountain Wine Country! Tucked away in the mountains where the Appalachian Trail begins, this small community boasts a wide

range of agricultural and natural attractions and activities. Whether it's a romantic weekend of wine tasting and fireside chats or a family vacation full of apple-picking and hiking, Gilmer County and the cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay have something to offer for everyone. We welcome you to explore this very special place. For tips, itineraries, and more, visit us at [pickellijay.com](http://pickellijay.com).

## Jennifer Grimmer

President & CEO

Gilmer Chamber



## GILMER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Gilmer Chamber President & CEO**  
Jennifer Grimmer

**Finance Manager**  
Lisa Bradley

**Office Manager**  
Thanna Chadwick

**Membership Manager**  
Ellen Grant

**Communications Manager**  
Caitlin Neal

**Certified Travel Specialist,  
Information Specialist**  
Joe Sewell

**Information Specialist**  
Sue Marino

**Digital Marketing Coordinator**  
Joshua Taffin

Published By



**Publisher**  
Sean McGinnis

**Associate Publisher**  
Jon Brasher

**Editorial Director**  
Kevin Benefield

**Editor**  
Emma Hunt

**Art Director**  
Tara McCarthy

**Production Director**  
Whitney Tomasino

CONNECT WITH US!





# CONTRIBUTORS

## 1 ELIZABETH FLORIO

Elizabeth Florio is a freelance writer and editor whose work has appeared in *Parents*, *Country Living*, *Atlanta* magazine, and other publications. She currently serves as deputy editor of *Southbound* magazine and relishes the opportunity to write about travel, especially when it involves scenic mountain trails.

## 2 VENÉ FRANCO

Véné Franco is a freelance writer, editor, and illustrator based in Atlanta. She began her food-centric journalism career as a staffer at *Bon Appétit* magazine and has served as the dining editor at *Atlanta* magazine and a contributor to Williams Sonoma cookbooks and *Creative Loafing Atlanta*.

## 3 JACINTA HOWARD

Jacinta Howard is an Atlanta-based culture and entertainment reporter and a bestselling author. Her work has been featured in *Atlanta* magazine, *Thrillist*, *Shondaland*, *Creative Loafing*, *Upscale* magazine, *American Way* magazine, *Paste* magazine, and others. Read her work and find her books at [jacintahoward.net](http://jacintahoward.net).

## 4 JENNIFER RAINY MARQUEZ

Jennifer Rainey Marquez is the former executive editor of *Atlanta* magazine, and her work has appeared in numerous outlets including *Southbound*, *Garden & Gun*, *AARP The Magazine*, and *Women's Health*. In this issue, she spotlights some of the best places to enjoy apple season in Gilmer County.

## 5 LISA MOWRY

Lisa has more than 30 years in the publishing world as a writer and editor for publications such as *Atlanta* magazine, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Traditional Home*, *Country Home*, *Garden & Gun*, *Southern Living*, *Styleblueprint*, and *Luxe* magazine.

## 6 CRAIG PATTERSON

Craig Patterson is a third-generation Atlantan. His career has been in design and advertising, which has led to many writing assignments—some award-winning, but few with bylines. He spends his free time fly-fishing, hiking, and watching entirely too many movies and shows.

## 7 LIA PICARD

Lia Picard is a lifestyle writer. In addition to *Atlanta* magazine, she writes for the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Condé Nast Traveler*, among other publications. She calls Dunwoody home along with her husband, toddler, and pup.

## 8 ROBIN ROENKER

Robin Roenker is a Lexington, Kentucky-based freelance writer who frequently reports on travel, health, higher education, and sustainability. Her writing has been published by *AARP The Magazine*, *USA Today*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Southbound*, *Group Travel Leader*, and other outlets.

## 9 JENNIFER SENATOR

A former senior editor for *Atlanta* magazine, Senator has contributed to publications such as the *New York Post*, *Food Network* magazine, *Town and Country*, and *Frommer's* travel guides. For this publication, Senator interviewed Gilmer County residents and discovered new and notable restaurants.

# TABLE of CONTENTS

40



8



12

## 1 Welcome

## 5 Mark Your Calendar

Exciting events throughout the year

## 8 4 Ways to Explore

Itineraries for each type of traveler

## 12 Where the Locals Eat

Top picks from Gilmer residents

## 14 Retail Roundup

Unique boutiques and shops worth a stop

## FEATURES

### 16 Ripe for the Picking

All about the Apple Capital of Georgia

### 22 Special Stays

A quaint cabin, a funky Airstream, and a luxury lodge

### 28 Feeding the Soul

Three local chefs and restaurateurs share their stories and recipes

### 34 Sipping Pretty

How to experience Gilmer's burgeoning wine country

### 40 The Greatest Outdoors

Nine ways to explore nature

### 44 Resource Guide

Where to eat, stay, shop, and play

PHOTOGRAPHY: OUTLIVE CREATIVE,  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



Craft Brews

# Something New to Savor IN EVERY SEASON.

Outdoor Adventures



Live Music



Classic Family Fun



IT'S ALL ELLIJAY

PICK ELLIJAY GEORGIA | [PICKELLIJAY.COM](http://PICKELLIJAY.COM) | [@PICKELLIJAY](https://@PICKELLIJAY)



For more information about these events and others, visit [gilmerchamber.com](http://gilmerchamber.com)!

Georgia Mountain Warbird Weekend

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Gilmer County hosts events all year long that appeal to a variety of visitors, whether they're here for the apples or the great outdoors **BY JACINTA HOWARD**

## January

### BLACK BEAR PLUNGE

*Fort Mountain State Park*

Nothing announces a fresh start to the new year quite like diving into an icy lake, as is the New Year's Day tradition for brave souls who take the plunge.

### CHILI RUN

*Cartecay River Experience*

Kayak in the Cartecay River's icy waters during the traditional New Year's Day Chili Run. Warm back up afterward with hot chili and a bonfire on the riverbanks.

## February

### SONGS AND STORIES

*The Craddock Center*

This free celebration of Southern Appalachia's distinctive, folksy culture features lively guest storytellers and musicians from the region.

### WINE ABOUT WINTER

*Ellijay Wine Country Vineyards*

Get your sip on with wine from area Ellijay vineyards and enjoy a weekend full of games, food, and live music.

## March

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY

*Downtown Ellijay*

Local restaurants, breweries, and wineries host celebrations complete with Irish food and live music (be sure not to miss the bagpipes!).

## April

### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

*Downtown Ellijay*

Volunteer litter clean-ups and beautification projects are part of the Earth Day activities aimed at keeping Gilmer County lovely.

### GEORGIA MOUNTAIN WARBIRD WEEKEND

*Gilmer County Airport*

Attend a 1940s-themed gala inside a hangar, complete with a sunset landing by authentic WWII aircraft from the Commemorative Airforce Museum. The weekend festivities also include a Family Fun Day celebrating the high-flying spirit of aviation.



## May

### GARDEN CLUB OF ELLIJAY PLANT SALE

Lions Club Pavilion

This annual plant sale features a large collection of greenery from local gardens, with garden club members on hand to help plant lovers pick their favorite finds.

### GEORGIA APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Gilmer Chamber & Welcome Center

Held the first weekend of the month, this juried show in East Ellijay focuses on local artists who make original, handcrafted items. Kid-friendly activities, such as bouncy houses, face-painting, and rock-climbing, round out the festivities.

### PLEIN AIR - ART IN THE MOUNTAINS

Various locations

North Georgia's lush terrain provides the scenic backdrop for a weekend of "plein air," or open-air painting. A quick-draw competition and art auction round out the weekend.

### RUN FOR THE SON 5K

Gilmer Scout Hut

The 16th annual race winds its way through historic downtown Ellijay, hitting local landmarks like Harrison Park. There's also a one-mile Fun Run and a Tot Trot

dash for little ones.

### ELLIJAY FARMERS MARKET

Downtown Ellijay

Purchase handmade goods, local art, and fresh produce each Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., May through October.

### MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Ellijay River Park

Fallen veterans are honored at the Veterans Memorial Bridge and Garden, capping a weekend full of family events.

## June

### BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS WINE AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

White Path Creek Farms

Enjoy fine art and cuisine while sipping popular wines from regional vineyards at this annual festival. The two-day event celebrates jazz music and culture with live performances from local and national musicians.

### HOLLA YELLA MUSIC FESTIVAL

White Path Creek Farms

Listen to bluegrass, Americana, indie, blues, jam band, and roots music at this exciting multi-day fest.

### GILMER COUNTY SADDLE CLUB RODEO

Gilmer County Saddle Club

Calf-roping, steer-wrestling, and bareback bronc-riding are just a few of the many fun events featured at this annual SPRA-sanctioned rodeo.

## July

### INDEPENDENCE DAY

Downtown Ellijay

Guided bike rides, a barbecue cookout, a duck race, live music, a parade, and of course, fire-

works are among the festivities that take place at this 4th of July celebration.

## August

### GILMER COUNTY FAIR

Ellijay Lions Club Fairgrounds

Celebrate the many things regional culture has to offer with activities such as canning, baking, quilting, and needlework exhibitions, along with fair staples like rides, music, and games for the entire family.

## September

### DANCING GOATS FOLKFEST

River Street, GA Highway 52

Paying homage to the oral traditions, art, and music of historic mountain towns, this fun fest preserves Southern Appalachian culture with a lively, old-time mountain shindig.

## October

### CHERRY LOG FALL FESTIVAL

Cherry Log

Community Clubhouse

Every year the Cherry Log community comes together to celebrate the harvest season with country music, arts, crafts, homemade pies, canned goods, and a feel-good atmosphere.

## November

### LIGHT UP ELLIJAY

Downtown Ellijay

The most wonderful time of the year kicks off annually with this festive display of lights illuminating historic downtown. The free holiday event happens the Friday after Thanksgiving, and in addition to the display of lights and tree lighting, features a jolly hometown parade and a chance to visit Santa.



**October  
8-9 & 15-16**



## Georgia Apple Festival

*Ellijay Lions Club Fairgrounds*

Celebrate the Apple Capital of Georgia's famous crop at this multi-weekend apple extravaganza—one of the region's biggest annual highlights. Now in its 52nd year, the folksy gathering is held in Ellijay on the second and third full weekends of October and highlights the area's bountiful apple harvest. For \$10 (children under 12 are free) you can check out the roughly 300 vendors selling food, art, and hand-crafted items, or stir your creative curiosity with a stop by one of the on-site craft demonstrations. Although you can't pick apples at the festival, as the nearby U-pick orchards are usually clearing out by October, there are still apples galore from local apple houses. Other family-friendly events include the popular Annual Apple Classic Auto Show, the Apple Festival 5K Road Race, the downtown Apple Arts Festival, and the Apple Festival Parade, which starts and ends in downtown Ellijay.



# 4 Ways to Explore Gilmer County

Whether you're here for a romantic escape or family fun, we have an itinerary for everyone **BY ROBIN ROENKER**

## Family Vacation

When it comes to agreeing on summer activities, kids can be picky. Discovering a place your whole family can enjoy together? That's pure bliss. Here, you can rest, relax, and explore a whole day of family-friendly fun.

Fuel up for the day with a made-to-order juice or smoothie—crafted with organic, fresh, local ingredients—at **Zen & Juice** on Main Street in Ellijay.

Soak in the scenery on the one-mile **Tumbling Waters Trail**, which starts at Carters Lake and offers

picturesque views of Tails Creek and several waterfalls.

Grab lunch at **The Shack of Ellijay**, where a fresh, warm noodle bowl or poke bowl will cure your family's post-hike hunger.

Head to **downtown Ellijay** for an

afternoon shopping spree certain to deliver something fun, from ice cream and apparel to home decor and antiques.

Savor what's in season—or grab year-round delights like blackberry jam or five-pepper jelly—at **R&A Orchards**, a landmark of the North Georgia mountains since 1947.

Close out a perfect day with campfire s'mores at **Gingershack Farms**, site of vacation cabins that offer all the fun of creek-side "camping"—without the hassle.

From circle, clockwise: Flyfishing with Reel 'Em In Guide Service, Downtown Ellijay, Cartecay River Brewing Co.



## Girls Getaway

Sometimes you just want an escape with your gal pals, with no stress or obligations weighing you down. A girlfriends' vacay comes complete with carefree conversations, great food, and good times—guaranteed.

Ready for adventure? Try your hand at fly-fishing in trout-favorite streams of the Blue Ridge Mountains with help from **Reel 'Em In Guide Service**.

Enjoy a delicious, local craft cider from **Reece's Cider Company** in Ellijay, and snag a sandwich for lunch at Smokin E's BBQ food truck, often on-site.

Shop the wares at Ellijay's many unique **downtown boutiques and antique shops**, where the perfect North Georgia souvenir awaits.

Sit and sip at **Cartecay Wine & Craft**, a new downtown tasting room by Gilmer County's **Cartecay Vineyards**, where you can sample a range of Georgia wines.

If beer is more your style, order a craft-brewed lager or ale at **Cartecay River Brewing Co.** on a patio overlooking the brewery's namesake waterway.

Top off the day with top-notch tacos (or burritos or fajitas) at **La Catrina** in downtown Ellijay, where a margarita nightcap is also on the menu.

## Romantic Retreat

Ready to reconnect with your significant other? Put your schedule on hold (it will be there when you return!) and book some time together. Do as much—or as little—as you like.

Select the finest cuts of grass-fed beef—the perfect centerpiece for a romantic, cook-your-own dinner for two—at **Mountain Valley Farm Store**.

Meander among the trees to pick apples—or indulge in a rainbow of in-harvest fruits, plus year-round pies, jams, jellies, and more—at **B.J. Reece Orchards** in Ellijay.

Toast your relationship over a glass of wine at **Cartecay Vineyards**, where the cozy Tasting Barn and picturesque chimney patio offer plenty of spots perfect for two.

Reminisce about your first date over a glass of rosé at **Ott Farms and Vineyard** while basking in the stunning views of the surrounding mountains.

Make each other laugh between sips of chardonnay at **Buckley Vineyards**, and for a snack, grab a local-favorite Cuban sandwich from Domin8 food truck, often parked on-site.

Hold hands like teenagers while you sample the wines of **Chateau Meichtry Family Vineyard & Winery**—or better yet, rent their



on-property villa for a romantic stay.

End the day on a perfect note by reserving an intimate table for two at **Emily's Bar & Restaurant** for cooked-to-perfection steaks, pasta, and seafood, plus enticing craft cocktails.



Chateau Meichtry Family Vineyard & Winery

From top to bottom: Hometown Florist & Yesterday's Décor, The Roof, Buckley Vineyards



## Friends Winter Trip

Lighten up the long gray days of winter with a friends' getaway. Even the coldest weather snaps can't chill a day in Ellijay, home to fun shops, fine wines, good times, and food that will warm you from the inside out.

Jump-start your day with a hearty breakfast at **Tony's Country Corner Kitchen** in Ellijay, where the biscuits are always in high demand.

Hit the shops in downtown Ellijay to discover unexpected treasures at **Hometown Florist & Yesterday's Décor** as well as a taste—or two—of made-from-scratch candy at **Bavarian Chocolatier and Fudge Shop**.

Handle lunch-time hunger at **The Roof**, a rooftop kitchen and bar beloved for its delicious burgers and great patio views.

Return to shopping with stops at **Feathering the Nest**, **The Third Hummingbird**, and **Rey's Relics**—just be sure to clear suitcase room first for the great decor, jewelry, and antiques you're sure to find.

Enjoy a late-afternoon winery hop at **Buckley Vineyards**, **Ott Farms and Vineyard**, and **Chateau Meichtry Family Vineyard & Winery**, and toast your friendship with a glass of award-winning North Georgia wine.



Order a piping-hot bowl of gumbo, a shrimp po' boy, or other authentic Creole fare at the **Cajun Depot Grill**. Voila, dinner is done.

Relax and unwind amid lots of laughter at your luxury cabin from **Mountain Oasis Cabin Rentals**, where available hot tubs and fire pits will keep everyone cozy.

# Where the Locals Eat



## Tara Knadler

OWNER AND ARTIST,  
ECOLOGY CERAMICS

Three residents share their favorite restaurants

BY JENNIFER SENATOR

For Tara Knadler, living in Ellijay is nourishing in more ways than one. "I'm raising my two boys in this warm and loving community," says Knadler, who started her ceramics business here in 2016. When it comes to Ellijay's restaurants, Knadler says, "We have many hidden gems that feed you physically and also feed your soul."

### BEST BRUNCH/BREAKFAST

"Zen & Juice is the best way to start the morning. The Buddha toast or Yogi Bowl paired with a Spicy One juice (pineapple, lemon, cucumber, and jalapeño) will keep you moving."

### BEST SPECIAL OCCASION RESTAURANT

"The Roof provides a mountain view and over-the-top dinner. Their fried green tomatoes and



## Gabriela Valladares

OWNER, FEARFULLY MADE JEWELRY

While some young adults can't wait to leave their hometown, 20-year-old Gabriela Valladares, who has lived here for most of her life, has no intention of going anywhere just yet. "Each day, I find something new to love," she says. She currently works as a hostess at local restaurant Cantaberry.

### FAVORITE LUNCH SPOT

"La Catrina. Being Venezuelan, I want to have authentic Hispanic food—food that is close to home. My favorite is their

Appalachian trout are just the right amount of comfort and luxury."

### BEST INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

"The Shack of Ellijay has Asian fusion with poke, ramen, and bubble tea. My favorite is the spicy tuna bowl."

### BEST DESSERT

"Raspados Celeste is a hidden

chicken soup. It tastes so good and feels so homey."

### FAVORITE LOCAL HANG-OUT

"The Ellijay Coffeehouse is the perfect place to have a nice chat with a friend or catch up on some homework. My favorite thing to get is an iced chai with dolce de leche. It is divine."

### BEST DESSERT

"Cake batter and salted pretzel frozen yogurt from Abby's. The combination together is so yummy."

### BEST PATIO

"Cantaberry has the best patio in all of Ellijay. You get to people watch and feel the breeze. It's even lovely in the colder months. We keep it nice and toasty."

gem that serves up the freshest desserts around. I love the Gloria shaved ice with fresh fruit and fluffy cream."

### BEST LUNCH SPOT

"Tony's Country Corner Kitchen is the best for a Cuban lunch. Tony greets you at the door and ensures the food and service are spot-on."



## Terry Ellis

CPA AND MUSICIAN,  
KHARISMA JAZZMATIC  
FUNK BAND

Since Terry Ellis moved to the Coosawattee River Resort in Ellijay 21 years ago, "every day it feels like I'm on vacation," he says. "It's just a nice, cool, slow pace. I'm not in a rush all the time."

### FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD

"Back Porch Bistro has great soups and sandwiches, and everything is homemade. My favorite soup is the white-bean chili. I love their breads and cookies, too."

### BEST LOCAL HANG-OUT

"The Pub. They have great wings, great service, and a fun atmosphere. On weekends they have live music, and if one of my friends is playing I might jump in with them."

### BEST PATIO

"Emily's. It's nice to be outside with music playing. They also have a balcony, where you can sit and watch cars go by."

# Pick of the (Shopping) Crop

Seven shops worth a stop **BY LIA PICARD**





Come peruse Gilmer County's charming, locally owned boutiques where you can find everything you're looking for—and even things you didn't know you needed. From antiques and clothes to treats for your pets, here are seven must-visit shops.

## Rey's Relics

Conveniently located on the north end of downtown Ellijay, this quirky shop is chock-full of vintage collectibles (think Star Wars Pez dispensers and baseball cards). Whether you're looking to recapture a piece of your childhood or want to add some retro flair to your home, this is a good place to start.

## Southern Flare Antiques

Antique lovers, this one's for you. This 8,000-square-foot space has more than 30 vendors to browse, each with something different from the next. The inventory changes often so you never quite know what you'll find—could be a beautifully crafted live-edge wooden table or a funky birdhouse.

## Lavish & The Loving Bull

It's hard to resist the allure of this vintage shop's clothing options. Located downtown, the boutique specializes in pieces that are a "little bit boho, a little bit preppy." Shop the selection for flowy dresses and trendy denim.

## Mountain Hounds

Return home without a souvenir for your dog or cat? Unthinkable!

This is the place to go if your furry friend is at the top of your to-shop-for list. Be it a snazzy leash or adorable plushy, your pet will thank you.

## Strings & Stitches Yarn Shoppe

If knitting is your passion, this artsy outlet is a must-visit stop. Don't let its location in a humble shopping center fool you—the store is brimming with myriad yarns to choose from and has an incredibly supportive staff ready to help you figure out where to start on your project.

## Cartecay Bike Shop

Need some new wheels to hit up the area's mountain trails? Stop by this locally loved spot for a selection of the industry's best bikes. The full-service shop can also help with everything from tune-ups to overhauls.

## Rustic Roots Boutique

New to the downtown shopping scene, this boutique is stocked with all the latest trends in women's fashion, from flowing floral dresses to all types of accessories. Don't miss the men's collection of comfy tees, as well as Ellijay-branded merch.





# Ripe for the Picking

FROM LATE SUMMER TO EARLY WINTER, SOME OF GEORGIA'S BEST EATS GROW ON TREES

By Jennifer Rainey Marquez



Downtown Ellijay Apple Sculpture

Gilmer County's first commercial apple orchard was planted in 1903, and within a few years, the farmer, John W. Clayton, began taking top prizes in the state's county fairs. More than 100 years and 11 orchards later, the area has earned a reputation as the Apple Capital of Georgia. Since

1971, the county seat of Ellijay has played host to the Georgia Apple Festival, which draws thousands of visitors every year during the second and third weekends in October. The area's surrounding mountains and vibrant foliage provide a spectacular autumnal setting for apple picking, wagon

rides, corn mazes, and other seasonal entertainment. Whether you're here for the festivities or just in town for a fall weekend, plenty of fun awaits you at each of Ellijay's orchards.

B.J. Reece Orchards was established in the 1960s, and in the early days, the Reece family made



R&A Orchards

Top two: R&A Orchards  
Bottom two: B.J. Reece Orchards



brandy out of the apples. Today, the family tradition continues with the recent opening of Reece's Cider Company, Ellijay's first cidery. Led by Taner Reece, the grandson of the original founders, and his wife Sarah, Reece's Cider Company takes apples fresh from the orchard and presses and ferments them on-site, so visitors can glimpse every step of the pro-

cess. (Some juice is frozen after pressing, allowing it to be turned into cider year-round.) Reece's top-selling hard cider, Poppy's Pick (named for Taner's late maternal grandfather), is sweet, light, and crisp—perfect for mild fall afternoons. You can sample their offerings—which range from dry to hoppy to habañero-spiced—with a flight poured from the tap, or you

can fill up a liter-sized growler to take home. Make a day of it on the weekends with live music and food trucks.

Located just across the road is the orchard itself, which produces 30 varieties of apples, including Rome Beauty, Crimson Crisp, Arkansas Black, and Gold Rush—as well as peaches and a heap of vegetables. U-pick season typically

# More than 100 years and 11 orchards later, the area has earned a reputation as the Apple Capital of Georgia.

runs from late August to the end of October; try not to let the spectacular mountain views distract you from filling your bushel. And while you may have crusts just waiting to be filled at home, don't skip the fried pies at the bakery.

Open seasonally in September and October, Hillcrest Orchards caters to families and really cranks up the fun each weekend during its season-long Apple Pickin' Jubilee. Visitors can milk a cow, watch pigs race, tap their toes to live bluegrass music, cuddle a baby goat, and make their way through an apple-tree maze.

The family-run orchard, which has been in business since 1946, offers six varieties of apples in the U-pick area, plus a smorgasbord of harvest-made goodies inside the market, including fritters, pure apple cider (try a cider slushie on warm days), caramel apples, jams, syrups, and more. There's also plenty of carnival fare like hot dogs and funnel cakes—you won't leave hungry.

The first trees were planted at R&A Orchards in 1947, and four generations later, the 150-acre farm boasts 38 kinds of apples, plus peaches, nectarines, strawberries,

## Harvest Gold

There are more than 100 varieties of apples produced in North Georgia, and you can find dozens in Gilmer County. Here, a few of the specimens you might encounter in the orchard.

Illustrations by Debbie Choi



### Ginger Gold

**RIPENS:** August

**FLAVOR:** Slightly tart with bright acidity

**FUN FACT:** The original Ginger Gold seedling was discovered on a Virginia farm six years after Hurricane Camille blew through in 1969.

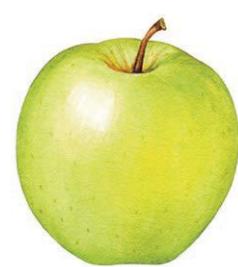


### Gala

**RIPENS:** Mid–late August

**FLAVOR:** Sweet, juicy, and crisp. The perfect apple to munch straight to the core.

**FUN FACT:** Gala is the country's best-selling apple, but you'll find different strains in the South than in other parts of the U.S.



### Mutsu

**RIPENS:** September–October

**FLAVOR:** Super juicy, sweet, and tart with a hint of spice

**FUN FACT:** This yellow-green apple was introduced from Japan in the mid-20th century, and is sometimes referred to as Crispin in the U.S.

# Take Your Pick

Celebrate apple season at one of Gilmer's many orchards and farm markets

and more. R&A sells fresh produce year-round at its farm market, and many families make the pilgrimage several times a year to stock their pantries and sample seasonal treats like peach ice cream. Still, apples are the main attraction each fall, with wagon rides, farm tours, and U-pick every September weekend. Inside, R&A Cafe offers soups, fresh-made sandwiches, and barbecue for lunch, and there's no shortage of take-home treats like sugar-crusted apple cider donuts, homemade fudge, or jars of apple butter to slather on tomorrow morning's biscuits.

Hit **R&A Orchards'** brick-and-mortar market year-round to stock up on fresh produce (and indulge in fried pies).

Known for its panoramic views and delicious fried pies, **B.J. Reece Orchards** is home to Ellijay's first hard cidery.

**Red Apple Barn** offers tractor rides through its mountainous orchards every weekend during apple-picking season.

Open August through December, **Aaron Family Orchards** is the place to load up on apple butter, apple cider vinegar, and apple chutney, plus fresh-picked fruit.

**Panorama Orchards & Farm Market** stocks more than 20 varieties of apples, homemade pies, and apple brandy cake.

Family owned since 1936, **Penland's Apple House** sells fresh apples, peaches, and other produce, as well as ciders, jams, and baked goods.

You're guaranteed to find nearly a dozen varieties of fried pies at **Mack Aaron's Apple House**, which also offers an assortment of apples, peaches, and nectarines.

Open by appointment only, **Stover Mountain Orchard** is one of the state's few all-organic apple farms.

Bring the kids to **Hillcrest Orchards** for pig races, live music, and a petting farm each weekend in September and October.



## Granny Smith

**RIPENS:** October

**FLAVOR:** Very tart and firm, making them famously great for baking into pies

**FUN FACT:** According to legend, the first Granny Smiths grew after a farmer's wife—Maria Ann Smith—tossed her crab apple core out of the kitchen window, and it cross-pollinated with another variety.



## Yates

**RIPENS:** October–November

**FLAVOR:** Juicy, tender, and aromatic

**FUN FACT:** This heirloom variety was discovered in Fayette County, Georgia, in the 1840s and remains a popular local favorite for making into cider or jelly.



## Arkansas Black

**RIPENS:** Late November

**FLAVOR:** Crisp and tart with notes of cherry and spice

**FUN FACT:** This heirloom apple, which was brought from Arkansas in the 1870s, can be starchy when fresh-picked, but the flavor mellows with time, making it a good variety to put away for the winter.



# Gilmer County



# Special Stays

COZY UP AT ONE  
OF THESE SPOTS  
FOR UNBEATABLE  
HOSPITALITY AND  
SPECTACULAR  
SCENERY

By Lisa Mowry



Left, below: Gingershack Farms



**W**ith mountain vistas, shimmering lakes, and expansive woodlands, Gilmer County is known for its natural beauty, and these stays get you up close and personal with the breathtaking landscape. While all three overnight spots have a stunning location, each has a unique personality of its own, inside and out.

#### QUAINT CABIN ENCLAVE **Gingershack Farms**

At this family-friendly Ellijay destination, five cabins are nestled into a wooded mountain area alongside a creek. Owners Russ and Tanya Ginger embrace the home-stead farm life right next door, where they're happy to share their experiences with guests and let them meet the resident

animals. Pants the rooster is a big hit and gets a lot of love on social media, the couple reports, but they also have friendly goats and ducks. "Guests love the excitement of wildlife walking around the cabins," says Russ, "but they also enjoy learning about historic Appalachian traditions and modern conservation techniques. We're never shy to talk about our



Left, below: Elatse'Yi

area's homesteading past and future."

With multiple cabins available to rent, Gingershack Farms attracts groups such as softball teams or bridesmaid get-togethers, but it also welcomes couples looking for a romantic getaway. The property opened in 2021, and guests have given high marks for the new and fresh interiors, two bedrooms in each cabin, plenty of places to sit, a kitchenette, washer-dryer, and chairs on the front porch to enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning.

The Gingers make sure guests get exactly the sort of experience they're seeking. They're experts on Gilmer County and happy to

make recommendations on hikes, restaurants, and other attractions—although they love when their guests stay close to home.

"We always enjoy setting up campfires for our guests, since it's the time they let their hair down and tell us all about their families, lives, and dreams," says Russ. "It's one of our favorite parts because we feel we're more than a cabin rental. We want to give guests a personal stay experience with lots of good memories."

#### AIRSTREAM LIVING **Elatse'Yi**

With its pristine setting in the woods near Carters Lake, this spot named for the Cherokee

**"Our Airstream provides a great first step and experience for people who aren't quite ready to go 'all in' on camping."**

word "Elatse'Yi" (which means "verdant, green earth") seems quite fitting. Owner Rebekah Buchanan opened her site in 2015 as a destination for people to enjoy nature, and she added a vintage Airstream trailer for a

BETSEY DARLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



Below: The Lodge at Walnut Grove



# Stock the Pantry

Whether you're filling a cabin fridge with goodies or picking up a snack for hiking, here are go-to stops where groceries and prepared foods await you.

glamping experience with a retro vibe.

"Airstreams hold great memories for many people," says Buchanan. "Some camped in them with their grandparents or remember traveling in them years ago." Her circa-1977 trailer has original features inside, with two twin beds and a full bed, making it a surprisingly spacious accommodation. There are bathrooms both inside and out, and guests can use the small kitchen inside. The facility provides cooking equipment and other basics like coffee and bottled water. Best of all? When Buchanan's farm hens are producing, she leaves fresh eggs in the refrigerator for guests to cook up for breakfast.

In addition to what Buchanan calls the Airstream's "blast from the past" appeal, she enhanced the accommodations with a covered porch and its own comfy seating, as well as a clawfoot tub and private outdoor shower. In the evenings, most guests find themselves around the firepit, relishing the joys of camping with a bonfire, s'mores (included in the provisions), and the summer sounds of twilight—alongside the modern conveniences of AC and running water. "Our Airstream provides a great first step and experience for those people who aren't quite ready to go 'all in' on camping," says Buchanan. "Our focus is getting guests to spend time outdoors and enjoy nature, and the Airstream is a great facilitator of that."

## Panorama Orchards & Farm Market:

Open year-round, seven days a week, this East Ellijay stop has country charm and aisles full of seasonal fruits and vegetables, fried pies, apple cider, and homemade fudge.

## Mountain Valley Farm Store:

This rural stop is the place for grass-fed beef and pork. Here you'll find all cuts of meat, as well as grits, eggs, and cheese.

**Ellijay Mushrooms:** This family-owned sustainable mushroom farm has a bountiful supply of shiitake and oyster mushrooms grown on-site and available for sale.

## Waldrep's Meat Processing:

This butcher shop and specialty grocery store in Ellijay has a different selection each day, including freshly cut steaks, chicken, pork ribs, bacon, cheese, and other sides.

**R&A Orchards:** This roadside market on Highway 52 is open seven days a week and specializes in all things apples, but also has jellies, vegetables, and more.

**Arlowe's Bakehouse:** Pies, cookies, artisan breads, and more are available for pick-up at this Ellijay bakery; message via their Instagram page @arlowesbakehouse.

## BIG AND BEAUTIFUL

### The Lodge at Walnut Grove

With 11 bedrooms in the main house and bunkroom, this gorgeous house is luxurious and roomy, and the wooded property on which it's situated is equally as spacious and dreamy. The Lodge at Walnut Grove's 265 acres are made for exploring, with hiking trails, a stream loaded with trout, and a pond where guests can fish (with an approved guide).

The expansive, new facility was designed to appeal to a variety of Gilmer County guests. Its many rooms make it ideal for multi-family vacations, corporate retreats, weddings, and any sort of group gathering. The main lodge houses enough beds to sleep 20 people, and the bunkhouse has another seven beds spread throughout its

three bedrooms—everything decorated in a chic farmhouse style. The kitchen itself is design-magazine-ready, with a gourmet range, shiplap walls, and ample countertops, and everything is marked and stocked for guests. The property even has a library and in-house exercise room, with plenty of wrap-around porches and stone patios for sitting and enjoying the view.

The lodge is designed for relaxing but boasts activities galore. Games such as cornhole and bocce ball are available for impromptu playtime, and the manager can also arrange a variety of more specialized fun: think miniature-boat racing, guided fly-fishing instruction, naturalist hikes, and more. The only problem may be deciding which activity to fit in first—and when you're coming back.

# Feeding the Soul

A TRIO OF ELLIJAY RESTAURANTS  
OFFER SMALL-TOWN HOSPITALITY  
AND A WORLD OF FLAVORS

By Vené Franco



## Tony's Country Corner Kitchen



The charming town of Ellijay has long been a popular destination for weekend revelers and Atlanta day-trippers. Thankfully, the locale has also drawn savvy restaurateurs and chefs who thrive on the alpine air and neighborly vibe, eager to share their culinary creations with the community and visitors alike.

### Local Favorite

As you approach the outskirts of town, take a turn toward the Texaco at the roundabout on Old Highway 5 South. There you'll find Tony's Country Corner Kitchen,

a good spot to fuel up on breakfast biscuits, tacos, and more. The modest, recently expanded restaurant (with a pet-friendly patio coming soon) has loyal community support, so much so that service has been extended to include dinner.

The bustling cafe is owned by Tony Saavedra, a native of Huntington Beach, California. He remembers watching Julia Child on PBS as a kid but says his career started as a teenager when he went to work at a Carl's Jr. in the '80s. A few years later came a move to Miami. The city's Caribbean and Latin influences

show up on his menu in delightful ways, starting with the café con leche. With a franchise background, corporate credentials, and a job offer waiting in South Carolina, he changed course and purchased his own place outside downtown Ellijay on a whim. He calls it a leap of faith. Story goes he was fueling up on a side trip when he noticed a For Sale sign at the crossroads station. He never made it to South Carolina, but he did open his Ellijay restaurant in 2013. The dining room on a Wednesday afternoon buzzes with customer chatter, counter orders, and a mix of country and soft rock hits. Near

## MAKE AT HOME

### Cuban Mojo

#### Chicken | SERVES 6

This roasted chicken owes its flavor to a fantastic Cuban Mojo marinade, says restaurant owner Tony Saavedra. It's citrusy, garlicky, and full of fresh flavor. Marinade ingredients include culantro—a cousin of cilantro, but with long, sturdy, jagged-toothed leaves. You'll find the herb in Latin and Asian markets.

#### INGREDIENTS

2 pounds boneless chicken breast

#### FOR MARINADE:

½ cup extra virgin olive oil  
½ cup culantro leaves  
½ cup sour orange juice  
¾ teaspoon dried oregano  
1 teaspoon cumin powder  
4 garlic cloves  
1 teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon black pepper

#### GARNISHES:

1 orange, cut into wedges  
Culantro leaves

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Place the marinade ingredients in a food processor. Blend until the culantro is finely chopped. Pour the marinade over chicken in a Ziploc bag and marinate for 12–36 hours.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place chicken in a baking pan, and add any residual marinade from the bag. Bake chicken for 30 minutes. Remove and turn chicken. Spoon over pan juices. Bake for another 20 minutes or until the skin is nicely browned or has reached 165° internal temperature. Let rest for 5 minutes before serving. Accompany with rice, black beans, and sweet fried plantains.

## Tony's Country Corner Kitchen



the entrance is a mural depicting Saavedra welcoming diverse folks, along with the message "where everyone is family."

Saavedra doesn't take himself too seriously—though his food is seriously good, a combination of familiar favorites (country-fried steak, burgers, chicken Caesar salad) and Latin specialties (Cuban-style pork, milanesa Cuban melt, grilled chicken with rice, black beans, plantains, and cilantro-lime sauce). He describes the menu as Southern/Cuban/Spanish fusion and takes pride in everything being made to order. "It's all the influences of my foodie traveling experiences," he says. Spain tops his list of favorite destinations.

Asked why he likes to cook, he says, "I was born for it. It's a gift

from God. Through cooking I can give more and receive more blessings."

### Fusion Flair

Once you've reached the heart of downtown Ellijay, explored the dozens of storefronts, and perhaps stopped in at the beloved Ellijay Coffeehouse, you may feel a bit peckish.

Head across the street to The Shack of Ellijay. This Asian-fusion spot and boba tea haven doesn't feel much like a shack—more like a street-level treehouse. The airy room features long wooden counters that hug the curve of the windows, colorful wind chimes, folk art, and a plump couch and reading nook. Plant yourself at the

**MAKE AT HOME****The Shack Spring Rolls | MAKES 8****INGREDIENTS**

- 2 ounces rice vermicelli
- 8 rice paper wrappers (8.5-inch diameter)
- 24 small, cooked shrimp, peeled, deveined, and cut in half
- 1½ tablespoons chopped Thai basil
- 3 tablespoons chopped mint leaves
- 3 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 3 tablespoons sliced green onions

**FOR GINGER SAUCE:**

- 3 tablespoons miso paste
- 2 tablespoons honey
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup mirin
- 2 tablespoons ground ginger
- ¼ cup sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Combine all sauce ingredients in a blender until emulsified. Set aside.

Bring a medium saucepan of water to a boil. Add rice vermicelli and boil for 3–5 minutes, or until al dente. Drain.

Fill a large bowl with lukewarm water. Submerge one rice paper wrapper into the water for 1 second to soften. Lay the moistened wrapper on a flat surface. In a row across the center, place a handful of vermicelli, shrimp halves, basil, mint, cilantro, and green onions. Do not bring the filling all the way to the sides of the wrapper. Leave about 2 inches uncovered on each side. Fold uncovered sides inward, then tightly roll the wrapper. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Serve spring rolls with ginger sauce.



The Shack

Left, opposite: Emily's



community table facing the counter to peruse the offerings listed on the chalkboard: poke (spicy tuna and Crazy Crab are top hits) and noodle bowls (the Thai curry bowl is a bestseller), shrimp spring rolls, pot stickers, and pork belly bao buns. And don't forget the bubble tea—not that you could—the whir of boba-making blenders reaches its peak in late afternoon.

Owners Tara and Abbey Prieto opened their place in November 2019. These veterans of the Fort Myers restaurant scene left Florida looking for a slower pace. That's when they found their way to Ellijay six years ago. "The mountains gave us peace and a deeper connection with nature and ourselves," they say. Abbey hails from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; Tara was born in Africa and raised in Sylacauga, Alabama. Both credit their mothers with inspiring their love of cooking. The restaurant name is a tribute to Abbey's grandmother's shack which overlooked a river and served as a meeting place for many memorable meals. The name is also a nod to Tara's favorite book, *The Shack*.

"We both love to create something that brings joy to someone," says Abbey. "We also like to interact with people in our community, and just like in our childhood, food brings people together."

## Upscale Eats

Come sundown, head to the center of town and treat yourself to an elegant cocktail, then ease into fine dining without the fuss



at Emily's Bar and Restaurant. Oversized movie images of Frank Sinatra, James Dean, and Marilyn Monroe watch over the candlelit tables and vases of fresh flowers, adding a throwback, clubby vibe to the room. Exposed brick walls, moody lighting, and a casual but polished crew set the tone for serving swank cocktails, over 50 wines, craft brews, plus domestic and imported beers (including a daily German draft beer rotation—the owner's call). Beyond the premium booze are prime steaks, fresh seafood, burgers, classic pasta dishes, vegetarian options, and desserts. The restaurant uses local purveyors, including Ellijay Mushrooms, Blue Ridge Olive Oil Company, Logan Turnpike Mill, Engelheim Vineyards, and Integritas Farms. The day-to-day is overseen by Rolf Hensche (he and his wife, Marina Krause, are the owners). A native of a small town

near Aachen, Germany, he has impressive credentials in operations management in the cruise ship industry. "What we love most in Ellijay is the community itself," he says. "We have traveled all over the world but have never felt at home as much as we have here in Ellijay."

Emily's chef, Herbert Waldner, says he appreciates all the different outdoor activities, the wineries and distillery, and being able to enjoy the mountains like back home in Austria. Waldner, who followed in his grandmother's footsteps by becoming a chef, is also a veteran of the luxury ship industry. He says his favorite foods are from Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia, and on World Cruise Thursdays, the chef gets the chance to share his passion for foods from different cultures by adding a new item to the menu.

#### MAKE AT HOME

### **Blueberry Lemon Drop | MAKES 1**

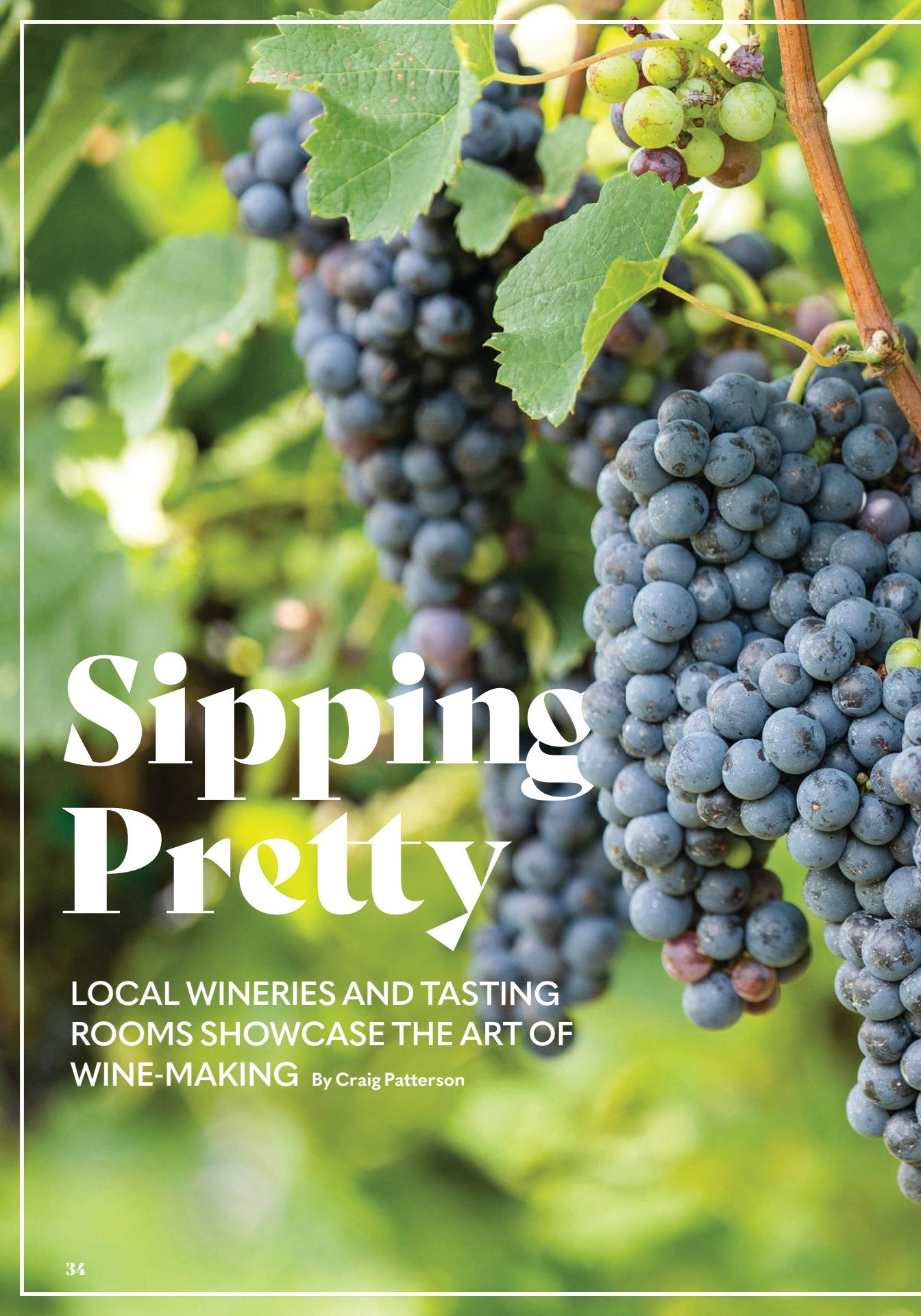
This cocktail is a guest favorite, says Emily's owner Rolf Hensche.

#### COCKTAIL INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons fresh blueberries  
1½ ounces fresh lemon juice  
1 ounce simple syrup  
2 ounces vodka

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Muddle the blueberries in a cocktail shaker. Squish berries until there are no large pieces remaining. Add freshly squeezed lemon juice, simple syrup, vodka, and 4–5 ice cubes. Put the lid on tight and shake until the glass/shaker turns cold. Pour into a martini glass and garnish with a lemon twist.



# Sipping Pretty

LOCAL WINERIES AND TASTING  
ROOMS SHOWCASE THE ART OF  
WINE-MAKING

By Craig Patterson

## Buckley Vineyards



Not too long ago, a visit to Gilmer County usually meant you were seeking one of two main attractions in the area: mountains or apples. Today, there's a sizable number of people visiting the region for its wine. The area has been steadily growing as the largest concentration of wineries in the Southeast, and there are nearly as many vineyards and wineries around Ellijay as there are apple houses. North Georgia is a

bona fide U.S. wine region, and this may just be the area's epicenter.

Vintners at each establishment welcome anyone curious about the processes behind grape-growing and winemaking. As proof, almost every winery in Gilmer County is open to exploration. Stroll their grounds, visit the tasting rooms, and ask about the wines. To help plan your visit, here's what to expect and some suggested destinations:

## Southern Appalachia in a Bottle

But first, why even visit more than one winery? The answer lies in the winemaking term, "terroir." Terroir is best summed up as a wine's "somewhereness." As Larry Lykins of Cartecay Vineyards put it, "Every two miles you go up here, the microclimate changes. The soil changes. The grapes change." The terroir of a Gilmer County wine depends on the precise

Below, right: Engelheim Vineyards



conditions at the winery. Each is slightly different in where and what they grow and how they make their wine—you can taste the difference in each bottle you uncork.

## The Distinct Tasting Room Vibe

Tasting rooms aren't bars, and they usually aren't even open past 6 or 7 p.m. Rather, these are cozy spots to soak up the sights, sounds, and, of course, tastes of the wineries and their product. Expect comfy furniture, sunny patios, friendly dogs, live music, and people on staff who are interested in helping you explore a new experience in wine

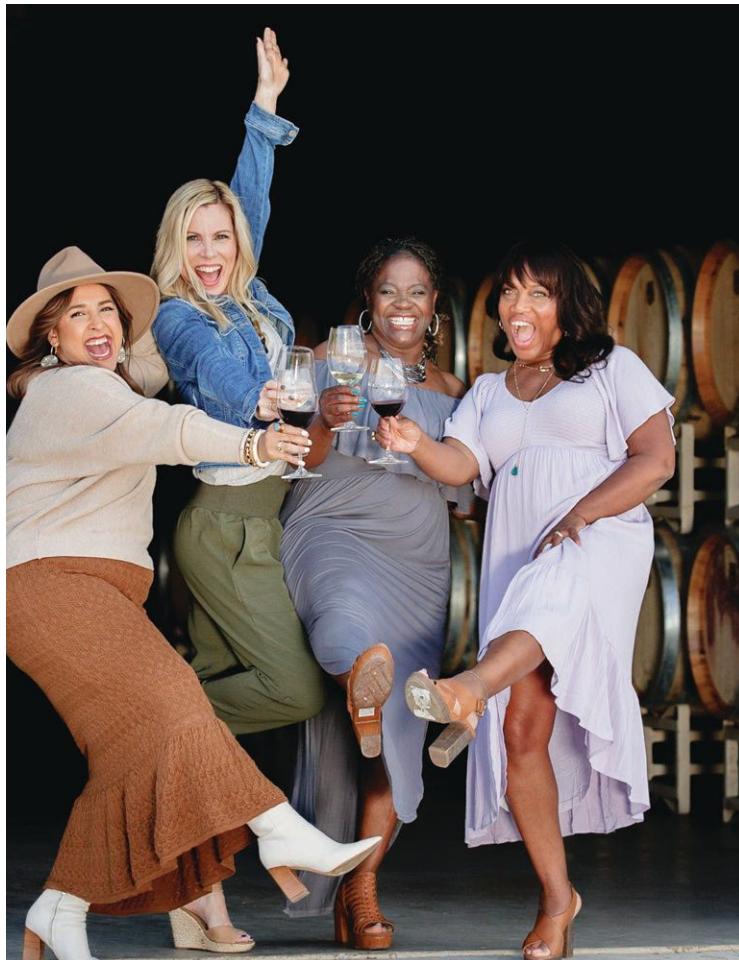
drinking. Share your preferences or put your complete faith in the experts. They'll be glad to guide you either way.

## Engelheim Vineyards

A visit to the tasting room at Engelheim is the best introduction to Gary Engel's operation. Engel is a retired Army colonel with expertise in logistics, but he pivoted to winemaking and the rest is history. The property has the charm of old Germany, as evidenced by the name Engelheim itself, German for "angel home." It sits on 62 acres of rolling hills with ample mountain views, and the 15 acres of vineyards typically produce

4,000 cases of wine per season. The on-site tasting room features a big fireplace, cozy furniture, and a sweeping view of the surrounding peaks. On weekends, guests can enjoy live music.

Here, as in any of the Gilmer tasting rooms, your experience should begin by approaching the expert behind the bar. Whether you're inclined to opt for crisp Chardonnay or a robust Cabernet, they're happy to help. A basic four-wine sampler flight is \$10 and serves as an excellent introduction to both the staff and the wines. When something strikes your fancy, take it home by the bottle or case.



Engelheim was one of the very first vineyards in Ellijay, with its first vintage in 2011. (That first wine, by the way, won a double gold medal in the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition.) Engelheim represents a passionate and expert-level approach to winemaking. Speaking with Engel about the process of winemaking is like talking to both a chemist and an artist. The Colonel Engel influence is evident in the precision and diligence of his pursuit of creating the best wines each harvest can produce. Out of all Engelheim's offerings, a couple can't-miss suggestions from Gary Engel himself are the Engel Weiss

(white) and Doxology (red). And don't miss the merlot-soaked, chocolate-covered Hummingbird truffle cakes.

### Cartecay Vineyards

Though Cartecay Vineyards is similar in size to Engelheim, it has quite a different vibe. While Engelheim is housed in a large German Tudor building sitting at the top of a hill, Cartecay is tucked in a small rustic barn just across a creek from the road. This winery is home to cows. It has a tasting barn, not a tasting room. But it does have a founder who is equally as passionate about wine.

Larry Lykins bought the

## Through the Grapevine

Sample Gilmer's growing wine scene at these local vineyards

### Buckley Vineyards

Opened in 2021, this Ellijay tasting room has a modern farmhouse feel. Each wine highlights a family member of the owners.

### Cartecay Wine & Craft

A satellite tasting room for Cartecay Vineyards located in historic downtown Ellijay offering wine and craft beers from around Georgia.

### Chateau Meichtry Family Vineyard & Winery

Vineyard and winery in Talking Rock with the feel of a sprawling European manor. Indoor and outdoor seating with views of rolling hills.

### Ellijay River Vineyards

Tasting room on site and riverside seating in nice weather. Open weekends.

### Fainting Goat Vineyards

Great views and a modern building located in Jasper, Georgia. Be sure to pay the fainting goats a visit.

### Grapes and Ladders Vineyards and Winery

Small, roadside tasting room by vineyards with \$5 sample flights. Live music on Saturdays.

### Ott Farms and Vineyard

Wine tasting room and store featuring outdoor seating with great mountain views. Live music on weekends and an open mic night on Tuesdays.

### Roo Mountain Vineyards

Opening in 2023, this winery will feature expansive mountain views, tasty food, and live music.

### Sharp Mountain Vineyards

Jasper, Georgia, vineyard and winery with tastings and live music on Saturday afternoons.



dilapidated, overgrown farm on which Cartecay Vineyards sits back in 2007 after deciding years before that he wanted to become a winemaker. He chose the old homestead he now owns for its sun-drenched, western-facing slopes. According to Lykins, any decent viticulturist knows that "if land will grow apples, it will grow grapes." He planted his first vines in 2008 and had his first vintage in 2010.

While he has the grapes to produce far more, Lykins currently bottles about 2,500 cases per year. That's because Cartecay operates on a 100 percent Cartecay region

philosophy. He only uses grapes grown here—no outside varieties. Lykins is passionate about this region, which is evident in everything Cartecay does—even in the Tasting Barn.

Originally constructed in 1890, the barn was rebuilt after Lykins bought the place, but much of the original wood remains, giving the structure a warm, rustic feel. Cartecay Vineyards takes its terroir seriously—from the grapes to the staff to the local art on the walls. It's true Southern Appalachia, and Lykins intends to keep it that way. You'll feel it under

strings of bare bulbs in the hayloft of the barn or on the outside patio cozied up to a fire in the original homestead chimney.

## Even More Tastes

Complement your vineyard visits with stops at these specialty watering holes, from a riverside brewery to a hard apple cider house.

# North Georgia is a bona fide U.S. wine region, and this may just be the area's epicenter.

Tasting Barn favorites include the Lawman Red and the Vidal Blanc. While you're there, ask about the giant old maple in the middle of the vineyard and the story of Popcorn Sutton, whose portrait hangs on the wall of the barn.



## Cartecay River Brewing Co.

This new craft brewery in the town of Ellijay features outdoor seating overlooking the Cartecay River and offers live music and bites from visiting food trucks.

## House of Applejay

Coming soon, this distiller crafts a flavored European liqueur called Likor.

## Reece's Cider Company

With such a deep history of apple-growing, it just makes sense that Ellijay has a hard apple cidery. There's a tasting room on site, and they also offer local wines and Georgia beers.

## White Path Distillery

The first operational liquor distillery to open in Ellijay, it produces brandy, rum, moonshine, and other seasonal offerings to enjoy at the on-site tasting room. Neighboring White Path Creek Farms is a wedding and events venue.

Tumbling Waters

# The Greatest Outdoors

INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES ON  
WATER AND LAND AWAITS YOU  
IN GILMER COUNTY

By Elizabeth Florio



**S**imply put, Gilmer County is an outdoor paradise. Thousands of acres of protected land—including parts of the Cohutta Wilderness, Rich Mountain Wilderness, and Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest—present endless opportunities for exploration. The Ellijay and Cartecay rivers merge in downtown Ellijay to form the Coosawattee, which flows into peaceful Carters Lake—luring kayakers, fly fishers, and pleasure boaters. The county's robust network of bike trails make it the state's mountain biking capital, and many hikers have set foot here too, starting (or finishing) the walk of a lifetime at the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.

Here are just a handful of ways to launch your own Gilmer County adventure.

## Kayaking

The Cartecay River is where you'll find most weekend paddlers, as the river offers a mix of serenity and excitement. Two local guide companies, Ellijay River Outfitters and Cartecay River Experience, provide kayak rentals and shuttle service to short, easygoing paddles or longer adventures tackling class II and III rapids. For calmer waters (and a rowing workout), explore the coves, waterfall-dotted tributaries, and glassy depths of Carters Lake.

## Fly Fishing

The chilly waterways in and around Gilmer County are a hotbed for trout fishing. Whether you're on a quest for trophy rainbows or browns or just looking for an immersive day in nature, you'll get the best experience by enlisting a guide. For more than two decades, Ellijay-based Reel 'Em In Guide Service has shared intimate knowledge of area rivers and streams, including the Toccoa River and Noontootla Creek, through wade and float (aka boat) excursions. In addition to lake outings, Ellijay's Lake and Stream Guide Service specializes in a trout-stocked stretch of Mountaintown Creek called Whispering Hemlock, named for its picturesque canopy.

Below, right: Mulberry Gap



## Mountain Biking

Home to more than 100 miles of mountain-biking trails offering Blue Ridge vistas, rhododenron-dappled woods, and cool streams to cross, Gilmer County is the Mountain-Biking Capital of Georgia. Fueling its rep is Mulberry Gap, a basecamp that offers bike-friendly lodging, warm meals, and easy access to some of the Southeast's best MTB trails, including beloved Bear Creek and the 290-mile Cohutta Cat bikepacking route. In downtown Ellijay, Cartecay Bike Shop is a one-stop shop for everything two-wheeled, from repairs to tips on where to

ride—like the Amadahy Trail, a beginner-friendly 3.6-mile loop around Carters Lake.

## Hiking

You could devise a lengthy bucket list of area day hikes, but here are a few favorites: The Bear Creek Trail offers a variety of distances through a creek valley filled with ferns and towering trees—including the Gennett Poplar, the second largest tree in Georgia. Carters Lake's Tumbling Waters Trail packs a lot of interest into one mile, including a pair of waterfalls and a 150-foot-long bridge. At Fort

Mountain State Park in Chatsworth, a popular 1.2-mile walk passes a stone wall dating back to 500 A.D.—plus major mountain views. Get a taste of epic adventure on the Springer Mountain Loop Trail, a roughly 5-mile journey that traverses the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.

## Mushroom Hunting

Apples get all the attention in Gilmer County, but there's another harvest drawing hungry hikers to this slice of the Appalachians: wild mushrooms that grow

abundantly along damp, forested trails. Summer and fall bring a bevy of prized, golden-hued chanterelles along with porcinis and bay boletes, so grab a magnifying glass and a trusted guidebook (careful: most varieties of Georgia wild mushrooms are toxic) and set off on your foraging expedition. Craving local flavor without a walk in the woods? Visit the online store of Ellijay Mushrooms, a sustainable farm specializing in gourmet oyster and shiitake varieties.

## Tubing

Is there a better place to pass a sweltering summer day in Georgia than on an inner tube in an ice-cold river? Whether you want a lazy-river-style float or an adventurous outing with rapids and a good chance of going for a swim, the Cartecay River has a run for you. Check out Ellijay River Outfitters and Cartecay River Experience for gear rental and convenient shuttle service, but note that county ordinance prohibits coolers or alcohol on the river. (We recommend Cartecay River Brewing Co. for an after-tubing reward.)

## Cycling

Prefer smooth asphalt to dirt? Gilmer County offers all the sweeping scenery and friendly stopovers you need for a perfect day of road riding. Consult the experts at Cartecay Bike Shop for route recommendations—from a well-rounded 40-mile trek to a thigh-busting 96-miler (dubbed the Medieval Torture Chamber)—along with any repairs or tune-ups to get you in gear. Gravel grinders will love the streamside ride and fierce descent of the Noontootla



Loop at the southern terminus of the AT.

## Camping

Gilmer County is home to miles of pristine wilderness for backpacking, including three premier long-distance footpaths: the Pinhoti, Benton MacKaye, and Appalachian trails. For basic creature comforts, Fort Mountain State Park offers a variety of setups—from platforms to RV hook-ups to backcountry campsites—and scenery galore. Pack your sunscreen for a stay on Carters Lake, where campsites include boat-in options. Two family-owned campgrounds in Ellijay, Diamond Lure and Plum Nelly, offer RV hookups, tent camping, and proximity to local orchards and vineyards. In addition to spacious sites for

luxury RVs, Ellijay's Talona Ridge RV Resort has an event hall, pool, fitness center, and 360-degree mountain views.

## Boating

Development is forbidden on the rugged, forest-fringed shores of Carters Lake, lending a sense of seclusion to the 3,200-acre reservoir. Yet it's easy to explore the serene lake—Georgia's deepest at 450 feet—by boat. Launch your own vessel from multiple public ramps, or rent a pontoon (water slide optional) from Carters Lake Marina. The marina also offers boat repairs, fuel, a fully stocked ship store, and classic lake grub. Bring your tackle box to reel in trophy stripers, or simply power down in a cove and cool off in the clear water; no boat in sight but your own.

# RESOURCE GUIDE

## ATTRACTIOnS

### Appalachian Trail Rides

4100 Cutcane Road,  
Mineral Bluff  
706-374-0362

### BEAU-tiful Creations

9 Southside Square, Suite C,  
Ellijay, 706-669-2367

### Cartecay River Experience,

**LLC**  
2400 Highway 52 East, Ellijay  
706-531-4746

### Ellijay Axes

941 Maddox Drive, Suite 216,  
East Ellijay  
706-502-7070

### Ellijay River Outfitters

88 Holt Bridge Road, Ellijay  
706-889-8697

### Expedition: BIGFOOT!

1934 Highway 515 South,  
Blue Ridge  
706-946-2601

### George Link, Jr. Gilmer Arts Playhouse

135 Dalton Street, Ellijay  
706-635-5626

### Gibbs Gardens

1987 Gibbs Drive, Ball Ground  
770-893-1881

### Gilmer County Historical Society/Tabor House & Civil War Museum

138 Spring Street, Ellijay  
706-276-1861

### Mountain Cinemas - Georgia Theatre Company

312 Highland Parkway,  
East Ellijay  
706-515-3504

**Mountain Valley Farm Store**  
2021 Homer Wright Road, Ellijay  
706-889-1426

**Noontootla Creek Farms**  
3668 Newport Road, Blue Ridge  
706-838-0585

**Reel 'Em In Guide Service, LLC**  
Ellijay  
706-273-0764

**Zipline Canopy**  
**Tours of Blue Ridge**  
891 Old Cashes Valley Road,  
Blue Ridge  
800-251-4800

plus a dog-friendly porch.  
10 Northside Square, Ellijay,  
706-636-1111

### Boardwalk Pizza & Pub

Friendly downtown dive with  
cold beer, hot 'za, and an out-  
door patio. 25 South Church  
Street, Ellijay, 706-273-2865

### Burger King

Home of the Whopper and  
other fast-food staples.  
Highway 5 Appalachian Parkway,  
East Ellijay, 706-276-2999

### Cajun Depot Grill

Authentic Cajun and Creole  
cuisine and Big Easy-inspired  
cocktails. 67 Depot Street,  
Suite 101, Ellijay, 706-276-1676

### Cantaberry Restaurant

Downtown favorite for gourmet  
salads, sandwiches, and more.  
5 Southside Square, Ellijay,  
706-636-4663

### Captain D's

Serving up batter-dipped fish  
and seafood platters. 253  
Highland Crossing, East Ellijay,  
706-515-2200

### Charlie's Italian Restaurant

Homey spot for Italian favorites,  
including a variety of specialty  
pizzas. 15 Westcross Street,  
East Ellijay, 706-635-2205

### Chick-fil-A

Homegrown chain specializing  
in chicken sandwiches and waf-  
fle fries. 475 Howard Simmons  
Road, Ellijay, 706-636-0475

## RESTAURANTS

### Abby's Ice Cream & Frozen Yogurt

Downtown destination for fill-  
your-own fro-yo, gelato, and  
sorbet. 24 South Main Street,  
Suite E, Ellijay, 678-408-1119

### American Legion Post 82

Veterans' org with riverside  
setting, American fare, and  
game nights. 297 Legion Road,  
Ellijay, 706-276-4878

### Arby's

Home of curly fries and meat-  
stuffed sandwiches. 56 School  
Street, East Ellijay, 706-636-  
5315

### Back Porch Bistro

Handmade sandwiches,  
wraps, and vegetarian options,

 Head to [pickellijay.com](http://pickellijay.com) for more information about Ellijay's attractions, restaurants, shopping spots, and accommodations!

### **The Chili Dog**

Mainstay serving buttermilk biscuits, burgers, and a famous chili dog. 962 Industrial Boulevard, Ellijay, 706-635-4919

### **Chill Out Ice Cream & Eatery**

Downtown hub for hand-dipped ice cream, hot dogs, and other sweet treats. 40 River Street, Suite A, Ellijay, 706-276-2611

### **Colonel Poole's Georgia Bar-B-Q**

Colorful joint offering classic 'cue, home-style sides, and desserts. 164 Craig Street, East Ellijay, 706-635-4100

### **Cornerstone Cafe**

Offering friendly breakfast and lunch, from fluffy pancakes to juicy burgers. 76 North Main Street, Ellijay, 706-636-2230

### **Country Corner Kitchen**

Local gem known for hearty breakfasts and a killer Cuban sandwich. 2020 Old Highway 5 South, Ellijay, 706-276-7077

### **Crossroads Grocery**

Country store with made-to-order sandwiches and hand-dipped ice cream. 8994 Highway 52 East, Ellijay, 706-273-3764

### **Dairy Queen Grill & Chill**

Home of Blizzards and other frosty treats. 1043 South Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-2020

### **Domino's Pizza**

"More than pizza," with wings, pastas, and sandwiches too. 91 Highland Drive, Suite 114, Ellijay, 706-697-3600

### **The Double L Restaurant**

Long-running, cafeteria-style spot for Southern meat and veggies. 449 Industrial Boulevard, Ellijay, 706-635-5500

### **Dunkin'**

Reliably tasty coffee alongside powdered and glazed treats. 600 Howard Simmons Road, Ellijay, 706-636-3865

### **El Burrito**

Fresh Mexican fare—headlined by burritos—for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. 39 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay, 706-276-6464

### **Ellijay Coffeehouse**

Quaint mountain coffee shop offering paninis, parfaits, and fresh-baked goods. 131 North Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-5565

### **Ellijay Wood Fired Pizza**

Downtown anchor serving authentic Neapolitan pies and specialty cocktails. 2 River Street, Ellijay, 706-707-4992

### **El Rey Azteca**

Festive spot for sizzling fajitas, cold margs, and other Mexican favorites. 177 Highland Crossing, East Ellijay, 706-276-1515

### **Emily's Bar & Restaurant**

Seasonal cuisine and cocktails—plus live music upstairs—in the heart of downtown. 24 River Street, Ellijay, 706-889-7937

### **Green Dragon Sports Tavern**

Family-owned bar with wings, trivia, and fried alligator tail.

96 Craig Street, Suite 107, East Ellijay, 706-636-3473

### **Hardee's**

Chain known for charbroiled burgers and from-scratch biscuits. 1208 Industrial Boulevard, East Ellijay, 706-526-4638

### **The Hitching Post**

Package store with drive-up window for taking home loaded pizzas and sandwiches. 740 South Main Street, Ellijay, 706-276-9924

### **The Honey Baked Ham Company**

Go-to for family-size smoked hams, turkey, and sides. 29 Highland Drive #103, Ellijay, 706-276-2112

### **IHOP**

Pancakes, crepes, and diner standbys 'round the clock. 90 Highland Crossing South, Ellijay, 706-698-4467

### **Kasei Sushi & Sake**

Top-notch sushi and exotic sake in a downtown locale. 10 River Street, Ellijay, 706-851-2200

### **Krystal**

Square-cut sliders by the sackful, plus fries and tots. 124 Highland Crossing, Ellijay, 706-273-2400

### **La Catrina Tacos & Margaritas**

Street tacos, flavorful margs, and fresh Mexican fare in friendly digs. 101 South Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-1520

# RESOURCE GUIDE

## **Lin's Garden**

Chinese favorites and an all-you-can-eat buffet. 772 Maddox Drive, East Ellijay, 706-635-6300

## **LongHorn Steakhouse**

Casual-dining hub where grilled steaks headline. 30 Highland Crossing, East Ellijay, 706-515-0050

## **Marco's Pizza**

Chain carrying custom and specialty pies and pizza bowls. 500 Highland Crossing, Suite 111, East Ellijay, 706-515-1515

## **McDonald's**

Fast-food empire of Happy Meal and Big Mac fame. 943 Maddox Drive, East Ellijay, 706-276-1133

## **Mercier Orchards**

Orchard-side cafe serving breakfast, lunch, and baked treats. 8660 Blue Ridge Drive, Blue Ridge, 706-632-3411

## **Mike's Ellijay Restaurant**

Local haunt for meat-and-three meals and hearty breakfasts. 351 Tails Creek Road, Ellijay, 706-635-4381

## **Moe's Southwest Grill**

Big burritos, walkup service, and an enthusiastic greeting. 212 Highland Parkway, East Ellijay, 706-276-6070

## **Mr. P's Takeout Food**

Mainstay known for homemade biscuits and the loaded Paradise Burger. 295 North Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-4040

## **Mucho Kaliene Mexican Restaurant**

Classic Tex-Mex spot offer-

ing daily lunch specials. 941

Maddox Drive, Suite 232, East Ellijay, 706-636-4192

## **Okinawa Restaurant**

Fresh, creative sushi rolls and energetic hibachi tables. 130 Old Orchard Square, East Ellijay, 706-698-2222

## **Papa's Pizza to Go**

Georgia-grown chain offering pizza, subs, and signature Piggy Stix. 9 Russell Drive, East Ellijay, 706-635-7020

## **Pink Pig of Cherry Log**

Local icon serving pit-cooked barbecue in classic and fun preparations. 824 Cherry Log Street, Cherry Log, 706-276-3311

## **Pizza King**

Pie chain with fresh-made dough plus pasta and hot sandwiches. 200 Old Orchard Square, East Ellijay, 706-635-6666

## **The Pub**

Hangout with sports, live music, and American grub like wings and cheesesteaks. 941 Maddox Drive #230, East Ellijay, 706-972-4038

## **Pueblo Mexican Restaurant**

Classic Mexican eats in a colorful, family-friendly setting. 29 Highland Drive, East Ellijay, 706-276-3838

## **R&A Orchards**

Farm cafe where you can nosh on fried pies, chicken and dumplings, and more. 5505 Highway 52 East, Ellijay, 706-273-3821

## **Raspados Celeste**

Warm-weather favorite offering shaved ice with fresh fruit. 772 Maddox Drive, Suite 102, Ellijay, 706-299-0866

## **River Street Tavern**

Friendly downtown pub with award-winning burgers and craft brews. 40 River Street, Suite B, Ellijay, 706-635-6166

## **The Roof**

Rooftop venue with Southern cuisine and broad mountain views. 16 River Street, Ellijay, 706-635-7663

## **Ruby Tuesday**

National chain known for burgers and an unlimited salad bar. 47 Highland Crossing, East Ellijay, 706-515-3301

## **The Shack of Ellijay**

Charming downtown spot for poke bowls, noodle dishes, and bubble tea. 118 North Main Street, Ellijay, 706-635-3663

## **Shane's Rib Shack**

Locally based chain serving slow-cooked meats and Southern sides. 289 Highland Crossing, Ellijay, 706-635-7427

## **The SmokeHouse**

## **Country Grill**

Checkered-tablecloth setting for a down-home breakfast, lunch, or dinner. 941 Maddox Drive, Suite 206, East Ellijay, 706-276-7755

## **Smokin E's BBQ**

Mouth-watering brisket, pork, and "Redneck Rolls" ("cue-filled egg rolls). 2183 Highway 52 East, Ellijay, 706-698-9869

## **Stanley's Food**

Convenience store serving freshly made biscuits, chicken tenders, and more. 7499 Highway 52 East, Ellijay, 706-273-3210

## **Starbucks**

Seattle chain that turned fancy coffee drinks into familiar favorites. 60 Highland Crossing South, Ellijay, 706-515-1520

## **Subway**

Home of classic footlong sandwiches, sliders, and more. 500 Highland Crossing #101, East Ellijay, 706-635-7827

## **Taco Bell**

Go-to for tacos, chalupas, and inventive Mexican-inspired foods. 158 Highland Crossing South, Ellijay, 706-503-3990

## **Waffle House**

Ubiquitous diner with hash browns and other around-the-clock favorites. 410 1st Avenue East, East Ellijay, 706-636-5500

## **Wendy's**

National purveyor of burgers, fries, and Frosties. 209 Highland Crossing, Ellijay, 706-636-1181

## **White Columns Restaurant**

Meat-and-three establishment offering Southern comfort food. 200 Industrial Boulevard #109, Ellijay, 706-273-7135

## **Zaxby's**

Zalads, zappetizers, and tasty fried chicken baskets. 143 Highland Crossing, Ellijay, 706-515-1000

## **Zen & Juice**

Downtown juice bar offering

healthy fare, smoothies, and coffee. 100 North Main Street, Ellijay, 910-616-9101

## **LODGING**

### **Above the Rest Cabins**

1662 My Mountain Road, Morganton 706-374-2057

### **Apple Crisp Cabin**

Ellijay, 954-304-5803

### **Bent Tree Lodge & Vineyard**

253 Happy Trails Way, Jasper 941-348-0562

### **Best Western Mountain View Inn**

43 Coosawattee Drive, East Ellijay 706-515-1500

### **Blue Sky Cabin Rentals, LLC**

61 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay 855-360-4773

### **Budget Inn of Ellijay**

34 Jeff Drive, Ellijay 706-635-5311

### **Carters Lake Marina & Resort**

575 Marina Road, Chatsworth 706-276-4891

### **Celebrate Blue Ridge**

Cherry Log 770-689-9826

### **Comfort Inn & Suites**

234 Highland Parkway, East Ellijay 706-515-6000

### **Coosawattee River Resort**

634 Beaver Lake Dr. 5160, Ellijay 706-640-4010

### **Diamond Lure**

#### **Campground & RV Resort**

514 Diamond Lure Road, Ellijay 706-273-3075

### **Dragonfly Dreams Luxury Cabin Rentals, LLC**

Ellijay 866-931-8224

### **Eagle Mountain River Retreat**

344 Eagle Mountain Drive East, Ellijay 772-284-2024

### **Elatse Yi**

Ellijay 678-877-0048

### **Ellijay Inn**

92 South Main Street, Ellijay 706-635-4615

### **Ellijay River House Bed & Breakfast**

128 River Street, Ellijay 770-883-3797

### **Escape to Blue Ridge, LLC**

1844 Old Highway 76, Blue Ridge 866-618-2521

### **Falling Waters Lodge, LLC**

201 Mountainside Parkway, Ellijay 678-525-3032

### **Forest Cabins of Ellijay**

151 Azalea Drive, Ellijay 706-273-0156

### **Forrest Hills Resort**

135 Forrest Hills Road, Dahlonega 706-864-6456

### **Gingershack Farms**

280 Turkey Creek Drive, Ellijay 706-635-1685

# RESOURCE GUIDE

## **Hummingbird Lodge**

Ellijay  
321-543-4339

## **Just a Step Away**

Ellijay  
770-318-8911

## **Legacy BnB**

267 South County Road 158,  
Blue Ridge  
706-258-3746

## **Morning Breeze Cabin Rentals**

950 Appalachian Highway,  
Blue Ridge  
888-875-5669

## **Mountain Oasis Cabin Rentals, Inc.**

22818 Highway 52 East, Ellijay  
706-276-4343

## **Mountain Resort Cabin Rentals**

Ellijay  
706-276-2116

## **Mulberry Gap - Adventure**

**Basecamp**  
400 Mulberry Gap Road, Ellijay  
706-698-2865

## **Nevaeh Cabin Rentals**

2401 East 1st Street, Blue Ridge  
706-258-2460

## **Overlook On Main AirBnb**

108 North Main Street, Ellijay  
470-223-1814

## **Plum Nelly RV Park and Campground**

15828 Highway 515 South, Ellijay  
706-698-7586

## **RA Vacation Rentals, LLC**

Ellijay  
404-790-8879

## **Red Roof Cottage**

160 Smith Hill Road, Cherry Log  
727-688-3138

## **Sandy's North Georgia Cabins**

Ellijay  
404-310-5899

## **Sliding Rock Properties**

Ellijay  
706-636-5895

## **Stratford Motor Inn**

79 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay  
706-276-1080

## **StressBuster Cabin Rentals & Management Service**

Ellijay  
404-791-4388

## **The Overlook Inn**

9420 Highway 52, Chatsworth  
706-517-0300

## **The R and A Company LLC**

391 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-972-6091

## **Vacasa, LLC**

Ellijay  
706-889-7137

## **Villas at Chateau Meichtry**

1862 Orchard Lane, Talking  
Rock  
404-488-9970

## **Wagging Tails Farm**

2004 Clear Creek Road, Ellijay  
478-552-4856

## **Talona Ridge RV Resort**

723 Highland Pkwy, East Ellijay  
706-636-2267

## **Walnut Grove Lodge**

568 Tails Creek Church Road,  
Ellijay, 912-525-5484

## **SHOPPING**

### **Antiques on North Main**

44 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-698-1950

### **Artful Ellijay**

10 North Main Street, Ellijay  
877-244-7755

### **Barnes Furniture Outlet**

29 Highland Drive, Suite 112,  
East Ellijay  
706-698-2337

### **Bavarian Chocolatier and Fudge Shop Downtown Ellijay**

4 Northside Square, Ellijay  
706-610-2010

### **Bear Creek Furnishings LLC**

14244 Highway 515 North, Suite  
1200, Ellijay  
706-635-8354

### **Belle's Boutique**

449 Industrial Boulevard,  
Suite 115, Ellijay  
706-276-6699

### **Black Bear Antiques & Interiors**

240 Old Orchard Square,  
Suite B, East Ellijay  
706-635-2327

### **Cartecay Bike Shop**

493 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-635-2453

### **Cartecay Thrift Store**

374 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-635-5510

### **Ellijay Mushrooms**

1971 Old Flat Branch Road,  
Ellijay  
678-570-6888

**Faith Hope & Charity****Recycle Store, Inc.**

449 Industrial Boulevard,  
Suite 120, Ellijay  
706-635-3035

**Feathering the Nest**

163 Dalton Street, Ellijay  
404-615-6597

**GA Mountain Furniture  
& Décor**

941 Maddox Drive #210, Ellijay  
706-889-3329

**The Gumdrop Fun Shop**

71 River Street, Ellijay,  
706-273-5577

**Hometown Florist &  
Yesterday's Décor**

56 A River Street, Ellijay  
706-635-6100

**Hootenanny's Music**

572 Maddox Drive, Suite 201B,  
East Ellijay, 706-692-1752

**Huff's Drug Store**

136 Industrial Boulevard, Ellijay  
706-635-7931

**Imbali Wellness Spa**

58 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-273-7721

**Linda's Outback Antiques  
& More**

58 River Street, Ellijay,  
706-636-1084

**Live the Trail**

96 North Main Street, Ellijay  
404-395-3262

**Main Street Antiques  
& Collectibles**

66 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-635-8567

**Make It Yours**

81 Ward Lane, Suite 6, Ellijay  
706-273-3952

**Misty Hollow Antiques  
& Collectibles**

34 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-276-1644

**Mountain Hounds – Ellijay**

53 River Street, Ellijay  
706-276-7000

**Mountain Life  
Health Food Store**

978 South Main Street,  
Suite 101, Ellijay  
706-273-5433

**Mountain Treasures**

14 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-635-5590

**Mountain Valley Farm Store**

2021 Homer Wright Road, Ellijay  
706-889-1426

**North Georgia Diamond**

29 Highland Drive, Suite 105,  
East Ellijay  
706-515-1551

**North Georgia Gun Range**

123 Maddox Circle, East Ellijay  
706-635-3473

**North Georgia Sports Zone**

411 East Main Street, Unit 2,  
Blue Ridge  
706-632-3700

**Rey's Relics, Inc.**

383 North Main Street, Ellijay  
706-273-2093

**Rustic Roots Boutique**

9 Southside Square, Suite A,  
Ellijay, 706-669-4961

**Southern Flare Antiques  
and Interiors**

1362 Highway 52 East, Ellijay  
706-635-6330

**Strings & Stitches**

**Yarn Shoppe**  
449 Industrial Boulevard,  
Suite 165, Ellijay  
706-698-5648

**The Loving Bull**

6 River Street, Ellijay  
706-669-3059

**The Third Hummingbird**

387 North Main Street,  
Ellijay  
706-273-2329

**Tim Buk Tu Food Mart**

2170 South Main Street,  
Ellijay  
706-635-6333

**TJ & Co.**

12 Northside Square,  
Ellijay  
706-276-7803

**Umake-Utake DIY  
Craft Studio**

572 Maddox Drive, Suite 208,  
Ellijay  
706-276-8800

**Unique Ellijay**

14 Church Street,  
Ellijay  
706-276-5522

**Walls of Books Ellijay**

96 Craig Street, Suite 104,  
East Ellijay  
706-276-2008



Apple Picking

# Your Childhood Favorites ALL GROWN UP.

Apple Wine



Hard Cider



Cider Donuts



IT'S ALL ELLIJAY

PICK  
ELLIJAY  
GEORGIA

PICKELLIJAY.COM  
@PICKELLIJAY