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Wines Produced in the Traverse City Region Garner an Unprecedented Number of Ratings and Reviews by Wine Enthusiast

June 10, 2019 (Traverse City, MI) - The July issue of *Wine Enthusiast* includes an unprecedented number of ratings and reviews for over 100 wines produced in the Traverse City area. It's the largest collection of ratings of Michigan wines ever published in a national magazine and marks a watershed moment for the Traverse Wine Coast.

A remarkable sixty-five wines received ratings and scores between 87–91 points. Scores in this range are noteworthy because they place the wines from the Traverse Wine Coast on par with those produced in acclaimed wine-growing regions such as New Zealand, Washington, Oregon and Spain.

These wineries are all located on the Leelanau and Old Mission Peninsulas. The wineries joined together in 2018 to establish a single wine region, the Traverse Wine Coast (TWC). While the two peninsulas remain distinct American Viticulture Areas, collectively they are producing world-class wines.

"These ratings in *Wine Enthusiast* recognize that a lot of excellent wines are coming out of Northern Michigan and the wines are now being recognized nationally and internationally for their quality," said Paul Hamelin, owner of Verterra Winery, a family-owned winery on the Leelanau Peninsula and President of the Traverse Wine Coast. "It tells the world that this region is worthy of wine enthusiasts coming to visit the Traverse City area and experiencing the exciting wines of the Traverse Wine Coast.

The Traverse City region is producing 60 percent of the wine produced in Michigan. This production includes the majority of the Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Grigio and Riesling grown and bottled in the state. Many of those varietals and others received high marks from the editors of *Wine Enthusiast*.

For a complete list of wines rated by *Wine Enthusiast*: <https://www.winemag.com/region/michigan>.

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The Traverse Wine Coast is home to two American Viticulture Areas (AVAs), each located on a peninsula - Leelanau Peninsula and Old Mission Peninsula - within Northwest Michigan's premier grape growing region. Thirty-five wineries are located within diverse microclimates uniquely suited for a variety of wine grapes. Among the internationally acclaimed varietals are Riesling, Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Cabernet Franc. The cool-climate wines are food friendly and continue to achieve national and international accolades with each passing vintage.