



# Plantations, Wine & Battlefields

## MIDDLETOWN, VIRGINIA

One day tour

Get set for history, wine and food. Begin the adventure with a **wine tasting** at **Shenandoah Valley Vineyards**. They take their name from the

Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. This valley was known as the "breadbasket of the confederacy" during the US Civil War. Most structures in the valley were burned during General Sheridan's Valley Campaign to destroy confederate supply lines. Now, as to whether the barn survived the Civil War or was built/rebuilt soon after the war, this is a matter of contention and further research, but the barn is now our barrel room and tasting room.



Travel to Middletown for lunch at **The Wayside Inn**, serving travelers since 1797. The Wayside Inn Heritage is based on service to the traveler. Their first guests began arriving in 1797, pausing for bed and board as they journeyed across the Shenandoah Valley. Twenty years later with the building of the Valley Pike, the Inn became a stagecoach stop, a relay station where fresh horses were ready, and where weary passengers could rest and enjoy delicious food and spirits.

During the **Civil War**, soldiers from both the North and South frequented the Inn in search of refuge and friendship. Offering comfort to all who came, the Inn was spared the ravages of the war, although, both the South's Stonewall Jackson and the North's Phil Sheridan campaigned fiercely through the Valley. The meal is served in eight antique-filled rooms and feature authentic Colonial favorites! A delight!



The final visit will be **Belle Grove Plantation** for a special tour that includes the plantation as well as an overview of the Civil War Battle fought on the grounds. Belle Grove is an 18th-century grain and livestock farm, which, in its prime (circa 1815), encompassed about 7500 acres of land. The unique limestone house was completed in 1797 for Major Isaac Hite and his wife Nelly, sister of future President James Madison. The house has remained virtually unchanged through the years, offering visitors an experience of the life and times of the people who lived there in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. During the Civil War, Belle Grove was at the center of the decisive **Battle of Cedar Creek**. Today, the plantation includes the main house and gardens, original outbuildings, a classic 1918 barn, an overseer's house, the slave cemetery, a heritage apple orchard, fields and meadows, and scenic mountain views.

After a tour of the mansion *enjoy tea and English biscuits*, while a costumed interpreter explains the significance of high tea and its role at Belle Grove.

Contact [Civil War Tours.net](http://CivilWarTours.net)  
1-888-681-5333