



Historic Old Town Winchester.  
 ABOVE RIGHT: the Political  
 Pear cocktail at Half Note Lounge

SMALL TOWNS WE LOVE

# Winchester, Virginia

*Southern hospitality, neighborly charm, and talk of days gone by abound in this jewel of the Shenandoah Valley*

## Main Street

Explore independent shops and boutiques by foot in historic **Old Town Winchester** ([oldtownwinchesterva.com](http://oldtownwinchesterva.com)). The **Winchester Book Gallery** ([winchesterbookgallery.com](http://winchesterbookgallery.com)) is a literary heaven for hardback-book lovers.

**POPULATION** 27,216

**STOPLIGHT COUNT** 57

**NAMESAKE** In 1744, Colonel James Wood of Winchester, England, founded the town, staking out 26 plots of land. On one of those plots he built his own residence, Glen Burnie, which still stands today as part of the **Museum of the Shenandoah Valley** ([themsu.org](http://themsu.org)).

**CHARM FACTOR** Having been the grounds for six major Civil War battles, Winchester is steeped in some of America's earliest and richest chronicles. But history is only part of the story—Winchester is known as the "Apple Capital" and offers beautiful expanses of rolling orchards. On-farm eateries, such as the **Marker-Miller Orchards Farm Market and Bakery** ([marker-millerorchards.com](http://marker-millerorchards.com)), lure visitors with treats such as scrumptious Apple Cider Doughnuts.

**CLAIM TO FAME** A team of dedicated Winchester residents restored the **Patsy Cline Historic House** ([celebratingpatsycline.org](http://celebratingpatsycline.org)) as it was when Patsy lived there. Locals who are old enough to remember love to tell stories of how they'd see her on the front porch in curlers, smoking a cigarette.

**BEST-KEPT SECRET** During World War II, a concrete vault beneath John Handley High School hid more than 50 important works from Washington, D.C.'s Corcoran Gallery of Art.

**MUST-TRY DELICACY** Chef Ed Matthews of **One Block West** ([oneblockwest.com](http://oneblockwest.com)) pairs his Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes with what he calls "farmer's market slaw." A daily trip to the market dictates that day's selection, and each batch rotates with the seasons.

**WATERING HOLE** On weekends, unwind with the locals at the **Half Note Lounge** in the downtown George Washington Hotel ([wyndham.com](http://wyndham.com)). The Ike Washington martini and the Political Pear cocktail are favorites. 🍷