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Make a “Pit” Stop in the Barbecue Capital for Famous Lexington-Style Barbecue

One visit to Lexington and your taste buds confirm why barbecue hogs the spotlight in this town known as the Barbecue Capital. Nearly a dozen [eateries](#) specialize in Lexington-style pit-cooked barbecue. Since the early 1900s, barbecue has been prepared the same way in Lexington – pork shoulders smoked “slow and low” over oak & hickory coals and served chopped, course chopped or sliced. One of the things distinguishing Lexington-style ‘cue is the dip (don’t call it sauce!). This thin, tomato & vinegar dip is used sparingly to give just the right amount of tang to the meat.

Gallery & Museum Honors NC’s Most Famous Living Artist

The [Bob Timberlake Gallery & Museum](#) is a must-see stop to learn about Timberlake, considered NC’s most famous living artist. The Lexington native first made a splash in the art world in the early 1970s with his paintings of down-home scenes and countryside landscapes. Timberlake later branched into furniture design and continues both to this day. A trip through the two-story gallery tells the story of Timberlake with awards, photos and mementos of his life. It also offers a chance to purchase his artwork and home furnishings. His new furniture line debuted in 2025.

Curran Alexander Releases Wine from Rare Grape Varietal

In June 2026, the boutique winery released Sauvignon Rytos. The wine features estate-grown Sauvignon Rytos grapes, a rare, Italian hybrid created by crossing Sauvignon Blanc and Bianca. [Curran Alexander](#) was attracted to Sauvignon Rytos because it belongs to a class of grapes known as PIWI, which are naturally resistant to fungal diseases. It’s also more sustainable and friendly to the environment because it reduces the use of pesticides by up to 80 percent. Sauvignon Rytos is so rare that only a handful of wineries in the United States grow the grape, and Curran Alexander is believed to be the only winery in North Carolina. The winery is among five that make up the [Southern Gateway Wine Trail](#), the southern gateway to the Yadkin Valley wine region. [Childress Vineyards](#), owned by NASCAR team owner Richard Childress, is another trail highlight. Also on the trail is [Native Vines Winery](#), one of a select few Native American-owned wineries in the country.

Century-Old Food Market Known for Pimento Cheese from a Family Recipe

Lee Hinkle is the proprietor of [Conrad & Hinkle Food Market](#) on Main Street. It was opened by his grandfather in 1919 and is best known for something it began selling in the 1940s: pimento cheese. The recipe came from Lee Hinkle’s grandmother, and it remains a guarded secret to this day. The market sells an average of more than 1,500 pounds per week, and during the busiest times of the year – July Fourth and the Christmas holidays – that number jumps to 3,000 pounds a week. There are two flavors, traditional and jalapeño. The pimento cheese is so popular that in addition to availability in-house, it can be purchased at a number of independent stores throughout the piedmont region of North Carolina. Lee Hinkle runs a weekly delivery route to see to it that the stores are stocked.

Grab the Handle and Hang On at Elevated Wake Park

Lexington’s [Elevated Wake Park](#) is one of the premier wakeboarding parks in the Southeast. This full-size park has a series of cables that guide wakeboarders around the man-made lake. Beginners can enjoy looping around the circular lake, while advanced riders can steer themselves over several jumps and features. An adjacent pond is home to an inflatable aqua park with slides and features and a smaller cable system where first-timers receive one-on-one wakeboarding lessons.

Depot District Creates New Life for Old Buildings

Along the railroad track in what were once furniture factories for Lexington’s namesake brand, new businesses teem with locals and visitors alike as they bring a breath of fresh air to a once dilapidated district. Now home to an amphitheater, cidery, brewery, restaurant, coffee shop, event venue, “barcade” and farmers market, the Depot District is a shining example of forward thinking as city officials purchased the buildings vacated by Lexington Furniture and facilitated their sale or lease to small businesses that brought new energy. The Depot District is part of the Lexington Social District, which connects the area to its Uptown neighbors and encourages sipping and shopping along the way.