

Adventures in America; a Founding Fathers and American Civil War Roadtrip. Part 5 Virginian Vineyards and Monticello

We arrived at Monticello, on the outskirts of Charlottesville early afternoon after an easy drive from the east coast of Jamestown.

Monticello is well known as it was where Thomas Jefferson lived – nowadays it is a UNESCO world heritage site.

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It is perched up on a hillside and as such offers the most spectacular of views from the estate- we were lucky to have exceptionally beautiful sunshine and clear skies. Walking around the grounds of his estate we learned more about enslaved workers, and also Jefferson's love of homegrown food and drink. He

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had the most phenomenal kitchen garden ter-
race and Monticello
perched overlooking all the vineyards.
You could see for miles.



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The house was spectacular. We didn't know,
and Monticello
that Jefferson was a keen inventor – we saw
loads of his gadgets from his time that he
had made to make life easier for him and his
family. We mused that if he were alive now,
we were sure he'd love the smart home tech-
nology.



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After a great afternoon, it was time to move to our accommodation for the next two nights – the English Inn. Unfortunately it wasn't a smooth check in, they'd got no record of us despite us paying, but it got rectified and thankfully they could offer us a room.

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We had a very quick change before catching
the courtesy hotel shuttle into town for an

evening of sampling Charlottesville's local
food and drink. Charlottesville is home to the
University of Virginia, and therefore has lots
of great and fun places to dine and drink.

Our shuttle dropped us outside the whiskey
jar, so we popped in and drank their local gin
and beer before moving almost next door to
Millers, for more of the same. We decided to
eat at Millers as it was busy, the menu
looked good and reasonable priced. We went
for two local dishes, including fried chicken
and gravy, which looked awful but was amaz-
ing! The drinks flowed, and we were happily
chatting to the bar man and the locals. We
liked this place!

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We turned in around 9.30pm – a late night for us so far haha! We were a bit squiffy but had had fun in Charlottesville.

Thursday – my birthday!

For the first time since we'd arrived we didn't

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need to set the alarm! It was my birthday -
and Monticello
and we were having a chill. We were sup-
posed to be on a bus tour to the local vine-
yards but sadly it got cancelled, so Keefy
stepped in and decided to take me to the
vineyards anyway, he would just be DES.



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From Charlottesville there are absolutely
loads of Virginian vineyards right on your
doorstep. We chose to visit Veritas, which
has been there for 30 years and has over 50
acres of vineyards. I enjoyed their wine tast-
ing flight, whilst Keith had to spit! One of the
reasons we was ted to visit Veritas was that
their garden was huge and looked out over
the Virginian countryside. Oh, it was just
beautiful. I sat there with a glass of their
white and it was just wonderful.

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Next up was The Blue Mountains brewery. We had lunch here – sadly our visit coincided with a couple of bus loads, so they were run off their feet! Service didn't suffer too much though, and our food was lovely. It was wasn't so serene and as peaceful with all the tourists!

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We took a few takeouts back for our room and Monticello
and made the journey back to our hotel.

Keith did a really good job driving – it was out of his comfort zone completely, but I really appreciated him doing it so I could enjoy some wine and beer.

We had a fairly quick change before heading back into the town of Charlottesville on the shuttle for an afternoon and evening wander and drinks and more food. We really loved the vibe of Charlottesville and ended up back at millers for more fried chicken! It was so good!

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I'd had a brilliant birthday sampling as much
and Monticello
food and drink as I could! A perfect day!

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