

Attractions

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Delaware's northern county.

New Castle County is the smallest, and the most densely populated, of Delaware's three counties. First settled by a group of Swedish and Finnish soldiers arriving in 1638, **New Castle's** rolling hills, farmlands, and forests still bring old-world charm to visitors.

Brandywine Valley in the north was the site of the Brandywine Battle during the American Revolution. Walk through Brandywine Battlefield Park to see displays of the conflict. Also in Brandywine are the duPont estates and gardens. These incredible mansions and breathtaking gardens are open for tours. Centreville and Greenville in this area are home to many unique high-end shops and gourmet restaurants. Tour historic houses, visit some of the many museums, or walk down the Brandywine Valley Wine Trail to explore several wineries.

History abounds in **New Castle County**. A working, ornately carved replica of the first colonist's ship, the Kalmar Nyckel, is open for tours. Visit Fort Delaware, a former Civil War fort built on an island near Delaware City. Costumed guides demonstrate life in the fort and offer ghost tours. In Wilmington, take a ride on an authentic steam or antique diesel train. Tour a living historic town in Old New Castle. Travel to Odessa to see more historic homes in the Georgian and Federal styles. Also here is the log frame Collins-Sharp House, built around 1700, one of the oldest buildings in Delaware.

The water beckons in Wilmington, the site of the first permanent settlement in Delaware. The Christina Riverfront, named for Queen Christina of Sweden, offers a riverwalk, outlet stores, markets, and restaurants. Enjoy a cruise in a water taxi or stroll the landscaped waterfront.

With its museums, old-world

charm, markets, culture, and parks, **New Castle County** has something for everyone to enjoy. Get in touch with history and enjoy the natural beauty of our "First State."

To learn more, visit **New Castle County of Delaware** at www.ncde.org

BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Located along the Brandywine River in northern Delaware.

The beautiful green **Brandywine Valley** has been home to several prominent Americans and the location of many historic events. Here the Battle of Brandywine was fought and lost to the English during the American Revolution. William Penn brought his fellow Quakers to the valley and their influence is still felt today in this peaceful area. Howard Pyle established his School of American Illustration here, and the duPonts built their company, mansions, and gardens along the **Brandywine**.

The Algonquin Indians originally lived in the **Brandywine** area. As the Swedish, Finnish, and Dutch settlers gradually acquired the land through treaties, the natives moved north and west. These European settlers were Swedish and Finnish soldiers who landed near the mouth of the Brandywine River in 1638 aboard the Kalmar Nyckel and the Fogel Grip. A fully functional, ornately carved reproduction of the Kalmar Nyckel, complete with seven working cannons, can be toured.

The Revolutionary War comes to life in the Brandywine Battlefield Park. Walk the rolling, wooded hills to see displays of the Brandywine Battle. Visitors can also tour the headquarters of Washington and Lafayette.

Visit **Brandywine Valley** for an escape from the city life to quiet country relaxation. Explore the wineries along the Brandywine Valley Wine Trail and have



Longwood Conservatory (photo courtesy Brandywine Valley CVB)

a peaceful picnic under the trees. The central location of this valley makes it a great hub for vacationers. Philadelphia and Lancaster are only a short drive away, and New York City, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. are within a two hour drive.

To discover more about the **Brandywine Valley**, visit the **Brandywine Conference and Visitor's Bureau** at www.brandywinecvb.org

OLD NEW CASTLE

Old New Castle is a 50-minute drive north of Dover, via US 13, Route 1, or Route 9.

The Dutch founded **New Castle**, originally named Fort Casimir, in 1651. Because of its strategic location on the Delaware River, the fort's ownership was hotly contested between the Dutch, Swedish, and British settlers. William Penn took possession of the area in 1682, but Delaware



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