FALL/WINTER 2015

Preferred Central Coast Wine Country JATHAS

Inside! Central Coast Favorites:

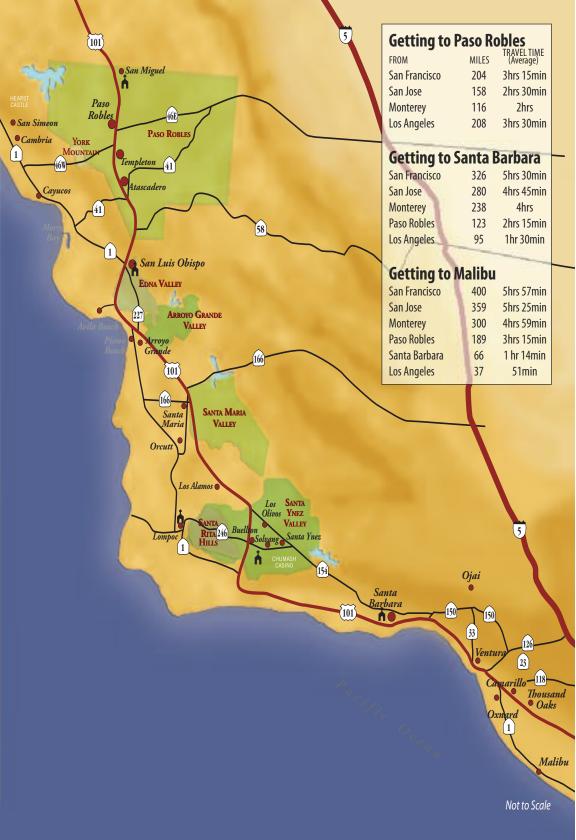
- 6 Great Glasses in Santa Barbara County
- 6 Great Glasses in San Luis Obispo County
- Beer Tasting
- Unique Winery Experiences

from Santa Barbara to Paso Robles



A Publication of





FALL/WINTER 2015

Preferred Central Coast Wine Country DAY TRIPS

6 Central Coast Day Trips

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Cover Photo: Wandering Dog Wine Bar

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LOOK FOR US ON F	ACEBOOK AND TWITTER!	

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Heading to the Tasting Room

Do not be intimidated for any reason. That is rule number one (and there are very few real rules after that). For the most part, going wine tasting is about the easiest thing in the world, especially here in California where wineries and tasting rooms abound. You can find wineries specializing in red wines of all types, those that are famous for their white wines



and others who pour sparkling wine. It is a matter of doing a little research and planning your day. Most tasting rooms open around 10 a.m. and close between 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Before you start off pack a few essentials: Water (plenty of water) and something to snack on – crackers or a baguette. Many wineries have picnic areas and there are plenty of delis and bakeries that can make up a lunch for you, or make your own. Which brings us to eating and drinking, the kind that doesn't directly involve wine.

Be sure to nibble during the day and make sure you make time for lunch. Two tips: drink at least twice as much water as you do wine, and remember that you don't have to drink everything poured into your glass. There is a reason tasting bars have dump buckets and a pitcher of water to wash out your glass.

That said, here are some tips that have proven to be helpful and are designed to help make the sensory adventure of wine tasting all the more enjoyable.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Time and time again I have heard knowledgeable winery workers say that there is no such thing as a stupid question, and they mean that.

You can drink what you want, in the order you want. If you only like reds, say so; if you don't like sweet wines, speak up. But the idea of starting with whites, then going on to reds and then sweet wines is a good guide.

Zinfandel is red. I am sure you know that but it never hurts to remind everyone.

If there is a particular wine you want to try and it is not on the list, ask. There might be a bottle around that was opened for a trade tasting or by the winemaker. Most tasting rooms are happy to pour a little if you show enthusiasm.

If you plan to take wine home with you, either in the

car or on a plane, *buy a cardboard box with Styrofoam wine inserts*. Fill it during the day and this keeps wine from rolling around in the trunk.

Check out the smaller wineries. It is a revelation. Take notes on the wines you most enjoyed.

Take advantage of tours when the winery offers them, but keep in mind that they take

anywhere from 20 minutes to well over an hour, so one a day is plenty.

Buy wines that you can only find at the winery. These often include smaller (375 ml) bottles of limited production Ports or dessert wines. Don't buy a wine you can get at a supermarket back home. You'll pay more, and besides, what's the point?

Look for tasting rooms in towns. Many of these are cooperative tasting rooms, where in one place you might find wines from a dozen or more small-to-medium premium producers. They are scattered throughout the area and more are opening all the time.

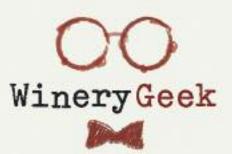
Don't give too much thought to ratings and vintages. It's like art: if you like it, it's a good wine. It is as simple as that.

Remember that you don't have to do the driving. It takes no more than a phone call to rent anything from a Town Car or restored classic convertible to stretch limos and a 20-passenger bus. All have drivers that will stow your wine for you and the local companies know the area. As to taking that wine home, ten people sharing one of those impossibly long limousines is fine and fun, but if you all plan to buy a couple of cases the trunk – which is no bigger than a normal luxury cars – is going to fill up fast and you're going to find yourself filling the interior floor with boxes and using cases of Cabernet as footrest.

Tell the transportation company what you have in mind and listen to their advice. They know the territory and the people and personalities.

Know your limits. If you get close to it let others taste and you can listen. It beats ending the day in a blur, and if need be calling a taxi is cheaper than the alternative.

And if at a seated tasting, don't be afraid to leave a gratuity. It's more than worth the five or ten dollars to get wisdom – and wine – and a great time. BY CHARLES NEAVE



Looking for a favorite varietal or that perfect wine country experience?

Download WineryGeek now and plan your wine tasting adventure!



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- Searchable Database by Varietal or Winery Attribute
- · Available on iPhone or Android

iPhone

Android

SIX GREAT GLASSES IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY





LARNER VINEYARD & WINERY SYRAH

Set among the rolling hills of Santa Barbara's wine country, Larner Vineyard & Winery is a boutique estate with an extremely limited production from the Ballard Canyon AVA. The beautifully aromatic 2011 Larner Estate Syrah opens with aromas of smoked meat, cigar box and anise. This Syrah is ample and rich on the palate, with flavors of black fruit, pepper, baking spice and lavender. It is aged for 26 months in 30% new French oak barrels and received 92 points from Antonio Galloni.

2900 Grand Avenue, Los Olivos | (805) 688-8148 Open Daily 11am-5pm | www.larnerwine.com

TURIYA WINES MALBEC

You can be proud of your cult wine knowledge if you've got the beautiful 2009 Solana Vineyard Malbec in your collection! This Paso delight follows Turiya tradition: layered and nuanced with mouth-watering fruit tones. Think chocolate dipped raspberry. Try with lamb chops, a zesty pasta dish or an evening on the couch. Harvested on November 7, 2009, this wine wine hails from the Paso Robles AVA. It was aged for 36 months in one time used French oak barrels, before being bottled—unfined and unfiltered. It spent one year in bottle before released.

316 North F Street, Lompoc | (805) 478-7016 Open by Appointment Only | www.turiyawines.com



ZINKE WINE CO. GYPSY

An elegant blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre and Viognier, the 2012 Gypsy is edgy and sexy. The nose has notes of raw red meat, black currant and a hint of clove, juxtaposed by roasted blackberries and dark chocolate on the fore and mid palate. The finish is long and herbaceous with chalky tannins. The 2012 Gypsy pairs beautifully with roasted game or rich, red pastas.

2366 Alamo Pintado Avenue, Los Olivos | (805) 691-9718 Thursday-Monday 11am-5pm | www.zinkewines.com

SIX GREAT GLASSES IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



LIONS PEAK WINERY PETIT VERDOT

Jennifer Arant, owner, winemaker and sommelier of Lions Peak is a self-described "producer of small lot, handcrafted, premium Bordeaux boutique wines." So it is no surprise that her Petit Verdot has earned many Gold Medals and created a distinct following of wine connoisseurs! Her Petit Verdot is a unique wine displaying exceptional intensity and structure alongside rich, dark berry elements of complex flavors with exotic floral notes. Lions Peak loves to give their Bordeaux wines time to show off in the spotlight, and such is the case with their Petit Verdot.

1659 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang | (805) 693-5466 M-F 11am-7pm, Sa-Su 11-8 | www.lionspeakwine.com



LORING WINE COMPANY PINOT NOIR

Loring Wine Company is recognized for outstanding Pinot Noir, sourced from prestigious vineyards in California. Visit their quaint tasting room in Buellton and try their newly released Pinot Noir from the Clos Pepe Vineyard, situated in the Sta. Rita Hills. This wine stains the palate with intense raspberry liqueur and deep cherry flavors, rich but also lively and focused, showing excellent finish with silky, shapely tannins. This sexy Pinot is delicious now but has the depth and balance to age.

420 East Hwy 246, Buellton | (805) 691-1300 M, Th, F 11am-5pm | Sa-Su 10am-5pm www.loringwinecompany.com

LAMONTAGNE WINERY CHARDONNAY

The grapes for this beautiful Chardonnay are grown in one of the oldest vineyards in the stunning Sta. Rita hills appellation. The vineyard climate is cool, allowing for long hang time before harvest; this results in great acidity in the final wine. This Chardonnay is nicely layered with fruit, sappy crispness, and a rich and silky mouth feel that makes you want to take another sip. It is a beautiful, food friendly wine, but also good enough to enjoy on its own. May each sip bring you joy!

1509 East Chestnut Avenue, Lompoc | (805) 291-6643 Friday-Sunday 12pm-5pm | www.lamontagnewinery.com



Santa Barbara

DINING

The Ballard Inn & Restaurant

The quaint restaurant inside the inn has 12 tables, ensuring an intimate dining experience. Chef Kazali uses farm fresh ingredients in his French-Asian cuisine. 2436 Baseline Avenue, Ballard | (800) 638-2466 www.ballardinn.com/restaurant

Trattoria Grappolo

Supporting local farmers with their authentic Italian cuisine, the restaurant is open for lunch and dinner most days. Outdoor dining during summer. 3687 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez (805) 688-6899 | www.trattoriagrappolo.com

LODGING

Santa Ynez Inn

This Victorian-style Inn offers luxury accommodations three miles outside of Los Olivos. Full gourmet breakfast, evening wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. 3627 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez | (805) 688-5588 | www.santaynezinn.com

Zaca Lake Retreat

19 unique cabins are available to rent; many include full kitchens and lake views. Private and tranquil setting, located just east of the Foxen Canyon Trail. 8000 Foxen Canyon Road, Santa Maria| www.zacalakeretreat.com

The Ballard Inn

The township of Ballard is home to this quaint 15-room inn. Only a few minutes drive to the wineries of Santa Ynez, this is a lovely private residence to call home while you're visiting the area.

2436 Baseline Avenue, Ballard | (800) 638-2466 | www.ballardinn.com



ATTRACTIONS

Horseback Riding

Take a tour of the breathtaking Fess Parker property by horseback. Tours last 90 minutes and participants can decide to include lunch and wine tasting. www.vinovaqueros.com

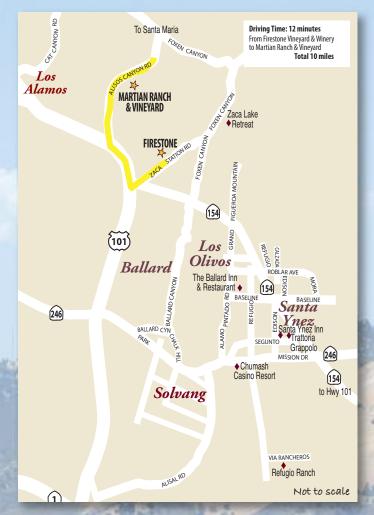
Chumash Casino

Polish off a day of wine tasting with Blackjack, Roulette or Texas Hold 'Em! Big name acts perform. 3400 East Highway 246, Santa Ynez (805) 686-0855 | www.chumashcasino.com

Rancho San Marcos Golf Course

Golfers can play year round on Ranch San Marcos' 300 acres with views of Lake Cachuma. The course is named one of Golf Digest's "Places to Play". 4600 Highway 154, Santa Barbara | (805) 683-6334 | www.rsm1804.com

and Foxen Canyon



The hit motion picture, Sideways, put the Santa Maria Valley viticultural appellation, including the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail, on the map in 2004. Following the picturesque winding roads of Tepesquet and Foxen Canyon will lead you to world-class wineries by way of sprawling vineyards and rolling hills. In the more northern region of the appellation, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir reign due to the maritime climate. This ensures a long temperate growing season which the Burgundian varietals crave. In the southern region of the appellation, the trail moves a bit east resulting in hotter days and cooler nights. Bordeaux and Rhône varieties flourish in this more extreme climate. The wineries in this region boast a concentration of California's most well known winemakers; join them year round in the tasting rooms or at the many weekend events.



There's nothing like wine and waves and Santa Barbara's trendy Funk Zone; just two blocks from the beach is the location of the Lafond City Tasting Room. Sitting near its sister winery, Santa Barbara Winery, Lafond offers a small but classy environment to sample world class wines including Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Syrah. A \$10 tasting fee includes five to six different tastes and you get to keep the logo wine glass.

It was 1962 when Pierre Lafond opened the very first winery in Santa Barbara County since Prohibition and these days Lafond is still an industry leader. They were one of the first to plant grapes in what would become the Santa Rita Hills area, now known for stellar Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Being distinct in its climate and geography permitted long hang time, which maximizes the flavors in the grapes and results in wines of structure and balance. Their Santa Rita Hills appellation wines immediately started winning awards. Sure, there are quite a few wine tasting rooms down by the beach to choose from, but what sets Lafond apart is that many of their small lot production wines are under 200 cases, so they have very limited availability.

The City Tasting Room also has local art and shelves laden with unique gift items. And Lafond has an additional tasting room located at their vineyard site in Buellton as well, offering tours at a traditional vineyard. The wine lists at both tasting rooms vary so it's best to consider visiting both places to get the full Lafond experience. Better still visit Lafond near the beach, take a stroll by the water then visit Santa Barbara Winery and you'll have an epic Santa Barbara wine and waves experience!

VARIETALS

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Syrah and Riesling

FUN FACTS

- Bruce McGuire has been Lafond's winemaker for 33 years!
- Their beautiful wood cabinets were custom-made right here in Santa Barbara.
- Their Funk Zone location is a former computer repair shop.
- Lafond not only owns Lafond Winery and Santa Barbara Winery, but two restaurants (located in Santa Barbara and Montecito), a home décor boutique and a dress shop!

Lafond Winery City Tasting Room

Open Sunday – Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 111 East Yanonali Street Santa Barbara 93101

> (805) 845-2020 www.lafondwinery.com

Lafond Winery & Vineyards

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

6855 Santa Rosa Road Buellton 93427 (805) 688-7921 www.lafondwinery.com

Receive half off wine tasting at Lafond if you visit Santa Barbara Winery first and bring your receipt.

By Michael Cervin



Founded in 1962, Santa Barbara Winery is Santa Barbara's first commercial winery since the prohibition era. In fact, Santa Barbara Winery opened its doors ten years before any other winery in Santa Barbara County. Today, the winery and tasting room are at the heart of Santa Barbara's Urban Wine Trail, just blocks from the beautiful Pacific Ocean.

While Santa Barbara Winery is best know for their Santa Barbara County Chardonnay, which can be found nationwide and abroad, they specialize in a multitude of varietal wines made from French and Italian grapes of both fame and obscurity.

Santa Barbara is home to four separate American Viticultural Areas (AVAs), each with its own distinct climates and soil types, which allows local growers to grow a variety of different grapes throughout the county.

Santa Barbara Winery offers award-winning wines made from such familiar grapes as Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc, as well as less commonly encountered botrytized dessert wines, the very rare deep, dark Lagrein, and more. All of the grapes used are sourced from estate vineyards and neighboring vineyards in Santa Barbara County.

The tasting room is located in the winery itself. You can enjoy a flight of the current vintage while watching the next vintage being made. Santa Barbara Winery also offers wines by the glass and private, candlelit VIP tastings* in the barrelaging room, accompanied by a gourmet cheese platter and the undivided attention of your own personal sommelier.

*Requires 24 hour advanced reservations.

VARIETALS

Orange Muscat, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Sangiovese, Nebbiolo, Primitivo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Petite Sirah, Petit Verdot, Grenache and Lagrein

FUN FACT

 Winemaker Bruce McGuire has been with Santa Barbara Winery for over 30 years. He is known in local wine circles as the "Yoda" of Santa Barbara Wine Country for his vast knowledge, inscrutable demeanor and often cryptic phraseology.

FUN FACT

 Primitivo is the Italian name for Zinfandel, a grape whose origins have been traced to Croatia. Wines made from vines brought to the US from Italy may be labeled as either Primitivo or Zinfandel.

Santa Barbara Winery

Open Sunday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 202 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara

> (805) 963-3633 www.sbwinery.com

Follow Santa Barbara Winerv on Facebook and Twitter!

Mention Day Trips for 10% discount on your purchase.

Santa Barbara



Firestone is considered by many to be the Grande Dame of the Santa Ynez Valley. Founded in 1972, it was the first major estate winery established in this pastoral Central Coast AVA. Over the past 40 years it has evolved into one of the region's most popular and successful producers thanks to a portfolio of wines that offer serious quality at reasonable prices.

The Firestone estate is situated near the charming little town of Los Olivos, two hours north of Los Angeles and five hours south of San Francisco. Los Olivos is known for its old west feel, fine restaurants and homey lodgings. The local vibe is placid, casual and peaceful. The surrounding countryside is typical of rural California with rolling hills that morph seasonally from summer gold to winter green.

The estate is in a unique cusp region of the valley that offers moderate temperatures and an extremely long growing season enabling Firestone to successfully grow a staggering range of grape varieties. Red wines have their origins in Bordeaux and the Rhône Valley. They include: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Syrah. White wines feature grapes from Burgundy, the Loire Valley and Germany and include: Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Gewürztraminer.

Firestone boasts one of the most popular tasting rooms in Santa Barbara County. The lovely visitors' center has an expansive island bar backed by large picture windows that look out on the vines. For private events, Firestone has a handful of indoor and outdoor areas suitable for weddings, receptions, corporate gatherings, birthdays or anniversaries.

To make reservations or to get more information visit www.firestonewine.com or call (805) 688-3940. Firestone is at 5017 Zaca Station Road, Los Olivos, just a few miles east of Highway 101 at the southern end of the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail.

VARIETALS

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Gewürztraminer

ACCLAIM

More than fifteen 90+ point scores in the last two years.

FUN FACT

Winemaker Paul Warson lives on the property with his family and often frequents the winery and tasting room sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge with guests.

DON'T MISS

- Our complimentary tours and free concert series through October 2015!
- Also, don't miss our new Wine Club Lounge, open Saturdays and Sundays.

Firestone Vineyard & Winery

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 5017 Zaca Station Road, Los Olivos

Tours Daily 11:15 a.m. | 1:15 p.m. | 3:15 p.m.

(805) 688-3940 | www.firestonewine.com tastingroom@firestonewine.com Follow Firestone on Facebook

Large group private tour and tasting packages are available with a reservation: tastingroom@firestonewine.com.



www.WineCountryThisMonth.com



Make your trip to Santa Barbara wine country complete with a visit to Martian Ranch & Vineyard! Located just three miles off Highway 101 and minutes south of the town of Los Alamos, Martian Ranch provides an out-of-this-world experience for guests. The tasting room, which opened in October 2013, features biodynamically-farmed, vibrant wines from Martian Ranch's estate vineyard.

Winery Owner, Nan Helgeland, is the earthly force behind Martian Ranch & Vineyard. Originally from Cape Cod, Nan found her inspiration in the world-class wines produced in Santa Barbara County. She purchased the 102-acre property in 2007, and with the help of biodynamic vineyard consultant Philippe Armenier, planted the vineyard in 2008. The first estate wines were bottled from the 2011 vintage.

The Martian Ranch tasting room is a fun and comfortable place to enjoy a unique selection of estate wines, each named after a celestial notion, from the Stellar Viognier to Local Group Grenache Noir and Mothership Grenache Blanc. The glass wall behind the tasting bar offers a view of the large Foudre barrels in the wine cellar. Tours of the winery are available upon request.

A highlight for many Martian Ranch visitors is a vineyard tour on a 4-wheel drive "mule." For groups up to six people, visitors can take a guided tour of the property, stop at the pond for some amazing vistas and see the small but growing herd of Irish Dexter cows—which are an important part of the ecosystem at the ranch! Please call ahead for vineyard tour availability.

Featured in the New York Times, SF Chronicle and Jon Bonne's book, "The New California Wine," Martian Ranch is Nan's vision come to life, a vineyard and winery dedicated to the journey "From sky to ground to grape to barrel to bottle... and straight into your glass!"

VARIETALS

Albariño, Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Gamay Noir, Grenache Noir, Mourvèdre, Cabernet Franc, Syrah and Tempranillo

FUN FACTS

- The name Martian Ranch comes from Nan's two sons—Martin and Ian—and their combined alien nickname.
- In biodynamic farming, each part of the growing process revolves around four elements: root (earth), leaf (water), flower (air) and fruit (fire). Together, these elements create the highest expression of harvest.

DON'T MISS

• Weekend vineyard tours, bocce ball court and VIP group tastings.

Martian Ranch & Vineyard

Open Wed - Sun 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 9110 Alisos Canyon Road, Los Alamos (805) 344-1804 www.martianvineyard.com

Like us on Facebook: /Martian-Ranch-Vineyard

Follow us on Twitter: @MartianWines

Enjoy our beautiful picnic areas.

50% off wine tasting for Day Trips visitors.



Solvang/Sta. Rita Hills

Santa Rita Hills, on California's Central Coast, arguably produces the highest quality Pinot Noir from California. This relatively new appellation consists of only 100 acres and is located between the Pacific Ocean and the historic Danish town of Solvang. The two coastal east-west oriented valleys between the Sta. Rita Hills offer maritime climate and unique soils, which produces exceptionally concentrated flavors in the grapes from this region. Pinot Noir of the highest acclaim has been made from vineyards in Sta. Rita Hills and visitors are welcome to taste the wines in the many tasting rooms along Highway 246. This wine and food destination of the Central Coast can be visited year round and is conveniently located halfway between Santa Barbara and San Luis



DINING

Terravant: The Winery Restaurant Choose tastes of wine from a assortment of 30 different producers and pair your selection with scrumptious tapas or gournet pizza from their wood burning oven. 35 Industrial Way, Buellton (805) 686-4742 | www.avantwines.com

The Hitching Post II Restaurant

Home of "Santa Maria Style BBQ", this is the second location to the world famous Hitching Post. 406 East Highway 246, Buellton (805) 688-0676 | www.hitchingpost2.com

Root 246

Highly acclaimed Chef Bradley Ogden has created a menu using the finest local and fresh ingredients from the Central Coast. 420 Alisal Road, Solvang (805) 686-8681 | www.root-246.com

LODGING Hadsten House Inn & Spa

Luxuriously appointed rooms in the heart of Solvang. Great packages including stay, dine and taste. 1450 Mission Drive, Solvang (800) 457-5373 | www.hadstenhouse.com

Wine Valley Inn & Cottages

Choose from a quaint guest room or cottage. Spa treatments are available by appointment to Inn guests and to the public. 1564 Copenhagen Drive, # 105, Solvang (805) 688-2111 | www.winevalleyinn.com

Embassy Suites Lompoc - Central Coast

This modern, full-service hotel boasts graciously appointed two-room hotel suites, designed to reflect an inviting décor reminiscent of the comforts of home and the splendor of getting away. 1117 North H Street, Lompoc, 805-735-8311

Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort

The ultimate experience of early California is offered here. Golf, horseback riding, fine dining and relaxation. 1054 Alisal Road, Solvang (805) 688-6411 | www.alisal.com

Photo: StaRitaHills.com



ATTRACTIONS

Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co

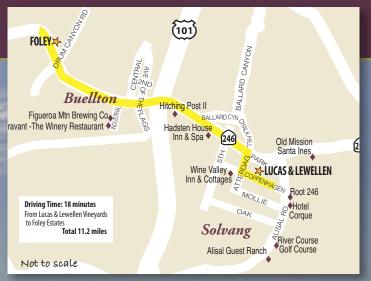
Award-winning beers from a father/son team. Tasting Room open until 9 p.m. daily. 45 Industrial Way, Buellton (805) 694-2252 | www.figmtnbrew.com

La Purisima Golf Course

Considered one of America's best designed courses. 3455 East Highway 246, Lompoc (805) 735-8395 | www.lapurisimagolf.com

Solvang, CA

In addition to wine tasting, activities in Solvang including dining, shopping, spa services and learning about the history of this Danish town. www.solvangusa.com



River Course Golf Course

Beautiful 6,830 yard golf course at Alisal Ranch. 150 Alisal Road, Solvang (805) 688-6042 | www.rivercourse.com

Old Mission Santa Ines

Founded in 1807 in the name of Saint Agnes, the mission offers river and mountain views. 1760 Mission Drive, Solvang (805) 688-4815 | www.missionsantaines.org

La Purisma Mission State Historic Park

This land, once home to Chumash people and Spanish settlers, is filled with 25 hiking trails and a beautifully restored mission. 2295 Purisma Road, Lompoc (805) 733-3713 | www.lapurisimamission.org

Solvang/Sta. Rita Hills

Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards

The Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards tasting room offers guests a wide variety of wines to choose from. They craft an impressive array of wines from 26 grape varieties that are grown on their 400 estate acres in Santa Barbara County's three distinct microclimates, creating a diversity of wine styles to suit every taste preference.

The warm climate Valley View Vineyard is a perfect location for their Bordeaux varietals of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Malbec, while their cool climate Goodchild Vineyard produces award winning Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Lucas & Lewellen produces one of the few local "Méthode Traditionelle" style sparkling wines on the Central Coast. All Lucas & Lewellen estate vineyards are handpicked and grown using sustainable farming methods.

Often, you will see owners Louis Lucas or Royce Lewellen pouring wine in the tasting room. The Director of Winemaking, Megan McGrath Gates, was educated locally and grew up in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Lucas & Lewellen's 12th annual Wine Club Harvest Party is November 7th and they will be celebrating harvest with great wines and great times, along with the best wine club members in the county. Always a fun way to wind down the harvest season in wine country, the Lucas & Lewellen harvest party gives wine club members an excuse to gather for barrel and tank sampling, a wine swirling contest, live music, production tours and general harvest reverie! The party takes place on Saturday, November 7, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Lucas & Lewellen winery located at 132 Easy Street in Buellton. There is no charge to wine club members, but each non-club member guest is \$55. RSVPs are required; please call 1-888-777-6663 to make a reservation.

On February 8 of 2016, they will embark on a Caribbean wine cruise to the Lesser Antilles. In addition to exotic island stops in St. Maarten, St. Kitts, Martinique, Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Thomas, this adventure will include noteworthy Lucas & Lewellen wines served by Mike Lewellen, exclusive wine tasting events, a "Welcome Aboard" cocktail reception and a private wine paired luncheon.

Visit www.LLwine.com/events to join the fun!

VARIETALS

26 different varietals including: Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Viognier, Syrah, Muscat, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Petite Sirah, Late Harvest dessert wines and more.

AWARDS

- 2013 Goodchild High 9 Pinot Noir: 93-Wine Enthusiast, Double Gold, 3 Golds
- 2013 Viognier: Double Gold, 2 Golds
- 2012 Valley View Cabernet: 3 Golds
- 2014 Rosé of Pinot Noir: Gold
- 2012 Malbec: Gold

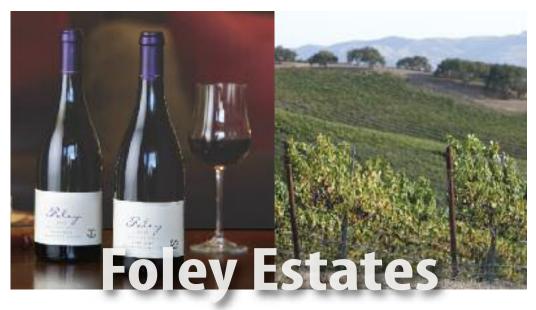
FUN FACT

- In the tasting toom, Lucas & Lewellen has a table set apart for kids to play and your canine friends are welcome, too.
- Lucas & Lewellen offers a "fun list," where guests enjoy only "fun" wines—starting out with a sparkling wine and Rosé, and ending with decadent late harvest dessert wines and Silver King Port—served in a dark chocolate cordial.

Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards

Open daily 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Open later on Friday and Saturday nights 1645 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang (805) 686-9336 | www.llwine.com

Mention Day Trips for 10% off any regularly priced wine purchase at the tasting room.



Over the past eighteen years, Bill Foley has worked hard to make his name synonymous with unique and quality wines from Santa Barbara County. After the successful creation of Lincourt Winery in 1996, Foley went on to found Foley Wines in 2002, adding both Rancho Las Hermanas and Rancho Santa Rosa vineyards to his growing portfolio of high quality vineyards.

Located in the heart of the famed Sta. Rita Hills AVA, the temperate coastal climate, south-facing hills and limestone soils amount to the "holy grail" of elements for producing world-class Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays. Foley knew he needed a winemaker who could exemplify this fruit and create wines in their likeness, and so Lorna Kreutz joined the team. With Pinot Noir as her first oenophilic love, Kreutz continues the Foley tradition of producing high quality wines produced from some of the best vineyards in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA.

Foley focuses on creating wines that embody the uniqueness of the Sta. Rita Hills, and he's also taken great care in creating a tasting room and event center that allows guests to enjoy being surrounded by the spectacular mountain ranges, coastal oaks and contoured hillside vines.

In less than twenty years, Foley has watched his love of wine become a dream that he's been able to share with visitors from around the world. Wine Enthusiast magazine's "Man of the Year" in 2010 is an honor that only further fuels Foley's commitment to creating quality wines worth sharing.

By Carolyn Turner

VARIETALS

Chardonnay and Pinot Noir

ACCLAIM

Foley's Brand Series features six different high-end Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays, created in recognition of Bill Foley's Texas Ranger and cattlemen relatives. Each brand represents a different trail taken to create these unique wines.

FUN FACT

Foley also offers Two Sisters Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. These are limited production bottlings named in honor of the proprietor's daughters.

DON'T MISS

Foley Estates features live music on Saturdays, through October from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Contact the tasting room for more details.

Foley Estates

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 6121 E Highway 246, Lompoc

www.foleywines.com | (805) 737-6222 tastingroom@foleywines.com www.facebook.com/FoleyWines

Mention Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting.

Solvang/Sta. Rita Hills

Los Olīvos

Santa Ynez is home to several of the most renowned Santa Barbara County wineries. Its ideal viticultural microclimate, with warm days and cooler nights, produces an extensive variety of wines. These bottlings include representation from wine origins around the world such as the Rhône Valley, Bordeaux and central Italy. Nestled in the heart of the Santa Ynez Valley is the tiny town of Los Olivos. There are almost 40 tasting rooms within walking distance on and around Grand Avenue, each unique and delicious. In between these tasting rooms are world-class restaurants and artisan gift shops. The climate is moderate year round and there is not an "off season" in this area. However, in autumn, the Santa Ynez Valley offers near perfect weather and breathtaking views of multi-colored vineyards.

DINING

Petros

Located within the beautiful Fess Parker Wine Country Inn, Petros offers a "California-Hellenic" cuisine with menu selections such as Moussaka and Fish of the Day a la Grecque. Even after a long day of wine tasting, your palate will be quite entertained. 2860 Grand Ave, Los Olivos (805) 686-5455 | www.fessparker.com/restaurant

Los Olivos Café

A Wine Spectator "Best Restaurant Wines" winner since 2007, Los Olivos Café offers a local, organic and sustainable taste of the Central Coast. Outdoor patio seating available. 2879 Grand Avenue, Los Olivos 805-688-7265 | www.losolivoscafe.com

The Ballard Inn & Restaurant

The quaint restaurant inside the historic inn, has only 12 tables ensuring an intimate dining experience. Chef Budi Kazali uses farm fresh ingredients in his French-Asian cuisine. 2436 Baseline Avenue, Ballard (805) 638-2466 | www.ballardinn.com/restaurant

Trattoria Grappolo

Supporting local farmers with their authentic Italian cuisine, the restaurant is open for lunch and dinner most days. A large outdoor dining area is perfect for the warm summer nights. 3687 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez (805) 688-6899 | www.trattoriagrappolo.com

ACTIVITIES

Clairmont Farms - Lavendar Farm

A family owned Grosso lavender farm which offers essential lavender oils, soaps and other lavender products for sale. 2480 Roblar Avenue, Los Olivos (805) 688-7505 | www.clairmontfarms.com

Windhaven Glider Rides

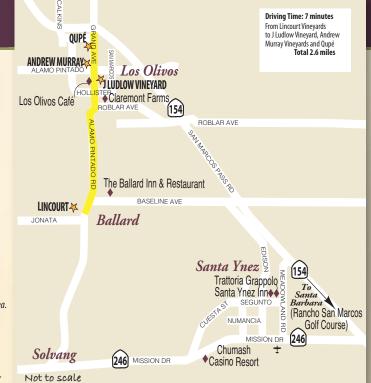
A glider ride is an incredible way to view the vineyards and rolling hills of the Santa Ynez Valley. Available on weekends. Santa Ynez Airport 805-688-2517 www.santaynezairport.com/glider

Chumash Casino

Polish off a day of wine tasting with Blackjack, Roulette or Texas Hold 'Em! Big name acts perform in the Samala showroom year round. 3400 East Highway 246, Santa Ynez (805) 686-0855 | www.chumashcasino.com

Rancho San Marcos Golf Course

Golfers can play year round on Ranch San Marcos' 300 acres with views of Lake Cachuma. The course is named one of Golf Digest's "Places to Play". 4600 Highway 154, Santa Barbara (805) 683-6334 | www.rsm1804.com



LODGING

Fess Parker Wine Country Inn & Spa

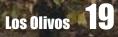
Located in the heart of downtown Los Olivos, this resort offers world-class dining and spa services. 2860 Grand Ave, Los Olivos (805) 688-7788 | www.fessparkerinn.com

The Ballard Inn

The township of Ballard is home to this quaint 15-room inn. Only a few minutes drive to the wineries of Santa Ynez, this is a lovely private residence to call home while you're visiting the area. 2436 Baseline Avenue, Ballard (805) 638-2466 | www.ballardinn.com

Santa Ynez Inn

This Victorian-style Inn offers luxury accommodations just 3 miles outside of Los Olivos. Full gourmet breakfast and evening wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres are included with your stay. 3627 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez (805) 688-5588 | www.santaynezinn.com



Lincourt Vineyards & Winery

Lincourt embodies the casual graciousness of Santa Barbara. The winery began when Proprietor Bill Foley fell in love with the rugged coastline, picturesque towns and camouflaged hills of Santa Barbara County. Named for his two daughters, Lindsay and Courtney, Lincourt wines express the elegant complexity of the estate vineyards in the premier Sta. Rita Hills AVA.

Under the watchful eye of winemaker Lorna Kreutz, the estate vineyards feature Lindsay's and Courtney's Vineyards East and West. Its core offerings include Lindsay's Pinot Noir, Courtney's Chardonnay, Steel Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon. These vineyards are farmed "vine by vine," with Kreutz taking the best blocks (or rows) of grapes to create each wine. In addition to their core wines, they produce small quantities of special bottlings for club members and visitors to the tasting room located just outside of Solvang. Lincourt Vineyards also practices sustainable farming techniques in order to ensure the highest quality of wine from grape to glass.

Drawing from years of experience working for wineries throughout California, Kreutz shares Foley's commitment to quality winemaking. Each wine is aged in French Oak barrels with the focus on creating wines that exemplify the unique terroir and varietal-rich flavors.

As you arrive at Lincourt, the iconic windmill that graces each of their wine labels will greet you as you enter the old farmhouse. The relaxing atmosphere and beautiful property offer something for the whole family – wine tasting, picnicking or enjoying a bottle as you bask in the beauty of the Sta. Rita Hills. **By Carolyn Turner**

VARIETALS

Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot

ACCLAIM

The Lincourt Pinot Noir from Lindsay's Vineyard is an example of the unique terroir of Santa Barbara County and Foley's love of Pinot Noir.

FUN FACT

The yellow Craftsman-style house (currently the tasting room) was originally ordered out of the Sears and Roebuck catalogue in 1926. At that time, the railroad ran along Alamo Pintado Road, the home was delivered in pieces then carried up the hill and assembled. Now, nearly 100 years later, the home remains in much of the same condition!

DON'T MISS

Lincourt is the perfect place to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the serenity of the Santa Ynez Valley out on the veranda. I suggest grabbing a sandwich at nearby Paninos or Los Olivos Grocery to pair with your tasting.

Lincourt Vineyards & Winery

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1711 Alamo Pintado Road, Solvang

(805) 688-8554 • www.lincourtwines.com lincourttr@lincourtwines.com

www.facebook.com/LincourtWines

Mention Day Trips and enjoy 15% on all purchases of 12 bottles or more!



J Ludlow Vineyard, up in the idyllic Los Olivos area, is the home away from home for owners Allan and Jane Jones. Originally from Cardiff, Wales, the couple fell in love with the Santa Ynez Valley during one of their many trips to California. Stumbling upon a beautiful ranch in Happy Canyon, they quickly developed an interest in wine, purchasing Westerly Stud Farm in 2007. Keeping production small, their dedication to their craft is evident by their numerous awards and recent accolades.

Their Los Olivos tasting room, opened April 2014, is a new player in the area, producing delightful and memorable wines unique to the Los Olivos region. It is the perfect place to grab a glass of their award-winning wine. Sourcing most of their grapes from Camp 4 and La Presa Vineyards in the Valley, the winery strives to keep things local and family-run, dedicated to great taste and a sheer enjoyment of wine.

Family ties inspire each varietal, including their wine club aptly entitled "The Old Ludlowdian." One of their most popular sellers, "Kemsley" Cabernet Sauvignon – is named after Allan, who holds the prestigious title of Lord Kemsley in Great Britain. The winery itself is named after the street Allan was born on. And of course, the 2008 "Jane" Merlot, a gold medal winner at the Los Angeles International Wine Competition, is named after his beloved wife. Join the wine club now and you will receive a bottle of the 2008 Jane for just \$1! **By Rachel Hommel**

VARIETALS

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Rosé and Sauvignon Blanc

FUN FACT

J Ludlow Vineyard partners with the Koegel Autism Center at UC Santa Barbara to drive awareness of research into Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

DON'T MISS

...the 2010 Hudson Cabernet Sauvignon! This single vineyard wine is made from grapes grown in the highly regarded Eastern hills of the Santa Ynez Valley. It is a full Cabernet Sauvignon shows bright, berry fruit aromas with subtle oak tones from 18 months aging in French oak barrels. The flavors are layered with notes of blackberry jam, coffee and chocolate. It has good natural aciditiy and well balanced tannins that will help this wine age well.

J Ludlow Vineyard

Open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2890 Grand Ave, Los Olivos (805) 688-8989 www.jludlowvineyard.com info@jludlowvineyard.com

Bring in a copy of Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting.

Los Olivos



Andrew Murray Vineyards has been crafting Rhône inspired wines in the Santa Ynez Valley for over 20 years. It was a fateful family trip through the Rhône Valley in the late 1980s that led Andrew to leave his UC Berkeley studies behind, to pursue his new mistress, Syrah, with an internship in Australia. His three-month tryst evolved into a 15-month romance with the famed Australian Shiraz. Returning to the states, he earned a bachelor's degree in viticulture and enology from UC Davis' renowned wine program, then founded his eponymous Santa Ynez winery and vineyard.

Andrew's focus and dedication to his craft have culminated in what Robert Parker, Jr. calls, "...one of the shining stars in the Santa Barbara firmament." This youthful perfectionist has been named "Tastemaker of the Year" by Food and Wine Magazine, as well as, "One of the most fearsome talents in food and wine." Still, despite myriad accolades, Andrew remains the same modest, approachable, contemplative man he was when he first embarked to Australia back in 1992.

Andrew and his team look forward to visiting with you at the recently updated Winery and Visitor center, and pouring you a glass of wine to enjoy on their recently completed terrace, overlooking the vineyards. They also now offer a full Wine Country Concierge service to help plan your visit. They can arrange anything from a reserved table at the winery in your own private room to a fully stocked picnic basket and a chilled bottle of their Viognier. They are conveniently located just a few miles from downtown Los Olivos, where they have a second tasting room to serve you if you simply do not have the time to venture out Foxen Canyon Road. They look forward to your visit.

BUZZ

Andrew is bringing back a couple of very special labels now that he is once again growing grapes on Foxen Canyon Road...look for the very limited Roasted Slope and Enchante blends to return this spring.

FUN FACT

Andrew started making wine (during an internship in Australia) when he was only 19 years old. He jokes that winemaking is all that he knows how to do, because it is truly the only thing that he has ever done.

DON'T MISS

Andrew launched a label, E11even Wines. The name is a nod to the rockumentary Spinal Tap and Murray plans to turn it up to 11 by breaking away from Rhône varietals, and crafting some limited production Estate-Grown wines from Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Petite Verdot, among others.

Andrew Murray Vineyards

Winery and Visitor Center Open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 5249 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos (805) 696-9604

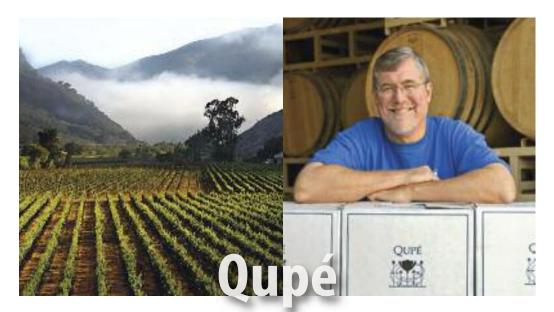
Los Olivos Tasting Room Open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2901-A Grand Ave, Los Olivos



Email: Visit@AndrewMurrayVineyards.com www.AndrewMurrayVineyards.com

Mention Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting.

www.WineCountryThisMonth.com



Over the last 30 years, Qupé owner Bob Lindquist has achieved a sort of legendary status in the wine world. Lindquist has been involved in the Santa Barbara County wine industry since its beginnings as a modern wine region in the mid 1970s and was an early advocate of growing Rhône grapes in the region, focusing specifically on Syrah. In 1982, Lindquist started Qupé winery and today, he continues to help increase recognition of the region world-wide through production of his Rhône-style wines.

The name Qupé comes from the local Chumash Indian word for poppy, as it seemed only fitting to pay homage to the original cultivators of the land. Lindquist wanted to convey his dedication to growing and producing local wines, and so chose the iconic California poppy to represent his brand. Each Qupé label is graced by yet another poppy. One of which was originally a quilt design by the craftsman-era artist Gustav Stickley.

The focus of Qupé wines has always been on producing wines that exhibit the unique flavors of both the terroir and the grape varieties, which is why he chose to source from the world-renowned Bien Nacido Vineyard. In 2002, Lindquist and his wife Louisa purchased an 80-acre property in Edna Valley near San Luis Obispo, and are growing both French and Spanish-style grapes biodynamically.

A visit to the Qupé tasting room in Los Olivos will quickly reveal that winemaking runs in the Lindquist family. Visitors will often taste the Verdad and Ethan wines, made by Bob's wife and son, respectively. You're sure to feel like one of the family, too, before you leave! By Carolyn Turner

VARIETALS

Chardonnay, Viognier, Marsanne, Roussanne, Grenache, Mourvedre and Syrah

ACCLAIM

- Qupé is known for accomplishing quite a few "firsts" in Santa Barbara County, including the first producer of Syrah in 1982, Viognier in 1989, as well as the first Rhône-style blend called "Los Olivos Cuvée" in 1988.
- Qupé lays claim to producing the first Marsanne in California in 1987.
- Qupé has been named one of the top 100 wineries in America for the last fourteen years!

FUN FACT

When visiting Qupé, you will also have the opportunity to taste Verdad and Ethan wines. Verdad is owned by Bob's wife Louisa Sawyer Lindquist, and her focus is on creating Spanish-style wines, while Ethan Wines are made by Bob's son Ethan Lindquist, who focuses on creating Sangiovese and Rhône-style wines.

DON'T MISS

The Qupé winery is located on the famed Bien Nacido Vineyard in Santa Maria and is not open to the public except for the day after the Vintner's Festival in the spring and the day after the Harvest Festival in the fall.

> Qupe Open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2963 Grand Avenue, Los Olivos

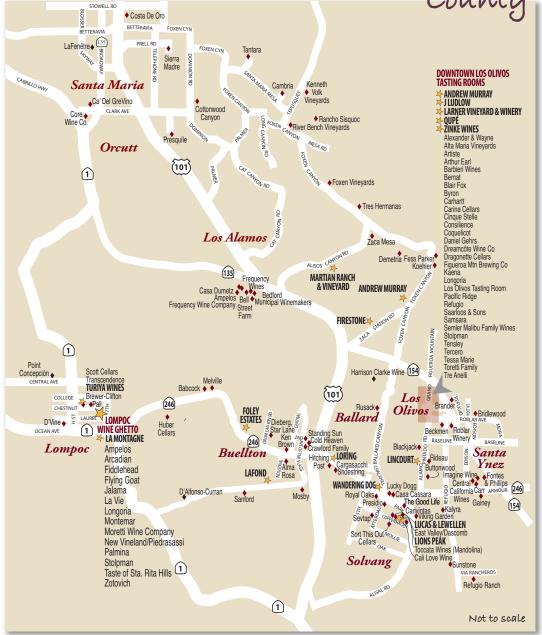
(805) 686-4200 • www.qupe.com tastingroom@qupe.com Follow Qupé and Verdad Wines

Enjoy 15% off all wine purchases and 2-for-1 tasting when you show this article!





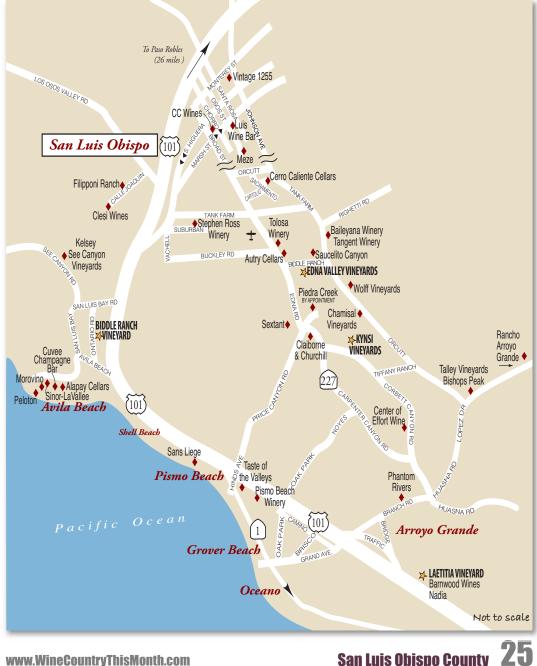
wine Tasting in Northern SANTA BARBARA County



24 Santa Barbara County

www.WineCountryThisMonth.com

Wine Tasting in IS OBISPO



www.WineCountryThisMonth.com

San Luis Obispo

It's no wonder the people here call it SLO. No one is in any hurry in the cafés or on the sidewalks, and certainly no one is in any rush to leave. The vibe is relaxed but not sleepy in the two-college town of 44,000, which has four surf shops but also a resident symphony. Strangers are genuinely friendly, always ready to talk about their favorite hiking trail or barbecue joint, or to point the way to the winery with the best Pinot Noir. It's all part of the SLO life, that combination of good stuff that makes visiting here so nourishing to the soul. There's plenty to go around, so come: Experience the SLO Life!

San Luis Obispo's unusual natural beauty, along with its gentle climate, first attracted the Spanish padres to the area in the 1700s. In 1772 they built the fifth of California's 21 missions here, on the banks of San Luis Creek, and named it Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. Today, many consider this the most beautiful of the Spanish missions.



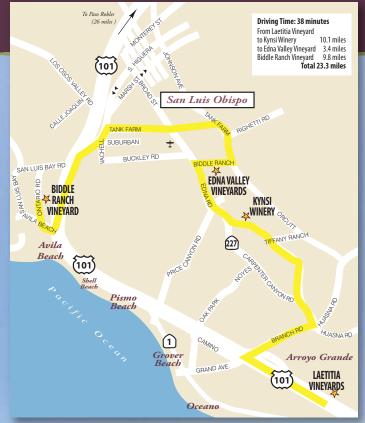
SLO's once-dusty streets are now tree-lined and flanked by meticulously restored Victorian "painted ladies." Old West buildings have been converted to bustling shops and restaurants, and Art Deco civic architecture stands downtown. A university and a college have brought cultural excitement in the form of numerous musical and performing arts groups; major touring shows

Photo: Dan Holmes/Laetitia Vineyard & Winery

regularly stop in SLO. A children's museum, an art center and a history museum add to SLO's cultural appeal, as do its many art galleries. At the Thursday Night Farmers' Market, held year-round, growers bring the freshest produce and flowers to town and a multiblock party ensues, complete with street food, crafts vendors and live entertainment. Festivals and special events of all kinds take place on the plaza in front of the Mission year-round. Forty-five minute north, the artand-architecture extravaganza known as Hearst Castle awaits.

South of town, a booming wine country has emerged. Some two dozen wineries produce critically acclaimed vintages in the Edna Valley and Arroyo Grande Valley. Visitors can head out along the gorgeous country roads to sip their way through the vineyards, then return to town to savor everything from Santa Maria barbeque to Italian fritti.

For more information on San Luis Obispo, visit visitslo.com.







Come discover Laetitia Vineyard & Winery, located just minutes away from the charming village of Arroyo Grande with its antique and specialty shops, fine boutiques and restaurants. The tasting room is perched on a hilltop surrounded by vineyards and ocean views.

Laetitia is well known for its high-quality sparkling wines. It produces seven sparkling wines—two of which are available in stores nationwide: the Brut Rosé and the Brut Cuvée.

Laetitia is passionate about producing estate wines that showcase the distinctive qualities of the Arroyo Grande AVA. From the Laetitia Vineyard come the sparkling wines, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Syrah, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Tempranillo. In addition, the Rhône and Bordeaux varieties, used under the NADIA label, are grown at the Santa Barbara Highlands Vineyard. Winemaker Eric Hickey's style is built upon balance, finesse and pure expression of the Laetitia Estate.

Be sure to visit Arroyo Grande and stop by Laetitia, where the knowledgeable staff will guide you through a selection of Laetitia Estate and sparkling wines and NADIA wines. Enjoy samples of limited-edition and wineryexclusive bottles, take a peek at the Coquard press and learn first-hand what makes these award-winning wines so elegantly distinctive.

Come to the hilltop estate for wine tasting, ocean views, a game of bocce and some of the most scenic picnic grounds in SLO County.

VARIETALS

Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, Cabernet Franc, Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Cabernet Sauvignon, Mourvedre, Grenache, Merlot, Petite Sirah, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Tempranillo, Sparkling, Port and Dessert Wines

FUN FACTS

- At Laetitia, two rare European wooden basket presses, made by the Coquard Company of France, are used to gently crush the grapes destined to become sparkling wines. Though very labor intensive to operate, these presses deliver superior quality juice with exceptional clarity.
- The vineyard was named after the owner's daughter, Laetitia, which in Latin is an expression meaning joy and happiness.
- A perfect family outing to Laetitia might include a stroll through the vines on the vineyard walking trail.

Laetitia Vineyard & Winery

Open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 (805) 481-1772 | www.laetitiawine.com email: info@laetitiawine.com



Mention Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting.

www.WineCountryThisMonth.com



Located on a historic ranch in the heart of Edna Valley, Kynsi Winery is a family operation focused on producing limited production, distinguished wines.

Owner/winemakers Don and Gwen Othman got their start in the Central Coast wine industry over 30 years ago with their specialty wine equipment business, Bulldog Manufacturing. Their most well known innovation, the Bulldog Pup, is a gas pressure racking wand that transfers wine from barrels without agitation or oxidation. This device led to improvements in premium wine production and is sold worldwide today.

Through Bulldog Manufacturing, the Othmans had the opportunity to work with some of the most respected winemakers in the industry. They collected a wealth of knowledge and put that to use to craft their own wines. Their mission is "to produce wines of the highest caliber while reflecting the unique terrior of nature's most expressive sites."

Knowing that quality wine begins in the vineyard, Kynsi wine is made from grapes sourced from their estate Stone Corral Vineyard along with other cool coastal vineyards in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. All grapes are hand harvested under lights or in the coolest hours of the morning to ensure they reach the winery for processing in perfect condition.

The winery resides in a charming, renovated 1940s dairy with a rich history. Visitors are invited to experience the sense of place while tasting in the old milk processing room with high coved ceilings and wine vault. Surrounded with vineyards and rolling hills, this idyllic setting is the perfect place to sample their flagship Pinot Noir.

Today Don and Gwen are joined by their daughter Kala, who grew up in the business, and son-in-law Michael. Working together, they all share the vision and values on which Kynsi has been built.

By Lisa Pretty

VARIETALS

Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir Rosé, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Hutash Harvest Cuvée and Nocturnum

FUN FACTS

- "Kynsi" means talon in Finnish. The name was selected to honor the Othman family's heritage and the barn owls who help control the gopher population.
- A nesting pair of barn owls can consume 40 gophers per night when feeding their young.
- Winemaker/proprietor Don Othman invented The Bulldog Pup. It has revolutionized how premium wineries produce wine and has also led to a new industry-wide term for barrel racking, known as "Bulldogin".

Kynsi Winery

Open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2212 Corbett Canyon Road Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 (805) 544-8461 • www.kynsi.com Facebook: Kynsi Winery

Mention Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting.

San Luis Obispo Z

TONA VALLE

Edna Valley Vineyard

Tucked away in a prime spot along California's Central Coast, Edna Valley Vineyard is easy to fall in love with. Edna Valley offers the perfect conditions for growing world-class Chardonnay and Pinot Noir crafted by Winemaker Joe Ibrahim. Celebrating their 35th anniversary this year, Edna Valley Vineyard has produced award-winning Chardonnay in the Edna Valley wine region since 1985.

Visiting the tasting room is one of San Luis Obispo County's must-do experiences. The Hospitality Center offers one of the most iconic views in San Luis Obispo. Just outside of the tasting room, Edna Valley Vineyard offers a demonstration vineyard that allows guests to learn more about the grapes grown around them. Inside, thoughtfully selected wine-related gift and gourmet food items fill the great room.

The tasting menu boasts a wide selection of wines including reserves, such as the Reserve Chardonnay, which are available only through the tasting room. Although widely known for Edna Valley Pinot Noir with regards to the reds, the Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon from Paso Robles is an exciting and delicious addition to the flight. After the first sip of wine, spending an afternoon perusing the grounds is an inevitable and unforgettable experience. Edna Valley Vineyard is a must-see location for any local resident or visitor in San Luis Obispo.

VARIETALS

ONA VALLS

White 'V', Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Red "V', Syrah, Malbec, Meritage and Cabernet Sauvignon

DISK WALL

IBNA VALL

FUN FACTS

- Chardonnay was the first varietal planted at Edna Valley Vineyard and, to this day, they still craft balanced, friendly Chardonnay wines that appeal to all white wine enthusiasts.
- Edna Valley Vineyard was one of the first to make wine in the Edna Valley AVA, which is now home to more than 25 wineries.
- The vineyards enjoy gentle sunshine, cool ocean fog and rich soil during the long growing season—all of which are perfectly balanced for coaxing the best possible flavors from their fruit.
- "Club Edna" offers at least six member-only events throughout the year!

Edna Valley Vineyard

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2585 Biddle Ranch Road, San Luis Obispo (805) 544-5855 www.ednavalleyvineyard.com Follow Edna Valley Vineyard on Facebook!

Mention Day Trips and receive 25% off your tasting fee. Not valid for groups of 6 or more. Groups of 6 or more require reservations.

www.WineCountryThisMonth.com



Biddle Ranch Vineyard in San Luis Obispo has something for everyone. They have award-winning wines, a tasting room located in a historic schoolhouse and the Vineyard House that is available as a vacation rental.

While Biddle Ranch is relatively new (it opened in June of 2014), its wines have already received acclaim. The Biddle Ranch Chardonnay, made from grapes grown on the estate vineyard in the Edna Valley, has received several gold medals. They have other standouts as well. All of the other Biddle Ranch wines have received medals in competitions throughout the west.

In the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, Biddle Ranch received: Gold for the Chardonnay and Silver for the Pinot Grigio, Pinot Noir, Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon.

One of the reasons for the success of Biddle Ranch wines is their award-winning winemaker, Ryan Deovlet. From Ryan's careful selection of premium grapes and his keen vineyard oversight, to the final varietals and his formulating of new blends, Ryan definitely embodies the complete "Vine to Glass" winemaking philosophy.

Another reason to visit Biddle Ranch is the unique tasting room located in the Avila Valley Schoolhouse, built in 1907. Club members can sip their choice of wines in a special room with plush seating. The entire tasting room can be reserved for special events.

Another way to enjoy your time at the vineyard is to reserve the Vineyard House. It is located in the midst of the 23-acre Chardonnay vineyard, and is described as a mix of rustic, mid-century modern and contemporary. The vacation house was designed by Anne Fortini of Fortini Interiors. There are four bedrooms and three baths. It can accommodate up to 12 guests. Whether you visit Biddle Ranch for the day, or for a longer stay, the experience will be unique.

VARIETALS

Pinot Grigio, Semillon, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and two unique red blends.

EVENTS

- Sept/Oct: Fall Music Series every Friday in September and October in the tasting room
- Fall 2015: Morro Bay Winemaker Cruise on the Papagallo II, a 72' luxury yacht.
- Quarterly Pickup Parties and other special events for Club Members of Biddle Ranch Vineyard.

Biddle Ranch Vineyard

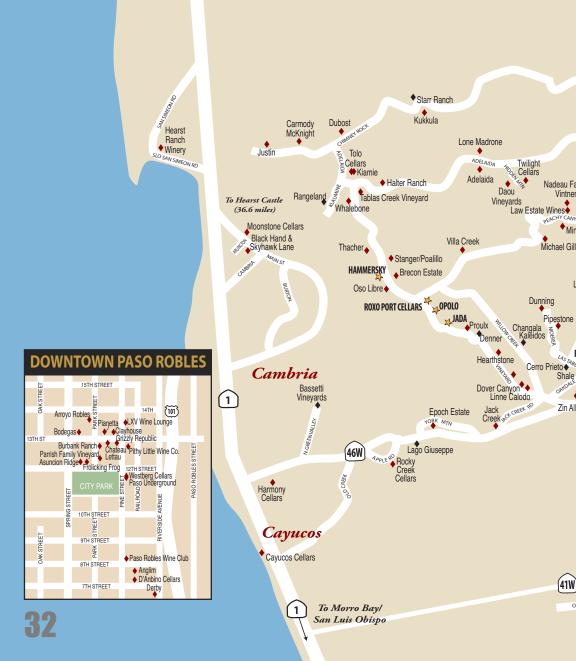
Open Thursday – Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Wednesday By Appointment 6985 Ontario Road, San Luis Obispo

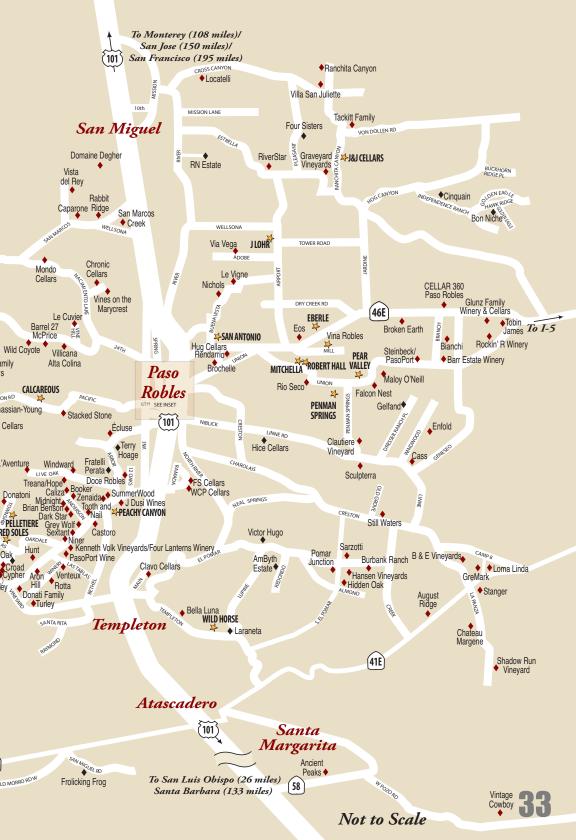
(805) 543-2399 | info@biddleranch.com www.biddleranch.com Find Biddle Ranch Vineyard on Facebook!



Mention Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting.

PASO ROBLES





SIX GREAT GLASSES IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



SAN ANTONIO WINERY HERITAGE BLEND

Heritage is a Rhône-inspired blend of Syrah, Petite Sirah, Mourvèdre and Grenache from San Antonio Winery estate vineyards in Paso Robles. Winemakers Anthony Riboli and Arnaud Debons have crafted a rich, mouthfilling wine that reveals ripe flavors of plum and blackberry with touches of spicy vanilla. Further complexity is gained from aging in French and American oak barrels for over 18 months. Each bottle celebrates San Antonio Winery and the Riboli family.

2610 Buena Vista Drive, Paso Robles | (805) 226-2600 Open Daily 10am-6pm | www.sanantoniowinery.com



RED SOLES WINERY PETITE SIRAH

Bursting with flavors of rich dried blueberry, complimented by lovely notes of dark chocolate and freshly roasted coffee beans, Red Soles Winery's Petite Sirah will stop you in your tracks. Grown in the chalky soil of our Miracles Ranch, right in the heart of the Willow Creek AVA, our Petite is a favorite—vintage after vintage. From the dark inky hue, to the fabulously long and velvety finish, this full bodied wine is a definite palate pleaser.

3230 Oakdale Road, Paso Robles | Daily 11am-5pm (805) 226-9898 | www.redsoleswinery.com



HAMMERSKY VINEYARDS ZINFANDEL

Made from 100% estate grown fruit, this Cabernet Sauvignon has a beautiful, rich ruby color with a clean, crisp nose that is full of red fruit and vanilla. The mouthfeel is rich and full, while complex flavors of black raspberry, cinnamon, earth and leather intermingle on the palate. This is a true Paso Robles Cab with recognizable HammerSky Vineyards terroir, and the vines grow in soil that compares favorably with that of France's Bordeaux region.

7725 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles | (805) 239-0930 Open Thursday - Sunday 11am-5pm | www.hammersky.com

SIX GREAT GLASSES IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



WILD HORSE WINERY PINOT NOIR

Located in historic Templeton, Wild Horse Winery was named for the wild mustangs that roamed the hills east of the vineyard estate. Today, Wild Horse Winery is known for exceptional Pinot Noirs. We focus on small vineyards along the Central Coast in order to bring you the best the region has to offer. Stop by and try one (or all five) of our Pinots, including our winery only reserves.

1437 Wild Horse Winery Court, Templeton | Daily 11am-5pm (805) 434-2541 | www.wildhorsewinery.com



CALCAREOUS VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

This luscious Cabernet Sauvignon possesses a deep, dark purple core and radiates a heavy bouquet of currants, cinnamon and tar. There is immense density on the palate that fills the mouth with blackberry, green olive and mushroom. Extended barrel aging shows in the wine's perfectly-integrated, oaky tannins that help create the trademark of a rich, chalky finish that calcareous soil imparts on the wine.

3430 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles | (805) 239-0289 Open Daily 11am-5pm | www.calcareous.com



ROXO PORT CELLARS

Roxo Port Cellars is a family-owned winery specializing in the production of premium Port-style wines. Winemaker Jeff Steele is fueled by a passion for Old World Port wines and the belief that they can be mastered in the New World. He uses only traditional methods and carefully selects each vineyard based on its location, farming practices and superior fruit, which is exclusively handpicked. The result is meticulously balanced, fruit forward, Port-style wines.

6996 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles | Daily 11am-5pm (805) 238-1600 | www.roxocellars.com

Paso Robles - West

The Westside of Paso Robles has become one of the fastest growing wine regions in the world. Wine Spectator recently named a wine from the Westside the number one wine of the year. The unique terroir makes this area extremely desirable for viticuluralists from around the world. The Westside of Paso Robles is home to winemakers from France, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand to name a few. While historically known for the old vine Zinfandel, Rhône and Bordeaux varieties grown in the area have become world renowned. Guests will quickly become familiar with the famed "Templeton Gap" and how it positively affects the fantastic wines in this region.

DINING

Buona Tavola

Northern Italian cuisine in downtown Paso Robles, with friendly and warm hospitality. 943 Spring Street, Paso Robles (805) 237-0600 | www.btslo.com/paso

Enoteca

Dine on Central Coast cuisine by a warm fireplace on cool evenings or on the outdoor patio almost year round. Located in La Bellasera Hotel & Suites 206 Alexa Court, Paso Robles (805) 238-2834 | www.labellasera.com/dining

II Cortile Ristorante

Fine Italian dining, featuring seasonal menus and ample specials each evening. 608 12th Street, #101, Paso Robles (805) 226-0300 | www.ilcortileristorante.com

Paso Robles Inn Steakhouse

In the historic Paso Robles Inn, the steakhouse is family-friendly dining. The chef sources from local farmers and ranchers to give guests a true sense of Paso Robles. 1103 Spring Street, Paso Robles (805) 226-4925 | www.pasoroblesinn.com/dining

Thomas Hill Organics

Opened by farmers, Debbie & Joe Thomas, THO uses their organic farm fresh ingredients in the menu; an extensive selection of local wines. 1313 Park Street, Paso Robles (805) 226-5888 | www.thomashillorganics.com

LODGING

Hotel Cheval

This boutique luxury hotel is located in the heart of downtown Paso Robles. Relax at the Pony Club bar or around the fire pits in the outdoor lounge. 1021 Pine Street, Paso Robles (866) 522-6999 | www.hotelcheval.com

The Oaks Courtyard Paso Robles

Centrally located, and brand new, Courtyard offers a great value and all the amenities guests have come to expect from Marriott. (805) 239-9700 | 120 South Vine St, Paso Robles www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ sbppr-courtyard-paso-robles/

La Bellasera Hotel & Suites

Conveniently located at the beginning of Highway 46 West and just off Highway 101, this hotel offers luxurious accommodations for the wine connoisseur and discerning traveler. 206 Alexa Court, Paso Robles (805) 238-2834 | www.labellasera.com

Paso Robles Inn

Originally built in 1891, the old western charm till warmly welcomes guests. Be sure to soak in the natural hot springs at the end of a long day. 1103 Spring Street, Paso Robles (805) 238-2660 | www.pasoroblesinn.com



ATTRACTIONS

Hearst Castle

William Hearst developed what is now the Central Coast's most renowned attraction from 1919-1947, after inheriting the land from his father, George Hearst. Several different tours are offered year round. 750 Hearst Castle Road, San Simeon (800) 444-4445 www.hearstcastle.com

Vineyard Antique Mall

Greg and Jeanine Cantrell have an incredible selection of indoor and outdoor collectables. Open daily. 2320 Ramada Drive # A, Paso Robles (805) 237-4012



Pelletiere Estate Vinevard & Winerv

Pelletiere Estate Vineyard & Winery is a new and exciting winery in the Paso Robles Willow Creek District. The property was formerly known as AJB Vineyards and Berardo Winery. Janis Pelletiere Denner seized the opportunity to acquire the beautiful vineyard and renovate its historic farmhouse and existing 20 year old vineyard in 2014. Janis, herself of Italian heritage, had first expanded her deep passion for wine and the Central Coast more extensively when her daughter, Morgan, began her college career at Cal Poly over a decade ago. Since then, Janis relocated from San Jose to Paso Robles and embarked on a journey which led her to her "dream realized" with Pelletiere Estate today. Focusing on Italian varieties, the winery and vineyard could not be a more perfect fit for Janis and her family.

With renowned local winemaker, Amy Butler, at the helm in the winery, Janis is eager to welcome guests to taste Pelletiere Estate's line up of mostly Italian varieties, such as the Sangiovese Riserva, Nebbiolo and Montepulciano. Zinfandel, and other Willow Creek darlings, such as Syrah and Viogner, are also grown on site. The vineyard is farmed thoughtfully, using sustainable practices to preserve the natural lushness of the estate. The wines are crafted with Old World traditions in mind, but with finesse and today's winemaking innovations. The tasting room is a welcoming space, tastefully decorated with both modern and rustic amenities, perfectly suiting the surroundings. Ask for a tour of the renovated farmhouse, a truly exquisite cottage and with incredible views.

VARIETALS

Sangiovese, Lagrein, Nebbiolo, Montelpuciano, Zinfandel, Syrah and Viognier

FUN FACT

Girl Power! The winery is run by a strong group of women: Janis Denner (owner), Morgan Stepp (Janis' daughter), Amy Butler (winemaker) and Mindy Allen (vineyard manager).

DON'T MISS HARVEST FESTIVAL AT PELLETIERE ESTATE

Friday, October 16: Join us for live music on the patio, with "must see" local acoustic duo REWIND. Savor tasty tacos prepared fresh off the Choco's Mexican Grill food truck and sip our delicious estate Italian style wines. Festivities from 5-8pm.

Saturday, October 17: Enjoy the lovely music of Nataly Plotner from 2-5pm and a glass or tasting of our limited production Italian style wines, and relish in panoramic vineyard views! While in our beautifully remodeled tasting room, take a photo in front of our custom chalkboard backdrop to commemorate this magical weekend!

Sunday, October 18: Looking to get a taste of something different? Try our newly release Lagrein—the only estate Lagrein in Paso Robles! Delight in the beauty, as autumn falls upon the vineyard, while mixing and mingling with our beloved winemaker, Amy Butler, available from 2-4pm.

Pelletiere Estate Vineyard & Winery

Open Thursday – Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 3280 Township Road, Paso Robles (805) 239-9432 | www.pelletiere.com

Mention Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting!

THREE GREAT ITALIAN GLASSES AT PELLETIERE ESTATE

Pelletiere Estate Vineyard & Winery is a luxury boutique winery located on a cozy corner in the heart of the Willow Creek District in Paso Robles. Their stunning tasting room and chic Farmhouse Vacation Rental offer the complete Paso Robles wine country experience. Specializing in Italian varietals, Pelletiere Estate offers a taste of Italy with a California flair.



SANGIOVESE

The deep and grandiose ruby color highlights an affable nose, evoking hints of warm cherry compote, fresh raspberry and violet. This elegant but equally understated Sangiovese whispers Willow Creek in your ear, hinting at the renowned local terroir. Take a sip and enjoy the plush and refined creamy oak palate, as well as the long nuanced finish with real savor! This wine is the definition of sophistication.



LAGREIN

This intensely inky in color Lagrein is a brooding mistress of mysterious wonder, packed with wafts of mouthwatering melted blackberry, pomegranate and tart Japanese plum. The delicate tannins and acidity are more balanced than a three-legged acrobat. It's the ideal companion for that leather bound book you've been meaning to read.



NEBBIOLO

The 2012 Nebbiolo is sophisticated with refined tannins and an earthy backbone. Wafts of cold smoke and sun-warmed stone lay the foundation for hints of dried herbs and Rainier cherries, with a mouthful of candied tangerines, tapering to a hint of mahogany on the finish. Although the Nebbiolo release isn't until November 2015, you can see why people are already knocking at the door to get a bottle.



Peachy Canyon Winery

Family owned Peachy Canyon Winery in Paso Robles is best known for their everyday drinking Zinfandels like their Incredible Red and Westside Zin, both reasonably priced and widely available, showing the quintessential Zinfandel from this region—but that is only half the story of Peachy Canyon.

What Peachy Canyon Winery is less known for is the other half of their wine production, namely producing a diversity of small production, super-premium wines ranging from vineyard designated Zinfandel to Cabernet Sauvignon, Bordeaux blends, and both red and white Rhône varieties including Grenache Blanc—a white wine that is carving out an impressive niche in Paso Robles. Because they make only small batches of these wines, they are not widely distributed and are harder to find, not to mention highly coveted. These include their 2011 Para Siempre—a Bordeaux blend that scored 91 points from Wine Enthusiast Magazine. Their 2011 DeVine Cabernet Sauvignon received a 90-point score, their 2012 Snow Zinfandel (an estate vineyard designated wine) scored 92 points, and their Bailey Zinfandel racked up an impressive 93 point score—all from Wine Enthusiast.

But what do all these scores really mean? Just that wine professionals have uniformly agreed to the quality of Peachy Canyon wines. This is no surprise as Peachy Canyon is dedicated to crafting excellent wines by hand, using only local fruit from their estate vineyards and local grapes from growers they know and trust. Plus, they have been crafting wines since 1988, making them one of the elders of Paso Robles wine country—so stop by and taste success in a glass!

VARIETALS

 Nine Zinfandels, many of which have won awards... -Bailey Zinfandel, 93 pts Wine Enthusiast -Snow Zinfandel, 92 pts Wine Enthusiast & Gold in SF Chronicle Wine Competition Gold -Vortex Zinfandel, Gold in SF Chronicle Wine Competition

-2011 Zinfndels, every Zinfnadel was awarded 90pts+

- Cabernet Sauvignon: DeVine Cab, 90 pts; Old Schoolhouse Reserve Cabernet, small production and aged for 36 months.
- Bordeaux Blend: Para Siempre is a classic Bordeaux style wine, awarded Gold in the Chronicle Competition and 91pts by Wine Enthusiast.
- Caladoc/Marsalan Blend: Sin Nombre—meaning 'nameless'—is called as much because Caladoc is a still unrecognized grape varietal in the US.
- Red Blend: Cirque du Vin—a blend of Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cab Franc, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah—95pts and 2014 CA State Wine Competition.
- GSM, Cabernet/Syrah Blend, Malbec, Merlot, Syrah, Petite Sirah, Viognier, Grenache Blanc, Chardonnay, Dry Rosé and Zinfandel port-style dessert wine

Peachy Canyon Winery

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1480 N. Bethel Road, Paso Robles

(805) 239-1918 | www.peachycanyon.com

Facebook: Peachy Canyon Winery Twitter: @PeachyCynWinery



Located on Vineyard Drive on the westside of Paso Robles, Jada has gained a reputation for both Rhône and Bordeaux-style wines. Wine critics have assigned scores as high as 95 points to the limited production, stand-alone varietals and blends.

Winemaker, David Galzignato, crafts the wine from the estate vineyards surrounding the tasting room and winery. Following 100% biodynamic practices in all of the vineyard blocks, the winery is in the second year of a six year certification program. Biodynamic farming often uses organic farming techniques that many of the great, first-grown wineries in France follow to produce their wine. Working with biodynamic consultant Philippe Armenier, the team at Jada is striving to improve upon the fruit that is already producing high quality wine.

As guests approach the property, they are greeted with spectacular views of plum trees, olive trees and the estate vineyards. Once inside the tasting room, the wonderful views can still be enjoyed while tasting through the estate wine and olive oil. Perusing the gift area shelves will reveal a number of unique items including a selection of gourmet products. The patio balcony is the ideal location for a picnic lunch or just a nice place to sit and relax while sipping a glass of wine.

Jada was founded by cardiac surgeon and his wife, Jack and Robyn Messina. The white wines are named with numbers rather than letters. For example the Roman numerals XCV represent the number 95, which stands for ex-cardiovascular surgeon, while 1149 was the extension to the ICU unit. The red wines are each given names including: Hell's Kitchen, Malstria, Passing By, Jack of Hearts and Strayts. The hospitality staff are more than happy to share the fun story behind the names.

VARIETALS

White Rhône blends, Rosé, Syrah, Grenache, GSM, Tannat, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot

FUN FACTS

- Jada is the name of a fishing boat the owner's father used in the village of Castellammare del Golfo (Castle by the Sea), a city in northern Sicily, when he was growing up. He immigrated to the United States at the age of eleven.
- Jada has received 90+ point ratings for more than 54 wines, since opening their doors in 2008. The high scores were received from top critics including Wine Advocate, Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast and Stephan Tanzer.

Jada Vineyard & Winery

Open daily 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. 5260 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles (805) 226-4200 • www.JadaVineyard.com

> Facebook: Jada Vineyard Twitter: @JadaWinery



One complimentary tasting with purchase of three or more bottles.

Paso Robles - West



To visit Opolo Vineyards is to take a step into an unforgettable experience. After an idyllic drive through vineyards and beautiful countryside, guests are welcomed into a tasting room full of culture and tradition, with an equally present sense of uniqueness and individuality.

Co-owners Rick Quinn and Dave Nichols started the winery in 1999 as a passionate hobby. Years later, that passion for winemaking is more evident than ever, and is enjoyed by thousands of wine lovers throughout the world.

The team at Opolo Vineyards has made it their goal to show that wine tasting does not have to be intimidating. The tasting room is inviting and the staff is passionate, friendly and knowledgeable—proving that wine tasting can be both educational and fun.

Opolo grows nearly 300 acres of grapes on both the east and west sides of Paso Robles. This provides a wide range in climate, soil and growing potential, which allows Opolo to produce 20 different varietals. At any given time, more than thirty wines can be found on the Opolo tasting list. Unique single varietals are an Opolo specialty, as well as creative and delightful blends.

OVERALL PHILOSOPHY

'Great times-award-winning wines!'

PLAN AHEAD

Opolo's Harvest Party has gained notoriety as the best Harvest Party in Paso Robles—kick off your shoes and stomp grapes while enjoying traditional Serbian music, dancers, food and of course, plenty of Opolo wine.

WHERE IT ALL STARTED

The name Opolo comes from a Rosé-style wine made on the Dalmatian Coast, and acts as a tribute to co-owner Rick Quinn's Serbian heritage. In the tasting room, however, it is common knowledge that Opolo means fun.

THEIR UNIQUE APPROACH

Every weekend the brick oven is fired up to crank out Opolo's handmade pizzas, made with all fresh ingredients. The scent of Opolo's famous Cevapcici—a Balkan sausage made of beef, lamb and pork—drifts through the air, enticing guests to try the traditional sausage with Opolo's fabulous wines.

Opolo Vineyards

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 7110 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles

(805) 238-9593 • www.opolo.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/OpoloWine Twitter & Instagram: @OpoloWines



Mention Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting.



Nestled amidst the rolling coastal terrain on Paso Robles westside, is the stunning HammerSky Vineyards & Inn. Set amidst fifty acres of vineyards, the tasting room, restored farmhouse, and barn create the perfect setting for an afternoon getaway. Known for their award-winning wines, the eco-friendly HammerSky estate vineyards are planted to Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel which provide the foundation for the Bordeaux-centric portfolio.

The wines are rich, with an intense flavor profile that reflects uncompromised quality and attention given to each lot. In addition to the HammerSky wines, there is also the "Naughty Princess" brand—the wines are approachable, fruit-forward and fun wine. HammerSky wines are available at the tasting room and in select fine restaurants in Los Angeles and Orange County. They also offer two distinct wine clubs—the Hammer Club and the Sky Club—both include pre-release wines, access to host luncheons at the estate's White Barn and discounted stays at the picturesque HammerSky Inn.

Doug and Kim welcome you to HammerSky Vineyards & Inn and invite you to experience all that is HammerSky.



WINES

HammerSky Vineyard's wines include estate-grown Zinfandel, a Limited Resources Cabernet Sauvignon, the Red Handed Merlot and the Party of Four blend of Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet, in addition to the popular Naughty Princess Sauvignon Blanc.

FUN FACT

- The HammerSky estate is graced with beautiful, native cypress trees—so captivating, that the builders of Hearst Castle requested some of the cypress trees be moved by horse and buggy decades ago, to the majestic Hearst Castle where they found a new home next to the Neptune Pool.
- The HammerSky estate is one of the Paso Robles wine region's most elegant wedding locations.

HARVEST WEEKEND

 Join HammerSky Vineyards & Inn October 17-19, 2015 for a full weekend of events including: a Friday night wine cocktail party complete with live music, artisan pizza on Saturday afternoon and an exquisite wine dinner on Saturday night.

HammerSky Vineyards & Inn

Open Thursday – Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 7725 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles (805) 239-0930 | www.hammersky.com



Mention Day Trips and receive 2-for-1 tasting.

Paso Robles - West

Paso Robles – East

The Eastside of Paso Robles is easily accessible from Highway 101, and 46 East by way of I-5 and Highway 41. Dozens of wineries line the way into Paso Robles, and while each has unique wines, they all have warm and friendly hospitality to welcome guests to the beautiful wine country. Guests can immediately feel the microclimate of the Eastside. Summer days can reach unbearably hot temperatures, but inevitably each evening cools down to a perfect crisp 50-60 degrees. These extreme swings in temperature during the growing season are ideal for the Rhône and Bordeaux varieties grown in the region.

DINING

Artisan

Arguably the most renowned restaurant on the Central Coast. Chef Kobayashi supports local farmers and ranchers when developing the "American Bistro" menu which is continuously changing with the seasons. 843 12th Street, Paso Robles (805) 237-8084 | www.artisanpasorobles.com

Bistro Laurent

The restaurant offers a touch of France in the heart of Downtown Paso Robles. Featuring an exquisite menu and certified sommelier onsite to assist guests with their wine selection. 1202 Pine Street, Paso Robles (805) 226-8191 | www.bistrolaurent.com

II Cortile

Handmade pasta and sauces are mainstays. In addition to ingredients imported from Italy, Chef Santos uses produce, meats and grains from numerous local growers. Try beloved specialties, like osso bucco and risotto. 608 12th Street, #101, Paso Robles (805) 226-0300 | www.ilcortileristorante.com

Thomas Hill Organics

Opened by farmers, Debbie & Joe Thomas, THO uses their organic farm fresh ingredients in the menu which truly embodies the flavors of Paso Robles. An extensive selection of local wines is available by the glass and bottle. 1313 Park Street, Paso Robles (805) 226-5888 | www.thomashillorganics.com

LODGING

Hotel Cheval

This boutique luxury hotel is located in the heart of downtown Paso Robles. Relax at the Pony Club bar or around the fire pits in the outdoor lounge. 1021 Pine Street, Paso Robles (866) 226-9995 | www.hotelcheval.com

The Oaks Hotel

The Oaks Hotel embodies the comforting elegance and natural goodness of the gracious oak trees. 3000 Riverside Avenue, Paso Robles (805) 237-8700 | www.PasoOaks.com

Adelaide Inn

Conveniently located at the start of 46 East. Ofers comfortable accommodations at a superb value. 1215 Ysabel Avenue, Paso Robles (800) 238-2770 | www.adelaideinn.com

Photo: Vina Robles

ATTRACTIONS

Estrella Warbird Museum

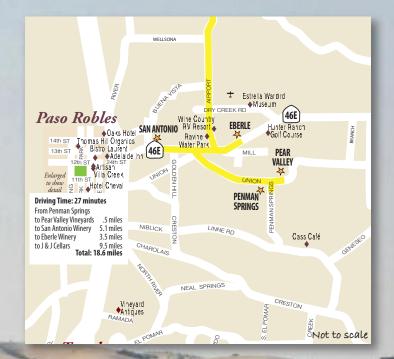
The museum restores and preserves military aircraft and memorabilia. The museum is open Thursday-Sunday. 4251 Dry Creek Road, Paso Robles (805) 227-0440 | www.ewarbirds.com

Hunter Ranch Golf Course

Located in the heart of the Eastside wine country, this course is perfect for a casual game while you're visiting. Rated 4.5 stars by Golf Digest. 4041 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles (805) 237-7444 | www.hunterranchgolf.com

Vineyard Antique Mall

Greg and Jeanine Cantrell have an incredible selection of indoor and outdoor collectables. 2320 Ramada Drive, # A, Paso Robles (805) 237-4012



Penman Springs-Taste the Art

With the outstanding wines priced for every day drinking, the warm hospitality and the idyllic setting, it is no wonder Penman Springs draws visitors to their 40 acre property on the eastside of Paso Robles.

Carl and Beth McCasland, Penman Springs owners, know that the quality of the wine in the bottle is dictated by the quality of the grapes. After extensive research, Carl selected the varietals he thought would do well on the property, installed a variety of trellis systems, trained his new vines following the canopy management techniques touted by Dr. Richard Smart in Sunlight into Wine and put in place sustainable farming practices. The 31 acres of well tended vines surround the rustic, country-style tasting room.

Located just 10 minutes from downtown Paso Robles, Penman Springs is a peaceful destination where guests may enjoy spectacular views of the vineyards and the stunning large oak trees. Inside the tasting room, visitors are welcomed with warm hospitality from knowledgeable staff. Tasting through the line of estate wines takes the palate from dry white to refreshing Rosé and then into the bold reds for which the winery is known. The tasting ends on a sweet note with a little dessert wine.

The Penman Springs experience is like a trip to the country to visit family. There is always a puzzle underway at the table in the corner, the pantry is stocked with local products and lawn games are set-up by the picnic tables. The McCaslands invite you to "Taste the Art" as you sip their wine.

VARIETALS

Muscat Blanc, Syrah Rosé, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Meritage, Syrah and Petite Sirah

FUN FACTS

- Visitors to the tasting room are greeted by Cuteness, Penman Spring's adorable dog.
- Members of the Penpal Wine Club mingle with owners and staff during the complimentary club pick-up parties with live music, food and wine.
- The logo and wine label feature a reproduction of a stained glass color wheel that Beth claims to have stolen from her brother.

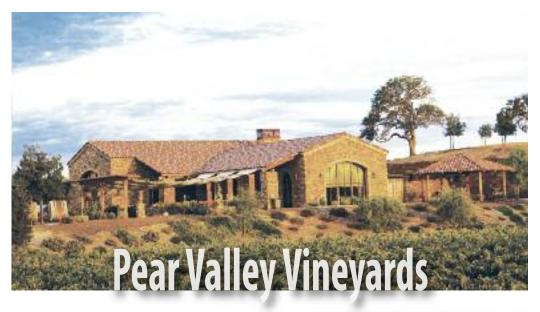
Penman Springs

Open Thursday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1985 Penman Springs Road Paso Robles

(805) 237-7959 www.penmansprings.com

Bring in Day Trips for a 15% discount on wine purchases.

16 Paso Robles - East



Pear Valley is a family business founded by Tom and Kathleen Maas in 1999 when they planted their first 20 acre vineyard in Paso Robles. The Maas family crafts unique wines from their estate, now comprising 113 sustainably farmed acres growing 24 different grape varietals. With two estate vineyards located on the westside and one on the eastside, the winery is able to take advantage of the diverse growing conditions to produce the wide range of wines.

At the winery they strive to deliver the highest quality wines at affordable prices so you can enjoy them with friends and family daily. The focus on quality begins in their vineyards with low yields to produce intense flavors. All the fruit is harvested and immediately sorted and processed at the solar-powered, estate winery while the fruit is still cold and fresh. Within the winery the wines are processed and aged to bring out the best the varietal has to offer. By the time it is released the wine is ready to be consumed.

Tom and Kathleen invite you to visit them at Pear Valley, since after all, everything in life is better when shared. As you pull into the parking lot you will be greeted with spectacular views of the vineyards. The short walk to the tasting room takes you through a courtyard tastefully decorated with flowers, water features, statues and a large picnic area. The music piped though the sound system sets a relaxing atmosphere. With the excellent value wines, the welcoming atmosphere and the friendly staff, once you visit you will keep coming back time and time again. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the beauty of Pear Valley.

WHITE VARIETALS

Albariño, Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Muscat Canelli, Orange Muscat, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier

RED VARIETALS

Aglianico, Charbono, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Malbec, Merlot, Petite Sirah, Syrah, Tempranillo and Zinfandel

BLENDS/DESSERT WINES

Belle Fin, Bom Final, Diamond White, Distraction, Frizzante, Inspiration, Rosé, Sterling Red, The Pretty Girls

EVENTS

With settings both indoors and outdoors, the winery hosts several events throughout the year, including concert series, cooking classes, winemaker dinners, a 4th of July Celebration, club pick-up parties and fundraising events. With the hilltop featuring Tom's Oak, it is the ideal site for couples to say "I do," making Pear Valley a perfect wedding venue.

FUN FACT

Inspiration, Pear Valley's Rhône-style blend, was named for the inspiration of the strength shown by friends fighting cancer. \$1 per bottle of Inspiration sold is donated to the Cancer Research Foundation.

Pear Valley Vineyards

Open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 4900 Union Road, Paso Robles

(805) 237-2861 • info@pearvalley.com www.pearvalley.com

Bring in Day Trips for Complimentary Tasting for Two and 15% discount on wine purchase.

Paso Robles - East



San Antonio Winery has been actively making wine for decades. In 1917, the Riboli family started their winery in Los Angeles and opened their Paso Robles tasting room in 2008. At their booming Paso Robles location, they offer lunch daily, featuring handmade pizzas, salads and appetizers made by a local chef. You can do your wine tasting, then get a glass or a bottle to go with a bite of food and hang out on the patio. It's not a formal restaurant per se, but a great option for a fresh, quick bite of food utilizing local ingredients. They also have a large gift selection, and the wood-toned interior features custom metal wine racks and photos of the original historic winery. They are dog friendly as well, and they have easy access and plenty of parking right off Highway 46 East.

"Our tasting rooms offer a wide array of choices from award-winning, full bodied reds to sweet dessert wines and we cater to many different tastes," says Winemaker Anthony Riboli. They offer several tasting options at the Paso Robles tasting room, including the Artisan Series, which features award-winning and highly allocated wines. What sets San Antonio apart is not only their incredible history and four generations of a family business, but a diversity of wines and price points—each one geared to every level of wine lover from new wine fans to seasoned palates.

VARIETALS

Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Petite Sirah, Malbec, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Moscato and many others.

FUN FACTS

- San Antonio Winery is a four-generation family business.
- San Antonio Winery was one of only a few wineries in the state that survived Prohibition.

NOTE

San Antonio Winery also has two sister tasting rooms in
 Ontario and downtown Los Angeles.

San Antonio Winery

Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 2610 Buena Vista Drive, Paso Robles (805) 226-2600 www.sanantoniowinery.com

> Follow San Antonio Winery on social media!

Complimentary tasting with mention of this Day Trips article.

Eberle Winery

Eberle Winery is currently celebrating 36 years of fine winemaking in Paso Robles and 31 years of Cabernet. The winery has plenty to celebrate, including being named Eberle "Winery of the Year" at the 2015 Central Coast Wine Competition and Gary Eberle's recent Lifetime Achievement Award for the state of California.

Visit Eberle Winery and discover why it is one of the most popular stops during a wine tasting adventure in Paso Robles. In addition to the spacious tasting room with a large gift shop, the facility also includes underground caves, an expansive vineyard deck, bocce ball courts, the "Wild Boar" event room with a commercial kitchen, and plenty of places to have a picnic lunch while enjoying the vineyard views.

Inside the tasting room, guests have the opportunity to taste Eberle wines that continue to be top award winners. Made from grapes grown on the 60-acre estate vineyard, Gary Eberle and Winemaker Chris Eberle (*no relation*) handcraft each of the wines for the 27,000 case production. On the tasting list, guests can enjoy Chardonnay, Viognier, Muscat Canelli, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Zinfandel, Sangiovese and Barbera. There are also a few delicious blends including Cotes-du-Robles Blanc, Full Boar Red and Cotes-du-Robles. Eberle Winery remains one of the few tasting rooms where guests are offered complimentary tasting every day of the week.

Although Eberle has grown in production over the years, the winery still has a warm family feel. On most visits to the tasting room, guests will find the Eberle poodles, Sangiovese and Roussanne, wandering the tasting room for a little well deserved attention. Eberle welcomes families and four-legged friends for an enjoyable experience.

FUN FACTS

- The German name "Eberle" translates to "small boar." (Gary is half Polish, half German.)
- Gary Eberle created the first 100% Syrah in the USA; he is called the "Johnny Appleseed of Syrah" by Wine Spectator.
- Gary Eberle earned the Lifetime Achievement Award for the state of California in 2015.
- Eberle Winery is the longest continuously owned family winery in Paso Robles.

TOUR THE CAVE

Complimentary tours are offered each day, so you can explore the 16,000 square feet of underground caves located below the winery. Take the tour and see why it was rated as one of the best tours by Wine Spectator.

Eberle Winery

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (5 p.m. in winter) 3810 East Highway 46, Paso Robles

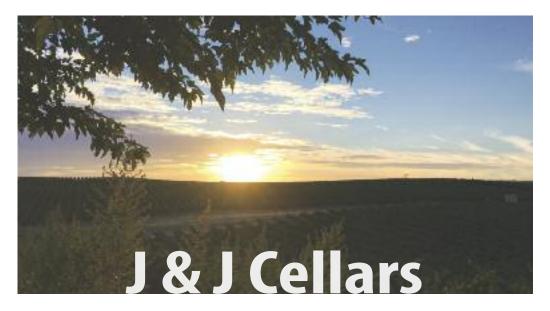
(805) 238-9607 www.eberlewinery.com tastingroom@eberlewinery.com

F 🗾

Mention 'Day Trips' to receive 20% discount off full retail wine purchase.

Paso Robles - East





J&J Cellars is a small, family-owned winery and vineyard in historic, rural San Miguel. They have farmed for over 100 years and produce wines that showcase the distinctive flavors of their vines and the natural excellence of the Paso Robles AVA—a world-class winegrowing region.

Let the J & J Cellars tasting room staff take the intimidation of wine tasting away, as you explore their wines that are presented in the spirit of value and everyday enjoyment. Bring a picnic and relax with a glass of wine on the outdoor patio, which overlooks the rolling hills covered in vines. Have fun playing a game of bocce ball or horseshoes. The tasting room is dog friendly, so bring Fido along to enjoy the family fun. At J & J Cellars, they want everyone to know visitors are an extension of the family—a place you will always feel like "we've been expecting you".

Ask about their newly available vacation rental—The Bungalow at J&J Cellars. This bungalow is a charming one bedroom home with a king bed and full kitchen; it is petfriendly and fully fenced—the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing getaway, nestled among the vines.

WINES

Barbera, Brut, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Cuvee, Merlot, Moscato, Rhône Rosé, Petite Sirah, Sauvignon Blanc, Tempranillo, Temptress, ZinBera and Zinfandel

FUN FACTS

- J & J Cellars is excited about their first screen printed bottle on the new 2013 ZinBera.
- The white wines at J & J Cellars carry the daughter's name—Juliet Fiero.
- The Autumn Flight label was inspired by the owner's passion for flying.
- The winery dog is a Queensland Heeler named Patti; she was born in Texas.
- Walnuts, table grapes, apples, pears, cherries and pomegranates are also grown on the property for fun.



Friday-Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 2850 Ranchita Canyon Road, San Miguel (805) 467-2891 | tasting.room@jjcellars.com www.jjcellars.com

Mention 'Day Trips' for a complimentary tasting.

Notes on Wine Tasting

It's a good idea to plan to visit several wineries as every wine-tasting experience offered is different. With so many distinctive viticultural areas, one can easily taste many of the world's best varietials and winemaking styles without learning the region. Listed below are five basic types of tasting experiences. The experience will vary in style from winery to winery.

Wine Bar Tasting

The most common tasting experience is a Wine Bar Tasting. You step up to the bar where typically a list of wines being poured is displayed. Expect to pay a tasting fee between \$10-\$40. Some tasting bars will offer you the option to taste a library or reserve wine. Exercising this option increases the fee, but will allow you to taste very unique, old or rare wines.

Sit Down Tasting

A Sit Down Tasting usually requires an appointment and there may be a slightly higher fee than a wine bar fee. Seated in an elegant room, you are poured several wines by your winery host. Expect your host to describe the unique characteristics of each wine and how it was made.

Table Service Tasting

A Table Service Tasting, popular at sparkling wine facilities, is a tasting experience where you are seated at a table and the tastings are brought to you.

Walk Around Tasting

A Walk Around Tasting is a combination of a tour and a tasting. Your host brings along several bottles of wine on your tour, and may take you to a garden area of the





winery to pour the first round. Then you move to another place within the winery to sample the next wine. This experience continues until all the wines are tasted.

Barrel Tasting

Another popular tasting experience that can be part of a tour or a Walk Around is a Barrel Tasting. Your guide takes a "wine thief," a special siphon placed into a hole in the top of a barrel to extract tasting samples of a maturing wine. The sample allows you to taste what the wine is like in the middle of developing its full potential.

Why make an appointment?

Some wineries are so small that they need to know when you are coming so someone will be there to greet you. Other wineries have permit restrictions that limit the number of guests that can visit each day. Others have sitdown tastings that start and end at specific times. It's always a good idea to schedule your appointments well in advance of your visit because some of the more popular wineries fill up their appointments weeks in advance.

WWW.LEGENDARYNAPAVALLEY.COM

BEER TASTING ON THE CENTRAL COAST



FIRESTONE WALKER BREWING COMPANY

Founded in 1996 by Adam Firestone (aka the Bear) and David Walker (aka the Lion), Firestone Walker Brewing Company began as a small brewery with roots in wine country on California's Central Coast. Now a regional brewery, Firestone's singular purpose remains—to craft ever better beer. Passionately in pursuit of the perfect beer . . . and never satisfied. Offering tours and tastings daily, right in the heart of Paso Robles.



1400 Ramada Dr, Paso Robles Open Daily 10am-5pm (805) 225-5911 www.firestonebeer.com



HOP ON BEER TOURS

With Hop On Beer Tours, a beer connoisseur will teach guests all about local breweries and what they're brewing, while traveling in a pub-styled limo bus to the best destinations in the county. Hop on Beer Tours has Private Tours for your group, as well as Social Tours for fun gatherings. Join Hop on Beer Tours for your next party!

3430 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles Open Daily 11am-5pm | (855) 55-HOPON info@hoponbeertours.com | www.hoponbeertours.com



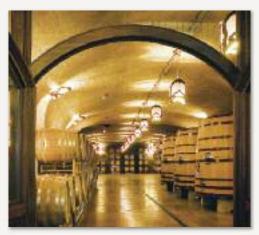
WANDERING DOG WINE BAR

In addition to Wandering Dog Wine Bar's excellent wine list, they also feature a tasty seletion of international beer. Located in quaint Solvang, Wandering Dog Wine Bar offers visitors the unique experience of tasting several high quality, international beers from premier beer producers around the world, such as Germany, Belguim and England. Ranging from light-bodied to fullbodied, and styles in sour and saison, they have a fantastic selection of beers from which to choose. Pair the beer with some cheese and you've got yourself a delicious experience.

1539 Mission Drive, Solvang | (805) 686-9126 Mon-Thu 1-8pm | Fri-Sat 11am-10pm | Sun 11am-8pm www.wanderingdogwinebar.com

UNIQUE WINERY EXPERIENCES IN PASO ROBLES





MITCHELLA VINEYARD & WINERY Wine & Cheese Pairing, Self-Guided Vineyard Tour

Sip, savor and delight in nine handcrafted wines perfectly paired with a variety of six artisan cheeses from around the world. Relax on the patio while enjoying the expansive views of the estate vineyard and surrounding country side. Take a short walk and educate yourself with Mitchella Vineyard & Winery's self-guided vineyard tour. Tasting fee is \$10/person, waived with bottle purchase.

"Life is an Adventure, Drink Wine"™

2525 Mitchell Ranch Way, Paso Robles Thursday - Sunday 12-5pm or by Appointment (805) 239-8555 | www.mitchella.com

ROBERT HALL WINERY Guided Cavern Tour, Barrel Tasting

Come visit Robert Hall Winery and take an educational guided tour of their 19,000 square foot wine cavern and production facility (complimentary with tasting). Enjoy a barrel sample along your journey to see how wine matures in the barrel. End up in the tasting room where Robert Hall Winery's goal is to capture the "Essence of Paso Robles" in their wines. Taste their limited production Cavern Select line—only available at the tasting room or on their website.

3443 Mill Road, Paso Robles | (805) 239-1616 Open Daily 10am-5pm | www.roberthallwinery.com



J. LOHR PASO ROBLES WINE CENTER Exclusive, Limited-Release Wine Tasting

Styled in the manner of a charming, turn-of-the-century schoolhouse, the J. Lohr Paso Robles Wine Center offers stunning views of the Seven Oaks vineyard from the veranda, perfect for enjoying exclusive J. Lohr Gesture wines, Rhône varietals and limited-release wines available only in the wine centers. Founded in 1972, and still family owned today, J. Lohr crafts an array of acclaimed wines from certified sustainable estate vineyards in Paso Robles, Monterey County and Napa Valley.

6169 Airport Road, Paso Robles | (805) 239-8900 Open Daily 10am-5pm | www.jlohr.com



Winery Geek — Free Mobile App California's Most Comprehensive Tasting Room Resource App

In July 2014, Wine Country This Week launched Winery Geek, a comprehensive winery tasting room resource app for iPhone and Android. The app is free to download and features an all-inclusive listing of over 2,100 California wineries as far north as Mendocino and as far south as San Diego. "We felt like there was a growing need in the market for a comprehensive guide for visiting wineries in California—presented in a convenient and accessible app format," states Mike Giangreco, Publisher of Wine Country This Week.

Winery Database

What makes Winery Geek so convenient is the ability to search for wineries nearby. Users are provided with a list or map view that indicates the wineries closest to his or her location; users can click on any given winery/location and then view a detailed listing including hours, directions, a click-to-call link, a link that pulls up the winery's official website and a link that pulls up the winery's Yelp page.

As the leading wine tourism publication in California's wine country since 1981, Wine Country This Week is "best equipped to meet this need for comprehensive information about California's wineries," Giangreco says. "We have a complete and expansive database that we feel is highly beneficial to individuals who enjoy wine tasting in California. We are very excited to offer Winery Geek as a service of Wine Country This Week."

Search Features

Unique features of Winery Geek include the ability to search for wineries by varietals offered or specific attributes including caves, family or pet friendly, food and wine pairing, picnic areas, vineyard or winery tours and much more! These unique search features narrow down choices when selecting wineries to visit.

Tasting Deals

Since 1981, Wine Country This Week has maintained long-standing relationships with wineries, making them perfectly poised to bring Winery Geek users a wide range of tasting deals. Users are able to visit a winery, claim the tasting deal with the app and experience a range of savings on wine tasting visits.

Such features are distinguishing marks of Winery Geek and are the reasons why the response to the app has been overwhelmingly positive. Since launching, Winery Geek has seen over 8,000 downloads!

For more information on Winery Geek, a service of Wine Country This Week, visit www.winerygeek.com. To join the conversation, follow @WineryGeek on Twitter and like Winery Geek on Facebook. To download the free Winery Geek app, visit www.winerygeek.com.

Do the Math

One of the most asked questions asked when it comes to wine is how much of this does it take to make that, and so on. We won't pretend that is simple, but here are some industry statistics that will give a pretty good answer to that query. As with anything agricultural, of course, they are all based on countless variables when it comes to acre yields, but this is a good starting point. The rest of the information varies little if at all.





A single bottle contains: 750 ml of wine which is 25.6 ounces made from about 2.4 pounds of grapes (39 oz.) and is enough for four or maybe five glasses.



One standard oak barrel of wine holds:

295 bottles of wine (or 59 gallons) made from 740 pounds of grapes which works out to almost – but not precisely – 24 cases of wine.

A case of wine includes: A dozen 750 ml bottles (or 24 half bottles) or 307.2 ounces total, which comes from 30 pounds of grapes.





An acre of vineyards land can give the grower: Five tons of grapes (though it is also less, depending on a variety of farming and winemaking practices, and on the varietal and the vineyards location) which will give you 797 gallons of juice (or thirteenand-a-half barrels) which is pretty close to four thousand bottles of wine.

XYZ WINERY RESERVE	What does all that information on a wine label mean? The U.S. Department of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms regulates wine labels and requires that information be given in a straightforward way. Basically, you will want to look for the types of grapes grown, where the grapes are grown and when the grapes were picked. Brand name
Edna Valley	• Designation for a special wine
San Luis Obispo	• Vineyard or appellation known for its grapes might be designated
Pinot Noir—	Location where the grapes used were grown
I INOT INOTR	Grape Variety used
2002 ———	→ Vintage year in which the grapes were picked
Produced and Bottled by	Location where the wine was made and/or bottled (Not to be confused with the area the grapes are grown.)
ALCOHOL 13.6% BY VOLUME	→ Alcohol content may be stated or the the label may simply say "Table Wine"
	WWW.LEGENDARYNAPAVALLEY.COM

Wineology

How does wine get so many flavors and aromas?

Each type of grape, also referred to as a grape variety - from Chardonnay to Zinfandel - gets its primary flavors as it grows on the vine; it creates a "default" flavor profile based on the grape's genetic composition. This primary flavor profile forms the grape's true varietal character. For example, you may have noticed flavors and aromas similar to melon and tropical fruit in virtually every Chardonnay; blackcurrant and cassis in Cabernet Sauvignon; red and black cherry in Pinot Noir. Although there are always variations in degree, these characteristics are fairly typical of wines made from these grapes regardless of where the wine is made or who makes it. True varietal character develops as the grapevine, like all plants, converts sunlight energy to chemical activity in the natural process of photosynthesis.

Yeast, a microscopic organism living on grape skins, gets to work releasing true varietal character – and creating even more flavors – once thousands of grapes have been picked from vines, cracked open, and transferred to a tank or bin. As sugar in the grapes is converted into alcohol by yeast, sweet fresh juice evolves into dry, potent wine. Later, even more wine flavors and aromas emerge during the wine's aging period when chemical compounds interact with each other and microscopic amounts of air. Generally, fragrance developed during aging is referred to as wine bouquet, while "aroma" derives directly from fermentation.

Wines aged in oak barrels get additional contributions of aroma and flavor from wood, variable due to differences in both the geographic origin of the tree (most often, America or France) and the degree to which the wood is toasted (heated by exposure to an open flame). Toasted oak can add hints of coconut, vanilla, mocha, coffee, toasted bread or clove, among other aspects, while injecting sweetness to the wine's bouquet. Brand new barrels filled with wine for the first time add these qualities with significantly greater impact than older barrels. Old, aroma-less barrels, referred to as neutral, are used to hold wine during aging without adding new flavors.

While primary flavors and aromas originate from grapes, specifically, it's the grape skin that gives color to wine.

Do sulfites in wine give me a headache?

If the sulfite level in wine – and some foods – is high, it may be enough to trigger a reaction in people with an allergy to sulfites. Although individual thresholds for a reaction vary, in 1988 the U.S. government established a limit and required a label stating "Contains Sulfites" to appear on every bottle of wine made with more than the maximum allowed amount of 10 milligrams per liter.

Even though a small percentage of the U.S. population, estimated to be around one percent, might sneeze or cough from drinking wine containing sulfites exceeding the limit, about ten percent of the one percent will suffer a more serious reaction, such as shortness of breath. Headaches are not a typical reaction, even though people who get them from wine usually blame the sulfites.

In the majority of cases, the cause is something else: dehydration from not drinking enough water while consuming wine; consuming wine on an empty stomach; a wine's high alcohol content; or from histamines, another natural byproduct of winemaking, present more in red wine than white. Some people take an antihistamine in advance of drinking red wine in order to prevent or mitigate a headache, or they avoid red wine altogether by choosing only white wine.

Experimenting with different producers might uncover one that makes your favorite varietal wine with the right amount of sulfites for your system. Needless to say, the cause of any physical reaction from wine is difficult to pin down without a doctor's assistance. There are dozens of compounds in wine, any one of which could cause a sensitive person to have an allergic reaction. If you suffer any reaction as a result of drinking wine, you should consult a doctor.

And, ask your doctor about trying wines with low sulfite content, i.e., organic wines.

Len Napolitano is the author of Nose, Legs, Body! Know Wine Like The Back of Your Hand, a quick and easy guide for the wine beginner. The book is available at bookstores, online and at wineology.com. Follow Len on Twitter: @wineologist and visit his blog: noselegsbody.com. Send your wine question to Len: wineologist@earthlink.net





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Winegrowing Decisions BY JOSH STEIN

If I Could Keep Time in a Barrel...

The end of Spring brings heat, and with it, lots of things start to happen in the cellar. Over the Winter and into early Spring, with cellars cold, wines in barrel tend to slowly blurb along, the yeasts gently doing their thing with the last percent or two of residual sugars or the bacteria finishing up the conversion of malic to lactic acid, both of which are good for aroma and mouthfeel, but come the warmth of late Spring, the wines in barrel come alive again because heat speeds up reactions, just like in your high school chem lab from ages ago, which means it's decision time once again.

For whites, generally Chardonnay but occasionally Sauvignon Blanc or another oaked variety, this is when the secondary malolactic fermentation finishes if it has not already, and with the exception of those who are going for a long time in barrel, this is when the previous Fall's white wines are bottled. Some varieties, like Sauvignon Blanc or Riesling, generally made in steel the whole time, would be released immediately, the freshness and vibrancy preserved for exactly how appealing these wines are when young.

Most producers, however, would bottle oaked whites and then allow them to age under glass for at least a few months, if not longer. This is not just about bottle shock from bottling, which does tend to mute or cause otherwise great wines to taste a bit off for a month or two. No, the anaerobic conditions actually allow the wines to again undergo a slow maturation, bringing out more mouthfeel and complexity through the lack of oxygen. This is why the wines "wake up" when opened—they have returned to aerobic conditions, activating bouquet and flavors through the reintroduction of a lot of oxygen all at once. An oaky Chard tastes much different 12 months after harvest, let alone 24 or 36 for that reason.

Red wines, on the other hand, take a parallel but different trajectory than the whites. Just about all reds spend time in oak, and Spring will mean time to transfer, or "rack," again as every few months barrels need to be topped up to reduce the oxygen of headspace created by the "angel's share," and the best way to address this is to conslidate into fewer barrels. This causes a gradual reduction of the overall wine in



the cellar as barreled wines are racked out of their homes and then into either a new barrel or a tank, some folks deciding to maintain the integrity of each wine lot while others allowing for a general mixing in a larger tank before going back to individual barrels again.

Any given red spends 18 to 24 months in this cycle—though some idiosyncratic producers may keep wine in barrel up to four years—and along the way, each racking creates a natural fining effect as particles fall out of solution and end up in the belly of each barrel. These lees provide for complexity but also possible microbial contamination, which is why the monitoring of each wine in barrel and as it is racked is most important of all—we can taste and smell problems far quicker through sensory monitoring.

Regardless of which decisions are made, or not, each time the winegrower chooses to tweak or not, to rack or not, how often, the logistics of the racking, etc., all leave an impact on the final wine. While the processes are scientific, measurable, and generally predictable, the application is where experience and creativity come to the fore. There is no one right answer, which is what makes winegrowing so much fun. If we knew all the answers ahead of time, there'd be no point in doing it since wines tend to have minds of their own. Consider that when you pop the next bottle and enjoy!

Josh Stein has been in the Napa wine business for more than a dozen years, and, in addition to being owner/winemaker of the Stein Family Wine Group, which produces a nationally and internationally distributed portfolio of wine brands and donates a percentage of its sales, he regularly consults for wineries and organizations throughout the North Bay and Coast via their subsidiaries, Discrete Wine Support Services and Napa Valley Writing Services.

Fine Dining

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815 12th St, Paso Robles; 805.226.5406	Latin Cuisine		•	٠	٠	٠			•	• •	•	*
La Cosecha Restaurant and Bar 835 12th St, Suite A, Paso Robles; 805.237.0019	Spanish Cuisine	٠	•	٠	٠	٠	٠		٠	•	٠	*
Thomas Hill Organics 1305 Park St, Paso Robles; 805.226.5888	Contemporary American Cuisine	• •	•	٠	٠		٠	٠	٠	•	•	*
Villa Creek 1144 Pine St, Paso Robles; 805.238.3000	Spanish Cuisine			٠	٠	٠	٠	٠		•	٠	*
Mistura Too Clubhouse Dr, Paso Robles; 805.238.3333	Latin/Peruvian Cuisine		٠	٠	٠		٠		٠		٠	*
Bistro Laurent 1202 Pine St, Paso Robles; 805.226.8191	French Cuisine		٠	٠	٠		٠		•	٠		• *
Artisan 843 12th St, Paso Robles; 805.237.8084	American Bistro		٠	۲	٠		٠	٠	٠	•	•	*
Paso Inn and Steakhouse 1103 Spring St, Paso Robles; 805.226.4925	Steakhouse	• •	•	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	• •	•	• *
il Cortile 608 12th St #101, Paso Robles; 805.226.0300	Italian Cuisine & some Seafood Dishes	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	•	٠	*
Buona Tavola 943 Spring St, Paso Robles; 805.237.0600	Northern Italian Cuisine		٠	٠	٠	٠	٠		٠	٠		• *
McPhee's Grill 416 S. Main St, Templeton; 805.434.3204	Grill: Burgers, seafood, pasta, steak, etc		٠	٠	٠				٠	•	٠	*
SAN LUIS OBISPO												
Novo – 726 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo; 805.543.3986	International Cuisine		٠	٠	٠	٠	•	٠	•	• •	•	• *
Firestone Grill 1001 Higuera, San Luis Obispo; 805.783.1001	BBQ and Burgers	٠	•	٠	٠	٠	•		•	• •	•	
Cafe Roma – 1020 Railroad Ave, San Luis Obispo; 805.54	1.6800 Italian Cuisine		٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠			• *
Mama's Meatball 570 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo; 805.544.0861	Fine Italian Cuisine		٠	٠	٠			٠				• *
Palazzo Giuseppe's 1010 Court St, San Luis Obispo; 805.541.9922	Fine Italian Cuisine		٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	•	• •	٠	*
Luna Red – 1023 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo; 805.540.524	13 International Cuisine		*	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	•	• •	•	• *
MORRO BAY												
Dorn's – 801 Market Ave, Morro Bay; 805.772.4415	Specialty in Seafood & Chicken	•	•	٠	٠	٠	•		•	• •	•	*
PISMO BEACH												
Steamer's – 1601 Price St, Pismo Beach; 805.773.4711	Seafood		۲	٠	٠	٠		*	٠	•	•	*
Giuseppe's – 891 Price St, Pismo Beach; 805.773.2870	Italian Cuisine		*			٠		*			•	

Fine Dining

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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Hitching Post — 3325 Point Sal Rd, Casmalia (Santa Maria)	; 805.937.6151Steakhouse			٠	٠	٠		•		٠	*
Hitching Post II – 406 E Highway 246, Buellton; 805.688.	0676 Steakhouse			٠	٠	٠		•		٠	*
Full of Life Flatbread											
225 Bell St, Los Alamos; 805.344.4400	American and Pizza			٠	٠		•	• •		•	
Brothers Restaurant at The Red Barn											
3539 Sagunto St, Santa Ynez; 805.688.4142	New American			٠	٠	٠		•		٠	*
Petros											
2860 Grand Ave, Los Olivos; 805.686-5455	Greek American Cuisine	•	•	٠	•	٠	•	•		•	*
The Ballard Inn Restaurant											
2436 Baseline Ave, Ballard; 805.638-2466	French/Asian Fusion			•	•		•	•		•	*
Trattoria Grappolo											
3687 Sagunto St, Santa Ynez; 805.688.6899	Italian		•	•	•		•			•	*
Root 246											
420 Alisal Road, Solvang; 805.686. 8681	Contemporary American Cuisine			•	•	•	•	• •			• •
Terravant: The Winery Restaurant											
	Contemporary American & Small Plates		•	•	•			•		•	
Sissy's Uptown Cafe											
112 South I Street, Lompoc; 805.735.4877	Traditional American Cuisine		•	•	•				-	•	*
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA											
Julienne											
138 E Canon Perdido St, Santa Barbara; 805.845.6488	Contemporary American Cuisine			٠	•				٠	•	*
The Shellfish Company											
230 Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara; 805.966.6676	Seafood		•	•	•		٠	٠	٠	• •	*
The Wine Cask											
813 Anacapa St, Santa Barbara; 805.966.9463	Contemporary American		•	•	•	•	٠		٠	•	• •
Olio Pizzeria											
11 W Victoria St. Ste. 21, Santa Barbara; 805.899.2699	Italian Cuisine		•	•	•	•			٠	•	*
Bouchon											
9 West Victoria St, Santa Barbara; 805.730.1160	Wine Country Cuisine			٠	•		٠		٠	•	*
Ca'Dario											
37 East Victoria St, Santa Barbara; 805.884.9419	Italian Cuisine		4	•	•	•	٠		٠	•	*
Arigato											
1225 State St, Santa Barbara; 805.965.6074	Japanese Cuisine		•	•	•				٠	•	
The Stonehouse											
900 San Ysidro Ln, Montecito; 805.565.1724	Contemporary American			•	٠	•	•	٠	٠	• •	•

Find Your Favorite Variet	als	Chardonnay	Gewurztraminer	Pinot Blanc	Pinot Gris/ Pinot Griaio	Riesling	Sauvignon Blanc	Viognier	Other
Andrew Murray Tasting Room – Thu-Sun 11am-Spm, Los Olivos, (805) 693-9644	P 22							×	X
Biddle Ranch Vineyard – Daily 11am-5pm, San Luis Obispo, (805) 543-2399	P31	x			x				
Calcareous Vineyard – Daily 11am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 239-0289	P35	×							×
Eberle Winery – Daily 10am-6pm (5pm winter), Paso Robles, (805) 238-9607	P 49	x						x	×
Edna Valley Vineyard – Daily 10am-5pm, San Luis Obispo, (805) 544-5855	P30	x					x		
Firestone Winery – Daily 10am-5pm; Tours 11:15am, 1:15 & 3:15pm, Los Olivos, (805) 688-3940	P12	×				×	×		
Foley Estates – Daily 10am-5pm, Lompoc, (805) 737-6222	Р17	×							
HammerSky Vineyards – Thu-Sun 11am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 239-0930	P34/43								
J. Lohr Paso Robles Wine Center- Daily 10am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 239-8900	Р53	×				x	x	x	
J Ludlow Vineyard – Daily 11am-5pm, Los Olivos, (805) 688-8989	P21				x		x		
J & J Cellars – Fri-Sun11am-5pm, San Miguel, (805) 467-2891	P50	x			•		X		
Jada Vinevard & Winerv – Daily 11am-5pm. Paso Robles. (805) 226-4200	P41								×
Kynsi Winery – Daily 11am-5pm, Arroyo Grande, (805) 541-8461	P29	×		x					
Laetitia Vineyard & Winery – Daily 11am-5pm, Arroyo Grande, (805) 481-1772	P28	x		x	×		x	×	x
Lafond Winery & Vineyards – Daily 10am-5pm, Buellton, (805) 688-7921	р10	X		~	~	x	~	~	
LaMontagne Winery – Fri-Sun 12pm-5pm, Lompoc, (805) 291-6643	P 7	×		x					x
Larner Vineyard & Winery – Daily 11am-5pm, Los Olivos, (805) 688-8148	Р б							x	×
Lincourt Vineyards & Winery – Daily 10am-5pm, Solvang, (805) 688-8554	P20	x		×			x		
Lions Peak Vineyards – Mon-Fri & Sun 11am-7pm, Solvang, (805) 693-5466	P 7						**	×	×
Loring Wine Company – Mon, Thu, Fri 11am-5pm, Buellton, (805) 691-1300	P 7	×						~	
Lucas & Lewellen – Daily 11am-5:30pm, Solvang, (805) 686-9336	P16	X				×	x		×
Martian Ranch & Vineyard – Wed-Sun 11am-5pm, Los Alamos, (805) 344-1804	P13	~				~	~	x	×
Opolo Vineyards – Daily 10am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 238-9593	P42	×						x	x
Peachy Canvon Winery - Daily 10am-5:30pm.Templeton. (805) 239-393	P42							x	×
Pear Valley Vineyards - Daily 11am-5:supm, templeton, (805) 239-1918 Pear Valley Vineyards - Daily 11am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 237-2861	P40	×					x	×	×
Pelletiere Estate – Daily 11am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 239-2601	P38/39	^					^	x	^
	P36/39							^	~
Penman Springs – Thu-Sun 11am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 237-7959									X
Qupe – Daily 11am-5pm, Los Olivos, (805) 686-4200	P23	×						×	×
Red Soles Winery – Daily 11am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 226-9898		X						X	X
Robert Hall Winery- Daily 10am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 239-1616	P53	×						×	×
Roxo Port Cellars - Daily 11am-5pm, Paso Robles, (805) 268-1600	P35								
	4/48/64	X			×	~	~		×
Santa Barbara Winery – Daily 10am-6pm, Santa Barbara, (805) 963-3633	P11	×	×		×	×	×		
Turiya Winery – Appointment Only, Lompoc, (805) 478-7016	P6								
Wild Horse Winery – Daily 10am-5pm, Templeton, (805) 434-2541	Р35	X			×			X	X

Barbera	Cabernet Franc	Cab Sauvignon	Mourvedre	Grenache	Malbec	Merlot	Petite Sirah	Petit Verdot	Pinot Noir	Sangiovese	Syrah	Tempranillo	Zinfandel/ Primitivo	Other	Sparkling	Rosé	Port	Dessert Wines
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