

## Chapter 1 : Wine Map & Winery Directory | California Wines

*Escape to California's famous wine country on this full-day tour from San Francisco. Taste regional varietals at three different wineries in Napa and Sonoma, including both big-name and family-run estates. Learn about the winemaking process during guided tours of vineyards and barrel rooms, and.*

Tim Jepson Californians, they say, are serious about wine and relaxed about everything else. So, too, are their visitors. If it were a country, it would rank fourth behind France, Italy and Spain. Its production, at more than three billion bottles annually, is a third larger than that of Australia. Why the impressive figures? Wine was produced for ecclesiastical use but also for trading. Hilly slopes inland enjoy mild nights and hot, clear sunlight, a marriage that makes for the finest merlots and cabernet sauvignons. Coastal fogs and breezes are perfect for chardonnay and pinot noir. AP Then there are the hotter, drier conditions of southern California and the Sierra Nevada, and an extraordinary range of soils, varying even within a single vineyard. Such diversity allows for more than grape varieties across the state. If all you want is lunch in a vineyard, that is easy: But if you want to make wine a more serious part of your holiday, remember California is around three-quarters the size of France, so exploring one wine region during a trip rather than the whole state makes sense. Napa and Sonoma centre on two north-south valleys, divided by a ridge of mountains, with Napa visitnapa. Oakville, St Helena and Rutherford. The Chiles Valley area, by contrast, produces outstanding zinfandels. Calistoga, to the north, is also quieter visitcalistoga. Meanwhile, across in Sonoma sonomacounty. Again, it pays to seek out quieter corners, such as the wine road in the north wineroad. But as Napa and Sonoma become busier and more expensive, North Coast vintners and visitors alike are looking elsewhere to produce and taste wine. The key destinations include Mendocino, north of Napa mendowine. East of Mendocino is another emerging area, Lake County lakecountywineries. The High Valley AVA is great for scenic sightseeing and affordable cabernets and sauvignons, with Brassfield Estate brassfieldestatewinery. The Inland Valleys This is an immense area of interior northern California, and one where it is no surprise that grapes thrive, for the vast mile stretch of the Central Valley through Sacramento, Fresno and Bakersfield close to LA, is one of the most fertile places on Earth. This is the garden of California, a vast patchwork of farms that produces everything from apricots and alfalfa to almonds and asparagus. In the latter, head for the emerging Clarksburg AVA for some fine chenin blanc and petite sirah. In Lodi, which is also becoming increasingly known for quality rather than quantity, cabernet and zinfandel predominate. The Sierra Foothills Visitors travelling between San Francisco and LA are torn between the coastal route and an inland itinerary that allows them to see Yosemite and the other national parks nps. Wine enthusiasts will face the same dilemma, but if mountain scenery is your preference you can take a superb interior route from San Francisco via Sacramento in the Central Valley see left to scenic Lake Tahoe visitinglaketahoe. Make time to visit Lake Tahoe Photo: Soils are thin in the Sierra Foothills, which suits zinfandel, the traditional grape of the region, which has been grown here since the gold rush days of the midth century. The gateway wine region for Yosemite is Madera County, shared with the Inland Valleys region, which is known for its dessert and port-style wines. The best way to get to grips with the area is by following some or all of the Madera Wine Trail maderawinetrail. If you have been visiting San Francisco, the chances are you will have headed north for wine, but on leaving the city southbound do not overlook the Santa Cruz mountains, full of intimate wineries scmwa. But if you want some miles under your belt, aim for Monterey County montereywines. Some 30 miles to the north-east is Paso Robles pasowine. The Santa Cruz Mountains at sunset Photo: This was the region immortalised in the wine road movie Sideways, and it is easy to visit the wineries and other locations featured in the film: Great places for sampling here are Municipal Winemakers municipalwinemakers. With parts of the Central Coast, this is the area you will be exploring if you are visiting Los Angeles or San Diego in the more arid coastal and desert-tinged fringes of the state down to the Mexican border. Even Malibu has wineries Photo: AP A road trip farther afield might take you to the fast-emerging Temecula Valley temeculawines. Farther south still is San Diego County sandiegowineries. Save money by researching your itinerary and hiring a driver or guide. Many US companies will package short wine breaks you might incorporate into a longer trip. Consult online listings for year-round

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tastings, tours, courses and other events. January is California Restaurant Month dineinca. Also invaluable are calwineries.

### Chapter 2 : Temecula Wine Tasting - Deals in Temecula, CA | Groupon

*California has thousands of winery tasting rooms, but the 75 here offer new and unforgettable experiences. They're pairing wines with smoked trout, tacos or local cheeses; putting guests in the.*

You can find them along the coast, tucked into the fertile North County farmland, up in the mountains, amidst the rugged terrain of East County—even in many urban and commercial neighborhoods. Most are small, family owned, and offer tastings and tours by friendly proprietors eager to tell visitors all about the hard work and artistry that goes into making wine. Here are a few of the San Diego wineries and tasting rooms that are definitely worth a visit. Guests can explore the sprawling property home to 2, vines, browse more than a dozen shops on site and visit the tasting room where there is a wide variety of gift items and more than 30 local wines available to try. The tasting room opens daily at

**Forgotten Barrel Winery** Where: Forgotten Barrel restored this historic venue and now offers award winning wine from both San Diego county and features wines from our Napa winery. They are open Friday from 3: They have live music in their courtyard every Saturday from 2: Come enjoy this hidden gem in North County. Gianni Buonomo Vintners Where: Charlie and Jess Koehler—the youngest vintners and winery owners in Ramona—produce a well-rounded collection of reds, whites and dessert wines. The tasting room is open from 3: Their tasting room is open from

**Jack Simon Vineyards** Where: They have expanded to fifteen different varietals grown on a 10 acre property while practicing minimalist and sustainable farming. With more than 10, vines in the ground, Milagro produces just a few thousand wonderful cases of estate-grown wine per year, including reds, whites and even the uncommon Aleatico. The tasting room is open every weekend for wine tasting and to view the winemaking process. They source their grapes from vineyards in Northern California but the fruit is crushed, pressed, fermented, barreled, aged and bottled right there on site in San Diego. The winery and tasting room are open daily from

The property, which has been family owned since it was established in, still retains its "Old West" ambiance and even features an old horse-drawn carriage. Vineyard tours and tastings are offered on weekends.

**Hawk Watch Winery** Where: The entire winemaking process—from crushing the freshly picked grapes to bottling the finished wine—is done on-premises. Sample wines in their tiny tasting room or take your glass outside to sit and enjoy sweeping mountain vistas. Tastings are offered on Fridays between noon and 5: Nestled in the picturesque San Pasqual Valley on the Escondido city line, this winery produces a rich variety of high-quality wines, including award-winning Rhone-style reds and luscious Pinot Noirs a few recently received scores in the 90s from Wine Enthusiast. A large tasting room and a beautiful sprawling patio with views of the mountains and the acre property make Orfila an especially enticing location. Free minute tours that explain the process of winemaking from vineyard to cellar are offered daily at noon. Their La Mesa tasting room opens at noon daily until 8: Shadow Mountain Vineyards Where: The winery specializes in limited production white and red table wines grown from the grapes on the estate, as well as numerous sparkling wines and dessert wines. The tasting room is open Wednesday through Sunday from

**Volcan Mountain Winery** Where: This small family-run operation is now headed up by Jim Hart, a veteran winemaker whose family has a long history in developing both the Temecula and San Diego wine regions. Hart produces a nice variety of reds and whites the Syrah is a standout at this property, which is one of the highest vineyards in the state at 4, feet above sea level. Witch Creek Winery Where: It produces mostly red wines using grapes from other regions, and bottles them at their location in Carlsbad. The Carlsbad tasting room opens at

The Julian tasting room is open daily with varying hours. Winery Tasting Room Map Find a place to stay Book online or call to speak with a local expert.

## Chapter 3 : Napa Valley Wineries | Wine Tastings, Tours & Winery Map

*Napa Valley Wineries There's a reason Napa Valley is known the world over. Stunning natural beauty aside, this California winery region produces some of the world's best wines.*

Join us for a journey to the North Pole on a special mission to help Jolly the Bear. Treat the little ones to a truly magical, musical, and memorable family Christmas adventure! Helena and back, stopping at celebrated wineries along the way. A lush, mesmerizing landscape. A divine four-course meal. Exclusive insider winery tours. An intimate shared experience. This is just a delectable taste of what you can anticipate during our Meet the Maker Private Reserve Winemaker Dinners. Choose Your Dinner Onboard Cuisine Fresh local produce, sometimes even brought by farmers to the back door. Ecologically safe and sustainable seafood. Seasonal menus prepared in small kitchens that are constantly moving. The Wine Train is not simply a tour that offers food. It just happens to roll its way through the spectacular Napa Valley while you savor it. Get on board with celebrating holidays like never before or make an ordinary day extraordinary with a little mystery or romance. Background Image Murder Mystery Like your dinner with a side of excitement? Dress in your finest period costume for an evening filled with drama, intrigue, and mystery. And three gourmet courses of fine California cuisine. Same elegant Wine Train journey. But come prepared to play the part and solve the murder. Part distinctive Napa Valley fine dining restaurant. With its Honduran mahogany paneling, brass accents, etched glass partitions, and plush armchairs, the Wine Train also evokes the elegant glory days of luxury train travel of the early s. You get to sit back, relax, and savor every delicious bite, every bit of extraordinary scenery, every taste and tour. There are lots of ways to explore Napa Valley. This one is an experience you will never forget. Have you traveled with us recently?

## Chapter 4 : Wine Country | Explore Wine Country Online

*In gleaning this list of the 25 Best Wineries in California from our larger list, we didn't have to go very far: 25 of the top 30 producers were Californian. Of those, 14 call the Napa Valley home. The state's Central Coast, from Santa Cruz south to Santa Barbara, accounts for another seven.*

## Chapter 5 : Explore Napa Valley by Train | Wine Train

*Now, an explosion of wineries, wine tours, tasting rooms, and restaurants specializing in wine country cuisine has added a jolt of grape-fueled energy to the Sierra foothills, where more than wineries now produce a wide range of varieties, most notably Zinfandel, but also an intriguing variety of other varieties.*

## Chapter 6 : California Wine Tasting Tours, Wineries, Restaurants & Cocktail Bars

*With influences from California and Europe, the interior, both opulent and timeless, reflects the best of both styles. The higher than usual tasting fee reflects the historical pricing of the wine, which in , sold for \$24, per case.*

## Chapter 7 : California wine guide: the best vineyards and tours - Telegraph

*California wine tasting tours are one of the top adult attractions. Popularized in a movie, Sideways, the wine tasting experience is enjoyed not only on California's Central Coast, but in Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino wine country.*

## Chapter 8 : The 25 Best Wineries in California

*Zoom and drag the map to explore California's wine regions and AVAs.*

Chapter 9 : Wine Tasting in San Diego, CA

*Looking for a great wine California wine tasting experience, but not sure where to go? We'll help you find the best wineries, wine bars and winery events in the well known California wine regions such as Napa Valley, Sonoma County and Paso Robles as well as in the lesser known regions.*