



California Wine Travel Vacations

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California beckons wine-loving vacationers.

Overview

From the grand chateaus of Napa Valley to the vast wine cellars of award-winning restaurants in Southern California, the Golden State offers golden opportunities for an idyllic wine-lovers' vacation. Throughout the state, visitors will discover a bounty of destinations, ranging from events, including the Annual Pebble Beach Food & Wine celebration, to private tours and tastings

at family run wineries in diverse locations, such as Lodi, San Luis Obispo and Mendocino.

Laguna Beach

In Southern California, Laguna Beach provides an unexpected getaway for wine lovers. Featuring home-crafted wines created from Napa Valley grapes, the Laguna Canyon Winery (lagunacanyonwinery.com) welcomes visitors Tuesday through Sunday to its tasting cellar. A cooking school that includes a gourmet retail shop and cafe, Laguna Culinary Arts presents 350 premium wines and 90 different cheeses from around the world, as well as regularly scheduled tastings and special events. Fine dining in Laguna Beach includes Claes Restaurant, with more than 900 wines on its menu, as well as the Studio Restaurant at the Montage, offering more than 1,800 selections of wines from around the world. Book a stay at any number of oceanfront hotels, including the Surf & Sand Resort and Spa (surfandsandresort.com), winner of the 2007 Wine Spectator Award of Excellence.

Healdsburg

Surrounded by some of California's finest wine regions, including Alexander Valley and Chalk Hill, Healdsburg presents a relaxing vacation destination highlighted by a charming downtown area, plentiful hiking and biking destinations and abundant wineries. Stop by Alderbrook Winery in Healdsburg, featuring daily tastings and tours. With a 14,000-square-foot cave, Alexander Valley Vineyards (avwine.com) offers tours, by appointment, of its historic property, founded in the mid-1800s. Gourmet dining in Healdsburg includes Dry Creek Kitchen (charliepalmer.com), showcasing more than 600 Sonoma region labels.

Santa Barbara

Made famous by the Academy Award-winning film "Sideways," the wine country of Santa Barbara offers visitors an abundant roster of wineries and wine-tasting itineraries. Overlooking the Santa Ynez River, Sunstone Winery and Vineyards (sunstonewinery.com) offers a premier collection of organic wines and daily tastings. Open daily, Kalyra Winery (kalyrawinery.com) showcases blends of California and Australian varietals. Spanning the towns of Solvang, Los Olivos, Santa Ynez and Ballard, Santa Barbara's Wine Country offers an array of accommodations highlighted by the Santa Ynez Inn (santaynezinn.com) with in-room fireplaces, steam showers and spa services. Wine-infused specialties are served at the Vineyard House Restaurant (thevineyardhouse.com) in Santa Ynez.