



Photo courtesy of MacRostie Winery

# 12 Sonoma County Wineries with Beautiful Views

BY DAISY BARRINGER

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It's just a fact that vino tastes even better when accompanied by views, and while there's not a winery in Sonoma County that doesn't offer something beautiful or interesting to look at, there are a few that take stunning views to new heights. Whether it's rolling hills, a patchwork of vineyards, dramatic mountain backdrops, or gorgeous gardens, these wineries are amongst some of the most beautiful you'll find in Wine Country.

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Photo courtesy of Coursey Graves

## Coursey Graves

If you're on the hunt for Sonoma's most beautiful views, how can you resist a winery that boasts a garden modeled after Monet's? Coursey Graves' striking resemblance to Monet's Gardens in Giverny isn't an accident. This Bennett Mountain winery is inspired by France, and you might be inspired to make your own trip too, after sampling their delicious array of Bordeaux-style wines. During Coursey Graves' Signature Tasting, you'll sip their stunning Sonoma wines surrounded by beautiful scenery. What could be better?

**Insider Tip:** If you want these jaw-dropping landscapes all to yourself, join the Coursey Graves Wine Club. You'll get exclusive access to their members-only lookout deck, an invite to exclusive winery events, and—the best part—Coursey Graves wine shipped straight to your front door.

**Visit:** 6860 Serenity Way , Santa Rosa, CA 9540 4

**Contact:** (707) 867-1888



Photo courtesy of MacRostie Winery

## MacRostie Winery

Noted for producing Sonoma wines that embody elegance and finesse, MacRostie Winery isn't just about great wine—the stunning tasting room is a marvel in its own right. From the tastefully decorated, contemporary space, floor-to-ceiling windows frame expansive views of the surrounding vineyards... and what's not to love about wine with a view?

**Insider Tip:** Though the winery is most known for its Chardonnay and Pinot Noir wines from different sites throughout Sonoma County, MacRostie makes a small amount of red wines from Napa Valley grapes, like the popular Clockwise Red Blend, which is, quite frankly, a wise buy.

**Visit:** 4605 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448

**Contact:** (707) 473-9303



Photo courtesy of Gloria Ferrer

## Gloria Ferrer

Just a hop, skip, and a jump from the bustling streets of San Francisco lies a sparkling gem: Gloria Ferrer, located right at the gateway of Sonoma County in the Carneros AVA . Besides the array of expertly crafted sparkling wine, you can expect culinary pairings that will make your taste buds dance, not to mention beautiful vistas from the serene tasting terrace (aptly named the Vista Terrace). While the views are certainly photo worthy, the best way to experience the picturesque surroundings is to book the Vineyard Excursion, which will have you venturing through the pristine vineyard from the comfort of the club cart.

**Insider Tip:** If you're a serious bubbly fan, head out on the Reserve Expedition, which will take you on a delightful tasting journey through several vintage Gloria Ferrer wines, including extended tirage library offerings that showcase the complexity of aged bubbly.

**Visit:** 23555 Arnold Drive, Sonoma, CA 95476

**Contact:** (707) 933-1986



Photo courtesy of Chalk Hill Estate

## Chalk Hill

When founder Fred Furth first saw the rolling hills and distinct terrain that would eventually become Chalk Hill, he knew it would be great for growing grapes. Decades later, this sprawling estate with over 1,000 acres of both forest and vineyards is a testament to his eye. Choose the Vineyard Overlook Experience to laze away the day on the sunny terrace with a glass of Chalk Hill's flagship Chardonnay. You'll sample four wines in total, each a different expression of Chalk Hill's unique terroir, alongside vineyard views that stretch to the horizon.

**Insider Tip:** Interested in truly exploring the property and its unique collection of microclimates? Book the Estate & Garden Hummer Tour & Tasting, where you'll be treated to panoramic views of the Chalk Hill AVA and an exclusive look at the estate's culinary gardens while venturing around the property in a hummer.

**Visit:** 10300 Chalk Hill Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448

**Contact:** (707) 657-1809



Photo courtesy of Twomey Cellars

## Twomey Cellars

Tucked along Westside Road in the Russian River Valley, Twomey Cellars brings sleek sophistication and small-lot winemaking to one of the prettiest stretches in Sonoma. Known for their expressive Pinot Noir and cool-climate Sauvignon Blanc, this modern, light-filled tasting room opens up to stunning views of vineyards for miles. Whether you're sipping outside on the terrace or inside the airy tasting room, there's no wrong way to soak it all in—just bring your curiosity and a love for Pinot.

**Insider Tip:** If you're a fan of comparative tastings, ask about Twomey's single-vineyard lineup. You'll taste just how wildly different Pinot Noir can be from one site to the next—same grape, totally different vibe.

**Visit:** 3000 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448

**Contact:** (707) 942-2489



Photo courtesy of Jordan Winery

## Jordan Vineyard & Winery

Jordan's Estate Tour & Tasting is one of the most spectacular experiences available in Sonoma County and includes some of the best views to boot. You'll begin at the ivy-covered chateau, which in and of itself is an impressive sight, before boarding a luxury coach that will drive you around the 1,200-acre Alexander Valley estate to visit gardens, lakes, and vineyards. Then, you'll stop at a hilltop where you'll taste Jordan's French-inspired Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as estate extra virgin olive oil and an array of food pairings, all while enjoying panoramic views of vineyards, the Mayacamas Mountains, the Russian River, and Mount St. Helena.

**Insider Tip:** It's worth it to join Jordan's reward s program, which, with every Insider Tip: It's worth it to join Jordan's reward s program, which, with everydollar spent, earns you points to redeem towards intimate tastings, dinner parties, and even overnight stays in the opulent guest accommodations.

**Visit:** 1474 Alexander Valley Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448

**Contact:** (707) 431-5250



Photo courtesy of St. Francis Winery and Vineyards

## St. Francis Winery & Vineyards

St. Francis Winery & Vineyard's Tuscan-inspired estate is bordered by the Mayacamas Mountains with gorgeous views of Sonoma Valley and Hood Mountain. Take the one and a half mile self-guided "Vineyard Adventure" tour that winds throughout the property and is marked with educational signs that explain the wine, the terroir, and the sustainable farming practices (and enjoy the many great photo ops). After, spring for either the Estate Pairings or an Artisan Flight Wine Tasting, since both of those take place on the patio with vineyard and mountain views.

**Insider Tip:** The Estate Dining Room not only offers remarkable views, but also one of the best wine and food pairings in Sonoma. Hello, five courses of delectable food with wine! Visiting during the summer is a treat, but if you find yourself here in the winter, reserve the latest Wine & Food Pairing seating so you can catch the sunset at the end of your meal.

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**Visit:** 100 Pythian Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

**Contact:** (707) 833-0242



Photo courtesy of DeLoach Vineyards

## DeLoach Vineyards

DeLoach Vineyards is a feast for the senses. Known for their dedication to biodynamic and organic farming, this charming estate is surrounded by lush culinary and flower gardens and rows of Pinot Noir. The tasting room blends rustic elegance with French-inspired touches, but it's the peaceful outdoor garden tastings that steal the show. From the beautiful setting to the thoughtfully crafted wines, every detail here feels intentional.

**Insider Tip:** Don't miss the Theater of Nature—DeLoach's self-guided garden tour that highlights their sustainable farming philosophy. It's part education, part meditation, and 100% worth the stroll.

**Visit:** 1791 Olivet Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Contact:** (707) 755-3300

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Photo Courtesy of Chateau St. Jean

## Chateau St. Jean

Chateau St. Jean has everything you could possibly want if what you want is beautiful surroundings. There's the elegant 1920s chateau, which was originally built as a summer home for a family from Michigan. If you want to experience the two-story historic home, you'll need to partake in one of the reserve wine tastings (or get married there). Outside of the stunning chateau, you'll find vineyard views with a mountain backdrop and rustic Mediterranean-style gardens. The garden, bound by tightly clipped hedges, has water features, alcoves with benches and tables, and gorgeous blooms.

**Insider Tip:** Join the wine club for access to a members-only patio with vineyard views and exclusive tastings, or for another unique experience, book the "Dejeuner au Chateau" estate lunch. You'll be treated to a picnic lunch,

**Visit:** 8555 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452

**Contact:** (707) 257-5784



Photo courtesy of Ferrari-Carano

## Ferrari-Carano Vineyards & Winery

Looking for a Tuscan-inspired escape, but don't want to pay for the plane ticket to Italy? Head to Ferrari-Carano, one of the most magical wineries in Sonoma, known for its full-bodied Chardonnay and its delicate Fumé Blanc. The Dry Creek Valley estate has amazing vineyard views, which are best enjoyed during a tasting on the Il Terrazzo Terrace just steps away from where the grapes are grown, but the true magic unfolds during a stroll through the five acres of enchanting gardens. It's there you'll find meandering paths that cross footbridges across flowing streams, waterfalls that flow into fish-filled ponds, bronze sculptures from world-renowned artists such as Dennis Smith and Jane DeDecker, and over 2,000 species of trees and shrubs (all marked so you can learn about them as you go).

**Insider Tip:** It's beautiful there all times of year, but it's most stunning in the spring when over 10,000 tulips and daffodils are in bloom.

**Visit:** 8761 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448

**Contact:** (707) 433-6700



Photo courtesy of Gary Farrell Vineyards

## **Gary Farrell Winery and Tasting Room**

Thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows and comfortable seating, there's not a bad seat inside of Gary Farrell's contemporary tasting room that sits atop a ridge overlooking the Russian River Valley. If you really want to soak in the sweeping views of the vineyards and redwoods, though, the place to be is on the outdoor terrace. There, you can relax on oversized couches while you sip wine and realize whatever stresses you had were left somewhere on the steep driveway as you arrived. We recommend leaving them there on your way back out.

**Insider Tip:** Gary Farrell was a pioneer in Russian River Valley Pinot Noir and helped bring it to the world stage. Don't leave the vineyard without buying a bottle (or case) of the richly textured and elegant wine that put this vineyard on the map. And, if you're passionate about Sonoma Pinot Noir, consider the Exploration Tour & Tasting where you'll have the chance to sample some of their exquisite Pinot Noirs, alongside other single vineyard wines.

**Visit:** 10701 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448

**Contact:** (707) 473-2909



Photo courtesy of Kunde Family Winery

## Kunde Family Winery

If you want to truly experience the incredible views of Sonoma Valley at Kunde Family Winery, you will need to make a reservation for the Mountain Top Tasting, a two-hour journey that begins in a private cave and is followed by a tour of the estate in a luxury coach. The experience culminates with a stop at the tasting deck, set at 1,400 feet, where you'll be able to see views of Sonoma stretching towards San Francisco, as well as rolling hills and the surrounding vineyards, all under the shade of oak trees. Keep in mind that this particular tasting experience is only available May through November.

**Insider Tip:** Kunde offers several hikes throughout the year, including a dog hike where you and your pup will walk from the valley floor up into the Mayacamas Mountain range before enjoying a wine tasting and lunch.

**Visit:** 98 25 Sonoma Hig hway, Kenwood, C 9 5452

**Contact:** (707) 833-5501

### **About Daisy Barringer**

Daisy Barringer is a freelance writer who grew up in San Francisco and now lives there with her 150-pound Saint Bernard, Monkey. When she's not writing about food and drink, travel, and other ways to have the most fun, she's out and about actually having the most fun (otherwise known as "research"). Follow her adventures on Instagram [@daisysf](https://www.instagram.com/daisysf).

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