

A guide to Sonoma wine tasting rooms

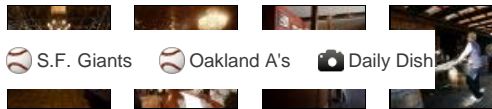
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1 of 4 PREVIOUS NEXT



The tasting room at Buena Vista Winery, the state's oldest commercial winery, is housed in an old press room that dates back to 1862. Photo: Lindsay Baum / SF



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From historic wineries that have stood the test of time to those that have maintained the region's pastoral vibe, Sonoma is rich with classic Wine Country charm. Here's a sampling of winery tasting rooms that never go out of style.

Buena Vista Winery

At California's oldest commercial winery, located in

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the Carneros region, you'll find a hefty dose of history. Recent renovation to the winery, which has changed hands numerous times since Agoston Haraszthy founded it in 1857, has given the property a face-lift. In the tasting room, housed in the 1862 press room, taste five wines for \$10. Other tours and tastings are available by reservation.

18000 Old Winery Rd., Sonoma; (800) 926-1266. buenavistawinery.com. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Chateau St. Jean

Built in 1920 as the summer home for a wealthy Michigan family, the expansive Kenwood property was converted into a winery in 1973. With its focus on single-vineyard designate wines, along with the stunning Mediterranean-inspired mansion and formal gardens, Chateau St. Jean offers one of region's most sumptuous tasting experiences. The winery features two tasting rooms: In the visitor center, sip five single-vineyard wines for \$15; tasting in the chateau will set you back \$25 for five reserve and limited-release wines. Private tastings and tours are available by appointment. No outside food or wine is allowed, but grab some picnic fixings from the winery's charcuterie and take advantage of the property's patios and expansive lawns.

8555 Sonoma Hwy., Kenwood; (707) 833-4134. chateaustjean.com. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.

Dry Creek Vineyard

This 40-year-old family-run winery is full of notable "firsts." It was the first post-Prohibition winery built in Dry Creek Valley and its 1983 Zinfandel was the first to display the Dry Creek Valley appellation on its label. Tasting-wise, guests are greeted with a splash of Chenin Blanc and can choose from two flights, including four core portfolio wines for \$5 and a \$10 tasting of four single-vineyard selections. Tours and additional tastings are available by reservation. Lush picnic grounds also beckon.

3770 Lambert Bridge Rd., Healdsburg; (800) 864-9463. drycreekvineyards.com. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.

Foppiano Vineyards

Established in 1896 by Italian immigrant [Giovanni Foppiano](#), this spot bills itself as one of Sonoma's oldest continually operated family-owned wineries. The winery was also one of the founding members of the Russian River Valley appellation. While family patriarch [Louis J. Foppiano](#) (Giovanni's grandson) died this year at the age of 101, the fourth and fifth generations of Foppianos continue to tend to the vines. At the tasting room, \$5 will get you a taste of six wines, including its flagship Petite Sirah.

12707 Old Redwood Hwy., Healdsburg; (707) 433-7272. foppiano.com. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.



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Gundlach Bundschu

At more than 150 years of age, Gun Bun, as it's nicknamed, is California's oldest family-owned winery. Today, the fifth and sixth generations of the Bundschu family, along with winemaker **Keith Emerson**, oversee production of their diverse portfolio of small-lot wines. Choose six wines for \$10. Additional tours and tastings, including a vineyard excursion tour, are available by appointment.

2000 Denmark St., Sonoma; (707) 938-5277. gunbun.com. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.

Iron Horse Vineyards

Siblings Joy and **Laurence Sterling**, whose parents, Barry and **Audrey Sterling**, founded the winery in 1979, oversee operations at this charmer of a winery in Green Valley, a subregion of the Russian River Valley. The winery's Sonoma bubbles have been served in the White House for the past five administrations. At the winery's alfresco tasting "room," which offers sweeping vistas of the area, sample five to six wines for \$15. A reserve tasting of five to six wines is \$20. Tours are also available by appointment.

9786 Ross Station Rd., Sebastopol; (707) 887-1507. ironhorsevineyards.com. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.

Joseph Swan Vineyards

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