

Bohemian.com

News, music, movies, restaurants & wine culture in Sonoma, Marin and Napa counties

Log in / Create Account

NEWS & FEATURES MUSIC, ARTS & FOOD & DRINK COLUMNS & BLOGS DEALS & GIVEAWAYS

Food & Drink » Swirl

December 18, 2013

f [bird icon] [RSS icon] **SUBSCRIBE**

Like Tweet PinIt Share Add to favorites

Toasty Tastings

Cozy bodegas for winter winetasting

BY JAMES KNIGHT



click to enlarge

Never mind that a wine cave has a comparatively comfy ambient temperature compared to the chilly outdoors. We'd like to warm our hands by a nice, crackling fire when we venture out for holiday winetasting in Sonoma and Napa counties, please, Spare the Air day or not! That's no problem at Fritz Underground Winery, because the wood stove in the corner is the only form of heat—besides warming sips of

EMAIL PRINT ADD TO FAVORITES COMMENTS

brambleberry-fruited Zinfandel. 24691 Dutcher Creek Road, Cloverdale. Daily, 10:30am–4:30pm. \$10–\$15 fee. 707.894.3389.

Fires both inside and out flare up with a flick of the switch at Dutcher Crossing Winery—gas-fueled, they can be depended upon during any cold snap. The wide variety of wines is dependably good, too. 8533 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg. Daily, 11am–5pm. Tasting fee \$5; \$10 option weekends. 866.431.2711.

Looming like some northern fishing lodge in the mist, Lambert Bridge Winery would just have to sport a grand old hearth stocked with hours' worth of firewood. And so it does, except on Spare the Air days, when a heater fills in. The glow of chandeliers in the redwood cellar creates a scene of rustic warmth, in any case. Suave Sauvignon Blanc, Zinfandel, Cabernet Franc. 4085 West Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg. Daily, 10:30am–4:30pm. Tasting fee \$15–\$25. 707.431.9600.

Bless humble Mill Creek Vineyards, where all the wines are above average. A wood-burning stove makes the tasting room a toasty spot to sip award-winning Gewürztraminer, and they are technically allowed to use it on Spare the Air days but often choose not to "flaunt that." 1401 Westside Road, Healdsburg. Daily, 10am–5pm. Tasting fee, \$5–\$10. 707.431.2121.

With free sparkling winetasting, it's Christmas every day at Korbel Champagne Cellars. During the holiday season, there's also a tree with all the trimmings, and a gas fire going, too. 13250 River Road, Guerneville. Daily, 10am–4:30pm; tours, 11am–3pm. 707.824.7317.



FIND IT

EVENTS MUSIC DINING

RESTAURANTS

-All Counties-

BIG COOKBOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

true food

SEASONAL, SIMPLE, & DELICIOUS

ANDREW WEIL MD.

with SAM FOX and MICHELLE STANG

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT COPPERFIELD'S BOOKS

Stare down a portrait of "the Count" from a comfy chair in front of the mantel at Buena Vista Winery. For those who like historical restorations, now is a great time to revisit

this place, filled with artifacts and lore. Watch for the crocodile. 18000 Old Winery Road, Sonoma. Daily, 10am–5pm. Tasting fee, \$10; Saturday tour, \$20. 800.926.1266.

Gas hearths blaze away at mid-day at small plate mecca Ram's Gate Winery, 28700 Arnold Drive, Sonoma. Thursday–Monday, 10am–6pm. \$15–\$20. 707.721.8700.

At bubble palace Domaine Carneros, the wood-burning fire is for members, only; all others may enjoy toasted almonds and Le Rêve Blanc de Blancs in the gassy way. 1240 Duhig Road, Napa. Tastings \$20-30. Daily, 10am–5:45pm. 800.716.2788.

[More Swirl »](#)

Tags: [Swirl](#)

Like Share You and 5 others like this. 5 people like this. Be the first of your

2

Twitter Digg Submit

COMMENTS (0)

Subscribe to this thread: [By Email](#) [With RSS](#)

Subscribe to this thread [Share this comment on Facebook](#)

LATEST IN SWIRL

[Donelan Family Wines](#)
Cult Syrah cellar opens doors, warms up to Pinot
by James Knight

[Rincon Valley Wine & Craft Beer](#)
Try before you buy beer from around the world
by James Knight

[Walter Hansel Winery](#)
Driven family opens bistro in former Zazu spot
by James Knight

[More »](#)

MORE BY JAMES KNIGHT

[France vs. Cal](#)
Champagne meets sparkling wine in a bubbly battle to the death—or, at least, to the new year!
by James Knight

[Donelan Family Wines](#)
Cult Syrah cellar opens doors, warms up to Pinot
by James Knight

[More »](#)

SHOP DOWNTOWN PETALUMA FOR THE HOLIDAYS

From Petaluma With Love

Shop Local for the Holidays

- Great Gift Shopping
- Wine Tasting
- FREE Parking
- Fine Art Galleries
- Unique Boutiques
- Stores Open late Thurs & Fri
- Live Music
- Antiques Galore

PETALUMA DOWNTOWN Click for Info on Holiday events!

BOHO BEAT

DEC. 21: VOLKER STRIFLER AND RON THOMPSON AT RANCHO NICASIO

By Leilani Clark

DEC. 20: ROBERTA DONNAY AND THE PROHIBITION MOB TRIO

By Leilani Clark

DEC. 20: MELVIN SEALS AND THE JGB AT HOPMONK TAVERN

By Leilani Clark

[More »](#)

CitySound Inertia

Review: Beyoncé (2013)

PHOTOS: Not So Silent Night (Vampire Weekend, Arcade Fire, Kings of Leon and more) - Oracle Arena

Live Review: Barrington Levy in Petaluma

FACEBOOK ACTIVITY

[Deep Listening](#)
46 people recommend this.

[Blood Lines](#)
55 people recommend this.

[Novato's Newest](#)
18 people recommend this.

[The Beatles x 100](#)
37 people recommend this.

[Burn Notice](#)
36 people recommend this.

Nov. 9: Andrew Jackson Jihad at the Phoenix