

CONCIERGE Q & A: *What are your personal favorites?***Eric Edenfield**

CHIEF CONCIERGE, KENWOOD INN AND SPA
Member, Les Clefs d'Or, USA

WCTW: *What's the best wine country picnic spot?*

EE: Sonoma has an abundance of superb picnic-friendly wineries. One of my favorites is **Hop Kiln Winery**. Their grounds offer numerous tables placed around decorative ponds set in a breathtakingly beautiful garden. Their helpful staff can help with serving utensils as well as a nice array of food items.

WCTW: *Which winery has the best wine-related gifts for shopping?*

EE: Matanzas Creek is not only a beautiful winery, but it is also very well-known for growing lavender. Their gift area is filled with a wide array of wine-related products but moreover products using their lavender.

WCTW: *Where do you send guests that want to learn about wine?*

EE: If a guest has never taken a winery tour before, I love to send them to **Benziger**, as I feel their tramway tour through the property is the best in all of wine country to illustrate the making of wine from grape to glass. However, if one of my guests is truly looking to educate themselves on all areas of wine, I love to send them to **Kendall-Jackson Wine Center**. From production to taking a walk in their sensory gardens to experience firsthand what really goes into wine pairings and blending, KJ does it like no other and should not be missed.

WCTW: *Where is your favorite place to visit and taste organic wines?*

EE: Deerfield Ranch Winery is not only certified organic, they also produce "Clean Wine" which is a term used to signify the lowest level of histamines possible. No more red wine headaches! Their cave tasting room is a cozy place to sample wines, not to mention pet friendly as well.

**Laura Rickard**

CONCIERGE
NAPA VALLEY MARRIOTT HOTEL & SPA

WCTW: *What's your favorite overall varietal and where do you like to go to taste it?*

LR: I'm a sucker for an old standard – Chardonnay with nice oak and creamy overtones. **Rombauer** has a wonderful bottle that hits home with me. But lately, I've found myself with a bit of a purple tongue – the sign of a good Petite Syrah, like those of **David Fulton Winery**.

WCTW: *Which winery has your favorite cave tour?*

LR: Palmaz! This family-friendly wine cave is 18 stories high with technology like no other! Your visit will be a private experience where they will dazzle you with excellent wine, beautiful views and an amazing food and wine pairing!

WCTW: *Tell us the best wineries to bring pets.*

LR: Lots of places love animals, but these are just a few places who have the grounds your pet will enjoy the most: **Alpha Omega**, **Casa Nuestra**, **Titus Vineyards** and **Jericho Canyon**, among others. Always check ahead for available appointments. The ideal doggie experience is at **Raymond Vineyards**, though. They have created **Frenchie Winery**, Napa Valley's first dog winery! You can watch your pet enjoy an outdoor dog suite from the "Frenchie Cam" while tasting Raymond's wonderful Biodynamic wines!

WCTW: *Where would you take friends to learn about/taste organic wines?*

LR: Frog's Leap, hands down. The relaxed atmosphere and natural setting just enhance their unique approach to winemaking.

WCTW: *What area would you recommend that is not part of the popular wine country?*

LR: Howell Mountain. Excellent, big Cabernets – intimate experiences – breathtaking views (some of my favorites are **Cade**, **Cimarossa** & **Viader**).

**Jose Lopez**

CHIEF CONCIERGE
PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO
Member, Les Clefs d'Or, USA

WCTW: *If you were to visit just one winery, which would you choose and why?*

JL: It's difficult to answer this question because there are so many amazing wineries, but if I had to choose one winery it would have to be **Dariouh**. From the moment you enter the gate, you are transported into an amazing experience: the impressive architecture, world-class wines and the impeccable service.

WCTW: *Which winery has your favorite cave tour?*

JL: Schramsberg

WCTW: *What's your favorite overall varietal and where do you like to go to taste it?*

JL: My ultimate varietal would be Pinot Noir and I would either go to **Artesa** or **Domaine Carneros**.

WCTW: *Where do you send guests that want to learn about wine?*

JL: I think **Robert Mondavi** has one of the best educational programs.

WCTW: *Where would you take friends to learn about/taste organic wines?*

JL: Frog's Leap

WCTW: *What areas and/or wineries would you recommend that are not part of the popular wine country?*

JL: The Russian River Valley

WCTW: *Tell us the best wineries to bring pets.*

JL: Landmark, Artesa and Chateau Montelena

WCTW: *Which winery has your favorite cave/cellar tour?*

JL: Schramsberg

WCTW: *What's the best wine country picnic spot?*

JL: Pride Mountain Vineyards

Remember: Please sip responsibly! Plan to taste at no more than three wineries based on these recommendations.