

The best Sonoma wineries

Sip and swirl your way through the best Sonoma wineries on your next visit to beautiful wine country

By Erin Kushner and Kate Wertheimer

Posted: Thursday July 14 2016

Sonoma County's sprawling landscape can seem like it goes on forever. At three times the size of Napa County, the town you choose to stay in can have a huge impact on your wine itinerary—check into a [Downtown Sonoma hotel](#), for example, and you might miss out on Healdsburg wineries. Fortunately, there are fantastic vineyards in every corner of the county (and they're often less touristy than [Napa's wineries](#)). We did some sipping—in between bites at some of [Sonoma's best restaurants](#)—and narrowed down our favorite wineries in the region.



TIME OUT SAYS

Staying near Sonoma's historic square? Start your wine country exploration at Buena Vista Winery, a quirky winery with some serious Old World charm. Founded in 1857, Buena Vista has been dubbed a California Historic Landmark, serving not only as a winery that offers a range of varietals but also as a cultural must-see. That's not to say Buena Vista is stuffy—visitors can take advantage of its eccentric side, like a guided light show and tasting led by the "Count of Buena Vista," or a Winemaker for a Day class where you get to dress up like a Count or Countess. A barrel tour and tasting guides guests through the winery's beautiful grounds and Champagne cellar before ending with samples drawn directly from a barrel.

How to visit: Buena Vista Winery is open seven days a week from 10am to 5pm. Wine tastings in the Press House Tasting Room cost \$15. No reservations required.

In short: Historic; quirky; centrally located