



Wine Country



Listen to Your Glass

The historic caves of California's oldest winery are the setting for this elevated Wine Country event. Buena Vista Winery's "Wine and Music Wine Tasting Experience" (Oc. 28-30) features four to five fine wines from Napa and Sonoma paired with live music for a unique sensory experience. Local duo "Steel and Ivory" will play compositions by Mozart, Vivaldi, Chopin and Beethoven, enhanced by the fantastic acoustics of Buena Vista's historic caves. Reservations for each 90-minute experience require a minimum of four guests and a maximum of eight. \$75-\$125 per person. 18000 Old Winery Rd., Sonoma, 800.325.2764, buenavistawinery.com

Wineries

ARROWOOD VINEYARDS & WINERY—Award-winning wines here include Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon. The tasting room is located in a charming New England-style farmhouse. Tours by appointment. www.arrowoodvineyards.com. 14347 Sonoma Hwy., Glen Ellen, 707.935.2600.

BEAULIEU VINEYARD—This 100-year-old winery is the longest continually operating winery in Napa Valley and is the production site for the flagship Cabernet Sauvignon. Beaulieu was founded on a four-acre ranch by a French winemaker who envisioned a company producing fine wine unparalleled to his native France. Daily tastings feature wines you can't find anywhere else. www.bvwinery.com. 1960 St. Helena Hwy., Rutherford. 707.967.5200.

BERINGER VINEYARDS—Napa Valley's oldest continuously operating winery is also among its most accessible. Beringer is known for its Cabernet Sauvignons and bold, oaky Chardonnays. The large facility includes a gift shop that offers tableware, stemware and kitchen and home accessories. A variety of tours and seminars are available. Daily 10 am–5 pm. www.beringer.com. 2000 Main St., St. Helena, 707.302.7592.

CHARBAY WINERY & DISTILLERY—Named for its first drink—Chardonnay combined with brandy—Charbay now produces much more than just wine and brandy. Discover the artisan world of distilling many spirits like whiskey, vodka and rum from a

family in the distillery business for 13 generations. Taste Charbay's wines and ports, then enjoy a cigar in the rustic setting of Spring Mountain. Tastings open to the public. www.charbay.com. 4001 Spring Mountain Rd., St. Helena, 707.963.9327.

CLIFF LEDE VINEYARDS—Known best for its Poetry Cabernet Sauvignon, this esteemed Stags Leap District winery pours its latest releases in an architecturally stunning craftsman-style tasting room. The appointment-only Estate Tasting includes a guided tour of the property, leading through the vineyards to the state-of-the-art winery. www.cliffledevineyards.com. 1473 Yountville Cross Rd., Yountville, 707.944.8642.

CLOS DU VAL—This winery is known for its Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Its first vintage Cabernet was one of only six California cabs selected for the now-legendary 1976 Paris tasting. Tastings open to the public; tours by appointment. www.closduval.com. 5330 Silverado Trail, Napa, 707.261.5200.

EHLERS ESTATE—Featuring a unique fusion of outstanding wine-growing, environmental consciousness and international philanthropy, this is a California winery through and through. Organic and biodynamic farming techniques are used to produce a small portfolio of estate-grown wines. Tastings by appointment. www.ehlersestate.com. 3222 Ehlers Ln., St. Helena, 707.963.5972.

There's a lot more going on this December. Visit us online: www.wheretraveler.com

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA WINERY—Celebrate all the best things in life at this winery in the heart of picturesque Alexander Valley. Sip from more than 40 wines produced on site and eat authentic, Neapolitan-style pizzas and South American wood-grilled meats at the full-service restaurant Rustic and take a dip in the sparkling swimming pools (open seasonally). www.francisfordcoppolawinery.com. 300 Via Archimedes, Geyserville, 707.857.1471.

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE—Miljenko "Mike" Grgich, whose belongings were appropriated by the Smithsonian, gained international recognition in 1976 when judges at the Paris Tasting named his Chateau Montelena Chardonnay the best white wine in the world. In 1977, he partnered with Austin Hills (of the Hills Bros. Coffee family). Their winery produces Cabernet Sauvignons, Zinfandels, Fume Blancs and, of course, Chardonnays. Tastings and tours open to the public. www.grgich.com. 1829 St. Helena Hwy., Rutherford, 707.963.2784.

HALL WINES—This winery boasts five estate vineyards planted with 500 acres of classic Bordeaux varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc. The monumental visitor center features wine tasting, food and wine education, tours, gardens and an impressive contemporary art collection. www.hallwines.com. 401 St. Helena Hwy. S., St. Helena, 707.967.2626.

SONOMA IS HOME to almost 60,000 acres of grapes, the most common of which is Chardonnay, covering about 16,000 acres.