



## A Weekend Getaway on the Sonoma Backroads



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From a winemaking point of view the area around Sebastopol and Occidental is part of the Russian River Valley. From a visitors' perspective, the river is less obvious than it is nearer the coast and the experience is different. This guide focuses on the often-overlooked area inland.

If you live in northern California, you may have heard of Sebastopol, but your knowledge of Occidental may be as fuzzy as your understanding of the word's meaning.

Just to round out your knowledge of it, the word used as the opposite of "oriental."

The two communities make a great base for exploring some really interesting, less-traveled roads.

### 5 Great Things to Do

- **Wine Tasting:** About 7 miles north of Sebastopol is one of my favorite central Sonoma wineries: [DeLoach Vineyards](#). Part of the JCB family of wineries, they offer some particularly interesting wine-tasting experiences and tours of their biodynamic vineyards. Some of their tasting venues are truly over-the-top fun, and you can also learn how to make your own mustard and find out how it pairs with their wines.