



Wine Touring on Russian River Valley's Olivet Road



• July 20, 2018

Going to the Russian River Valley? Want to find a place to visit several family-owned wineries, be surrounded by lush vineyards, and not have to drive or walk too far to get to each? I offer my day on **Olivet Road** as a template, a lovely stretch of "Wine Heaven" road between Windsor and Santa Rosa, west of the 101 freeway. There are 1.2 miles between Harvest Moon Estate Winery (where we began) and DeLoach Vineyards (where we finished the day)—a very short drive, a pretty quick bike ride, or a brisk, twenty minute walk.

DeLoach Vineyards

For our final stop after lunch, we went to DeLoach Vineyards, the full 1.2 miles from our starting point. Vineyard manager Sophie Drucker was kind enough to show us around the estate vineyards and explain their **biodynamic** farming practices and introduce us to the sheep they house for grazing. It's important to note that all of Sonoma County vineyards will be certified sustainably-farmed in 2019, which is great, but has some controversy around the significance of the definition due to its allowance of the use of Round Up and other pesticides.

The epitome of casual luxury, DeLoach offers ample outdoor and indoor space to chillax in style. They also have an exquisite swimming pool and pool deck attached to their old-school hunting lodge-esque tasting room and banquet area, complete with antler chandelier.

They produce wine from other local vineyards, and clearly have great relationships with them. In the hour or so we toured the property, we ran into two separate growers and their families enjoying themselves in the sun. I'm sure they value the additional banquet room lined with photos and stories of DeLoach growing partners, fondly known as the Grower Appreciation Room.

Pedro Martinez took us through a tasting of old and new releases. The 2016 DeLoach Estate Chardonnay made from Old Wente, Montrachet, and 809 clones was delicious: concentrated flavor with a solid acid backbone.

They also have library wines available for tasting. I particularly enjoyed the 2010 van der Kamp Vineyard Pinot, full of dark fruit, ash and spice.

All in all, it was a day to remember ... and to replicate! Highly recommended for laid back fun, on a sort of fairy-tale lane.



DeLoach Vineyard Manager Sophie Drucker