

Sunset

September 15, 2017

Napa vs. Sonoma Face-Off

Sonoma or Napa? Two rivals slug it out over which wine country has the juice

The case for Napa

Yes, it's crowded; yes, it's pricey; yes, you'll sit in traffic behind a limousine full of purple-grinning day-tasters from Germany, but there's a perfectly sound reason for that: Napa Valley is the best wine region in the New World. Period. Back when our neighbors to the west were taking the prune market by storm, Napa was uncorking our national appetite for fermented grape juice, giving it a seat at the table alongside the great wines of Europe. Each year about 4 million visitors ply the vineyard-dense valley to sip our Cabernet, dine at our Michelin-starred restaurants, and rest their light heads in our luxury hotels. They come to visit the wine country, and that means two words: Napa Valley.

Napa: Tasting rooms

They call Napa "Disneyland for adults." That's because it's a magical place where you can make an appointment with David Arthur to sip wine on the front patio of his vineyard. Or tunnel into **Del Dotto Vineyards'** candlelit cave--it's over 100 years old--for an intimate barrel tasting. Or go to the Fellini-meets-Vegas fun rooms at **Raymond Vineyards** to sample Cabernet beneath Baccarat chandeliers. Two glasses in, and you'll swear you've found the Happiest Place on Earth.

Score: 8