



Highly Recommended Wineries

Chateau Montelena - Calistoga - Dennis Austin

Most elegant and interesting tour, beautiful grounds & great history. Very professional with, as always, excellent wines.

Favorite Wine - Cabernet Sauvignon

Grgich Hills - St. Helena - Dave Mosher

Extremely fun, great jokes, great wine & excellent orchestration of the tour. Very personable & down to earth.

Favorite Wine - Zinfandel

DeLorimier - Alexander Valley - Kimberly Wright

Fun & casual. Kimberly is a kick as she pours all great wines.

Favorite Wine - Mosaic (Red Meritage)

Cakebread - Rutherford - Andy Burr

Awesome facility (futuristic) with personalized attention. Nice tour, delicious wines Go early in the day!

Favorite Wine - Chardonnay

Mt. Veeder (@ Franciscan) - Rutherford - Inger

Latreille

Although quite busy, very attentive & enthusiastic. Franciscan wines proved better than expected but the Mount Veeder labels were the clear winners.

Favorite Wine - Mt. Veeder Reserve

Christopher Creek - Healdsburg - Coby

Quiet, but personable. Great advice on other wineries, worth the visit. Down to earth & great wine. Recently sold, we'll see....

Favorite Wine - Petite Syrah

Sequoia Grove - St Helena - Barry Dodds

A tour with passion! Barry expresses the importance of how wine is a catalyst in celebrating "The pleasure of the table"

Great wines & great dog show, very fun!

Favorite Wine - Cabernet Sauvignon

Beringer - St Helena - Chris Mitchell (Founders Room)

Very knowledgeable & extremely professional. Greatest number & variety of great wines! Beware of "Palette Fatigue"

Favorite Wine - Tough choice... Howell Mountain Merlot

Stags Leap - Napa - Melissa

Unpretentious with nice variety. 2nd label (Hawks Crest) great value wines. Although a bit crowded for a small tasting room, attention to teach customer was accomplished.

Favorite Wine - Cask 23 - OUTRAGEUOS (& better be \$!)

Limerick Lane - Healdsburg - Attendant

Warm and friendly. Great pour. Great Zin!

Favorite Wine - Zinfandel

Alderbrook - Healdsburg - Attendant

Fun people & great wines, quite personable.

Favorite Wine - Sauvignon Blanc (zin & merlot unavailable)

Rutherford Hill - Rutherford - Management team

Very nice people in a very non-pretentious tasting room. Lots of good wines & blueberry chocolates to accompany Zin port!

Stayed open for us with a phone call.

Favorite Wine - Reserve Merlot

Vincent Arroyo - Calistoga - Vincent & Joy

Family owned, nice/fun people. Lots of barrel tastings of superior wines. Joy seems a bit stressed over her dirty coat!

Don't miss!

Favorite Wine - Petite Syrah

Meeker - Healdsburg - Perry, Mary & Sam

Tasting room is a Tee-Pee! Great find! Awesome wines!

Awesome value, great people. Pours are generous, if it's not your last stop of the day, it will be! Beware of Sam's paws!

Favorite Wine - Four Kings (Red Meritage)

Fieldstone - Healdsburg - Bill

Bill is a great guy that enjoys his part-time work in his retirement. Formerly with Geyser peak, Fieldstone is a significant promotion to far superior wines. Fun and well worth it!

Favorite Wine - Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Shafer - Napa - Mary Kay

Interesting and educational tour followed by great wine in a beautiful setting. Call for appointment.

Favorite Wine - Hillside Select Cabernet Sauvignon

Rafanelli - Healdsburg - Mr. Rafanelli & daughter

Family run so they are busy, but attentive when serving their wine. Down to earth & warm people. Call ahead.

Favorite Wine - Zinfandel

Rabbit Ridge - Dry Creek Valley - Suzy

Great people & great memory! Was very nice to be remembered.

Favorite Wine - Zinfandel

Neibaum Coppola - Rutherford - Jason

Fun enhanced with an abundance of knowledge. Personal touch graciously offsets the intimidating structure. Great wines & best quote, "The true essence of life is in dispensing with formalities"

Favorite Wine - Rubicon

Preston - Healdsburg - Beth

Full of energy & great fun! Excellent finds for wonderful red wines. Best new term for Wine Snob rating - "Wicked

Yummy"

Favorite Wine - Zinfandel

Cosentino - Yountville - Frederick

Although there was no response to my letter, Frederick was more than accommodating and extremely attentive. Plenty of good wines & unpretentious people.

Favorite Wine - M. Coz

Silver Oak - Oakville - Attendant

Only one wine but a great one. Very nicely done paid tasting with great glass to take away. Delicious cab, nice people.

Favorite Wine - Cabernet Sauvignon

Recommended Wineries

Korbel - Guerneville - Attendant

Well informed and attentive. A bit crowded and perhaps commercial but fun if you take the time and effort!

Favorite Wine - Sec

DeLoach - Santa Rosa - Mary Young

Pleasant but perhaps a bit too formal (some may perceive as pretentious). Very limited tasting. Need to visit in the fall when the Zins are available..

Favorite Wine - Chardonnay OFS

Pezzi-King - Dry Creek Valley - Attendant

Pleasant but a bit pompous. Far too busy to strike up conversation. However, nice wines.

Favorite Wine - Zinfandel

Pine Ridge - Napa - Saskia & Sean

Nice tour with barrel tasting but a bit long. Very nice facility with nice wines. Requires over an hour.

Favorite Wine - Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

Frogs Leap - Rutherford - Hostess (Chris?)

Interesting stories as the hostess tastes along with you. The only winery with square tanks. Limited wines for tasting.

Favorite Wine - Zinfandel

Clos Du Bois - Geyserville - Attendant

Not bad, but time is probably better spent elsewhere. Does not seem to represent the same quality of years ago.

Peju - Rutherford - Attendant

Nothing to write home about. Very commercialized, & crowded without apparent reason. Certainly not the wine!

Rochiolo - Dry Creek Valley - Management

Supposedly a great zin, if you can get them to taste it. The tasting manager indicated that the zin is only tasted on weekends. I could not convince her otherwise. Wines tasted were acceptable.

Milat - Oakeville - Owner

Very nice people that focus on growing not making wine (and a good thing, because wine making is not their forte).

Restaurant Review

Below is a summary of restaurants we visited, while touring wine country. Due to limited exposure to the complete menu offerings at each establishment, it is unfair to speak to specific foods that were tasted.

Therefore, a general overall rating is provided.

Culinary Institute, Napa

Very nice. Great variety and well prepared foods. As can be expected in Napa Valley, wine list is impressive.

Yummy

Mustards, Napa

Typical California, very fresh and quite tasty. Nothing extraordinarily gourmet, but good food. Great wine and beer selection. Not yummy but definitely recommended.

Equis, Healdsburg, Sonoma

As hotel restaurants usually go, this is just above typical. Breakfast is good.... and I'll stop there. Although the selection appears gourmet, the actual meals are fair and the beer selection poor. Beware of the oysters, they may literally cramp your wine tasting the next day. Despite the food, wine selection is great.

Rutherford Grill, Napa

Great casual food, burgers, ribs, seafood, etc. Good beer on tap, did not venture into the mine list (sorry). Food was good service was fair as they were extremely busy and somewhat forgetful. If you can tolerate the above, it is great for dining outdoors.

Oakville Grocery

When stopping along the road for a bag or box lunch, look no further. The Oakville grocery offers a plethora of gourmet foods for munching, sandwiches and more. Not the most inexpensive place but by far the best for this type of cuisine.

Absolutely **Yummy!**

Other Wineries