

Reader's Digest

The 12 Best Wineries in Napa Valley to Visit Now

Sip, sip, hurray! Raise a (tasting) glass and say cheers to these stunning vineyards in California's Sonoma and Napa Valley.

Melissa Klurman Nov. 16, 2021

Rolling hills, majestic chateaus, gorgeous vistas, verdant vineyards. It's hard to beat the best wineries in Napa and Sonoma Valley when it comes to awe-inspiring scenery in California. And the vineyards listed below don't just rest on their looks. Each offers delectable wines that you can sample on the premises, along with spots to kick back and enjoy the view, making these destinations an ideal spot for a mini vacation or a weekend getaway, whether it's a girls' trip or a romantic escape with your significant other. Most also offer guided tours of the winery and winemaking process and even opportunities for special culinary experiences.

When planning a trip, take into account that although Napa and Sonoma are both located roughly an hour north of San Francisco, and the main towns called "Sonoma" and "Napa" (usually referred to as "downtown") are located just 14 miles apart from each other, there's a big mountain in between and the regions themselves are somewhat sprawling. For this reason, it's best to plan a day of tasting in one region or the other, not both in the same day. For overall aesthetics, Napa is usually associated with a more established tourism industry and more upscale offerings (think Michelin-starred restaurants and busy wine tastings), and Sonoma is often seen as more laid-back (think picnic spots and dirt roads), but both offer stunning scenery and world-class wines.



DOMAINE CARNEROS.
By
TAITTINGER



Domaine Carneros

Best for: Sparkling wine fans

If you love champagne, then you're probably familiar with the Taittinger name. Only bubbles produced in the actual region of Champagne can carry the eponymous name, but for the next best thing, head to this French-style estate and vineyard, founded by the Taittinger family of Reims, France. A grand chateau greets you as you traverse the verdant vineyards, at which point you'll head to the tasting room to sample a range of Méthode Traditionnelle sparkling wine. Extra bonus: California-created bubbly is often a fraction of the price of its French counterpart, so you'll actually be saving at this top-rated Napa Valley winery. (Just go with it.)

Best time of the year to visit: Fall

Tasting prices: From \$40 per person

Hero wine: Estate Brut Cuvée



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