



offMetro

Get out of San Francisco

HOME WEEKEND GETAWAYS DAY TRIPS BY DESTINATION GET OFF HERE EVENTS TRANSPORTATION GUIDE

UNDISCOVERED WINE COUNTRY: LODI WINE TASTING

BY REBECCA PODESTA | MAY 26, 2014

When one says (or searches for) “California Wine Country,” the first place that comes up is Napa Valley, followed closely by Sonoma, and then maybe Santa Barbara, Temecula... What does not generally surface? **A wine getaway to Lodi.**

But grape growing in this rural Delta region is older than the state itself (it started with the Gold Rush), and more grapes are grown here annually than in Napa and Sonoma combined. The Golden Valley

is as beautiful as any wine country. Perfect pairings of whites—their crispness and acidity. While the food shines bright with the abundance of local produce and, well...

A wine getaway to **Lodi**....instead of crowds, you'll find a relaxed, homey atmosphere, where it's not surprising that the person pouring your wine is also the one who made it.

Plus, there is a key perk that comes with not being one of the more popular wine regions in the state—instead of crowds, you'll find a relaxed, homey atmosphere, where it's not surprising that the person pouring your wine is also the one who made it.



Where to taste

Every town visitor center should be like the **Lodi Wine & Visitor Center** (2545 W. Turner Road). The informed folks here will give you a taste of the region both literally and figuratively, providing maps, fun facts, and a guided tasting of featured local wines, which rotate each week (\$5 for a flight of four wines).

After five generations, the good folks at **Harney Lane Winery** (9010 East Harney Lane) are acting as stewards of the land, and since 2006 they have been using their land and wine knowledge to produce hand-crafted wines and sharing them in a friendly, stunning setting. Whether you're tasting at the bar (\$5) or picnicking in the “forest” garden, you'll likely run into owners Kyle and Jorja, the kids Kristen and Ian, dog Ranger, or any combination.

Oak Farm Vineyards (23627 Devries Road) is an amalgam of young and hip with homage to old valley heritage. Operated by a youthful staff, the winery is set on one of the oldest properties in the area, the 1964 estate of William DeVries. Guests can wander among Mr. DeVries' beloved oak trees (it is reported that he never allowed a tree to be cut unless it was “a menace”), relax by the private lake, and, of course, taste wine (from \$5).