

Recommended wineries list Sonoma

Kunde Family Estate

Kunde family has been growing fruit for sale to other wineries over 100 years. They began holding back some of the best fruit and have been producing a wide range of wines. Excellent sauvignon blanc to red blends. The beautiful winery has a cave visit as a part to the tasting.

Sunce Winery

This little winery garnered to most awards at the San Francisco Wine Competition. It is the largest competition and draws competitors worldwide. Though noted for its Russian River pinot, it goes well beyond producing a wide range of lesser known and certainly delicious varietals.

Robledo Family Winery

Reynoldo came to California in 1963 as a migrant worker. Since then he has acquired and cultivated over 400 acres of vineyards. His award winning wine, Los Braceros, is dedicated to the Mexican migrant workers and a bottle site in an exhibit in the Smithsonian in Washington DC. He opened the first Mexican American winery tasting room.

Little Vineyards

Like many "farmers" Rich and Joan Little began growing fruit for sale and slowly began holding out the best for their own wines. Their wines consistently win awards and are recognized as some of the best the valley has to offer.

Homewood Winery

Dave Homewood began making home wine. His first wine won him a top award in the amateur winemaking competition which was part of a greater wine competition. Shortly thereafter he opened his winery focusing on red varietals. Since then he has expanded and has a full list of both red and white wine.

Larson Family Winery

In the late 1800's the Millerick family arrived on the farm in Sonoma County. They were in commercial navigation, farming and rodeos up until the early 1960's when they turned to growing grapes. They sell most of their grapes and produce about 10,000 cases from their premium vineyards. The tasting room is in the original barn. The venue is beautiful with a large outdoor patio patrolled by three affectionate labs.

Eric Ross Winery

This is the smallest winery situated in the village of Glen Ellen. The walls are covered with great photographs of past harvest all taken by the owner, retired San Francisco photographer and winemaker Eric Luse. Eric has traveled throughout Northern California seeking quality growers of the varietals that interest him and developing long term relationships with them. Albarino and tempranillo are prime examples. Many other whites and reds are available.

Cline Cellars

The winemaker focuses on wines from the Rhone region of France as well as zinfandel of which there are many vineyards featured. The tasting room is in an historic building and the grounds are spectacular with many ponds (Once hot), open areas and a museum with models of all the California missions. There are many wines to choose from. All white, all red or mixed. Be sure to taste a few zinfandels.

Jacuzzi Family Vineyards

The family began its migration to the US in 1911 and in 1920 purchased its first 161 acre vineyard in the east bay behind Oakland. Eventually the family grew to 9 boys and 9 girls. The beautiful winery was built around 2007 and its building, grounds, fountain and piazza are modeled after the family home in Italy. Naturally the focus is on Italian varietals. There are extensive lists for both whites and reds so do not be afraid to share.

Loxton Cellars

Chris Loxton is the fourth generation in the wine business. His father and those before him were growers in Australia. This is a small winery and Chris is very much hands on when it comes to his wines. All production is right out in front on the covered patio. He is there most of the time and will spend it with you explaining the process.

Buena Vista Winery

Founded in 1857 by a Hungarian named Count Haraszthy is California's first premium winery. They know their place in the industry and the restored winery, tasting room and grounds pay homage to their rich history. There are a wide range of wines with perhaps the possibility to meet the Count himself.

Bartholomew Park Winery

Grapes were first planted on the property in 1830. The restored tasting room is in the first winery in California. The building has served many purposes and at one time was the Sonoma Hospital. The wines are wonderful and the staff most helpful. A part of the building houses a museum which is worth a look into the history of Sonoma.

Ledson Winery & Vineyards

The winery, known as "The Castle" is definitely worth a stop. Several tasting areas, a quite good deli and a staircase modeled after the one in Tara from the movie Gone With The Wind are to be enjoyed. Several award winning wines are available and the wine list is extensive.

Chateau St Jean

It is a beautiful winery in the style of a French chateau. There are several building, a garden, patios and a great lawn. Easy to get lost and a walking tour is a must. You can taste current releases or go to a separate room/area where you will taste estate wines and occasionally older wines.

Gundlach Bundschu Winery

Established in 1885 they are the oldest family winery in California. The winery sits on 320 acres where there are both valley vineyards and elevated vineyards. They are best known for the bigger reds (Cabernet, cab franc, merlot, and zinfandel) And also have a delightful chardonnay and pinot.