



# These are the 15 most beautiful wineries in Napa and Sonoma

Where to find jaw-dropping views, gorgeous architecture and delicious wine in Napa, Sonoma, Healdsburg, St. Helena and more

By Jess Lander and Esther Mobley | Oct. 3, 2022  
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Let's not kid ourselves. Often, the appeal of going [wine tasting](#) lies just as much with the views as with the wine itself.

Here at The Chronicle, we embrace that, and we believe there are few better ways to take in the natural beauty of [Napa](#) and [Sonoma](#) counties than by relaxing at a table overlooking its vineyards, forests and mountains — with a glass of wine in hand, of course.

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# Amizetta Estate Winery



Jess Lander / The Chronicle

A visit to Amizetta requires a roughly 6-mile trek up Howell Mountain on a narrow, windy road, but for good reason: This small, family-run winery’s stone terrace is one of the most impressive viewpoints of Wine Country. With far-reaching views of hillside vineyards, wildlands and Napa’s Lake Hennessey, the perch conjures up the “Lion King” scene of Mufasa looking over the African landscape with little Simba, pronouncing that “everything the light touches is ours.” Indeed, it feels like this view belongs to you, for there isn’t a sign of civilization in sight. Amizetta books up weeks in advance — in part because it keeps the experience very intimate — so plan ahead. — J.L.

Tasting fee \$75. Open 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. daily. 1099 Greenfield Road, St. Helena. 707-963-1460 or [amizetta.com](http://amizetta.com)

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NAPA

# Artesa Winery



Scott Strazzante / The Chronicle



The striking, modern architecture at this Carneros winery, designed by a Barcelona firm, makes it one of the most visually distinctive places to go wine tasting in all of Napa Valley. An avant- garde sculpture rising out of a cerulean pond greets visitors when they arrive, and the winery itself is built into a hillside — which not only looks cool, but also is cool, since native grasses on the roof regulate the building's temperature. Whether you taste wines indoors or outdoors, you'll be treated to nearly 360-degree views of the surrounding vineyards. — E.M.

Tasting fee \$45. Open 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. daily. 1345 Henry Road, Napa. 707-224-1668 or [artesa winery.com](http://artesa winery.com)

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# Bartholomew Estate



Erik Castro / Special to The Chronicle

This historic Sonoma winery is located within a 375-acre park that's owned by a nonprofit foundation. The site has an amazing story, dating back to 1844, when a Native American homesteader planted a vineyard here after receiving a land grant; when you come for a wine tasting here, your host will fill in the details. Visitors here are treated to what are surely some of the best views in Sonoma, overlooking mountains, vineyards and expanses of undeveloped land. If you're not in the mood to taste wine, the park has more than 3 miles of hiking trails, which are free to access. — E.M.

Tasting fee \$35. Open 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. 1000 Vineyard Ln., Sonoma. 707-509-0540 or [bartholomewestate.com](http://bartholomewestate.com)

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WINDSOR

# Bricoleur Vineyards



Brittany Hosea-Small / Special to The Chronicle



Stroll Bricoleur's lush 40 acres and you'll happen upon a myriad of beautiful spaces: a rose garden, serene ponds with ducks and black swans, an olive grove, a vineyard-view tasting pavilion and a vegetable garden complete with a greenhouse, apiary and chickens. As a result, most experiences occur outdoors, but guests should at least take a peek into the stunning, 10,000-square-foot horse barn, which was restored using reclaimed barn wood, redwood and antique hay trolleys. — J.L.

Tasting fee \$95. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Monday. 7394 Starr Road, Windsor. 707-857-5700 or [bricoleurvineyards.com](http://bricoleurvineyards.com)

ST. HELENA

# Chappellet Winery



Jessica Christian / The Chronicle

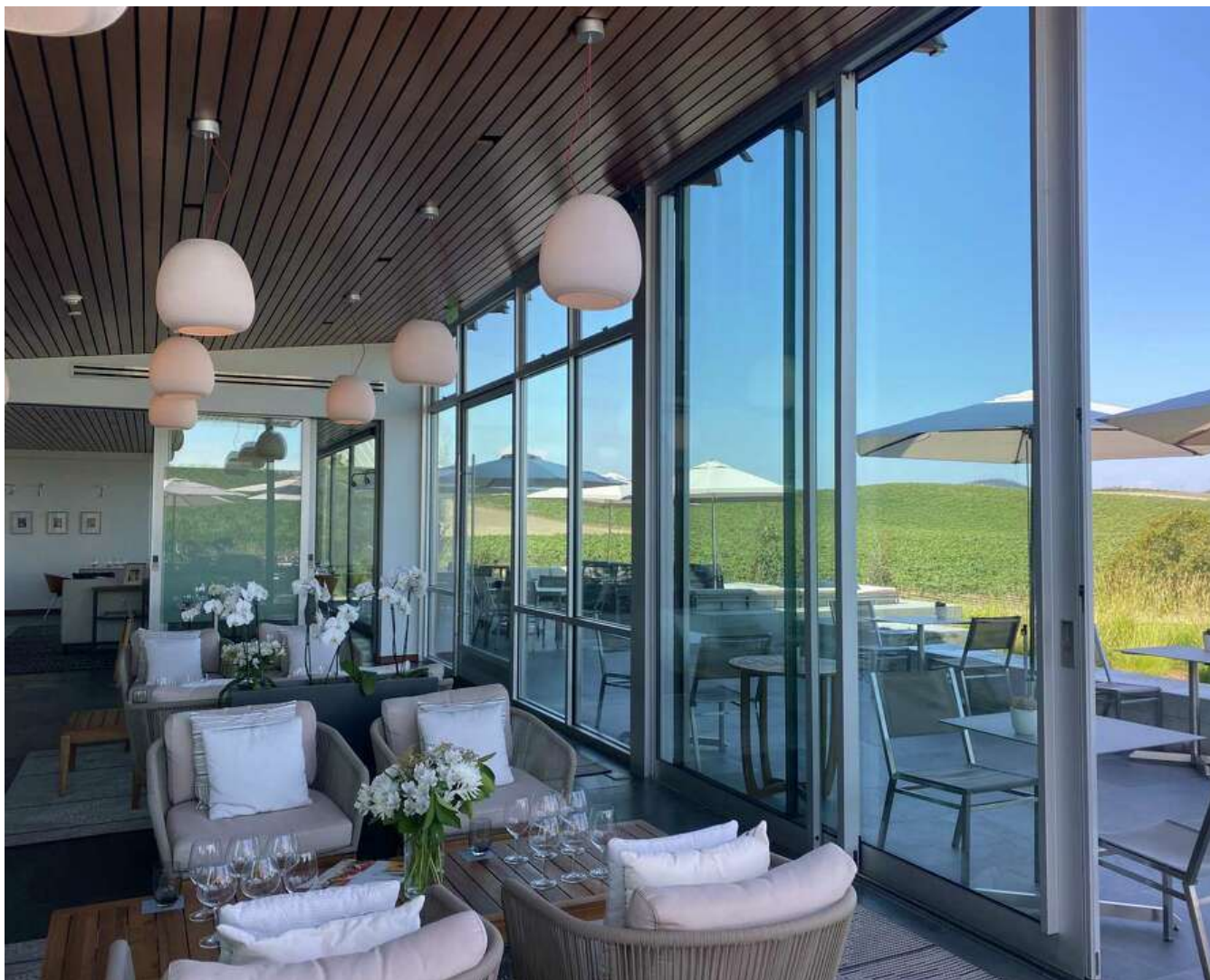


Chappellet is one of the few wineries on Pritchard Hill, one of Napa Valley's most prestigious subregions, that's open to the general public. Once you've driven up the winding roads to reach it, you may start to see what all the Pritchard Hill fuss is about. The vistas of Napa Valley from here, in the eastern mountains, would be enough on their own to warrant a visit, but the buildings at Chappellet are also distinctive. The main tasting room is formed by a series of three interlocking triangles; if you were to fly overhead, it would look exactly like the logo on Chappellet's bottles. — E.M.

Tasting fee \$85. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. 1581 Sage Canyon Road, St. Helena.707-286-4219 or [chappellet.com](http://chappellet.com)

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# Cuvaision Estate Wines



Jess Lander / The Chronicle

Cuvaision is located right off Highway 121, but once you enter the gates, the traffic feels worlds away. The glass-walled tasting room is set in the middle of a bucolic bowl formed by 200 acres of vineyards and cradled by the rolling hills of the Carneros wine region. Cuvaision recently gave their digs a refresh, too. The winery extended the outdoor terrace and added cozy, resort-style furniture that elicits a Cabo vibe without the beach. Seasonal hikes are one of the best ways to experience the estate's beauty, and there are plans to launch lakeside tasting pavilions in 2023. — J.L.

Tasting fee \$60. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 1221 Duhig Road, Napa. 707-942-2455 or [cuvaision.com](https://www.cuvaision.com)

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CALISTOGA

# Davis Estates



Jess Lander / The Chronicle

Architect Howard Backen — the Frank Lloyd Wright of modern-day Wine Country — is the brain behind many of Napa’s most beautiful estates, but Davis is arguably his most ambitious yet. A compact campus of posh, barn-like structures feature a second-story balcony with cushy swings and majestic views; an infrared-controlled library in the wine cave, which opens to a booming recording of Andrea Bocelli’s “Por ti volare”; and a 1917 restored redwood barn furnished with collectible antiques. — J.L.

Tasting fee \$100. Open 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily. 4060 Silverado Trail N., Calistoga. 707-942-0700 or [davisestates.com](http://davisestates.com)

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# The Donum Estate



Michael Short / Special to The Chronicle



Donum is part winery, part outdoor sculpture garden, with more than 50 works by well-known artists scattered among its 200 acres of vineyards in Carneros. All tasting options here include an art tour — some involve quite a bit of walking, others will transport you in an ATV — and it makes for a highly memorable experience. Look for works by Ai Weiwei, Fernando Botero, Keith Haring and others. Many of the sculptures blend in with, or otherwise play off of, the particular landscape, like a wind-chime installation designed specifically to respond to the powerful Carneros breeze. — E.M.

Tasting fee \$95. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. 24500 Ramal Road, Sonoma. 707-732-2200 or [thedonumestate.com](http://thedonumestate.com)

# Flowers Vineyards



John Storey / Special to The Chronicle



The tasting area at Flowers, on Healdsburg's Westside Road, is every bit as lovely as the winery's name suggests. Outdoor cabanas afford semiprivate spaces for individual groups, surrounded by wild, effusive, colorful gardens. If the weather isn't quite right for an outdoor tasting, the indoor tasting room is still plenty scenic, with the feel of a cavernous farmhouse. — E.M.

Tasting fee \$75. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Monday. 4035 Westside Road, Healdsburg. 707-723-4800 or [flowerswinery.com](http://flowerswinery.com)

# Hamel Family Wines



Courtesy Bruce Damonte



Designed with an 18-foot glass facade that reflects the opposing vineyard and mountain panorama, Hamel's striking architecture melds well with the environment. The buildings were constructed with natural materials found on the estate, like basalt, walnut, travertine and raw earth plucked from the cave during the excavation process. And speaking of the cave, don't miss it. It's one of Wine Country's most stunning. — J.L.

Tasting fee \$75. Open 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. daily. 15401 Sonoma Hwy., Sonoma. 707-996-5800 or [hamelfamilywines.com](http://hamelfamilywines.com)

# Hudson Vineyards



Jessica Christian / The Chronicle



After swinging open Hudson's gate, guests cruise through 200 acres of vineyards planted on a sprawling, 2,000-acre ranch. Eventually, they reach the winery's desert-inspired compound, meticulously landscaped with what seems like dozens of succulent species. A collection of modern, minimalist structures blends into the ranch grounds, offering open-air gathering spaces. The working gardens here are spectacular, producing award-winning, 2,000-pound pumpkins, plus produce for Hudson's grocery store located at the Oxbow Public Market in downtown Napa. There's also a sparkling pond and olive orchards. — J.L.

Tasting fee \$100. Open 9 a.m-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday. 5398 Carneros Hwy., Napa. 707-255-1345 or [hudsonranch.com](http://hudsonranch.com)

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# Jordan Vineyard & Winery



Erik Castro / Special to The Chronicle



Jordan's classic, grand chateau exudes romance: long curtains of ivy, a courtyard fountain and a stone terrace complete the winery's French vision. Inside, most of the rooms have been recently renovated with luxurious touches, but Jordan's natural beauty lies beyond the chateau walls and across the winery's 1,200-acre estate. To best experience it, book the Estate Tour & Tasting (offered seasonally) and traverse wildlands and vineyards; discover an olive grove; sip wine by a pond; visit the gardens and farm — where you'll meet the resident donkeys, Goose and Maverick — and take in 360-degree views from a lookout at 650 feet. — J.L.

Tasting fee \$75. Open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 1474 Alexander Valley Road, Healdsburg. 707-431-5240 or [jordanwinery.com](http://jordanwinery.com)

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# Quintessa Winery



John Storey / Special to The Chronicle



Quintessa is located on Napa’s valley floor, that central stretch of land between Highway 29 and the Silverado Trail. But unlike much of the valley floor, which is flat and exposed, this high-end estate has a secluded feel, thanks to the small, hidden hillside it occupies. Sitting in one of its private, semi-open-air tasting rooms offers a perspective of Napa Valley that can’t be seen elsewhere. If those rooms look eerily familiar, it may be because you saw them in the Amy Poehler-directed movie “Wine Country.” — E.M.

Tasting fee \$150. Open 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday-Monday. 1601 Silverado Trail S., St. Helena. 707-286-2730 or [quintessa.com](http://quintessa.com)

SONOMA

# Scribe Winery



Michael Short / Special to The Chronicle



The jewel of Scribe Winery, a magnet for well-dressed and well-heeled Millennials, is its hacienda — a recently restored 1915 home where most wine tastings now take place. The Spanish-style building has many modern touches, like a sleek open kitchen that spills into the outdoor tasting patio, but it has kept alive some of its antique idiosyncrasies, like a poem etched into the walls of a dining room. It all adds to the irresistibly hip vibes that Scribe has cultivated so successfully. Note: Since the beginning of the pandemic, the winery has offered tastings only to members of its wine club. — E.M.

Tasting fee \$85. Wine club members only. Open 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. 2100 Denmark St., Sonoma. 707-939-1858 or [scribewinery.com](http://scribewinery.com)

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ST. HELENA

# Sinegal Estate



Jessica Christian / The Chronicle



Tucked far back from Highway 29 in Napa, this under-the-radar oasis is home to one of Napa Valley's earliest wine estates, dating to 1879. An old barn-turned-winery houses a chic, midcentury-modern library for tastings, yet the space is eclipsed by the grounds. Sinegal's 30 acres include gardens, goats and chickens, plus olive orchards and a tranquil, 2-acre lake bordered by weeping willows and a storybook gazebo. — J.L.

Tasting fee \$100. Open 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. daily. 2125 Inglewood Ave., St. Helena. 707-244-1187 or [sinegalestate.com](http://sinegalestate.com)

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