

Wine Country Drives

FROM SACRAMENTO

SIPPING & CELEBRATING ALL THINGS WINE IN SACRAMENTO:
WINE BARS, WINE TASTING, WINE & DINING

BY NICK LEONTI & MELANIE NOEL LIGHT

AMADOR WINE COUNTRY

Dozens of wineries line the beautiful foothills of Amador County, each with their own distinct flavor. From family-owned operations to large commercial operations, Amador County has it all. While the majority of wineries are along Shenandoah Road, take a trip to the south and you'll find more great wines and a string of some of the state's finest and most well-preserved historic Gold Rush towns.

CALAVERAS WINE COUNTRY

From jumping frogs to big trees, Calaveras County is full of Gold Rush personality...and delicious wine. Downtown Murphys features many tasting rooms so you can maximize your wine-tasting time in this rustic and charming foothill region. A wine and cheese picnic at Big Trees State Park is an experience not to be missed.

DELTA WINE REGION

Follow the Sacramento River into the California Delta where historic towns, drawbridges, waterfowl and fine wineries all come together to make for an unforgettable wine-tasting adventure. Be sure to visit the ever-expanding Old Sugar Mill and Scribner Bend Vineyards.

EL DORADO WINE COUNTRY

The name might say "Apple Hill," but wineries have been coexisting happily with the apple orchards for decades. Of course, it wouldn't hurt to pick up an apple pie or two during your trip to this scenic country. To the south, Fair Play and Mt. Aukum are booming with new wineries in addition to some old favorites, and beautiful winding country roads are par for the course.

LODI WINE COUNTRY

An amazing collection of some of the state's finest wineries call Lodi home. With vineyards as far as the eye can see, Lodi produces more of the top five varieties of wine than any other region in the state. Start your trip with an educational and tasty visit to the Lodi Wine & Visitors Center.

NEVADA COUNTY WINE COUNTRY

Deliciously distinctive mountain-grown wines combined with country charm and ruggedly beautiful landscapes make Nevada County a unique wine-tasting adventure. Be sure to visit the boutiques and shops in Grass Valley and Nevada City.



The "Sacramento Official Regional Wine Tasting Guide" features tips on accessing and tasting at more than 200 wineries and tasting bars in the wine country surrounding Sacramento including Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lodi, and the California Delta regions.



Top Wine Tasting Picks

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITES!



DENISE FRITSEN



Bogle Vineyards: Nestled down a winding, tree-lined country road, Bogle Vineyards tasting room is a Delta favorite. Open: Monday-Friday 10a.m.-5p.m. and weekends 11a.m.-5p.m. 37783 Road 144, Clarksburg, CA., 95612 916-744-1139 | www.boglewinery.com

Boeger: Situated in the Apple Hill region of El Dorado County, Boeger's world-class wines are the perfect complement to a day in the apple orchards. Open: Daily 10a.m.-5p.m. 1709 Carson Road, Placerville, CA 95667 530-622-8094 | www.boegerwinery.com

Discover California: This well-known Sacramento shop features gourmet items from throughout the state and recently expanded to include a wonderful downstairs tasting room. Open: Daily 10a.m.-9p.m. 114 J St., Sacramento, CA 95814 | 916-443-8275 www.discovercal.com

Frasinetti Winery: Established in 1897, Frasinetti Winery is the oldest in Sacramento. Open: Tuesday-Saturday 10a.m.-8p.m. 7395 Frasinetti Rd., Sacramento, CA 95828 916-383-2447 | www.frasinetti.com

Ironstone Vineyard: Ironstone Vineyard and tasting room is a must-see when visiting Calaveras County. Open: Daily 10a.m.-5p.m. 1894 Six Mile Road, Murphys, CA 95247 209-728-1251 | www.ironstonevineyards.com

Lodi Wine & Visitor Center: Lodi is one of California's oldest wine-making regions and is lined with vineyards as far as the eye can see. A stop at the Lodi Wine & Visitor Center can help guide you on the way to touring the area...and you can get in a few sips of wine while you're there too. Open: Daily 10a.m. - 5p.m. 2545 W. Turner Rd., Lodi, CA 95242 209-365-0621 | www.lodiwine.com

Old Sugar Mill: The Old Sugar Mill houses four tasting rooms in one beautiful Delta setting. Open: Wednesday-Sunday 11a.m.-5p.m. 35265 Willow Ave., Clarksburg, CA 95612 916-744-1615 | www.oldsugarmill.com

Renwood Winery: One sip and you'll see why Renwood is one of Amador county's most popular wines. Open: Daily 11a.m.-5p.m. 12225 Steiner Rd., Plymouth, CA 95669-9502 209-245-6979 | www.renwood.com

Rominger West: Rominger West produces unique, small-lot, artisan wines from the vineyards of Yolo County. Open: Friday-Saturday 11a.m.-4p.m. (Shop is open Monday-Saturday 8a.m.-5p.m.). Note: Tasting appointments are available outside of normal tasting hours upon request. 4602 Second Street, Suite 4, Davis, CA 95618 530-747-2044 | www.romingerwest.com

Scribner Bend Vineyards: Just 12 minutes from downtown Sacramento, Scribner Bend makes spectacular wine-tasting convenient. Open: Friday-Sunday 11a.m.-4:30p.m. 9051 River Rd., Sacramento, CA 95832 916-744-1803 | www.scribnerbend.com

Woodbridge Winery: For more than 25 years, Woodbridge has been producing some of California's most popular wines. Open: Daily 10:30a.m.-4:30p.m. 5950 East Woodbridge Rd., Acampo, CA 95220 209-365-8139 | www.woodbridgewines.com

BEER, BUBBLY & CREATIVE COCKTAILS

BY MELANIE NOEL LIGHT

BUBBLY

Lounge on 20 - Thirty Champagnes by the glass, "creative cocktails" and new American food (MARRS Building, 20th & K)

58 Degrees & Holding - Six bubblys offered by the taste, glass or bottle (1217 18th St.)

TEQUILA

Azul - Tequila bar & cantina with traditional family recipe cuisine (MARRS Building, 20th & J)

Zocalo - Tequila tasting and home of the "Best Mojito" in town (1801 Capitol Ave.)

Centro Cocina Mexicana - One hundred fifty selections of tequilas and fresh lime juice margaritas (28th & J)

SAKE

Gekkeikan Sake - Japanese Gardens, Koi pond and tasting room (1136 Sibley St., Folsom)

COCKTAILS

Ella Dining Room & Bar - Handmade cocktails in an elegant, old-fashioned dining atmosphere (1131 K St.)

Morton's Steakhouse - Traditional cocktails in a traditional setting (521 L St.)

L Wine Lounge and Urban Kitchen - Handmade cocktails using fresh juices (1801 L St.)

BREWERIES

Brew It Up - 801 14th St.

Hopping Brewing - 6300 Folsom Blvd.

Pyramid - 1029 K St.

River City Brewing - 545 Downtown Plaza

Sacramento Brewing - Town & Country Village



WHAT'S NEW



THE COSMOPOLITAN

Downtown's most sophisticated dining, entertainment and social hub - under one roof. Located in the boldly renovated 1956 Woolworth Building, The Cosmopolitan's modern take on retro takes center stage on K Street. Live Musical Theater, Theater District Dining, Rooftop Nightclub and Lounge. 916.557.1198 | www.cosmopolitancabaret.com