

UNFILTERED

## Exclusive New Cabernets Pave the Way for 47-Mile Napa Vine Trail

The just-announced charity wine initiative will give Napa wine lovers a chance to invest in the popular biking and hiking path



The trail has already collected thousands of fans on the 19 miles completed so far. (Courtesy of the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition)

By [MaryAnn Worobiec](#)

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Biking, running or walking through the vineyards in Napa Valley is a terrific way to take in the scenery, and [in 2008](#), the **Napa Valley Vintners**, the **Napa Valley Grapegrowers** and the **Napa Valley Land Trust** founded the **Vine Trail Coalition** to create the Napa Valley Vine Trail, a 47-mile car-free, paved path that will run from the Vallejo ferry terminal in the south to the town of Calistoga in the north. So far, 19 miles

of free, dog-friendly trail have been completed, and today, the coalition announced an exciting and delicious [new Cabernet-based fundraiser](#) to help get the project across the finish line.

Since 2008, the coalition has brought in \$7.5 million in philanthropic donations and \$17 million in matching grants; thanks to that, locals and visitors can currently enjoy paths like a 12-mile stretch from the city of Napa to Yountville, with 15 more miles scheduled for construction in 2021. Already, the trail is trafficked more than 500,000 times each year.



Drink your way across the Napa Valley Vine Trail: The bottles, assembled, point the way. (Courtesy of the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition)

The new initiative will allow wine lovers to invest in the trail by doing something that comes naturally—drinking Napa Cabernets. A collection of 10 Napa wines is being released for the fundraiser, including bottlings from Spottswoode, Alpha Omega and Silver Oak; they represent the 10 sections of the Vine Trail. Each wine is a custom blend, and they'll be rolling out in sets of two bottles over the next five years, for \$1,000 per set.

Vineyard 29's **Chuck McMinn**, founder and chair of the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition, told us that wine lovers are keen to pitch in for the trail. "We're seeing tremendous requests on how to help." He added that the wine collection is "an investment in wine that will render plenty of good."





Future Napa Cab collectors bike by a mural in Napa's Rail Arts District. (Photo by Roland Dumas)

The Vine Trail is designed to be a safe, environmentally friendly way to explore the valley sans car, and it will connect with trails coming north out of San Francisco. Along the way, the path will follow the wetlands of the Napa River, close to where it connects to the San Pablo Bay. Heading north through the city of Napa, the trail will pass the Rail Arts District, with its colorful murals. Trekking beyond, path-goers will follow train tracks heading through the center of the valley, flanked by vineyards and with views of mountains on either side.

"Napa Valley is a very special place in the hearts of many of our customers," said Spottswoode's **Beth Novak Milliken** in a statement. "By supporting the Vine Trail, individuals from all over the country can help build something very integral and enduring in our community. Not only can they display this beautiful collection in their cellar, they can come to Napa Valley and walk or bike the beautiful trail they are helping to create."

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