

AFAR

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June 06, 2022

Where to Go Winetasting in Napa Valley

Large scenic estates. Intimate tasting rooms in downtown Napa. There's a tasting for every taste in this famous California wine region.



Twomey Lazy Creek Vineyard is one of the growing areas for Silver Oak Cellars. Courtesy of Silver Oak

[The Napa Valley](#) is an epicurean fantasy come to life. Spanning small towns like Napa, Rutherford, Yountville, St. Helena, and Calistoga, the region north of San Francisco is home to Michelin-star restaurants, luxurious resorts with private hot springs, and (of course) over 43,000 acres of vineyards growing grapes for the valley's world-famous cabernet sauvignons (as well as other varietals).

Best wineries for scenery



Alpha Omega Winery is both picturesque and keen on sustainability: It uses the area's largest commercial solar microgrid.
Photo by Suzanne Becker Bronk

Clos du Val (Napa)

- **Tasting cost:** \$75–\$100 per person for a tasting
- [Reservations recommended](#)

[Clos du Val](#) in Napa offers panoramic views of the Rutherford area alongside pours of its fruit-forward cabernet sauvignons and Bordeaux-inspired blends. Visitors can enjoy a tasting on its sunny, outdoor patio or simply buy wine à la carte to sip in its garden and take in the views.

Hall (St. Helena)

- **Tasting cost:** \$50 per person
- [Reservations recommended](#)

Owned by husband-and-wife duo Craig and Kathryn Hall, [Hall's](#) tasting room in St. Helena is an impressively large, airy, and modern spot. Winetastings in the building's partially open-air bar overlook a vineyard and garden dotted with

sculptures; pair an art walk with one of the winery's cabernet sauvignons, merlots, or sauvignon blancs.

Alpha Omega Winery (Rutherford)

- **Tasting cost:** \$75–\$300 per person
- [Reservations required](#)

[Alpha Omega Winery](#) is separated from State Highway 29 by a giant fountain that has become something of a local icon in the valley. Outdoor tastings are held on a shaded patio overlooking the fountain and surrounding vineyards, but large floor-to-ceiling windows allow those opting for an indoor tasting to enjoy the view as well. On the tasting menu, Alpha Omega pours a range of varietals using grapes from appellations throughout the Napa Valley region.

Ashes & Diamonds (Napa)

- **Tasting cost:** \$75–\$95 per person for winetasting only, \$75–\$165 for food-and-wine pairings
- [Reservations required](#)

With its 1960s design motifs, midcentury architecture, and Joshua Tree–esque rock garden, [Ashes & Diamonds Winery](#) creates a visually appealing experience at every turn. As you might expect from a winery with such a playful and colorful approach to design, its offerings (which include a standard winetasting, wine-and-cheese pairing, and prix fixe lunch and wine pairing) are far from stuffy. Kids are also welcome and on weekends, it's not uncommon to find groups of families whiling away the afternoon here.

<https://www.afar.com/magazine/best-napa-valley-wineries-tasting-rooms>