

THE GODFATHER OF ORGANIC WINEGROWING: *FARMER PHIL COTURRI'S UNCOMPROMISING VISION* P. 102
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Sonoma

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The Heart of Wine Country

THE
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HARVEST

Our Ultimate Guide to

TASTING ROOMS

Medlock Ames
in Healdsburg

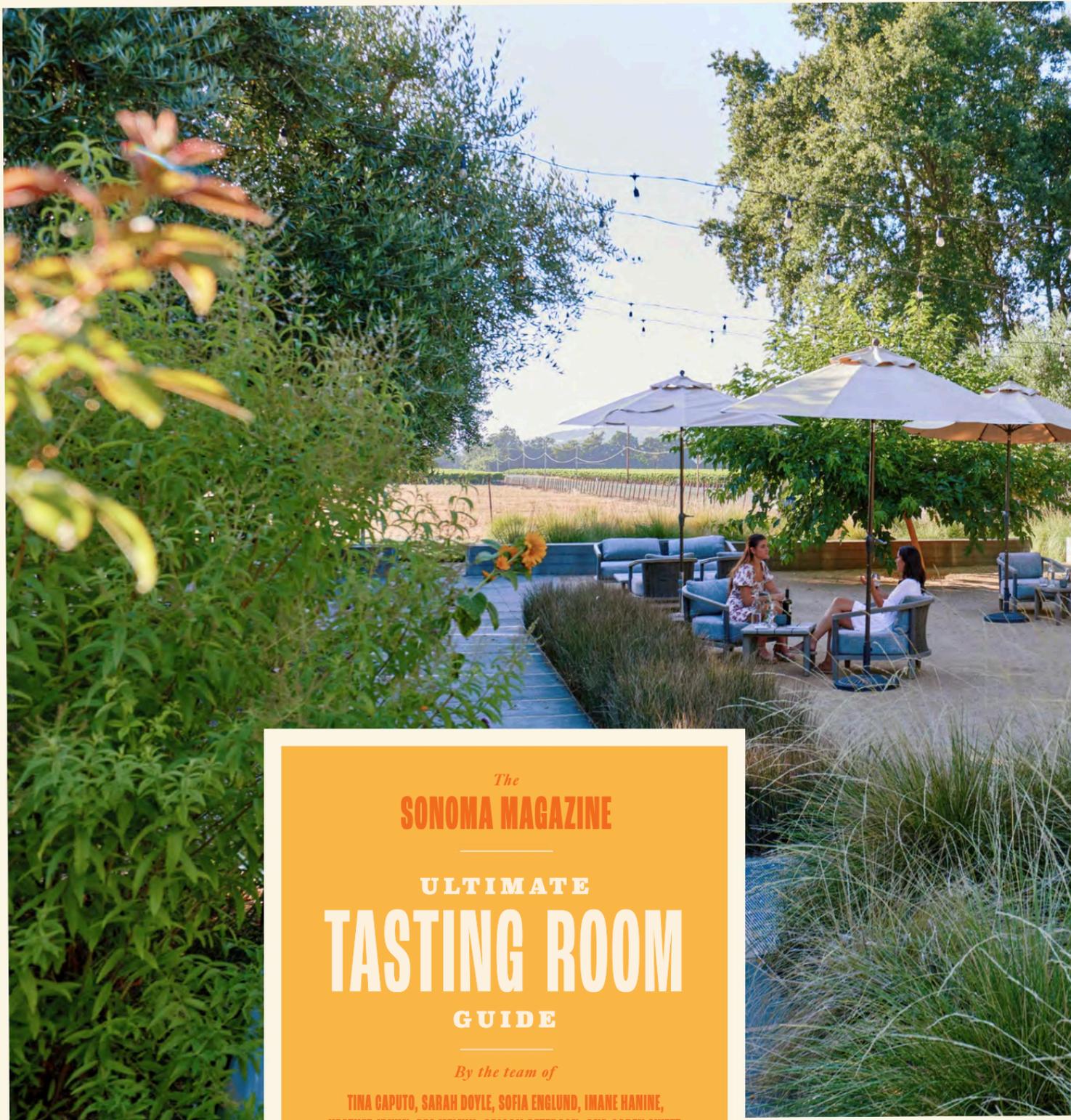
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The
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ULTIMATE
TASTING ROOM
GUIDE

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Kim Carroll

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“I’M A TOTAL FOODIE. WHERE CAN I HAVE A DELICIOUS MEAL WITH MY TASTING?”

Bricoleur Vineyards The food program here is so meticulously handled that it takes three chefs to run it, including famed chef Charlie Palmer. The Rooted tasting (\$125) impresses with a seasonal six-course meal with artistic dishes like handmade sweet shrimp *siu mai* dumplings with lemongrass and ginger. 7394 Starr Rd., Windsor. 707-857-5700, bricoleurvineyards.com

Kivelstadt Cellars Kivelstadt’s bucolic tasting room is also an exceptional restaurant called Bloom Carneros from chef Jennifer McMurry. 22900 Broadway, Sonoma. 707-938-7001, kivelstadtcellars.com

Lynmar Estate Chef David Frakes’ expensive-but-worth-it Collectors Lunch Pairing (\$250) includes an exquisite, multi-course meal with dishes such as chile-Persian lime dusted watermelon with blistered stonefruit slaw. 3909 Frei Rd., Sebastopol. 707-829-3374, lynmarestate.com

Jordan Vineyard & Winery Last April, Jesse Mallgren left The Madrona, the Michelin-star restaurant he had run for nearly 25 years, and took his toque over to the glamorous Jordan, amping up an already upscale program. 1474 Alexander Valley Rd., Healdsburg. 707-431-5250, jordanwinery.com

Paul Hobbs Winery Chef Timothy Kaulfers joined this luxury spot last April to lead the Vineyard Designate tasting experience (\$250), offering six rare wines alongside elegant dishes like seared, cherry-glazed duck breast. 3355 Gravenstein Hwy. N., Sebastopol. 707-824-9879, paulhobbswinery.com

Mayo Family Winery Chef John Locher serves a delightfully inventive, meal with small-batch reserve wines in the Reserve Room (\$80). 13101 Arnold Dr., Glen Ellen. 707-833-5504, mayofamilywinery.com

AVA SPOTLIGHT SONOMA VALLEY

Stretched along the Mayacamas Mountains to the east and the Sonoma Mountains to the west, this beautiful area encompasses five distinct appellations and many microclimates ranging from brilliant sunshine to cool coastal fog. Given the climate, many types of grapes can thrive here.

Visit the 1,850-acre **Kunde Family Winery** for a mountaintop tasting, **Chateau St. Jean** for a garden stroll and tasting at the historic 1920s chateau, or **VJB Cellars** for Italian varietals and wood-fired pizzas on the Tuscan-style piazza. **Arrowood** is famous for its warm-climate Cabernet Sauvignon and gracious tastings on its veranda, while **Loxton Cellars** and **Hamilton Family Wines** are boutique gems where you can see operations up-close, from grape to glass.



Courtesy Kivelstadt Cellars/Daniel E. Kalkin, Courtesy Corner 403, Courtesy Pangoise Cellars, Courtesy Dutcher-Crossing/Steven Rothfeld, Beth Bohlander

TASTE WITH A PRO MONICA LOPEZ, BACCHUS LANDING

At this winery collective just outside Healdsburg, general manager Monica Lopez knows a thing or two about tasting rooms. After all, seven different boutique wineries welcome guests to the 3-acre property, which also has wood-fired pizza, a bocce court, and live music. “I love being outdoors, so we put a lot of work into making Bacchus Landing a place you could relax outside,” says Lopez, whose family winery, Aldina Vineyards, is one of the seven tasting rooms on-site (tastings from \$25). “We really want to encourage guests to purchase a bottle of wine and just hang out.”

On the rare occasions when Lopez isn’t leading tours at Bacchus Landing, she has a penchant for tasting rooms with beautiful outdoor spaces, like Robert Young Estate in Geyserville (ryew.com). *Bacchus Landing*. 14210 Bacchus Landing Way, Healdsburg. 707-395-0697, bacchuslanding.com

