

OF THE LAND: *LEGENDARY ARTIST RICHARD DIEBENKORN IN ALEXANDER VALLEY P. 60*
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Sonoma

The Heart of Wine Country

Our NEW YEAR'S BUCKET LIST

95
ESSENTIAL
PICKS
FOR 2025



JAN/FEB 2025 \$5.95



Fresh seafood at
Bodega Bay's Fishetarian



TASTING ROOMS

WITH THE FAMILY

Preston Farm and Winery

There is plenty of space for families to spread out here, with relaxed and rambling gardens and lawns to explore, wandering kitties to pet, and fresh, hearth-baked sourdough bread and farm-grown veggies in a small store. prestonfarmandwinery.com

FOR HISTORY

Gundlach Bundschu Winery

The oldest family-owned winery in the state, GunBun's Rhinefarm vineyards, on the east side of the town of Sonoma, were first planted in 1858. The Bundschu family is known for Cabernet Sauvignon and coastal Chardonnay, among a dozen different varietals—and for rollicking outdoor concerts in the old redwood barn. Metallica once performed a secret concert here. gunbun.com

LANDMARK PINOT

Flowers Vineyards & Winery

There are few better ways to impress than with a visit to the House of Flowers, where a short walk through the redwoods reveals a masterfully designed tasting room, broad gardens, and acclaimed Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from the Sonoma Coast. flowerswinery.com

COOL CLUBHOUSE

Pax Winery & Tasting Room

At The Barlow in Sebastopol, this is a gathering spot for like-minded independent winemakers, led by Syrah and Grenache specialist Pax Mahle. There's often vinyl on the turntable or live music, and at harvest time, you can peek around back at the busy crushpad, which Mahle shares with natural wine pioneer Martha Stoumen. paxwine.com

DOWNTOWN LUXE

Corner 103

Founder Lloyd Davis has earned all kinds of recognition for his Corner 103 boutique spot in downtown Sonoma, including being named one of the top 10 tasting rooms in the country—twice. Davis credits the Black Lives Matter movement for making guests aware of the importance of diversity in the industry and strives to make wine approachable to all. corner103.com

FOR GOURMET MEALS

Jordan Vineyard & Winery

Chef Jesse Mallgren left the Michelin-starred restaurant he'd run for 13 years in 2023 to head the culinary program at this glamorous, French-inspired tasting room in Alexander Valley, amping up an already upscale program. Onsite gardens, orchards, and hives provide fresh ingredients for the seasonal tasting menu. jordanwinery.com

INDIE AND FAMILY-OWNED

Lioco Wines

In downtown Healdsburg, this spot from Matt and Sara Licklider is like tasting at your coolest friend's even cooler home, with interesting art and design and a record player spinning vinyl in the corner. They're known for stellar Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Carignan with an emphasis on older vines, unique soil types, and heritage clones—and they're always exploring something new. liocowine.com

A LANDMARK RED BARN

Martinelli Winery

For more than 135 years, the Martinelli family has farmed this land, including the famously steep Jackass Hill. Daredevil winegrower Guiseppe Martinelli planted the hill in 1889 and farmed it with a team of horses for three decades. Today, tastings are in a historic hop barn or adjacent terraced garden with views across the Russian River Valley. martinellivinery.com

Above: Flowers Vineyards & Winery along Westside Road outside Healdsburg.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME



Washoe House

This fun roadhouse on the rural outskirts of Petaluma and Cotati is one of the oldest buildings in the county, dating back to 1859. Over the decades, it's been a stagecoach station, a dance hall, and a locals' watering hole, with pinned-up dollar bills and handwritten messages absolutely plastering the ceiling. The food is good, from BBQ oysters and steaks to Henhouse fried chicken and fried cheese curds. 707-795-4544



Dry Creek General Store

This distinctive green-and-white clapboard 1881 general store and restaurant is the place to stop on a wine-tasting tour through rural Dry Creek Valley west of Healdsburg, near the Lambert Bridge. It's the heart of this small rural crossroads, with cellar staff stopping in for takeout deli sandwiches during harvest and mixing it up with dressed-up visitors having a glass of wine on the porch. The adjoining bar is back with its distinctive saddle barstools, and everyone's having a good time. drycreekgeneralstore1881.com

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