



Top 25 Wineries to Visit

By [Esther Mobley](#), Chronicle wine critic | **Updated:** June 16, 2022 9:12 AM

THIS SPRING FEELS especially lovely in the Bay Area. Not only are the days staying lighter longer, but some of the long-observed pandemic restrictions are easing. Many of us are making up for lost time by getting out more — and there's no better activity for the season than going wine tasting.

Our latest update to the Top 25 Wineries list is heavy on places with scenic views and comfortable outdoor seating, all the better for enjoying that warm spring weather. We've added Storybook Mountain Vineyards, an under-the-radar estate in Calistoga that specializes in Zinfandel. A tour of this historic, secluded property feels like stepping into a quaint bygone era of Napa Valley. We're also recommending Aeris, a sleek new lounge on the downtown Healdsburg square that is, as far as we can tell, California's only tasting room specializing in wines inspired by the Italian island of Sicily. And this update also adds some longtime standbys like the rustic, blessedly low-key Porter Creek; and Keenan Winery, an estate on Napa Valley's Spring Mountain that makes a killer Merlot.

Off the list for the moment are Abbot's Passage, Ashes & Diamonds, Marine Layer and Matthiasson. These wineries are still excellent places to visit — we stand by them! — but it was time to showcase a few others that we love. We'll be updating this list again in a few months. We hope it helps you plan a great trip to Wine Country.



Mount Eden Vineyards

*22020 Mount Eden Road, Saratoga
SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS*

One of California's all-time classics, well worth the pilgrimage.

It almost feels too good to be true that Mount Eden Vineyards is open to the general public. Since its founding in 1945, it has largely remained unavailable for tasting appointments. That policy changed three years ago, and though tastings are still held only on weekdays, any serious student of California wine would be wise to book one. Located at the top of a mountain overlooking the city of Saratoga, Mount Eden produces exquisite, long-lived wines, made since 1981 by winemaker Jeffrey Patterson. It's the rare California winery that does equally well with Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon on the same site, despite the fact that those grape varieties each need different sorts of climates to thrive. (That's a testament to the diverse microclimates on the mountain.) Equally impressive are the views of Silicon Valley you'll glimpse from the high-altitude outdoor tasting areas; you may notice that the Apple campus looks like a giant spaceship from up here.

Tasting fee: \$35

Phone: 408-867-5832

Website: mounteden.com

<p>Aeris Wines</p> <p>337 Healdsburg Ave., Healdsburg SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Antica Napa Valley</p> <p>3700 Soda Canyon Road, Napa SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Broc Cellars</p> <p>1300 Fifth St., Berkeley SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Corison Winery</p> <p>987 St. Helena Hwy., St. Helena SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Faust Wines</p> <p>2867 St. Helena Hwy., St. Helena SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Frog's Leap Winery</p> <p>8815 Conn Creek Road, Rutherford SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Hendry Ranch Wines</p> <p>3104 Redwood Road, Napa SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Hudson Vineyards</p> <p>5398 Sonoma Hwy., Napa SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Idlewild Wines</p> <p>132 Plaza St., Healdsburg SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Iron Horse Vineyards</p> <p>9786 Ross Station Road, Sebastopol SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Joseph Swan Vineyards</p> <p>2916 Laguna Road, Forestville SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Keenan Winery</p> <p>3660 Spring Mountain Road, St. Helena SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Lola Wines</p> <p>916 Foothill Blvd., Calistoga SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Merry Edwards Winery</p> <p>2959 Gravenstein Hwy. N., Sebastopol SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Porter Creek Vineyards</p> <p>8735 Westside Road, Healdsburg SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Preston Farm & Winery</p> <p>9282 West Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Reeve Wines</p> <p>4551 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Ridge Vineyards – Monte Bello</p> <p>17100 Montebello Road, Cupertino SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Robert Sinskey Vineyards</p> <p>6320 Silverado Trail, Napa SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Ryme Cellars</p> <p>6450 First St., Forestville SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Saintsbury Winery</p> <p>1500 Los Carneros Ave #9742, Napa SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Schramsberg Vineyards</p> <p>1400 Schramsberg Road, Calistoga SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Storybook Mountain Vineyards</p> <p>3835 Hwy. 128, Calistoga SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Unti Vineyards</p> <p>4202 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg SEE IN GOOGLE MAPS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
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