



Sonoma Wine Tour

Designed and operated by our esteemed travel partner

5 days / 6 nights

Private tour, 6-12 guests

Price per person: \$3,600 (for 2024)

Daily Itinerary

Day 1

We meet after lunch at our hotel in Healdsburg and shuttle a very short distance to **DaVero Farms & Winery**. As its name implies, DaVero is unique in that it has more than just wine. We will take a short walk through the vineyards to learn about the company's grape growing practices. We then participate in a private wine tasting, olive oil tasting, and balsamic tasting, all with seasonal food pairings. This is a great introduction to Sonoma County, which is about much more than wine. Back in Healdsburg, we'll dine at **Chalkboard**, perhaps our favorite restaurant in Sonoma County and one known for its family-style serving of small plates featuring local products.

Day 2

We spend today in the **Dry Creek Valley**, one of the most famous AVAs (American Viticultural Area) in Sonoma County. Located only a few minutes from Healdsburg, this 16-mile long valley is sandwiched between Highway 101 and the foothills of the coastal mountain range. Wineries are dotted up and down this area, with most of the premium grapes grown on the benches or slopes above the creek bed itself.

We start at **Saini Vineyards**, which is an established grape-growing family that only recently started producing its own wine. Again, with the focus on grapes and not winemaking, this is a great place not only to taste excellent wines but learn about what makes Sonoma wines so

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special. We then have a tasting at nearby [Teldeschi Winery](#), which is a fascinating place. Famed for grape growing, the owner cousins tried to create a winery but hated the practice of selling wine. They have cases and cases of wine stored in their warehouse, so it is an amazing opportunity to taste and buy older wines not usually available.

We will visit [Dry Creek General Store](#), where you can purchase lunch on your own and eat on one of the picnic tables out front, watching life roll by. Then in the afternoon, we visit [Quivira Vineyards](#), which is focused on the sustainability of their entire ecosystem. In addition to grapes, they have native flowers, chickens, and steelhead trout in the restored wine creek that runs through the property.

In the evening we will eat at [Pizzardo](#), a casual and extremely popular Italian restaurant in Healdsburg.

Day 3

Today we'll discover the picturesque [Russian River Valley](#). This AVA is named after the first non-native settlers to come to area and has a rich history. Many consider it the birthplace of Sonoma County wine because the first grapes were planted here. The Russian River Valley is known for its Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, as well as other cool-climate varietals.

Our first event of the day will be a walk at [La Crema Estate](#) through Saralee's vineyard, followed by a private tasting. The vineyard is named after wine industry veteran Saralee Kunde, who used to lead our walks on the property but who passed away back in 2014.

We then move on to the [Kendall Jackson Estates](#), a pioneering winery, where we will get to participate in a garden-to-table lunch with tasting. Kendall Jackson has gone all in on their gardens, hiring a full-time gardener and using the results in their meals. After lunch, we will head to [Martinelli](#), which has been farming their estate for over 135 years and is now on the 6th generation. The winery has a beautiful outdoor terrace that is perfect for tasting their Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and other varietals.

If you still have energy, we can optionally visit the nearby [Joe Matos Cheese & Farmstead](#) to taste and purchase some local cheeses. It is then back to Healdsburg with a free evening to enjoy dinner on your own.

Day 4

We'll have breakfast at the hotel and set out for the [Alexander Valley](#), our third distinct AVA in a row. Alexander Valley has the largest fluctuating temperature in Sonoma County, including hot days, and is thus known for its more robust varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, Merlot, Syrah, and Barbera.

The Alexander Valley is densely planted with wine grapes, both in the valley floor and on the hillsides to the east. Our day starts with a visit to [Alexander Valley Vineyards](#), which was the homestead of the original Cyrus Alexander for whom the valley is named. After a tasting of their Reserve wines, we will do a tour of the caves where they store barrels.

It is then off to nearby [Hanna Winery](#) for a picnic lunch under the large oak tree in their front yard. Lunch is accompanied by a five-wine tasting.

In the afternoon we will shuttle to the small town of **Geyserville**, one of our favorites in California's wine country. Geyserville balances on the edge of sleepy and sophisticated and is worth strolling up and down the main street. Definitely worth your time is to stop into **Locals Tasting Room**, where you can sample wines from different wineries in the area, some of which do not even have their own tasting room. It is a great place to finalize purchases of wine for the week!

We'll have time to relax back at the hotel in Healdsburg before heading to **Valette**, one of the hottest restaurants in town, where you can order off the menu or try the five-course "Trust Me" menu from the chef.

Day 5

We'll check out of our rooms and store our luggage this morning before departing for the **Francis Ford Coppola Winery**. Made famous by the movie director, the winery is a tourism production as you might envision. Complete with museum, gift shop, and swimming pool, we'll spend time here wandering around and doing a final tasting.

It is then back to the hotel where we will finish our Sonoma Wine Tour, from where you can take a taxi to the airport or continue on your journey.