



Out and About Travel Guide: Sonoma County

WINE TASTING

Sonoma County features over 400 wineries that produce some of the best, award-winning wines in the world. Whether you enjoy the crispy Sauvignon Blancs of Sonoma Valley, the complex, fruit-forward Pinot Noirs of Russian River, or the intense, peppery Zinfandels of Dry Creek's famed Rockpile region, every area of Sonoma County has a unique tasting experience for you to discover.

Below we have highlighted some of our favorite winery experiences that each have left their own distinct mark on Sonoma County:

Kendall-Jackson Wine Estate - North Santa Rosa

One of the largest and best-known labels in the entire county, Kendall-Jackson also boasts one of the beautiful and picturesque settings situated right in the heart of Sonoma County. Along with the estate vineyards, KJ also features 7 unique garden spaces where they grow the fruit, vegetables, and herbs that inspire their diverse options of food and wine pairings.

Flamingo's Favorite Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon

St. Francis Winery - Southeast Santa Rosa

One of the closest wineries to the Flamingo Resort, St. Francis is a family-owned, Certified Sustainable winery that has been a staple of Sonoma County wines for over 40 years. A charming mission-style tasting room is surrounding by the Mayacamas Mountains and houses a 1,000 lbs bronze-cast bell in the bell tower that chimes each hour of the day.

Flamingo's Favorite Varietal: Sauvignon Blanc



DeLoach Vineyards - West Santa Rosa

A Pinot lover's dream! DeLoach is one of the shining stars of the Pinot Noir haven know as Russian River. Another long-standing Sonoma County winery, DeLoach has one of the largest estates that hosts amazing events all throughout the year. Whether the Summer Solstice Dinner or their always-busy Bubbles & Oysters, don't forgot to check DeLoach's event schedule to see what fun they have in store during your visit to Wine Country!

Flamingo's Favorite Varietal: You guessed it! **Pinot Noir.**

Iron Horse Vineyards - Sebastopol

We haven't forgot you sparking fans out there. While you may have toasted their Wedding Cuvee on a couple of summer nights in the past, don't think you've tried all that this sparkling juggernaut has to offer. Iron Horse's rustic outdoor tasting room overlooks the rolling hills of Russian River where you can test that sparkling pallet with their crispy, gentle Vintage Cuvee or their gentle, savory Brut Rose.

Flamingo's Favorite Varietal: **Sparkling Brut Rose.**

Jordan Winery - Healdsburg

Hidden inside an ivy-covered classic chateau is Jordan's wealth of award-winning Cabs and Chardonnays. No frills, no gimmicky attractions. With superior quality and service, Jordan Winery's French-inspired elegance is the embodiment of what classic wine tasting is all about.

Flamingo's Favorite Varietal: **Cabernet Sauvignon & Chardonnay.** We're going to have to let you be the judge!

Kokomo Vineyards - Dry Creek Valley

The youngest winery on our list, Kokomo Winery has become a local favorite since its inception in 2004. Regularly scoring 90+ ratings across all varietals, Kokomo has a quality wine for any wine drinker looking for something they can't find at their local grocery store. Family-owned, down to earth, and placed on 120 acres of beautiful agricultural land, this is small winery that you can't miss on your visit to Wine Country.

Flamingo's Favorite Varietal: **Zinfandel.**



DINING

Along with growing some of the best wine grapes in the world, Sonoma County's expansive agriculture allows for wonderful farm-to-table dining options. No matter your dietary restrictions or preferences, Sonoma County has the place the place to hit the spot!

Boon Eat + Drink

Local celebrity LGBT chef Crista Luedtke is the owner and operator of this Sonoma County gem. While she's been featured in Forbes, Food & Wine Magazine, New York Times, and many more, Chef Crista remains the humble and caring person that made her the beloved Sonoma County figure that she is. Her passion for farm-to-table, sustainable producers shows in this California-fusion menu with can't-miss options everywhere.

Flamingo's Favorite Menu Item: **Polenta Lasagna**

Willi's Wine Bar

"We're Back" - After the original location burned down during the devastating Tubbs Fire in October 2017, local favorite Willi's Wine Bar returned in 2019 in a roadhouse cottage just a mile away from the Flamingo with these 2 powerful words. A regular on the San Francisco Chronicle's Bay Area Top 100 Restaurants, Willi's features a diverse international small plates menu while truly capturing the laid-back nature of Sonoma County.

Flamingo's Favorite Menu Item: **Filet Mignon Sliders**

Stark's Steak & Seafood

Casual elegance with an upscale feel. Stark's personifies the classic steakhouse with a modern approach. Aside from Certified Angus Beef, dry-aged meat, and American Kobe that expand across the menu, Stark's could stand on its own as the best seafood restaurant or vintage lounge in Santa Rosa if it wanted to. A perfect spot for a dress-up dinner date.

Flamingo's Favorite Menu Item: **16oz Prime Bone-In Ribeye w/ Truffle Fried Egg**



Dierk's Parkside Café

Every town must have the go-to breakfast/brunch spot. Enter Dierk's. This modest local café routinely wins Best Of awards and is the perfect destination whether you're getting ready for a packed day in front of you or you're recovery from the long night before.

Flamingo's Favorite Menu Item: **Grandma Dierk's Pull-A-Parts & Louisiana Hash**

The Girl & The Fig

This quaint rustic bistro in Sonoma describes themselves as "Country food with a French passion". Sourcing all their food from local producers, The Girl & The Fig is a great place to experience the relaxed atmosphere that Sonoma is known for while supporting the local agriculture that makes our home so special.

Flamingo's Favorite Menu Item: **Fig and Arugula Salad**

Big Bottom Market

Located in downtown Guerneville, the heart of the LGBT in Sonoma County, Big Bottom Market is a LGBT-owned market and premium deli that is a perfect lunch stop on your way out to the Redwoods or the coast.

Flamingo's Favorite Menu Item: **Honey & Mascarpone Biscuit**

Dry Creek Kitchen

This upscale Charlie Palmer restaurant set on Healdsburg's historic plaza mixes a traditional American menu with the progressive flair that Chef Palmer is so well known for. One of the few staple restaurants to survive in the ever-changing Healdsburg downtown area, Dry Creek Kitchen has the intimate charm and hospitality that personifies Wine Country.

Flamingo's Favorite Menu Item: **Wild Rocket Risotto**



LGBT POINTS OF INTEREST

Located just 40 miles north of the West Coast LGBT capital of San Francisco, Sonoma County has a robust and engaging LGBT community. Being such a short drive, yet feeling worlds apart, from the Bay Area has allowed Sonoma County to be a prime weekend getaway location for those needing a break from the hustle and bustle of the Bay Area.

Guerneville

Nicknamed the “Gay Riveria” by the LGBT scene in Northern California, this hamlet is tucked away in the majestic redwoods of west county. Along with a large LGBT population, Guerneville also features several LGBT entrepreneurs that have turned what was once little more than a former lumber town turned forest neighborhood into a lively town full of amazing restaurants, bars, shops, and galleries.

Brew Coffee & Beer House

This lesbian-owned coffee shop is a perfect low-key hangout spot whether you’re looking for a latte or a craft beer. Cozy sofas, lively patrons, and a perfect view out to Santa Rosa’s historic Railroad Square District is the perfect wind-down spot.

Cowgirl Creamery

This locally famous creamy is owned and operated by lesbian couple Sue Conley and Peggy Smith. Their award-winning artisan cheeses are featured all over Northern California, but don’t miss your chance to tour this adorable barn-turned-shop and talk with the women themselves.

Juice Shack

Named one of Bay Area’s top 25 LGBT owned businesses by the San Francisco Business Times, this local chain of smoothie and juice shops has 7 seven locations across Sonoma County. For those craving a fresh-squeezed juice fix, stop by one of these friendly shops.

Rainbow Cattle Company

The bar right on Main Street in Guerneville has been a LGBT favorite for over 40 years! The perfect night out spot for people of all walks of life.





LGBT EVENTS

Sonoma County hosts several LGBT-focused annual events. A few of the most well-known ones are listed below, but there are many more all throughout the year! Contact the hotel and we would be happy to help plan your trip around one of these events.

Gay Wine Weekend

The largest LGBT wine event in the world! Put on by local organization, Out In The Vineyard, this extravagant weekend features 3 days of exclusive wine tasting events, fine dining, live music and vineyard dancing, champagne brunches, and a huge pool party. This is the perfect event to experience the LGBT Sonoma County lifestyle.

Sonoma County Pride

Sonoma County Pride takes place on a two-day weekend in June. Events include concerts, marches & parades, local food and wine pairings, along with a National LGBT March – Solidarity Rally.

OUTwatch

This LGBT film festival brings outstanding films from around the world that explore the vast diversity of the LGBT community and celebrates its unique history. Along with the annual OUTwatch Film Festival in October, OUTwatch has pop up events throughout the year to bring these films to as wide an audience as they can.

Russian River Women's Weekend

Hosted at the R3 Hotel in Guerneville, this 3-day lesbian focused event features local companies including yoga, hiking, local lesbian musicians, drag king shows, fine dining, and comedy. This event has continued to grow since it's inception and is always featuring new and exciting events to celebrate the LGBT community.

Lazy Bear Week

Advertised as "The Biggest, hairiest, burliest, craziest, laziest fundraising event on the plant!", this 6-day event attracts up to 10,000 gay men from around the world for a week. Along with parties, local entertainers, and social activists, Lazy Bear raises funds for great causes including Food For Thought, Positive Resource Center, Lampart House, Women's Cancer Resource Center, and local Sonoma County health centers.