



San Francisco Chronicle

TOP 25 WINERIES

Summer 2021: Best Bay Area Wineries to Visit

By Esther Mobley, Chronicle wine critic | Updated: July 1, 2021 4:57 PM

IT'S FINALLY SUMMERTIME, and that means it's time to go wine tasting. After many months of pandemic uncertainty, the Bay Area's various wine countries are beginning to look like themselves again — so much so, in fact, that you'll want to make your tasting reservations in advance. Wineries are busy right now.

I've updated this Top 25 Wineries list to feature places that are especially well suited to the warm weather and the sense of almost-back-to-normal celebration that many of us are feeling right now. That includes producers of thirst-quenching whites and rosés, like Joseph Swan in Forestville, and wineries with fun outdoor activities or board games, as is the case at Berkeley's Donkey & Goat. And, of course, this list is extra-heavy on the scenic views, with wineries like Antica, at the top of Napa's Atlas Peak, and Abbot's Passage in Glen Ellen, where you might be seated in the shadow of a craggy, vigorous, 80-year-old Zinfandel vine.

Hudson Vineyards

5398 Sonoma Hwy., Napa

A thoroughly contemporary visitor center from one of Napa's best Chardonnay farmers.

The 2,000-acre Hudson Ranch is one of the most celebrated properties in Carneros, and its owner, Lee Hudson, is famous in Napa for farming some of the best Chardonnay grapes around. After decades of selling his fruit to other wineries, Hudson began making wines of his own in 2004, and in 2018 opened a tasting room at the estate. The most striking thing about visiting the ranch is the landscaping, which features a rainbow-colored array of succulents and other desert plants along with extensive fruit and vegetable gardens. Customers are treated to a secluded, one-on-one tasting with a staff member, typically featuring four wines. While Chardonnay is a can't-miss specialty here, Hudson also produces an excellent, brooding, savory Grenache, and even tinkers with Aleatico, an extremely rare red grape that is fashioned here into a fragrant, peachy white wine.

Phone: 707-255-1345

Website: hudsonranch.com

RANCH · VINEYARDS · WINES · GROCERY
5398 CARNEROS HIGHWAY, NAPA, CA 94559 • (707) 255-1345
Info@HudsonRanch.com

