

WineRelease.com's Readers Choice: Sonoma Valley *May 2006*

WineRelease.com informs wine enthusiasts about upcoming North American wine release dates and publishes a free monthly newsletter. We recently surveyed our subscribers on their Sonoma Valley recommendations for wineries, accommodations and activities and below are their responses (in order of popularity).

Best winery for a picnic:

Over 10% recommend Chateau St. Jean (famous for their red wine Cinq Cepages), then 4% prefer Bartholomew Park, Benziger and Buena Vista followed by Ferrari Carano, Rochioli and Viansa.

Best value lunch:

Over 10% voted for Oakville Grocery in Healdsburg (sister grocery store in Oakville) with the Dry Creek General Store in second and Café Citti rounding out the popular opinion.

Best lunch (regardless of price):

The Girl and the Fig garnered 12% of the vote followed by Chateau Souverain and Oakville Grocery then Dry Creek Kitchen.

Best value dinner:

The Girl and the Fig garnered 7% here with Café La Haye and Bistro Ralph receiving 5% each.

Best dinner (regardless of price):

Over 11% voted for Cyrus with 9% voting for The Girl and the Fig followed by Dry Creek Kitchen, Café La Haye and Bistro Ralph.

Best romantic restaurant:

Over 14% of you voted for John Ash & Co. with Cyrus, Dry Creek Kitchen and Farmhouse Inn and Restaurant rounding out the recommendations.

Best bar to grab a cocktail and relax:

Dry Creek Kitchen came in first with 9% followed by Cyrus, The Girl and the Fig and Willi's Wine Bar.

Best bakery and/or breakfast:

Downtown Bakery garnered 8% of the vote followed by Costeaux Bakery & Café and Artisan Bakery then Basque Bakery.

Best winery for the first time Sonoma Valley visitor:

Over 14% of you voted for Chateau St. Jean followed by Benziger, Ferrari-Carano and Kendall-Jackson.

Best winery tour and/or wine educational event:

Over 18% of you voted for Benziger followed by Chateau St. Jean, Kenwood and Kunde..

Best winery for the advanced visitor (unknown winery gem):

Gems include A. Rafanelli, Kosta-Browne, Arrowood and Martinelli.

Best winery to visit when you have non-drinkers in your group:

Ferrari-Carano came in first with 10% followed by Chateau St. Jean, Viansa and Kenwood.

Best new winery to visit (less than two years old):

Kosta-Browne and Mayo Family were the only wineries mentioned with frequency.

Winery that offers most variety of wines to taste:

Over 11% voted for Chateau St. Jean followed by Kenwood, Martinelli, Mayo Family, David Coffaro and Ferrari-Carano.

Best small winery where you will meet the winemaker and/or owner:

Over 8% voted for Kosta-Browne followed by Kaz, Rafanelli, Schug, Siduri and David Caffaro.

Best bed and breakfast on a budget:

Only two mentions received a sizeable number of votes; Trojan Horse Inn and Healdsburg Inn..

Best bed and breakfast (regardless of price):

Only three mentions received a sizeable number of votes; Glenn Ellen Inn, Madrona Manor and Trojan Horse Inn.

Best hotel/motel:

Over 15% voted for Hotel Healdsburg followed by Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa, MacArthur Place and Vintners Inn.

Best Spa in the Sonoma Valley:

Over 38% voted for Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa followed by Kenwood Inn and Spa.

Best activity when you aren't tasting wine, eating, golfing, shopping or visiting a spa in the Sonoma Valley:

Over 14% voted for hiking followed by biking.

Best winery for a picnic:

Bartholomew Park 1000 Vineyard Lane Sonoma, CA 95476 707-935-9511 http://www.bartpark.com	Ferrari Carano 8761 W Dry Creek Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-6700 http://www.ferrari-carano.com
Benziger 1883 London Ranch Road Glen Ellen, CA 95442, 707-935-3000 http://www.benziger.com	Rochioli 6192 Westside Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-2305 No web site.
Buena Vista 18000 Old Winery Road Sonoma, CA 95476 707-938-1266 http://www.buenavistawinery.com	Viansa 25200 Arnold Drive Sonoma, CA 95476 707-935-4700 http://www.viansa.com
Chateau St. Jean 8555 Sonoma Highway (Highway 12) Kenwood, CA 95452 707-833-4134 http://www.chateaufstjean.com	

Best value lunch:

Café Citti 9049 Sonoma Hwy Kenwood, CA 95452-9028 707-833-2690 http://www.deandeluca.com	Oakville Grocery 124 Matheson Street Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-3200 http://www.oakvillegrocery.com
Dry Creek General Store 3495 Dry Creek Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-944-8802 http://www.dcgstore.com	

Best lunch (regardless of price):

Chateau Souverain 400 Souverain Road Geyserville, CA 95441 707-433-3141 http://www.chateausouverain.com	The Girl and the Fig 110 West Spain Street Sonoma, CA 95476 707-938-3634 http://www.thegirlandthefig.com
Dry Creek Kitchen 317 Healdsburg Ave Healdsburg, CA 95448-4105 707-431-0330 No web site.	Oakville Grocery 124 Matheson Street Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-3200 http://www.oakvillegrocery.com

Best value dinner:

Bistro Ralph 109 Plaza St (on the Square) Healdsburg, CA 95448-4113 707-433-1380 No web site.	The Girl and the Fig 110 West Spain Street Sonoma, CA 95476 707-938-3634 http://www.thegirlandthefig.com
Café La Haye 140 East Napa Street Sonoma, CA 95476 707-935-5994 No web site.	

Best dinner (regardless of price):

Bistro Ralph 109 Plaza St (on the Square) Healdsburg, CA 95448-4113 707-433-1380 No web site.	Dry Creek Kitchen 317 Healdsburg Ave Healdsburg, CA 95448-4105 707-431-0330 No web site.
Café La Haye 140 East Napa Street Sonoma, CA 95476 707-935-5994 No web site.	The Girl and the Fig 110 West Spain Street Sonoma, CA 95476 707-938-3634 http://www.thegirlandthefig.com
Cyrus 29 North Street Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-3311 http://www.cyrusrestaurant.com	

Best romantic restaurant:

Cyrus 29 North Street Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-3311 http://www.cyrusrestaurant.com	Farmhouse Inn and Restaurant 7871 River Road Forestville, CA 95436 707-887-3300 http://www.farmhouseinn.com
Dry Creek Kitchen 317 Healdsburg Ave Healdsburg, CA 95448-4105 707-431-0330 No web site.	John Ash & Co. 4350 Barnes Road Santa Rosa, CA 95403 707-575-7350 http://www.vintnersinn.com/dining/johnash.asp

Best bar to grab a cocktail and relax:

Cyrus 29 North Street Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-3311 http://www.cyrusrestaurant.com	The Girl and the Fig 110 West Spain Street Sonoma, CA 95476 707-938-3634 http://www.thegirlandthefig.com
Dry Creek Kitchen 317 Healdsburg Ave Healdsburg, CA 95448-4105 707-431-0330 No web site.	Willi's Wine Bar 4404 Old Redwood Highway Santa Rosa, CA 95403 707-526-3096 No web site.

Best bakery and/or breakfast:

Artisan Bakery 750 West Napa Street Sonoma, CA 95476-6413 707-939-1765 http://www.artisanbakers.com	Costeaux Bakery & Café 417 Healdsburg Ave Healdsburg, CA 95448-3814 707-944-8246 No web site.
Basque Boulangerie Café 460 First Street East Sonoma, CA 95476 707-935-7687 No web site.	Downtown Bakery & Creamery 308 Center Street Suite A Healdsburg, CA 95448-4102 707-431-2719 No web site.

Best winery for the first time Sonoma Valley visitor:

Benziger 1883 London Ranch Road Glen Ellen, CA 95442, 707-935-3000 http://www.benziger.com	Ferrari Carano 8761 W Dry Creek Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-6700 http://www.ferrari-carano.com
Chateau St. Jean 8555 Sonoma Highway (Highway 12) Kenwood, CA 95452 707-833-4134 http://www.chateaufstjean.com	Kendall-Jackson 421 Aviation Blvd Santa Rosa, CA 95403 707-544-4000 http://www.kj.com

Best winery tour and/or wine educational event:

Benziger Family Winery 1883 London Ranch Rd Glen Ellen, CA 95442 707-935-3000 http://www.benziger.com	Kunde 10155 Sonoma Highway Kenwood, CA 95452 707-833-5501 http://www.kunde.com
Chateau St. Jean 8555 Sonoma Highway (Highway 12) Kenwood, CA 95452 707-833-4134 http://www.chateaufstjean.com	

Best winery for the advanced visitor (unknown winery gem):

A. Rafanelli 4685 West Dry Creek Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-1385 http://www.arafanelliwinery.com	Kosta-Browne 6905 Southpoint Avenue Sebastopol, CA 95472 707 823-7430 http://www.kostabrowne.com
Arrowood 14347 Sonoma Highway Glen Ellen, CA 95442 707-938-5170 http://www.arrowoodvineyards.com	Martinelli Winery 3360 River Road Windsor, CA 95492 707-525-0570 http://www.martinelliwinery.com

Best winery to visit when you have non-drinkers in your group:

Chateau St. Jean 8555 Sonoma Highway (Highway 12) Kenwood, CA 95452 707-833-4134 http://www.chateautjean.com	Kenwood 9592 Sonoma Highway Kenwood, CA 95452 707-833-5891 http://www.kenwoodvineyards.com
Ferrari Carano 8761 W Dry Creek Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-6700 http://www.ferrari-carano.com	Viansa 25200 Arnold Drive Sonoma, CA 95476 707-935-4700 http://www.viansa.com

Best new winery to visit (less than two years old):

Kosta-Browne 6905 Southpoint Avenue Sebastopol, CA 95472 707 823-7430 http://www.kostabrowne.com	Mayo Family Winery 13101 Arnold Drive Glen Ellen, CA 95442 707-938-9401 http://www.mayofamilywinery.com
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Winery that offers most variety of wines to taste:

Chateau St. Jean 8555 Sonoma Highway (Highway 12) Kenwood, CA 95452 707-833-4134 http://www.chateautjean.com	Kenwood 9592 Sonoma Highway Kenwood, CA 95452 707-833-5891 http://www.kenwoodvineyards.com
David Coffaro 7485 Dry Creek Road Geyserville, CA 95441 707-433-9715 http://www.coffaro.com	Martinelli Winery 3360 River Road Windsor, CA 95492 707-525-0570 http://www.martinelliwinery.com
Ferrari Carano 8761 W Dry Creek Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-6700 http://www.ferrari-carano.com	Mayo Family Winery 13101 Arnold Drive Glen Ellen, CA 95442 707-938-9401 http://www.mayofamilywinery.com

Best small winery where you will meet the winemaker and/or owner:

A. Rafanelli 4685 West Dry Creek Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-1385 http://www.arafanelliwinery.com	Kosta-Browne 6905 Southpoint Avenue Sebastopol, CA 95472 707 823-7430 http://www.kostabrowne.com
David Coffaro 7485 Dry Creek Road Geyserville, CA 95441 707-433-9715 http://www.coffaro.com	Schug Carneros Estate Winery 602 Bonneau Road Sonoma, CA 95476 707-939-9363 http://www.schugwinery.com
Kaz 233 Adobe Canyon Rd. Kenwood, CA 95452 877-833-2536 http://www.kazwinery.com	Siduri 980 Airway Court, Suite C Santa Rosa, CA 95403 707-578-3882 http://www.siduri.com

Best bed and breakfast on a budget:

Healdsburg Inn 112 Matheson Street Healdsburg, CA 95448 800-431-8663 http://www.healdsburginn.com	Trojan Horse 19455 Sonoma Highway Sonoma, CA 95476 707-963-3216 http://www.trojanhorseinn.com
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Best bed and breakfast (regardless of price):

Glen Ellen Inn 13670 Arnold Drive Glen Ellen, CA 95442 707-996-6409 http://www.glenelleninn.com	Trojan Horse 19455 Sonoma Highway Sonoma, CA 95476 707-963-3216 http://www.trojanhorseinn.com
Madrona Manor 1001 Westside Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-4231 http://www.madronamanor.com	

Best hotel/motel:

Hotel Healdsburg 25 Matheson Street Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-431-2800 http://www.hotelhealdsburg.com	Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa 100 Boyes Blvd. Sonoma, California 95476 707-938-9000 http://www.fairmont.com/sonoma/
MacArthur Place 29 East MacArthur Street Sonoma, CA 95476 800-722-1866 http://www.macarthurplace.com	Vintners Inn 4350 Barnes Road Santa Rosa, CA 95403 707-575-7350 http://www.vintnersinn.com

Best Spa in Sonoma Valley:

Auberge du Soleil 10400 Sonoma Highway Kenwood, CA 95452 800-353-6966 http://www.kenwoodinn.com	Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa 100 Boyes Blvd. Sonoma, California 95476 707-938-9000 http://www.fairmont.com/sonoma/
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This survey brought to you in part by a sponsorship from QPRwines.com, a wine buying guide that groups the major critics' average wine ratings, then lists them by price to determine overall value – the Quality Price Ratio for wine.

