6 Chic Winery Tasting Rooms in St. Helena, California

Bring all your oenophile friends

Text by <u>Kristine Hansen</u> Posted September 27, 2016

With Northern California's wine-grape harvest in full swing, autumn is a gorgeous time to be in Napa Valley. Hues of copper and crimson cover the grape leaves, and the sky takes on a golden light. So why not take a trip to popular St. Helena, where the focus is not just on the wine but on the interior design as well. From an alfresco spot to a LEED-certified establishment, we've rounded up a selection of beautiful tasting rooms to visit. Outside of wine, the town's charming Main Street hosts independent shops, bakeries, and restaurants, plus killer cocktails at <u>Goose & Gander</u>. Check into a boutique hotel in the thick of downtown—the five-year-old <u>Wydown Hotel</u>, with just 12 guest rooms, has a newly renovated lobby featuring a vertical garden and plush tufted sofas. Expect to drink lots of Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay—maybe Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc, too.

Brasswood Cellars



At this new village-like winery complex—opened in 2015—you can eat flaky croissants at the on-site Brasswood Bar + Bakery and shop for apparel and design books at the Redolent Mercantile. Throughout the estate's buildings, a monochromatic palette of blacks and grays is paired with white-beamed ceilings for a sleek urban profile. *cairdeanestate.com*

Charles Krug Winery



Photo: Courtesy of Charles Krug Winery

A recent renovation of this circa-1861 winery's hospitality center added a coffee bar—another sign that California's oldest commercial winery can effortlessly evolve with the times. With its polished-nickel chairs and exposed-wood ceilings, the tasting room exudes a modern rustic vibe. Behind a glass wall at the coffee bar, you can see the original barrel cellar. <u>charleskrug.com</u>

Hall Wines



Photo: Tubay Yabut

This LEED-certified winery in St. Helena (there's another outpost in Rutherford) features many art installations, including a 35-foot-tall stainless-steel rabbit—the winery's mascot—soaring above the grapes near the glass-walled tasting room and John Baldessari's fiberglass camel out front. Other design wows: twig huts by Patrick Dougherty, and a men's bathroom all aglow in red. *hallwines.com*

Sinegal Estate Winery



Photo: Courtesy of Sinegal Estate Winery

This three-year-old winery's new tasting lounge is a stark contrast to the 19th-century Victorian home on the property. In the lounge, books and artful objects are displayed in cubbyhole shelving, and the mix-and-match furnishings exude boho flair. A ribbed copper chandelier hovers above a round table in the cozy members' room, which is the perfect place for sampling the winery's Cabs. Visitors can borrow a small boat to paddle across the private lake, too. *sinegalestate.com*

Cosentino Winery



Photo: Bryan Gray

With the unveiling of a new brick patio last year—complete with a fireplace, orange-and-white pinstriped umbrellas, and ivy-covered walls—Cosentino Winery now has a chill alfresco spot to sip through the winery's portfolio. Blends have been the winery's pride and joy since it released the Novelist in 1982, a favorite that is still produced today, along with other blends like the Dark (Petite Sirah and Petite Verdot, all Lodi fruit). Order a tasting flight so you don't have to choose between the offerings. <u>cosentinowinery.com</u>

Newton Vineyard



Photo: Courtesy of Newton Vineyard

Channeling a bit of Europe with its elaborate formal gardens and tall cypress trees, this winery is perched on Spring Mountain. Its late owner, Peter Newton, grew up in England, hence the classic approach to landscaping—and the red phone booth, too. A tour and tasting takes you through the gardens and the Chardonnay cellars, and includes a seated sampling of Newton's wines (such as the unfiltered Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot). *newtonvineyard.com*