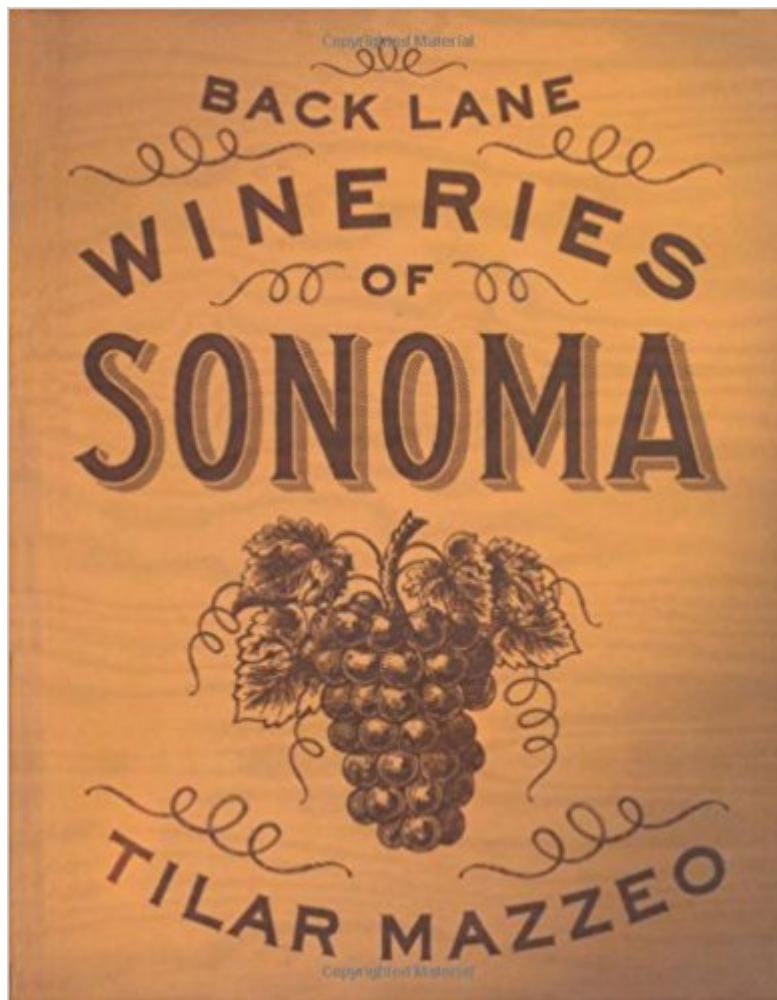


The book was found

Back Lane Wineries Of Sonoma



Synopsis

Many wineries in Sonoma are large retail operations offering wines that you can buy just as readily on the shelves of your local store. Often, these are beautiful places, and a part of the California wine-tasting experience is sitting on marbled Italianate terraces overlooking acres of perfectly pruned vineyards, basking in the warm sun and the intense loveliness of it all. Just as exciting and but far more difficult to spot, however, are the small, back-lane wineries, places that the critics, industry professionals, and locals revere but that few visitors ever see. These are wineries run by the same people who grow the grapes and make the wines. This is a guide to wineries where you can find excellent handcrafted wines made by on-site proprietors, often with only a local distribution and limited production, places where wine tasting gets down-to-earth—no one needs to show off how developed his or her palate is. These are often also where sustainable and organic viticulture is being pioneered. Above all, these are wines that are likely to be a new experience; amid the back-lane wineries of Sonoma, there are still discoveries to be made.

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Customer Reviews

"Oenophiles will enjoy this pocket-sized guidebook.. with insight into small, mostly family-run operations that are—•for the most part—•unknown to the average visitor. In addition to large color photos of the featured wineries and local landscape, the guide provides background information on the personalities." [Novus Vinum](#), [Gayot.com](#)"This is the quintessential guide to those back lane wineries of Sonoma County where you can taste

handcrafted wines by on-site proprietors, who often have only a local or regional distribution and a limited case production. Often, these are wineries where sustainable and organic viticulture is being developed. These are wines that you can keep a secret or brag to your friends that you've found the new best-tasting wine. Get a copy for your reference shelf for when family and friends visit and ask for a unique wine tasting experience." --Sonoma Sun

"Napa gets all the glory, but to the west lies another wine-tasting area, Sonoma. Each year about 7.5 million tourists visit the region. The lovely towns of Sonoma, Healdsburg and Glen Ellen are well-known in their own right, but there are plenty of other towns and 'small, back-lane wineries,' as author Tilar Mazzeo says, that are also worth visiting. These are the places that the critics and wine aficionados love but few visitors are aware of. Many of the wines here are hand-crafted and made by on-site proprietors. In fact, most wineries in the book make fewer than 10,000 cases of wine a year; some produce only 100 or so." --The Chicago Tribune

"In Back Lane Wineries of Sonoma, author Tilar Mazzeo steers the reader away from the crowded commercial wineries to charming, one-of-a-kind boutique establishments...This book is invaluable for touring North Bay, as Sonoma is known to the locals. There's also a list of restaurants and 'picnic provisions.' The photos of the sun drenched valleys and vineyards exert their own restorative power." --The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

"Back Lane Wineries of Sonoma takes day trippers to the rambling, quirky, yet loveable Sonoma wine country. The author set out to pique the reader's interest in the smallest producers, and achieves the goal with charming descriptions of the proprietors with alluring photos." --Napa Valley Marketplace Magazine

Tilar J. Mazzeo is the author of Back Lane Wineries of Sonoma (The Little Bookroom), The New York Times best-selling "oenobiography" The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It (Harper), and the forthcoming Back Lane Wineries of Napa (The Little Bookroom, Spring 2010). The Widow Clicquot has been recognized by Gourmand as the Best Work of Wine Literature in the United States for 2008. A member of the International Food, Wine, and Travel Writers Association, her work has appeared in Food and Wine magazine. She divides her time between the California wine country and the East Coast, where she is a professor of English at Colby College.

I grew up in wine country area, went to college at Sonoma State and have lived in the city of Sonoma. What I found most useful from this book is that it provides a little back story / bio of each winery that it mentions. Most people don't realize for every Kendall Jackson winery there are 5 that you have never heard of and these wineries are often family operations and it is true you will

be wine maker or a family member who will actually do the pouring for you. These wine makers are so much more passionate than the wineries that have guided tours every half hour which are informative but also very scripted. I spent a weekend in Healdsburg went to about 11 wineries 5 were in the book. I felt that I appreciated the wineries that were in the book as I had read up on them before we entered. The quality of the book is nice, the pictures pop and the descriptions are informative. I would love to have a map with stop by stop directions it might have made my planning easier. But the nice thing about wine tasting if you find one winery there are several nearby that are impossible to miss. All in all as someone who knows the Sonoma area I still got a lot of enjoyment from the book.

Loved this book. It took us to great small quaint out of the way wineries in Sonoma. We love the Mom and Pops wineries where you can hear stories, taste great wines and sometimes even talk to the owners/growers. This book will give you many great recommendations for the different areas in Sonoma. There are too many places to visit in a month let alone a week or weekend, but this book will help you hone in on places that produce wines that fit your palate. This book will help you make the most of your time in Wine Country. This is not for the person that wants to see the big wineries that produce thousands of cases of your favorite wines back home.

This book is outstanding. Every winery we found in here ended up being exceptional and an amazing experience. It is informative, personal, and well written. The food and grocery suggestions were also superb!

This book did not disappoint. Almost all our stops were from wineries recommended in this book. When there are 700 wineries give or take in Sonoma County, good recommendations are a must. Since the book was published in 2009, there have been some changes, such as it is noted A. Rafanelli takes cash only, however, credit happy folks will be pleased to know they now take credit as well.

Brought this book to my first trip to Sonoma with me. It was well written and interesting, but I mostly used it as afternoon pool reading. Did get a couple of ideas where to go, but without maps included, you had to research and find/circle on a map the day before, rather than on the fly. Very enjoyable reading.

A group of us used the book to select the region we wanted to visit and taste wines. Came in very handy,p

Great book. Well-researched, accurate, pleasant to read, easy to use. Got terrific info resulting in a wonderful winery experience in Sonoma.

Great book. These are some of the best wineries. When people hear all about the major and most popular wineries, they miss out on these gems. Read it and go.

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