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THE BEST 25 SONOMA COUNTY WINERIES THAT DON'T REQUIRE RESERVATIONS

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Wine tasting has changed since the pandemic. Bottle prices and tasting fees are on the rise. The casual, belly-up-to-the-bar format is nearly extinct. And the majority of wineries in Napa and Sonoma have shifted to a by-appointment structure.

We've included a wide range of experiences including urban wineries, stunning vineyard-view estates, bar tastings, picnic spots and a few fancy food pairings. A majority of the wineries on this list even offer tastings for \$30 or less, another Wine Country rarity. Through our research, we learned that the sub-regions of Sonoma Valley and Dry Creek Valley are generally the most accommodating pockets of Sonoma County for walk-ins. So if you're looking to hit up multiple wineries in one day, you might set your GPS to one of those. Then, for old time's sake, just wing it.

3 BADGE BEVERAGE CORPORATION

Gehricke Wines

Gehricke Wines offers one of Wine Country's most unusual tasting venues: a refurbished 1940s firehouse. There's a multi-generational connection at what's now known as the 3 Badge Firehouse, too; the grandfather of Gehricke owner August Sebastiani helped build the firehouse, and his father volunteered there. The building's large red doors roll up for chill indoor and outdoor tastings (Friday-Sunday) a few blocks off the Sonoma Plaza - and just far enough away from the tourist action that walk-ins are easily accommodated. Choose a tasting of single vineyard Sonoma County wines based on your mood or preferences: whites and rosés, reds only or mixed. On Friday and Saturday afternoons, Gehricke hosts a local food truck, like Holy Chile Mole or Sushi Shoubu, and stays open until 7 p.m. J.L.

Tasting fee \$25. 32 Patten St., Sonoma. 707-732-9590 or gehrickewines.com

GEHRICKE WINES