

SEE MONTEREY

Savor the Tasting Notes of California and Find Your Way to Monterey

Monterey County offers award-winning wine, a diverse community of winemakers and a blend of experiences immersed in the flavors of the region

Monterey, Calif., October 4, 2024 — As California's September Wine Month winds down, [Monterey County](#), one of the largest wine growing and producing regions in the state, offers several ways to sip and savor one of its 53 varietals all year long across its 46,000 acres of premium vineyards, over 65 tasting rooms and 82 wineries. Since the first grape vines were laid in Salinas Valley more than 250 years ago, Monterey has earned its global reputation as a top wine destination with its viticultural success powered by the "Blue Grand Canyon," Monterey Bay's cold, deep waters that generate the unique microclimates responsible for the signature style and structure Monterey wine is known for.

Award-Winning Food & Wine

In Monterey County, the terroir is powerfully designed for abundance. While Salinas Valley, known as the "Salad Bowl of the World," is a top agricultural region in the United States, the county's wine production is equally matched as the largest grower of Chardonnay in the country and the highest rated and largest Pinot Noir production in California. The county's 225 vineyards produce award-winning vintages every year at international competitions.

The flawless execution of local wine and food curations at [Aubergine](#) has earned the Carmel-by-the-sea restaurant its second Michelin star this year, adding to Monterey County's collection of 16 Michelin-recognized recommendations, two starred restaurants and two bib gourmand winners. Aubergine is home to a 3500-bottle wine cellar and Michelin's 2023 California Sommelier Award Winner, John Haffey, who serves a vast selection of Monterey County favorites from Galante Vineyards, Caraccioli Cellars, Joyce, Pisoni Vineyards, Lucia, ROAR and more.

Wine Encounters

There are many ways to experience wine country throughout Monterey County. For self-guided exploration of top tasting rooms, [Carmel-by-the-Sea's Wine Walk](#) serves as the perfect mobile companion, ensuring that wine enthusiasts can find all the essential stops within the town's one square mile. For expertly led tasting room and vineyard tours there's [Carmel Wine and Wandering](#) or [Monterey Guided Wine Tours](#) offer special packages that include barrel tasting at select wineries. Visitors can blend their own wine at [The Wine Experience](#) and [A Taste of Monterey](#) offers oceanfront tastings of more than 95 Monterey County wines within a renovated 1918 sardine cannery on the historic Cannery Row. The [Monterey Wine Trail](#) is another incredible itinerary to follow to savor the region's top flavors at various tasting rooms specializing in limited-release vintages.

There are several lodging options to stay amongst the vines at resorts who grow their own wine right on property such as Bernardus Lodge and Carmel Valley Ranch. For a more secluded experience [Holman Ranch](#) is a private estate for group buyouts with a fully restored stone hacienda, overnight guest rooms, vineyards reaping exclusive vintages, an olive grove and even horse stables.

Annual events such as the [Monterey Wine Festival](#) every summer and the [Big Sur Food & Wine Festival](#) each fall also offer ample opportunity to take in the region's top flavors and meet the talent behind the glass.

Harmonious Community

Monterey's winemaking community is as unique and diverse as its ten large American Viticultural Areas (AVAs) found within the destination, with generational roots, young and established talent and business owners with heritage stemming from all over the world. A few dynamic members of the winemaking community include:

- Thirty-something Miguel Lepe is Monterey's first Mexican-American winemaker and the force behind [Lepe Cellars](#), an artisan winery known for its organic wines that express the terroir of Monterey. Lepe has expressed his passion for creating low-intervention, boutique wines and growing a Hispanic clientele. His Carmel-by-the-Sea tasting room shares space with the Winfield Art Gallery, merging two of the one-square-mile town's greatest creative pursuits.
- Race-car driver, dentist, and winemaker, Francis Joyce, planted [Joyce Winery](#) on a steep Carmel Valley slope in 1986 at the crossroads of Laguna Seca Raceway and a rich terroir with potential. The brand is leaning into its next era with Francis' son and self-taught winemaker, Russell, at the helm, who has evolved the winery into a sustainable business operation.
- [Galante Family Winery](#), Carmel-by-the-Sea's first wine tasting room powered by Galante Vineyards in the Carmel Valley Appellation, is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024. The Galante family's pioneering history runs deep as the great-grandfather of tasting room owner, Jack Galante, founded Carmel-by-the-Sea 100 years prior.
- [Marta Kraftzeck](#) is Monterey's first female winemaker, with a career dating back to the 1980s. Now an invaluable part of the team at [Scheid Vineyards](#), Marta's efforts have propelled the vineyard and winery to earn several awards including the California Green Medal Environment award, one of the highest recognitions recognizing leaders in sustainable practices.

For more information on Monterey County and to inspire your next wine country vacation, visit www.SeeMonterey.com.

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ABOUT SEE MONTEREY

See Monterey is a 501c6 non-profit organization that drives tourism for Monterey County. Tourism is the largest industry on the Monterey Peninsula and the second largest in the County. See Monterey is a partnership of the hospitality community and local governments that aims to generate community prosperity and enrich economic vitality for Monterey County through the responsible growth of the tourism economy. Travel spending in Monterey County was nearly \$3 billion in 2023, supporting 26,799 jobs and generating \$307 million in state and local tax revenue that directly benefited the community. For more information, visit www.SeeMonterey.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

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