



www.landofwineandfood.com

Make a Date to Take a Taste

Mark your Calendar for California's Top Wine and Food Events

SACRAMENTO, California — Travelers looking to indulge their inner foodie or wine connoisseur should be sure to schedule their California getaway around one of the state's many culinary events. From festivals featuring all things garlic to celebrations of Golden State wines, visitors are sure to find an event to satisfy their every craving. Below are top wine and food events from regions across California. For more information on Golden State culinary activities, check out www.landofwineandfood.com.

NORTH COAST

Sonoma County Showcase Weekend of Wine and Food, Sonoma County – Throughout the course of Sonoma County's Showcase Weekend, held in July, guests can sample regional wines, attend hands-on vineyard discussions, and mix and mingle with the area's premier winemakers and chefs. Event proceeds benefit a variety of local charities. www.showcase.sonomawine.com

Sonoma County Harvest Fair – Visitors can watch the world-famous Grape Stomping Competition and learn about the wine industry in seminars run by local experts. They can see competitions by vintners who collectively enter over 1,000 wines, and cheer local growers as they showcase organic fruits and vegetables in dozens of food competitions. www.harvestfair.org

Auction Napa Valley, Napa Valley – Established in 1981 by the Napa Valley Vintners to raise funds for local non-profits focusing on healthcare, the Auction Napa Valley provides several days of enjoyable wine events in June. Culminating with the Live Auction and Dinner, it is hard to not come away from this weekend without a new found appreciation of Napa Valley Wine Country. www.napavintners.com

Napa Valley Mustard Festival, Napa Valley – Brilliant yellow mustard plants bloom each year between grape vines in Napa Valley’s vineyards, signaling the start of the annual Napa Valley Mustard Festival. Throughout the two-month winter festival, which usually takes place in February and March, visitors can sample local wines, feast at special dinner events or attend the photography contest. www.mustardfestival.com

CENTRAL COAST

The Paso Robles Wine Festival, Paso Robles – The weekend-long Paso Robles Wine Festival, held in May, takes place throughout the region and features tours, tastings, seminars, food pairings and other wine highlights, as well as a golf tournament. More than 90 wineries participate in this event, which has grown to be the largest outdoor tasting of its kind in California. www.pasowine.com

Annual Great Wine Escape Weekend, Monterey – In celebration of Monterey County’s harvest, the region hosts the Annual Great Wine Escape Weekend in November. The event features wine and food integration seminars, guided tours, winemaker dinners and winery open houses. www.montereywines.org

Gilroy Garlic Festival, Gilroy – Garlic lovers will find their nirvana at the Gilroy Garlic Festival each July. This three-day event showcases a plethora of garlic foods, as well as live music, arts and crafts, cooking demonstrations and other interactive displays. www.gilroygarlicfestival.com

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Zinfandel Festival, San Francisco – Looking for a “zinfually” good time? Zinfandel Advocates and Producers (ZAP) put on the annual Zinfandel Festival each January, an internationally recognized series of tasting events. Known as the premier single-varietal tasting in the world, an estimated 300 wineries and more than 10,000 attendees partake in the four days of festival events. www.zinfandel.org

Uncorked Wine Festival, San Francisco – Located in the beautiful courtyards of Ghirardelli Square and extending to Beach Street looking over the San Francisco Bay, Uncorked is a public event that provides an opportunity to taste, learn and experience wine from throughout Northern California. www.GhirardelliSQ.com

GOLD COUNTRY

Behind the Cellar Door, Amador County – Wine enthusiasts can raise a glass at 30 Amador County wineries during the region's annual Behind the Cellar Door event each February. The weekend of activities includes barrel tastings, food, live music and informative seminars and demonstrations at area wineries.

www.amadorwine.com

Calaveras Winegrape Alliance Passport Weekend, Calaveras County – This unique event offers an ideal way for new area visitors to become familiar with Calaveras County wineries. Enjoy a special weekend of gourmet foods, entertainment, winery discounts and award winning Calaveras wines at over 25 wineries and tasting rooms throughout Calaveras County.

www.calaveraswines.org

HIGH SIERRA

Lake Tahoe Autumn Food and Wine Festival, Truckee – The Lake Tahoe Autumn Food and Wine Festival, usually in September, is designed for all ages and features events that include outdoor grilling classes with celebrity chefs, culinary competitions, reserve wine and spirit tastings, a grape stomp, winery dinners and special restaurant presentations, as well as a special cooking class for kids. www.GoTahoeNorth.com

CENTRAL VALLEY

California State Fair, Grape & Gourmet, Sacramento – The California Grape & Gourmet is the California State Fair's premier wine competition. Guests can sample the finest wines California has to offer and taste foods from the finest restaurants in the Sacramento Area. Each of the 600+ wines are winners in the wine competition while over 140 California wineries will be represented at the event. www.thebestcaliforniawine.com

Stockton Asparagus Festival, Stockton – Fans of asparagus need look no farther than the Stockton Asparagus Festival for total indulgence – held every April. In addition to Asparagus-laden dishes, visitors will find music, crafts, a fun run, celebrity kitchen demonstrations and contests. www.asparagusfest.com

Lodi ZinFest, Lodi – Lodi's heritage grape, Zinfandel, serves as the inspiration for the two-day Lodi ZinFest each May. In addition to wines, the event features

its own cooking school, live music and delicious cuisine paired with local wines and art exhibits. www.zinfest.com

LOS ANGELES

American Wine and Food Festival, Universal City – Star chefs and other celebrities

converge on the Universal Studios Backlot for the American Wine and Food Festival, held every September. The public is welcome to attend the event and take in live music, a silent auction and delicious food and wine offerings from around the country. www.awff.org

LA Winefest, Hollywood – Walk around the old Hollywood grounds of Raleigh Studios tasting over 100 different California wines. This two day event includes a speaking program of leading industry sommeliers, wine makers and other top wine professionals. www.lawinefest.com

ORANGE COUNTY

A Taste of Newport, Newport Beach – Newport Beach's best culinary offerings can be found at A Taste of Newport, a three-day event featuring food, wine, spirits and music. Visitors can sample treats ranging from succulent prime rib to appetizing swordfish skewers from Newport Beach restaurants, as well as wine and beer from across the state. The event usually takes place in September.

www.tasteofnewport.com

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival, San Diego – At the San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival, the region's largest wine and culinary extravaganza, visitors will find culinary delights throughout downtown San Diego each November. The festival includes wine tasting seminars, cooking classes by award-winning chefs and cookbook authors, and the elegant Reserve & New Release Tasting event. www.worldofwineevents.com

Fallbrook Avocado Festival, San Diego -- In San Diego's North County, Fallbrook might be a quite hamlet most of the year, but every April the city welcomes 70,000 avocado lovers who converge on the town for the Fallbrook Avocado Festival to take in culinary demonstrations and buy funky avocado-themed gifts. www.fallbrookchamber.com

DESERT/TEMECULA

Winter Barrel Tasting, Temecula – The Temecula Winegrowers Association hosts a weekend of wine during the annual Winter Barrel Tasting in Temecula each January. The event features tastings at 21 wineries throughout the valley, where visitors can sample wines from the previous harvest, most poured from barrels. Food pairings are also offered at many locations.

www.temeculawines.org

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