

San Luis Obispo County Visitors & Conference Bureau

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Wine Itinerary Ideas

Wine Touring

Your day begins with a scenic drive along uncrowded country roads to discover small family-owned wineries where you are warmly greeted and treated like old friends. San Luis Obispo County has been growing grapes and making wine since the Franciscan friars planted grapes at Mission San Miguel Archangel in 1798. As of 2003 the county became the third largest wine growing area in California.

Wine Growing Regions

Wine grape vineyards now cover over 34,000 acres of the county spread over two distinct wine regions. The weather and geography create microclimates that favor a wide range of varieties.

Paso Robles

The northern portion of the county, around Paso Robles, is the largest appellation and is home to two distinct geographic areas roughly divided by the city and Highway 101.

Eastside -

Stretching from San Miguel to Templeton and eastward along Hwy 46 East the area is characterized by rolling hills and warmer temperatures.

Westside -

The more rugged terrain of the westside includes wineries in the "Templeton gap" and the Adelaide areas.

San Luis Obispo

This viticultural area includes Edna Valley, Arroyo Grande Valley as well as Avila Valley and Nipomo. The valleys have east-west orientations and are distinguished by the marine air flowing directly into the valleys from the Pacific Ocean that moderate the temperatures.

Edna Valley-

Located southwest the city of San Luis Obispo, this broad valley at the base of the Santa Lucia mountain range is known for its premium wine grapes.

Arroyo Grande Valley-

Inland from Arroyo Grande, and extending into the rugged terrain behind Lopez lake. Some wineries trace their history to vines planted in 1879.

Tasting Rooms

Many wineries maintain tasting rooms where you can sample their wines and learn about the winery's unique character. Quite often, the person behind the counter is the winemaker or a member of the family. Tasting rooms provide an opportunity to experiment and find a new favorite wine. Most wineries do not charge for tasting, while a few have a nominal charge that may include a souvenir glass. Ask about their wine clubs that offer monthly shipments and access to winemaker events.

Vintner Associations

For information about the wineries, annual events and educational seminars contact the vintners and growers associations that represent each region:

Paso Robles Vintners & Growers Association- www.pasowine.com 805/239-8463

San Luis Obispo County Vintners & Growers Association- www.slowine.com 805/541-5868