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9 Wine-Country Getaways That Are More Affordable Than Napa

Who's ready for a trip?!



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Think “wine-country getaway” and Napa Valley may auto-populate in your [vacation-planning](#) imagination. But, the [wine world](#) is a big one, full of vineyards beyond Napa and humble tasting rooms hiding out in lesser-known, more-affordable destinations.

Ready to pack [your bags](#)? These nine budget-friendly U.S. wine destinations are affordable alternatives to Napa and ideal locations for a kid-free girlfriend [getaway](#).

Also in Northern California, Napa's next-door neighbor [Sonoma County](#) is home to 425 wineries, a majority of which are family-owned. [Average nightly rates](#) at hotels in Sonoma County are under \$200, compared to \$400 in Napa County. Tasting rooms are less expensive, too, with [some wineries](#) even offering free tastings.

For a special treat in Santa Rosa, head to the [Kendall-Jackson Wine Estate and Garden](#). The estate offers a decadent alternative to wine and cheese: The wine and chocolate pairing (\$25 per person) features five dessert wines. There's also a five-course food and wine pairing (\$55 per person).

New to wine tasting? Arm yourself with a [wine-tasting aroma wheel](#) and sharpen your senses even further with a visit to Kendall-Jackson's sensory gardens, which are designed to help you grow your [wine vocabulary](#) and distinguish between aromas. The pinot noir garden, for example, is bursting with raspberries, blueberries, cherries and violets. How does a second career as a sommelier sound?



Kendall-Jackson

Healdsburg, California

Located in the northern part of Sonoma County, Healdsburg is a relaxed wine destination that's known for its zinfandels, pinot noirs and [chardonnays](#). The city's roots as a farming community have given way to a remarkable yet unpretentious culinary scene. While there, the [Jordan Vineyard and Winery](#) is a must-visit and has a calendar full of special events including hikes in the vineyards, picnics and interactive farm-to-table lunches.



Jordan Winery

Fredericksburg, Texas

Fredericksburg, which is in the heart of Texas hill country, has small-town charm

cottages were constructed by German settlers in the mid-1800s who were working farms but needed a place to stay when they came into town for church. [Wineries](#) here run the gamut from saloon-style to swanky castles.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BxlyfgOF7Uh/>

Paso Robles, California

[Paso Robles](#) boasts more than 200 wineries and is located in San Luis Obispo — or “SLO Cal” as locals lovingly call it as a nod to the slow, laid-back lifestyle here. Five dozen grape varieties grow in this central California coastal region, so you can appease your crowd of [wine-drinking](#) friends even if it runs the gamut from cabernet sauvignon lovers to zinfandel zealots. Nearby beaches and hiking trails are a low-cost way to round out a weekend getaway.

Yakima Valley, Washington

You may think of Washington state as wet, lush and green. But, the east side of the state is more dry and arid — and spoiled with 300 days of sunshine a year, making it an ideal location to grow hops for beer and grapes for wine. Plus, [Yakima Valley](#) is on the same latitude as some of the great [French wine-growing regions](#). In all, the valley is home to more than 120 wineries. If you fall in love with a particular wine, Alaska Airlines will let you take a box of wine [home](#) at no charge via their [Taste and Tote perk](#).

[Yakima Valley Tourism](#)

Lake Chelan Wine Valley, Washington

Tucked in Washington's Cascade Mountains, the [Lake Chelan Wine Valley](#) is another stellar affordable wine destination in the Pacific Northwest. Choose this region to host your wine getaway, and you can enjoy a unique wine-tasting excursion that includes electric bikes, seaplanes or paddleboarding. Summer is the high season here, but if you plan a trip in the fall, winter or spring, you can find shoulder-season rates at hotels under \$200, according to the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce. Plus, there are off-season festivals for wine lovers, including [Fall Barrel Tasting](#) in November, [Winterfest](#) in January and [Red Wine and Chocolate](#) in February.

[Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce](#)

Charlottesville, Virginia

Combine viticulture and history on a wine trip to the [Monticello Wine Trail](#). Thirty

the trail include [Blenheim](#), which is owned by musician Dave Matthews, and [Pippin Hill Farm and Vineyards](#), which offers panoramic vineyard views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Tasting fees at many of the wineries are under \$10 and room rates at [The Clifton](#), a beautifully restored boutique hotel with clawfoot soaking tubs and an Instagram-ready pool, start at just \$150 a night.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BzA7tAilmbC/>

Santa Ynez Valley, California

Two hours north of Los Angeles, the vineyard-studded hills of Santa Ynez boast 120 wineries with varietals that include chardonnay, pinot noir, syrah, sauvignon blanc, pinot grigio and more. A half dozen communities make up this wine valley, each with their own distinct personalities, from arty Los Olivos to the vintage western town of Los Alamos that dials up Wild West vibes. The [Skyview Los Alamos](#) (rates start at \$179), which is perched atop a hill overlooking downtown Los Alamos, is a 1950s-era hotel that got a fab makeover. It now boasts a retro pool that hosts rosé pool parties with wine sourced from the hotel's own vineyard.

[Skyview Los Alamos](#)

Fairfield County, Ohio

The [wineries](#) in Fairfield County, which is just outside of Columbus, range from downtown to rural to lakeside. At [1201 Wine](#), owner Andy Rahe is a full-time artist and art teacher helping to level up the paint-and-sip experiences. Overlooking a lake, [Hidden Lakes Winery](#) allows for waterfront tastings. And at [Rockside Winery and Vineyards](#), you can taste local wines as well as Ohio beers and whiskey. Wine tasters here can find hotel rooms and bed-and-breakfast lodges for around \$100 a night.

[Rockside Winery and Vineyards](#)

Now, who is ready to be whisked away for an unforgettable wine vacation?

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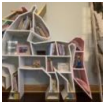
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