

Day Trip: Wine Tasting and Hiking

visit
San Jose
CALIFORNIA

The Santa Cruz Mountains wine region is nestled in one of the most unique natural environments in the world. With its mountainous terrain, marine and valley influences, varied micro-climates and diverse soils, the Santa Cruz Mountains offers vintners the ideal place to grow high quality grapes and was named by Wine Spectator as “the most underappreciated appellation in the world.” The Santa Cruz Mountains Appellation spans more than 850 square miles beginning from San Francisco down the Peninsula to Silicon Valley and Monterey Bay. Due to the size of the wine region it is often useful for visitors to plan trips by winery hours of operation, sub-regions or by urban winery locations. Plan a day trip to four distinct wineries close to San Jose with nearby hiking options.

Testarossa Winery and Tasting Room

300 College Ave. Los Gatos, CA 95030, 408.354.6150
(open daily from 11am – 5pm)

Testarossa’s location at the historic Novitiate in downtown Los Gatos is California’s fourth oldest continuously operating winery. The old Novitiate Winery was originally built in 1888 by Jesuit Fathers to help fund their new seminary college at what is now Santa Clara University. Today, the historic winery has been beautifully renovated into one of the gems of the California wine industry and produces around 20,000 cases annually.



Nearby Hikes: Saint Joseph’s Hill Open Space Preserve connects to the Los Gatos Creek Trail, which extends from the City of San Jose into Los Gatos. From there, the popular Jones Trail connects to Novitiate Park with access to Testarossa Winery.

Picchetti Winery

13100 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
408.741.1310
(open daily from 11am – 5pm)

Under the gaze of the ever-watchful peacocks Picchetti Winery produces approximately 9,000 cases of handcrafted award winning wine each year. Drawing from 100 years of tradition and winemaking craftsmanship, Picchetti’s vineyards include 3 acres of over 110 year old Zinfandel vines.

Nearby Hikes: The Zinfandel Trail in Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve provides a 1.9-mile long, easy hike through shaded areas lush with ferns and a view of Stevens Creek Reservoir.



Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards

22645 Garrod Rd. Saratoga, CA 95070 408.867.7116
(open weekdays 12pm – 5pm, weekends 11am – 5pm)

The Garrod family continues the agricultural tradition begun by winemaker Bill Cooper and vineyard master Jan Garrod. Winemaker Emeritus George Cooper refined his craft by learning from his fellow vintners in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Napa Valley, Burgundy, and Bordeaux. Cooper produces wines from vineyards that have stayed in the family for over 100 years.

Nearby Hikes: The Fremont Older Space Preserve provides 14 miles of hiking trails. Cooper-Garrod is accessible via the Wedding Trail, Coyote Ridge Trail and Bay View Trail. The vineyard also offers horseback riding tours on the vineyard trails.

Ridge Vineyards

17100 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
408.867.3233 (open weekdays by reservation only, weekends 11am – 4pm)

Founded in 1959 by four Stanford Research Institute engineers, Ridge Vineyards is famous for its wine that won best wine in the Reenactment of the Judgment of Paris in 2006 and retired winemaker Paul Draper. Draper began in 1969 and has produced world-class wines that have resulted in accolades including being named “Man of the Year” by Decanter Magazine, earning a James Beard Award for winemaking and being named one of the worlds five most admired winemakers by his peers by Decanter Magazine.

