



## California's North Coast Wine Region

The North Coast region is a wine and food lover's paradise - a tranquil scene of picturesque landscapes with rolling hills, sprawling vineyards and enchanting towns. The region is known for its distinctive vineyards and wineries, where visitors may enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting, stroll through local art galleries, take in the redwood forests or explore the rugged Pacific Coastline. Cozy bed and breakfasts, tranquil spas and gourmet restaurants dot the region making it the perfect weekend getaway. The premium wines made from the world-class winegrapes grown here are enjoyed around the globe. Here, wine and locally-grown foods are ways of life!

### **Regional Description: A Wine Mecca**

The North Coast grape growing region is comprised of the counties north of San Francisco including Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma and Solano, and is also home to more than 40 American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). The region – which consists of coastal mountain ranges, rolling hills, deep valleys and vast plains – produces some of the best winegrapes in the country. The North Coast forms a slightly crooked rectangle approximately 100 miles long and more than 50 miles wide from the Pacific Coast Ranges in the northwest to the Blue Ridge Mountain Range in the east to the San Pablo Bay in the South, encompassing more than three million acres of land.

### **History: A Vintage History**

The North Coast region has been a wine-making Mecca since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Agoston Harazthy, a Hungarian soldier considered the founder of the California wine industry, promoted vine planting over much of Northern California during the 1850s and 60s. He was an advocate of hillside planting and fostered the idea of non-irrigated vineyards. The wine industry here had a slow revival after Prohibition. It fully recovered during the nationwide wine boom of the 1960s thanks to a few families who bet that the area's winegrapes would flourish to produce fine wine. A number of wineries emerged and range from large corporations to small boutiques to cult classics. Today the region features approximately 800 wineries, nearly half of the total wineries in California.

### **Climate: Perfectly Mild**

The North Coast climate is diverse and ideal for grape growing. Influenced by the cool coastal air and fog from the Pacific Ocean, the region enjoys a temperate climate with a long growing season of sunny, warm days followed by cool evenings. The mild warm weather and seasonal rain encourages vine growth, while the hot, sunny summers help to develop the fruit.

### **Geography: Composition Breeds**

The soil and topography of the North Coast is as varied as the winegrapes grown in the region. The coastal ridges and interior valleys are composed predominately of sedimentary rocks and deposits of sand and clay, which produces wines that are less overtly fruity with more refined tannins and

focused intensity. Porous, well-drained soils with low water-holding capacity found in this region generally yield ripe, tannic wines. Additionally, the flavor of wines produced from grapes grown at higher elevations with rockier soils tends to be more concentrated.

### **Varietals: The Best of the Best**

Almost every variety of winegrape can be found in this sprawling region –that’s the surprise and adventure of discovering California wine. The ecological conditions here favor production of premium grapes. The region is known for its full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon, rich Merlot, crisp Chardonnay, spicy Zinfandel and smooth Pinot Noir. Other regional favorites include Cabernet Franc, Syrah/Shiraz, Petite Sirah, Viognier, Sauvignon Blanc – and Sparkling Wine!

### **American Viticultural Areas**

American Viticultural Areas, or AVAs, are delimited grape growing areas distinguishable by geographic climatic and historic features - which are sometimes noted on bottles of California wine. AVA boundaries have been delineated in a petition field and accepted by the U.S. Government. Following is a list of the AVAs in the North Coast:

#### **Lake County**

Benmore Valley  
Clear Lake  
Guenoc Valley  
High Valley  
North Coast  
Red Hills Lake County

Oak Knoll district of Napa Valley  
Oakville  
Rutherford  
Saint Helena  
Spring Mountain District  
Stags Leap District  
Wild Horse Valley  
Yountville

#### **Marin County**

North Coast

#### **Mendocino County**

Anderson Valley  
Cole Ranch  
Covelo  
Dos Rios  
McDowell Valley  
Mendocino  
Mendocino Ridge  
North Coast  
Potter Valley  
Redwood Valley  
Yorkville Highlands

#### **Solano County**

North Coast  
Solano County Green Valley  
Suisun Valley  
Wildhorse Valley

#### **Sonoma County**

Alexander Valley  
Bennett Valley  
Chalk Hill  
Dry Creek Valley  
Knights Valley  
Los Carneros  
North Coast  
Northern Sonoma  
Rockpile  
Russian River Valley  
Sonoma Coast  
Sonoma County Green Valley  
Sonoma Mountain  
Sonoma Valley

#### **Napa County**

Atlas Peak  
Chiles Valley  
Diamond Mountain  
Howell Mountain  
Los Carneros  
Mount Veeder  
Napa Valley  
North Coast

#### **Humboldt County**

## Willow Creek

### Explore the North Coast

Follow the links below to explore the North Coast:

Alexander Valley Winegrowers	<a href="http://www.alexandervalley.org">www.alexandervalley.org</a>
Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association	<a href="http://www.avwines.com">www.avwines.com</a>
Carneros Wine Alliance	<a href="http://www.carneros.com">www.carneros.com</a>
Humboldt County	<a href="http://www.redwoods.info">www.redwoods.info</a>
Lake County	<a href="http://www.lakecounty.com">www.lakecounty.com</a>
Lake County Winegrape Commission	<a href="http://www.lakecountywinegrape.org">www.lakecountywinegrape.org</a>
Marin County:	<a href="http://www.visitmarin.org">www.visitmarin.org</a>
Mendocino County	<a href="http://www.gomendo.com">www.gomendo.com</a>
Mendocino Winegrowers Commission	<a href="http://www.mendowine.com">www.mendowine.com</a>
Mount Veeder Appellation Council	<a href="http://www.mountveederwines.com">www.mountveederwines.com</a>
Napa Valley Grape Growers Association	<a href="http://www.napagrowers.org">www.napagrowers.org</a>
Napa Valley Vintners Association	<a href="http://www.napavintners.com">www.napavintners.com</a>
Napa Valley	<a href="http://www.napavalley.org">www.napavalley.org</a>
Oakville Winegrowers	<a href="http://www.oakvillewinegrowers.org">www.oakvillewinegrowers.org</a>
Russian River Valley Winegrowers	<a href="http://www.rrvw.org">www.rrvw.org</a>
Russian River Wine Road	<a href="http://www.wineroad.com">www.wineroad.com</a>
Rutherford Dust Society	<a href="http://www.rutherforddust.org">www.rutherforddust.org</a>
Silverado Trail Wineries Association	<a href="http://www.silveradotrail.com">www.silveradotrail.com</a>
Sonoma	<a href="http://www.Sonoma.com">www.Sonoma.com</a>
Sonoma County Vintners	<a href="http://www.sonomawine.com">www.sonomawine.com</a>
Sonoma County Winegrape Commission	<a href="http://www.sonomawinegrape.org">www.sonomawinegrape.org</a>
Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance	<a href="http://www.sonomavalleywine.com">www.sonomavalleywine.com</a>
Stag's Leap District Winegrowers Association	<a href="http://www.stagsleapdistrict.com">www.stagsleapdistrict.com</a>
Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association	<a href="http://www.svgga.com">www.svgga.com</a>
Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley	<a href="http://www.wdcv.com">www.wdcv.com</a>