

FOOD + DRINK, SONOMA WINERIES, THINGS TO DO IN SONOMA, WHAT'S NEW IN SONOMA COUNTY

## The Best Wineries in Sonoma for Seeing Fall Colors

Here are a dozen wineries with great October visuals to go with the vino.

**T**here's no need to travel to Vermont to see its famous fall foliage and the vivid hues of chartreuse, orange, amber, crimson and purple. We have them in Sonoma, too, often conveniently displayed at and near vineyards and wineries. Tasting wine while soaking in the autumn color is far more rewarding than watching sap run from a tap in a New England maple tree.

This is the ideal time to experience Sonoma County's Technicolor transition from summer to fall and, eventually, winter. But don't wait too long — some trees, shrubs and flowering plants, just like the Oakland A's, have already called it a season.

In the case of grapevines, a very dry 2021 made for a quick, light-yield harvest (though winemakers report wine quality will be exceptional), and the majority of locally grown grapes will have already been picked by mid-October.

Yet there's still plenty of eye-popping "leaf peeping" to be enjoyed in Wine Country in the next few weeks, sometimes accompanied by glorious sunsets and always with exceptional wines to sip.

Here are a handful of Sonoma County wineries with great October visuals to go with the vino.

## Keller Estate

The view to the south, from 500 feet of elevation, from this Petaluma Gap vineyard and winery takes in southern Sonoma County and northern Marin County, encompassing colorful grapevines, trees and other foliage on the estate and beyond, glowing warmly in autumn.

Established by Mexico residents Arturo and Deborah Keller and now managed by daughter Ana Keller, the winery offers walking tours and tastings Thursdays through Saturdays (\$50) and, through Nov. 7, a Dia de los Muertos Altar Tour (also \$50, with a \$15 add-on for empanada pairings). This Day of the Dead tour includes a stop at a community altar on the estate, which joyfully honors deceased loved ones in the Mexican tradition. Add a photo of a beloved family member or friend to the altar and toast them during the tasting. Proceeds of this experience will go to Pasitos, a Sonoma nonprofit that helps parents of young children prepare their kids to enter school for the first time.

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