

WineRelease.com's Readers Choice: Napa Valley *September 2015*

WineRelease.com informs wine enthusiasts about upcoming North American wine release dates and publishes a free monthly newsletter. We recently surveyed our subscribers on their Napa Valley recommendations for wineries, accommodations and activities and below are their responses (in order of popularity).

Best winery for a picnic:

Over 20% recommend V. Sattui (2006 winner as well), 9% prefer Pride Mountain then Rutherford Hill.

Best value lunch:

Over 25% voted for Gotts/Taylor's Refresher then 10% chose Oakville Grocery and 9% preferred Rutherford Grill.

Best lunch (regardless of price):

12% voted Bouchon in Yountville, 8% voted Mustard's Grill and 6% voted Auberge du Soleil.

Best value dinner:

10% chose Rutherford Grill and Bistro Don Giovanni with honorable mentions going to Farmstead (at Long Meadow Ranch) and Mustard's Grill.

Best dinner (regardless of price):

Similar to 2006, 37% voted for The French Laundry with one response "The French Laundry, duh" and another "If you are buying, The French Laundry". Redd and Cole's Chop House rounded out the other popular nominations.

Best romantic restaurant:

23% voted The French Laundry and 17% of you voted for Auberge du Soleil while Tra Vigne was the third most popular.

Best bar to grab a cocktail and relax:

Not a clear winner here, votes came in for Carpe Diem, Press and Solbar at Solage.

Best bakery and/or breakfast:

Tied with 26% is Model Bakery and Bouchon.

Best winery for the first time Napa Valley visitor:

Two stand outs are Robert Mondavi with 21% of the votes followed by Beringer at 10%.

Best winery tour and/or wine educational event:

Robert Mondavi and Beringer were popular as well as Chappellet, Joseph Phelps and Schramsberg.

Best winery to visit when you have non-drinkers in your group:

Castello di Amorosa, Coppola/Ingelnook and V. Sattui.

Best new winery to visit (less than two years old):

Odette was the only winery mentioned with frequency.

Best winery to visit with a large group (12 people for example)

Domaine Chandon, Robert Mondavi and V. Sattui were the favorites.

Best kid friendly winery

Sterling and V. Sattui were the two mentioned with frequency.

Winery that offers most variety of wines to taste:

V. Sattui was again a popular choice followed by Robert Mondavi and Beaulieu Vineyards (BV).

Best small winery where you will meet the winemaker and/or owner:

Over 8% voted Charter Oak, Reynolds Family, Dutch Henry and Myriad.

Best hidden gem to stay:

Only two mentions received a sizeable number of votes; Poetry Inn and Senza.

Best hotel/motel:

Top votes were for Meadowood then Harvest Inn, Solage and Andaz.

Best Spa in the Napa Valley:

Meadowood ruled the votes followed by Solage.

Best Golf in the Napa Valley:

Silverado followed by Chardonnay Club then Meadowood.

Best activity when you aren't tasting wine, eating, golfing, shopping or visiting a spa in the Sonoma Valley:

Biking was the most popular followed by hiking and hot air balloons.