

Sonoma County, California

Sonoma County has 1,800 vineyard owners and more than 350 wineries that work together to produce a variety of world-class wines.

The county is home to 13 American Viticulture Areas (AVAs) or, simply put, wine regions — the areas where particular wine varieties grow and thrive.

Each possesses a distinct combination of soils, climate and wine varieties unique to the region. This ranges from cool climate thriving Pinot Noir and Chardonnay to warmer weather favorites such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Zinfandel and more. Much more.

And what is great wine without great food? In Sonoma County you'll find local artisans producing everything from award-winning cheeses to Muscovy duck, from Pacific oysters to farm-fresh produce and fruits. Our farmers fill the chefs' shopping baskets for *California Cuisine* in Northern California.

Sonoma County is where great wine and food, family and friends converge.

Please enjoy your Sonoma County journey.

Note: The 13th Sonoma County region (not shown) is Northern Sonoma. It combines Dry Creek Valley, Alexander Valley, Knights Valley, Chalk Hill, Russian River Valley and Green Valley.

TOTAL LAND ACRES
1,050,000

VINEYARD ACRES
60,302

NUMBER OF WINERIES
350

NO. OF GROWERS
1,800





Rockpile

Ironically, a region with a distinctly unromantic name happens to produce red wines of remarkable passion — intense, dramatic and highly defined.

Stark, craggy, hard-scrabble ridgelines

overlook Lake Sonoma in the northwestern most part of the county. Named for Rockpile Ranch, once 20,000 acres of cattle and sheep, the area is one of the county's newest wine growing regions. Legend has it that the ranch's owner, Sheriff Tennessee Bishop, put prisoners to work grading roads to his

mountain ranch. The area was dubbed "Rockpile" by the cons — no doubt with a noticeable absence of affection.

Known for intense red wines grown since 1872 between the rugged outcroppings and sparse soils more than 800 feet above sea level, Rockpile is now gaining recognition for its dramatic examples of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Cooled by coastal breezes, yet well above the evening fog layer, the extra sunlight ripens red grape varieties to perfection. If only those prisoners could see (and taste) the fruits of their hardscrabble labors.



TOTAL LAND ACRES
14,800

VINEYARD ACRES
150

NUMBER OF WINERIES
0

NO. OF GROWERS
11

DAILY WEATHER TRENDS
(april–october)

MORNING
mild

AFTERNOON
very warm

EVENING
mild