



Temecula
Wines

FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

Named one of the 10 Best Wine Travel Destinations by *Wine Enthusiast* in 2019 – Temecula Valley Wine Country is known for its award-winning wines, picturesque vistas, and warm, approachable hospitality. Known as Southern California’s Wine Country, the region is conveniently located within a 60-minute drive from San Diego, Orange County, and Palm Springs and within 90 minutes of Los Angeles.

With its low elevation points drawing in cool, marine breezes and Mediterranean-like climate, Temecula Valley Wine Country offers ideal winegrape growing conditions that produce exceptional wines. Varieties that thrive in the region range from cool climate grapes such as Riesling, Gewürztraminer, and Chardonnay to moderate-climate Bordeaux varieties, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Sauvignon Blanc, to warmer-climate Mediterranean varieties, including Vignier, Syrah, Grenache, Sangiovese, and Tempranillo.

Most wines are sold direct-to-consumer, online, or through winery doors. Home to nearly 50 world-class wineries, Temecula Valley Wine Country is the perfect destination for wine and travel enthusiasts alike. The area offers guests a diverse range of dining options as well as on-site lodging and event venues.

VITICULTURAL AREA

On October 23, 1984, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) established the region as an American Viticultural Area (AVA) with the name Temecula AVA in the Federal Register. On June 18, 2004, The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) renamed the area Temecula Valley AVA, as it is known today. The Federal Register lists the official acreage for the Temecula Valley AVA at 33,000 acres. Approximately 2,460 acres are currently planted to commercial vineyards. Within the appellation, there are 5,000 acres located in a “protected” area referred to as the Citrus/Vineyard Zone. This area is generally located in and around the Rancho California Road area within the County of Riverside.

QUICK FACTS

- 1820 – grapes were first planted
- 1968 – the first modern commercial vineyard was planted by Vincenzo and Audrey Citurzo
- 1974 – the first winery opened (Callaway Winery)
- 60-minute drive from San Diego, Orange County, and Palm Springs, 90-minute drive from Los Angeles
- Southern California’s largest wine producing region, part of the larger South Coast AVA
- Mediterranean climate – warm, sunny days moderated by coastal breezes and cool nights
- 40+ wineries and 80+ growers
- 24+ grape varieties; Italian, Rhône & Spanish varieties thrive in particular
- Majority of wines sold direct-to-consumer, online or through winery doors



TEMECULA VALLEY WINERIES

[Akash Winery](#)
[Altisima Winery](#)
[Avensole Vineyard & Winery](#)
[Baily Vineyard & Winery](#)
[Bel Vino Winery](#)
[Bella Vista Winery](#)
[Bottaiia Winery](#)
[Briar Rose Winery](#)
[Callaway Vineyard & Winery](#)
[Carter Estate Winery and Resort](#)
[Chapin Family Vineyards](#)
[Churon Inn Winery](#)
[Cougar Vineyard & Winery](#)
[Danza del Sol Winery](#)
[Doffo Winery](#)
[Europa Village Winery & Resort](#)

[Falkner Winery](#)
[Fazeli Cellars](#)
[Foot Path Winery](#)
[Frangipani Estate Winery](#)
[Gershon Bachus Vintners](#)
[Halter Ranch Temecula](#)
[Leoness Cellars](#)
[Longshadow Ranch Vineyard & Winery](#)
[Lorenzi Estate Vineyards & Winery](#)
[Lorimar Vineyards & Winery](#)
[Lumiere Winery](#)
[Masia de La Vinya Winery](#)
[Maurice Car'rie Vineyard & Winery](#)
[Miramonte Winery](#)
[Monte De Oro Winery](#)

[Mount Palomar Winery](#)
[Oak Mountain Winery](#)
[Palumbo Family Vineyards & Winery](#)
[Peltzer Family Cellars](#)
[Ponte Winery](#)
[Raul Ramirez Bodegas y Vinedos](#)
[Robert Renzoni Vineyards & Winery](#)
[Somerset Vineyard & Winery](#)
[South Coast Winery Resort & Spa](#)
[Thornton Winery](#)
[Vindemia Vineyard & Estate Winery](#)
[Vitagliano Winery](#)
[Wiens Family Cellars](#)
[Wilson Creek Winery](#)





HISTORY

- Early 1800s – Spanish missionaries first introduce grapevines to the area as part of their mission work.
- 1968 – The first modern commercial vineyard is planted in Temecula Valley by Vincenzo and Audrey Cilurzo.
- 1974 – Ely Callaway Jr. founds the first winery in Temecula Valley – Callaway Vineyard & Winery, marking the beginning of large production winemaking in the region.
- 1984 – The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) establishes the region as an American Viticultural Area (AVA) with the name Temecula AVA in the Federal Register.
- 1997 – The Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association (TVWA) is formed to promote the region and its wines.
- Late 1990s – Nearly 40 percent of Temecula Valley vineyards are decimated by Pierce's Disease – a bacterial disease transmitted by the glassy-winged sharpshooter insect which disables an infected vine from absorbing water. The City of Temecula and Riverside County donate funds to launch industry-wide efforts and research against the disease.
- 1999 – The California Department of Food and Agriculture establishes the Pierce's Disease Control Program to assist Temecula Valley in warding off the insect. Winegrowers from all over the world now turn to Temecula to learn these practices.
- Early 2000s – Vineyards are replanted, and a greater diversity of winegrapes are introduced, including Italian, Rhône, and Spanish varieties.
- 2004 – The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) renames the area Temecula Valley AVA – as it is known today.
- 2018 – Temecula Valley Wine Country commemorates its 50th anniversary by celebrating the people, their passion, and their perseverance throughout the past five decades.
- 2019 – *Wine Enthusiast* names Temecula Valley Wine Country one of the 10 Best Wine Travel Destinations – a true testament to the talent and dedication of the area's winemakers and the suitability of the region for growing top-quality winegrapes.
- 2021 – The TVWA passes the Temecula Valley Wine & Agricultural Heritage District (TVWAHD) for the marketing and business improvement of Temecula Valley Wine Country – the first of its kind. Other wine regions have followed suit, leaning on the TVWA for guidance.
- Present – Temecula Valley Wine Country boasts nearly 50 licensed wineries, producing over 500,000 cases annually.



GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES

Temecula Valley is located 500 miles south of San Francisco, resulting in greater solar intensity throughout the day. Due to its low rainfall activity, the region has an early growing season that runs from March through September.

CLIMATE

As the sun warms the inland valley, air rises to form a low-pressure area. The colder, heavier air from the Pacific Ocean, just 22 miles from Temecula Valley, is drawn inland. The Coastal Mountain Range allows colder air to pass through via The Rainbow Gap and The Santa Margarita Gap, two of the lowest places in the mountain range – just beyond them lies Temecula Valley. The cool breezes bring moderate daytime temperatures creating a pattern of warm sunny days and cool nights – ideal conditions for quality grape growing.

Temecula Valley Vineyards are located 1,400 feet to 1,600 feet above sea level, while the surrounding mountains average 2,000 feet to nearly 11,000 feet of elevation. These high elevations mean cooler air – an average temperature drop of 3 degrees Fahrenheit for every 1,000 feet of altitude gain. As a result, nighttime lows in and around Temecula average 50 degrees Fahrenheit. These significant cooling factors and climate conditions affect the flavor development of Temecula Valley grapes, promoting ripeness while retaining acidity, resulting in wines that offer complex flavors and aromas as well as exceptional balance.

RAINFALL

Due to the beautiful, temperate Southern California climate and geographic location of Temecula Valley, rain rarely interferes with the harvest season. Temecula Valley Wineries achieve high grape quality and consistency with growing and winemaking year after year.

SOIL

The soil in Temecula Valley varies but is predominantly a decomposing granitic, sandy loam – a well-draining soil, unlike clay-based soils that absorb and maintain moisture. Because there is no natural organic matter in the soil, composted material is applied manually – most commonly in the form of grape pomace (remaining skins, stems, and seeds of grapes that have been fermented into wine).

At the base of the valley, the vines are more vigorous because of the concentration of nutrients available. However, nutrients can be scarce on the steep hillside vineyards where vines can have difficulties producing. Temecula Valley soil excels in supporting the diverse range of grapes grown in the AVA.



VARIETIES

Temecula Valley's growers and winemakers bring their own unique styles and preferences to the region, resulting in no single signature grape variety; instead, dozens of distinct grape varieties thrive in Temecula Valley Wine Country.

Visitors to Temecula Valley will encounter an array of authentic wineries, each with its own unique focus. Some specialize in grapes from the Rhône region of France, including Viognier, Marsanne, Roussanne, Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre, and more. Several wineries emphasize Italian winegrapes, including Vermentino, Arneis, Sangiovese, Montepulciano, and even lesser-known varieties such as Aglianico, Barbera, and Falanghina. Still, others specialize in Malbec, the prized grape that hails from France but became famous in recent years as the signature grape of Argentina.

TEMECULA VALLEY WINE COUNTRY RESTAURANTS

To complement Temecula Valley's award-winning wines, visitors can also enjoy dining options located within select wineries. From a quick bite to a fine dining lunch or dinner, there is something for everyone.

WINE COUNTRY DINING

[Avensole Winery Restaurant](#)

[Bolero Restaurante at Europa Village](#)

[Baba Joon's Kitchen at Fazeli Cellars](#)

[Café Champagne at Thornton Winery](#)

[Carol's Restaurant at Baily Winery](#)

[Creekside Grille at Wilson Creek Winery](#)

[Gaspar's Restaurant at Altissima Winery](#)

[Mama Rosa's Trattoria at Robert Renzoni Vineyards](#)

[Meritage Restaurant at Callaway Vineyard and Winery](#)

[Sangio's Deli at Cougar Vineyard and Winery](#)

[The Bistro at Miramonte Winery](#)

[The Bistro at Monte de Oro Winery](#)

[The Cave Café at Oak Mountain Winery](#)

[The Pinnacle Restaurant at Falkner Winery](#)

[The Restaurant at Leoness Cellars](#)

[The Restaurant at Mount Palomar Winery](#)

[The Restaurant at Ponte Winery](#)

[The Vineyard Rose Restaurant at South Coast Winery Resort & Spa](#)



TEMECULA VALLEY WINE COUNTRY LODGING

With a wide range of offerings, Southern California's wine country makes for the perfect getaway. Visitors have several lodging options that allow them to wake up virtually among the wines.

WINE COUNTRY LODGING

[Bolero at Europa Village](#)

[Carter Estate Winery & Resort](#)

[Inn at Churon Winery](#)

[Ponte Vineyard Inn](#)

[South Coast Winery Resort & Spa](#)

[The Inn at Europa Village](#)

TEMECULA VALLEY WINE COUNTRY WEDDING VENUES

Temecula Valley wineries are home to some of the most enchanting wedding venues in Southern California. For weddings and receptions of all sizes, wedding spaces offer culinary forward menus paired with award-winning wines, lush vineyards and surrounding lawns, vine-covered arbors, and picture-perfect sunsets with clear, starlit skies.

WINE COUNTRY WEDDING VENUES

[Altissima Winery](#)

[Avensole Winery](#)

[Callaway Vineyard & Winery](#)

[Carter Estate Winery and Resort](#)

[Chapin Family Vineyards](#)

[Doffo Winery](#)

[Europa Village Winery & Resort](#)

[Falkner Winery](#)

[Fazeli Cellars](#)

[Gershon Bachus Vintners](#)

[Leones Cellars](#)

[Longshadow Ranch Winery](#)

[Lorimar Vineyards & Winery](#)

[Monte De Oro Winery](#)

[Mount Palomar Winery](#)

[Oak Mountain Winery](#)

[Peltzer Family Cellars](#)

[Ponte Winery](#)

[South Coast Winery Resort & Spa](#)

[Vitagliano Vineyards & Winery](#)

[Wilson Creek Winery](#)



ABOUT THE TEMECULA VALLEY WINEGROWERS ASSOCIATION

The Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association is a nonprofit, regional organization 501 (c)(6) dedicated to promoting the growing and making of quality wine grapes and wine and the interests of wineries and vineyards in the Temecula Valley appellations. The organization is funded in part by the Temecula Valley Wine and Agricultural Heritage District assessment funds.

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