



## Put These Sonoma Wines on Your Radar

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Gabe Sasso

Sonoma Wine Country Weekend is an event filled with terrific wine and food from Sonoma County -- for a cause. Over two hundred wineries and sixty local chefs come together to raise funds for local non-profits in the environment, health, and literacy fields. Top chefs and winemakers band together to create a gustatory tour of what Sonoma County has to offer. A variety of events took place over Labor Day weekend at some of California's most beloved wineries.

These are names with which you are surely familiar. [Francis Ford Coppola](#), [MacMurray Estate](#)

[Vineyards](#)

(which sits on the MacMurray Ranch property previously owned by the late actor Fred MacMurray), and one of Sonoma's most picturesque properties, [Chateau St. Jean](#), are all part of the fabric of modern day American wine history. These wineries, vineyards, and the event itself, remind us how much the region has grown and evolved over the last century. Sonoma is without a doubt an integral part of our wine heritage.



At the heart of the weekend was a charitable auction of thirty eight lots ranging from bottle collections to travel experiences and private dining. Over four million dollars were raised, a massive success which should be loudly applauded! In the process of raising money for great causes, many outstanding wines were poured. I was fortunate enough to sample some of them. Here's a look at my favorites.

### [Pedroncelli 2014 Bench Vineyards Merlot](#) (\$17)

Pedroncelli has a portfolio loaded with wines that are easy on the wallet for the quality they offer and delicious to drink. This Merlot is among that number. Violet and fleshy black fruit aromas fill the nose. Red and black fruit flavors dominate the mouth-filling palate along with plenty of spice notes. Crushed red cherry and a wisp of dusty dark chocolate are present on the above average finish. The Pedroncelli Family has been crushing it in Dry Creek Valley for nearly 90 years, if their wines aren't already on your radar, they should be.

### [Collier Falls 2012 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel](#) (\$36)

From his property in the heart of Dry Creek Valley Barry Collier produces an outstanding portfolio of small lot wines. Year after year that includes one of the best Zinfandels money can buy. Raspberry and blackberry aromas leap with conviction from the nose here. The palate is loaded with strawberry, black pepper and

continued raspberry references. The finish is long, spicy and complex with more fruit and a healthy dusting of sweet cocoa. If you want to know what Zinfandel really tastes like, this a perfect place to start.

**[Lambert Bridge 2012 Malbec](#)** (\$70)

Lambert Bridge is a boutique Dry Creek Valley producer that sells its wine direct to consumers. A small handful of wineries in Sonoma produce a varietal Malbec and this is one of the best. Red flower aromas emerge from the nose along with lots of plum characteristics as well as black cherry. The palate is loaded with plenty of juicy red fruit, spice, and a dollop of earth. Bits of boysenberry and chocolate sauce dot the persistent finish which demands you come back to the glass for sip after sip.

[http://www.snooth.com/articles/put-these-sonoma-wines-on-your-radar/?utm\\_campaign=14889&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=all&utm\\_content=84850](http://www.snooth.com/articles/put-these-sonoma-wines-on-your-radar/?utm_campaign=14889&utm_medium=email&utm_source=all&utm_content=84850)