

THE SACRAMENTO BEE



Summer road trips with wine as the destination

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Not long ago, the fun-loving website Thrillist asked a bunch of wine authorities to recommend the country's best wine regions to visit. The resulting rundown was enthusiastic and thoughtful, and prompted me to come up with my own suggestions in hopes they will be as helpful.

My selection is qualified in two ways: The regions must be relatively close to Sacramento, and none is to be named Napa Valley, only because it already is so well known for wine tourism.

In alphabetical order, here's my 10 wine destinations to check out on summer road trips:

Dry Creek Valley

In contrast to the polish and busy-ness of nearby Healdsburg, Dry Creek Valley remains a comparatively calm throwback to rural California winemaking as it was four decades ago. This is sauvignon blanc and zinfandel country, for the most part, but it also boasts enough varied terrain and entrepreneurial vintners to draw attention also for its Italian and Rhone Valley varieties such as barbera and syrah.

Linger at: A. Rafanelli, Collier Falls, Dashe, Dry Creek Vineyard, Ferrari Carano, Kokomo, Lambert Bridge, Nalle, Preston of Dry Creek, Quivira, Ridge Lytton Springs, Seghesio, Unti.

<http://www.sacbee.com/food-drink/article87608302.html>