

21 things to do in wine country

Museums, mud baths, and everything in between

By Katherine Nelson | Jul 26, 2019, 9:00am PDT







Visiting a Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton. Viewing world-class contemporary art. Touring a craft-spirit distillery. These aren't adventures that come to mind when planning a visit to California's wine country. The side-by-side, sister valleys of Napa and Sonoma are known primarily for their world-class vino and rolling hills covered with verdant vineyards.

But in addition to visiting the tried-and true wine country tasting rooms, there's a variety of experiences, from active to brain-activating and at a range of price points, that offer a little something for everyone with an interest in consuming more than just wine in wine country.

4. Taste regional specialties at Oxbow Public Market (Napa)

One of the best ways to sample the local delicacies of wine country's farmers and artisans is to visit downtown Napa's Oxbow Public Market, a 40,000-square-foot public market and food hall. Oxbow features a mix of 22 merchants including cheese makers, artisanal cafes, butcheries such as Five Dot Ranch, and Eiko's sushi and fish market. A scenic deck with outdoor seating overlooks the Napa River. Oxbow recently celebrated its 10th anniversary in downtown Napa and remains a lively spot with a calendar of public programs such as book signings, happy hours, and live music. Check out the upcoming "Uke-A-Palooza" night on August 2, a free event where guests are encouraged to bring their own ukulele and perform.