



P. O. Box 367
6300 South Highway One
Elk, CA 95432-0367
800 275-2967
innkeeper@elkcoveinn.com
www.elkcoveinn.com

Wine Tasting Contact

Susan Arthur
Susan Arthur Communications
415.824.0663
e-mail: news@susan-arthur.com

ELK COVE INN GUESTS HAVE EASY ACCESS TO MENDOCINO COUNTY WINERIES

Food & Wine magazine recently selected Mendocino County as one of "10 New Spots for Wine Bargains," and the Anderson Valley, home to many of the county's best-known wineries, is a scenic 20-something-mile drive inland from the Elk Cove Inn.

One of California's coolest growing areas, the Anderson Valley hugs the Navarro River to the sea. The northwest end, near Philo, is very cool and often foggy, suitable for Gewürztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes. The southeast end, near Boonville, is warmer and amenable to Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc. On the sun-exposed ridges above the valley, wine makers grow fine Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot grapes.

Visitors can sample the finished products at these tasting rooms:

Brutocao Cellars

Family-run winery. Estate-grown Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel; Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

Greenwood Ridge Vineyards

Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel; Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling. Two Zinfandel vintages have made *Wine Spectator's* "The Best 100 Wines of the Year" list.

Husch Vineyards

A small family winery making wines exclusively from its own grapes. Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon; Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc,

Gewürztraminer, Chenin Blanc. Picnic on the deck or under grape arbors. Elk Cove Inn features splits of the Sauvignon Blanc in its welcome gift baskets.

Handley Cellars

Small, family-owned winery. Pinot Noir; Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Gewürztraminer; sparkling wines. Garden courtyard open for picnics.

Navarro Vineyards

Pinot Noir; Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, specialty whites.

Roederer Estate

The champagne house Louis Roederer's California operation. Sparkling wines made from the winery's own Anderson Valley vineyards.

Pacific Echo

Sparkling wine house founded by Scharfenberger in 1981. Owned now by Veuve Clicquot.

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