



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WINE TOUR

NAPA VALLEY~SONOMA VALLEY~LODI WINE COUNTRY EL DORADO WINE COUNTRY~AMADOR WINE COUNTRY

◆DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE◆

Following an arrival into the Sacramento International Airport, it's a short transfer to your Napa or Sonoma Valley hotel. Following a get-acquainted **welcome dinner**, begin a two-night stay in the heart of this famous wine-making region. (Overnight Napa or Sonoma Valley)

◆DAY 2 ~ NAPA VALLEY◆

California's famous **Napa Valley** is one of the most widely recognized wine regions in the world. Vineyards have been part of the landscape here for more than 150 years and today the Valley is home to more than 260 wineries. This morning, take a stroll through **COPIA: the American Center for Wine & the Arts**. Known for its unique take on wine, food and the arts, COPIA is dedicated to exploring America's contribution to the character of wine and food and celebrates its place in American life, culture, and heritage. Later, experience a gourmet dining excursion aboard the lavishly restored **Napa Valley Wine Train** where you can tour the train, view the chefs at work, or visit the Wine Tasting Car. Enjoy relaxed elegance, attentive service, and beautiful scenery as you travel through one of the world's most famous wine valleys!



This afternoon, enjoy a docent-guided tour of Napa Valley's historic **Silverado Trail** on the tranquil, eastside of this famous wine region and where more than 35 wineries are located. Mining flourished on the mountain sides in the northern end of the valley and a clever landowner, Mr. Patchett, recognized the expanding mining industry as a grand opportunity for wine sales. A young Prussian who knew something of wine-making was employed by Patchett to make 1,200 gallons of wine using a cider press - thus, the beginning

of wine commerce in the Napa Valley. Stop at several of the Valley's wineries for a **tour and tasting** of some award-winning premium wines. (Overnight Napa or Sonoma Valley)



◆DAY 3 ~ SONOMA VALLEY◆

Home to the winding Russian River, vineyards, majestic old growth redwoods, historic towns and fine hotels, the Sonoma Valley was the original home of wine production in northern California and is still the largest producer of quality wine. Artists and craftsman, rejuvenating spas and some of the finest dining experiences in the United States can be found here. The rural, country atmosphere can be as relaxing and rejuvenating or as fast-paced and exciting as you want - either way, it will be memorable. This afternoon, enjoy lunch and a tour in **Petaluma**. Experience the charm of one of the oldest cities in California in its beautifully preserved Historic Downtown, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Victorian homes and iron-front buildings surround this charming riverfront town. Visit **Canvas Ranch** in the incredibly beautiful **Two Rock Valley**, a 28-acre farm that is home to Olde English Miniature Babydoll Southdown Sheep and Cashmere Goats. Enjoy several tastings during a Sonoma Valley tour this afternoon. (Overnight Napa or Sonoma Valley)

◆DAY 4 ~ SACRAMENTO◆

This morning it's a short ride to California's largest valley, the San Joaquin Valley, often referred to as California's Great Central Valley. On the way, make a stop at the **Jelly Belly Factory** in Fairfield for a **free behind-the-scenes tour**. A Jelly Belly guide will show you this working factory which cooks up over 150 different sweet treats. Learn the secrets of how they create the legendary Jelly Belly bean, and

discover why it takes more than a week to make a single bean.

This afternoon arrive in **Sacramento**, the capital of California. During the California Gold Rush It became the center of activity for thousands from around the globe who outfitted themselves before heading to the gold fields with aspirations of wealth. On a **guided city tour**, listen to the legends that made Sacramento famous. One of the things visitors are surprised to discover is Sacramento's enormous wealth of trees -hence the name "**City of Trees**" -and especially in Spring and Fall, it's a real celebration of their magnificence! In fact, *there are more trees in Sacramento per capita than any other city in the world!* Throughout the day you'll see the many deciduous, evergreen, fruit, flowering, and palm trees that make up the more than six million trees in Sacramento County.



Tour the stunning **California State Capitol**, a working building where legislators pass laws for the 5th largest economy in the world. It is here that **Arnold Schwarzenegger** governs the state of California, and you'll have an opportunity see his office. Then stroll through **Capitol Park**, the lush 40 acres of gardens that surround the capitol where you'll see deodor cedars from high in the Himalayas in India to the bunya-bunyas from Australia, and where trees from every continent and climate seem to thrive side by side. Even the "orbit tree," a beautiful redwood whose seedling circled the moon aboard the Apollo 13 space vehicle seems no worse for the wear! **Memorial Grove** includes trees acquired as saplings from famous battlefields of the Civil War, and the bamboo forest is fun to walk

through. Stirring monuments such as the Viet Nam Memorial, the Firefighters Memorial, and the International World Peace Rose Garden complete this picturesque park.

Continue on to **Sutter's Fort**, established in 1839. John Sutter was a complex, but visionary Swiss immigrant whose adobe fort was the western destination of early pioneers. Driving past the splendid **Stanford Mansion**, hear the story of the fascinating railroad baron and California governor, Leland Stanford. See the **Historic Governors Mansion** which was the state executive residence until 1967, with the last of 13 California's governors to occupy it being Ronald Reagan.

This evening you're off to **Old Sacramento**, the waterfront district that sprang up overnight during the early days of "gold fever." Today Old Sacramento is a 28-acre national historic landmark and state historic park and holds the greatest concentration of renovated or restored Gold Rush-era buildings on the Pacific Coast. Enjoy the sunset and a memorable **Welcome Dinner** this evening as you dine on the Sacramento River on an authentic **paddle wheeler**. This evening check-in to your **Sacramento** hotel for a four-night stay. (Overnight Sacramento)

◆DAY 5~ GOLD COUNTRY◆

Traveling east from the Sacramento Valley, you'll soon meet the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and California's central **Gold Country**. Step back in time to another era in **Coloma**—the birthplace of the California Gold Rush. Today, most of the town is within **Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park**. Visit **Sutter's Mill**, where James Marshall spotted yellow flecks while inspecting the tailrace of the mill.

Continue on to **Placerville**, formerly known as "Hangtown" due to the grisly hangings that once took place there. As the gateway to the mines and important supply point for overland travelers, in the mid-1800s Placerville became California's third largest city. Enjoy lunch at Sequoia in the historic **Bee-Bennett House** before getting your taste buds ready to sample some **El Dorado County** Wines. Both Spring and Fall are lovely times to visit **Apple Hill**, a beautiful agricultural area just east of Placerville where you'll find nine different wineries to choose from. Famous since the days of the gold rush for growing fruits and as a major grape and wine producing area, today there are over 55 ranches, including wineries, micro-breweries and Christmas tree farms. In 1980 El Dorado became appellation was approved and is one of the very few appellations in California that contains only mountain vineyards.

◆DAY 6 - DELTA & LODI WINE COUNTRY◆

There's a little known place tucked away in the heart of the Golden State called the California Delta where the lifestyle is decidedly laid back—a sort of Huckleberry Finn kind of existence! The experience is one of discovery—from the quaint and historic to the newly renovated. And the wines are spectacular. Welcome to the rural charm of the **California Delta**.

It's an area of fertile agricultural islands fed by five major rivers between Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay, and some of the historic river towns are little changed from Gold Rush days when paddlewheel steamboats came piping their arrival with the steam-driven calliope. Drawbridges yawn open to let boating traffic pass and the postman still delivers mail by boat to some of the rural addresses. First stop is at the newly renovated **Old Sugar Mill**—just minutes from Sacramento, but feels as if it's worlds away. Surrounded by vineyards and the Sacramento River, it's located in the charming town of Clarksburg, named for Judge Clark who settled there in 1849. Portuguese farmers arrived in the 1870s after the Gold Rush and the Dutch followed in the 1880s. A **tour and tasting** here with time to explore this exciting new complex - and enjoy the experience of visiting several distinct wineries all in one location!

This afternoon continue on to the **Lodi Wine Country**, an emerging jewel of California wine and a real treasure trove. From its rural atmosphere and relaxed pace to its beautiful vineyards and award-winning wines, Lodi has become more and more popular as visitors realize it is less crowded and less expensive than other wine regions of California. The largest grape-growing region in the state, Lodi is home to over 75,000 acres of grapes and over 50 wineries—the type of wineries where owners and wine-grape growers join you while tasting their wines. A **winery tour** will showcase this magnificent area and very important industry to the California economy and way of life.

Visit the **Lodi Wine & Visitor Center**, an exciting new destination for any California wine tour, complete with an expansive tasting bar, interactive and educational exhibits, and a gift shop. Your next stop is the **Woodbridge Winery**. After establishing the Robert Mondavi Winery in the Napa Valley, Robert returned to Lodi in 1966 looking for a place to produce quality wine for people to enjoy with every meal. Today Woodbridge churns out 8 million cases of wine each year and a **behind-the-scenes tour** of the winery will showcase this state-of-the-art facility. In the late afternoon, return to Sacramento. (Overnight Sacramento)

◆DAY 7 - GOLD COUNTRY◆

Today your destination is **Amador Wine Country**, home to more than 30 small, family-owned, visitor-friendly wineries scattered throughout the foothills. As you travel along **Highway 49**, also known as the **Mother Lode Road**, make stops in small towns and wineries that dot this historic road. **Sutter Creek** is one of the most beautifully preserved of the Mother Lode towns. Nestled in a small valley among rolling hills, it still maintains its Gold Rush heritage and classic Old West facade. Shopping opportunities abound on Main Street where Gold Rush-era buildings with overhanging balconies house antique shops, galleries and boutiques. Sutter Creek's residential district bears a close resemblance to a picture postcard and evokes a sense of peace and tranquility.

Further south on Highway 49 is **Jackson**. Water, not gold, was initially the reason for the town's existence. A dependable spring made it a natural way station for thirsty travelers, and soon it became a trading center and transportation depot. Rich quartz deposits were discovered in the 1850s, and two mines here became some of the deepest and most productive gold mines in the United States. A walking tour of the town showcases many historic buildings from the 1860s, including the Oddfellows Building that was reputedly the tallest three-story building in the U.S. in 1863. Return to Sacramento this evening for a memorable farewell dinner. (Overnight Sacramento)

◆DAY 8 - FINAL FAREWELL◆

A short trip this morning to the Sacramento International Airport. Return home with many pleasant memories of your time exploring *Northern California's wine country!*



Sacramento CVB Tourism Team

1608 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916/808-7405 Fax: 916/808-5250
E-mail: dteichman@cityofsacramento.org
Web: www.discovergold.org/touroperator

Additional itineraries are available on the website listed above. With two former tour operators on staff, the Sacramento CVB Tourism Team is the ideal resource for assistance in customizing the perfect Northern California itinerary for your group or clients.