

2017 CALIFORNIA WINE COAST TOUR ITINERARY

This extraordinary tour encompasses the best of northern California's gorgeous wine country and stunning Pacific coast. Venture off the beaten path on lightly traveled roads, become awed by the cathedral-like canopy of the tallest trees on earth, and marvel at the expanse of undeveloped Pacific coastline. The region features a combination of some of the most diverse and spectacular scenery of any wine country tour, drawing non-drinkers and oenophiles alike. From the Mediterranean-like Dry Creek Valley to the fog-shrouded mornings that characterize the Russian River Valley, each day offers something wonderful. Walk among towering redwood trees and hike along the coast scanning for whales. Learn how the terroir of each appellation relates to the vines chosen for planting as well as the wines they produce. Visit a selection of top wineries for private dinners and gourmet picnic lunches. The region's premiere accommodations lend a sophisticated yet unpretentious elegance to your vacation and a two-night stay on the coast makes this the most comprehensive and luxurious trip through northern California's wine country and along its coast.

Sunday – Day 1: Meet your tour leaders for the group transfer from the Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa for the 30-minute drive to the north end of the Dry Creek Valley. Upon arrival, learn the story of Warm Springs Dam which created Lake Sonoma and gain insight into the natural and early history of Dry Creek Valley. A fish hatchery built to enhance local salmon and steelhead spawning grounds might provide you with an opportunity to see these beautiful fish “climb the ladder.” Following a bike fitting and overview of the route, head off on your bike on a beautiful valley road. Along the route there are numerous opportunities to visit wineries of the Dry Creek Valley such as Ferrari-Carano, Quivera, and Lambert Bridge. The wine caves at Bella are well worth a side trip, and the lawn beneath their olive trees is the perfect place to relax while savoring the gorgeous view. Dry Creek Valley is one of the smallest appellations but is revered for its diverse selection of wines ranging from Zinfandel to Mediterranean and Bordeaux varietals. The French, and later the Italians, were the first to plant vineyards in the region and a strong Italian influence remains. Make your way through the valley to Madrona Manor, the region's top-rated wine country inn. A beautiful swimming pool is nestled among the gardens of this lovely property. The Manor's highly acclaimed dining room will host the group this evening for a private dinner featuring a wine pairing with each course.

Lodging: Madrona Manor Healdsburg, CA

707-433-4231

www.madronamanor.com

Cycling Option: 16 or 21 - 28 miles

Monday – Day 2: Chalk Hill and the Southern Alexander Valley – Follow the east side of the Russian River as it winds south of Healdsburg and you'll soon be gliding through the quiet farmland of tiny Chalk Hill, a sub-appellation of the Russian River Valley AVA. Olive orchards as well as vegetable and flowers gardens share the land with vineyards in this diverse agricultural region that thrives on the volcanic ash

soil. Emerge on the other side of Chalk Hill in the Alexander Valley, famous for their outstanding Cabernet Sauvignon. A variety of wineries such as Fieldstone, Hanna, and Alexander Valley Vineyards to name just a few, offer plentiful tasting options along the route. Strong cyclists might choose the stunning option to climb high into the Maycamas Mountains Audobon Sanctuary on a narrow one-lane road. The patio at beautiful Robert Young Estate Winery is the perfect setting for a gourmet picnic lunch served by your leaders. Sample several wines and enjoy a tour of the vineyards and wine cave as you learn the intricacies of cultivating grapes and producing wine at family-owned Robert Young. Later this afternoon you might relax by the pool, or explore Healdsburg's fine shops and tasting rooms. Dinner is on your own this evening at one of Healdsburg's many fine restaurants.

Lodging: *Madrona Manor* Healdsburg, CA 707-433-4231 www.madronamanor.com

Cycling Options: 23, 40, or 53 miles

Tuesday – Day 3: The Russian River Valley and Pacific Coast – Leave the Mediterranean climate behind and ride west through the lush Russian River Valley. Morning fog, fueled by cooler temperatures and moisture from the ocean, will likely soon give way to warm sunshine as the sun climbs higher in the sky. Hillside vineyards gradually diminish and stands of redwood trees become prominent features of the landscape. Marvel at the majesty of the region's ancient grove of towering redwood trees during a picnic lunch in Armstrong Redwoods Reserve. Visit the eclectic towns of Guerneville and Duncans Mills as you wind your way west through the redwoods and along the Russian River to the sea. For those visiting the northern Pacific coast, riding a bike along the Russian River to the sea is an indescribable experience. Pause for a short walk high above the surf where the coastline extends to the north and south as far as the eye can see. Spin south along the coast to Bodega Bay relishing continuous views of the ocean and stunning coastline. Bodega Bay Lodge is situated overlooking the bay, and offers spacious and luxurious rooms, heated outdoor pool, Jacuzzi, spa, and their renowned restaurant—the Duck Club. Dine together overlooking the bay this evening in the Duck Club's private dining room.

Lodging: *Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa* Bodega Bay, CA 707-875-3525 www.bodegabaylodge.com

Cycling Options: 38 or 49 miles

Wednesday – Day 4: Bodega Bay and the Coastal Highlands – Begin the morning with a ride to the opposite side of the bay for a stunning walk along the headland. Bodega Bay is a haven for coastal birds and wildlife, and a variety of shorebirds are often seen lining the shore of the bay along the morning route. Trade your bike shoes for walking shoes and follow the trail that follows the cliff top along the rugged and beautiful coastline. The headland's expansive fields above the cliffs are home to deer, rabbits and a variety of bird life. Watch seals and sea lions in the waters below and, during the spring and late fall, there is a good chance of spotting grey whales on their annual migration between the Baja peninsula in Mexico and Alaska. This afternoon, relax at the Lodge, enjoy a massage, walk along the beach, rent a surfboard, or challenge yourself on a ride over legendary Coleman Valley Road, one of the famed rides in the annual Tour of California professional cycling race. This incredible route climbs through eucalyptus and redwood trees, pitches and rolls along a ridgeline featuring spectacular views, and then plunges back to sea level. Lunch and dinner are on your own today in Bodega Bay.

Lodging: *Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa* Bodega Bay, CA 707-875-3525 www.bodegabaylodge.com

Cycling Option: 11, 18 or 38 miles

Thursday – Day 5: The Sonoma Coast Region – The scenery changes yet again as you ride south through rolling farmland on lightly traveled country roads. You'll be amazed by the miles of open farmland that sprawl in every direction. Despite its proximity to the coast and to the heart of some of the world's most revered wine country, this is sheep and cattle country. Pause to watch dogs herding huge flocks of sheep over grassy hillsides. Ride through groves of fragrant eucalyptus in this quiet corner of the county that offers miles of excellent cycling routes through peaceful farmland. Stop for lunch in the tiny hamlet of Tomales—a favorite destination for local cyclists—before continuing to the town of Occidental where the main street is sprinkled with small boutiques. Nestled in the midst of the redwoods, this little village is a pleasant mix of chic and bohemian culture. Enjoy gracious hospitality in an atmosphere of understated elegance during your final evening of the tour at the Inn at Occidental. Unwind in your Jacuzzi before toasting the week's adventures during a wine hour at the inn. A short walk brings us to a favorite, local farm-to-table bistro to savor dinner as we toast our final evening together.

Lodging: *The Inn at Occidental* Occidental, CA 707-522-6324 www.innatoccidental.com

Cycling Options: 27 or 42 miles

Friday – Day 6: Occidental, Green Valley and the Russian River Valley – Today's ride passes through the Green Valley, a small but growing sub-appellation of the Russian River Valley AVA whose agricultural history is rooted in apples and pears. The cooler Green Valley is also becoming a favored area for growing grapes. It is one of the smallest, foggiest, and coolest of the Sonoma County appellations and grows primarily Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes. Cross back over the Russian River and enjoy options for visits and tastings at several wineries such as Gary Farrell, Twomey, and Rochioli. This is the heart of one the finest Pinot Noir regions in the world and it's well worth tasting your way to picnic lunch. Those who prefer an added ride option will climb through lush farmland and dense woods on a roller coaster ride through open range. A farewell picnic lunch and wine tasting amidst the lovely gardens at family owned and operated Arista Winery provides a fitting end to this fabulous week. Following showers at Madrona Manor, you will be transported back to Santa Rosa and the Sonoma County Airport. The timing enables transportation connections to both OAK and SFO.

Cycling Options: 23 or 30 miles

TRAVEL & TOUR QUICK FACTS

Tour Start	11:00am – Group meeting point. Group transfer departs Sonoma Country Airport (STS) in Santa Rosa at 11:00am for the start of the first ride.
Tour Conclusion	3:00pm – Group return to STS in Santa Rosa. Shuttles depart from STS at 3:45pm for SFO arriving at 6:30pm, and 4:45pm for OAK arriving at 7:30pm.
Travel To/From Tour	Fly into San Francisco (SFO) or Oakland (OAK). An airport shuttle goes from both SFO and OAK to the tour start (and end). For those driving to tour or lodging at Madrona Manor prior to tour start, parking (and transfer to the start of the first ride) is available at Madrona Manor.
Pre-Tour Lodging	Suggested hotels provided upon reservation.
Days/Nights	6 days/5 nights
Included Meals	All meals included except for two lunches and two dinners.
Rating	Intermediate. 35 – 50 miles/day over rolling terrain with a few longer climbs. More challenging epic options available on certain days.
Activities	Cycling, hiking, options for golf and surfing, spa facilities.

STANDARD INCLUDED ASPECTS

Equipment	Computer-equipped road or hybrid bike, helmet, rear light, seat bag for road bike or rack bag for hybrid, map case, water bottle, t-shirt. Bring clipless pedals, seat, or helmet for a more personalized fit.
Van Support	Rides supported by a Sojourn van as well as a tour leader on a bicycle.
Tour Leaders	Two experienced tour leaders guide each trip from start to finish.
Ride Nourishment	A selection of snacks and refreshments are supplied throughout all rides.
Ride Information	Detailed route directions, maps, and a daily briefing are provided.
Office Support	At your service 9:00am – 6:00pm EST, Monday – Friday. 800-730-4771
Detailed Information	A full complement of detailed trip and travel information will be provided upon confirmation of reservation.

DATES & PRICING

California Wine Country & Coast 2017 Tour Dates	Per Person DBL Occupancy	Single Room Supplement
May 14 – 19	\$2,595.00	\$695.00
June 4 – 9	\$2,595.00	\$695.00
June 11 – 16	\$2,595.00	\$695.00
September 10 – 15	\$2,695.00	\$795.00
September 17 – 22	\$2,695.00	\$795.00
September 24 – 29	\$2,695.00	\$795.00

WEATHER

Healdsburg Region	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	57°	64°	66°	72°	78°	84°	88°	88°	86°	78°	65°	57°
Avg. Low	38°	41°	44°	45°	48°	52°	54°	54°	52°	48°	44°	38°
Avg. Precip.	9.1 in	6.7 in	5.7 in	2.4 in	0.5 in	0.3 in	0.1 in	0.3 in	0.6 in	2.5 in	6.9 in	7.4 in

Degrees in Fahrenheit

Bodega Bay	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	56°	61°	64°	68°	75°	80°	84°	84°	82°	76°	64°	56°
Avg. Low	35°	37°	38°	40°	44°	47°	48°	48°	47°	44°	38°	35°
Avg. Precip.	9.0 in	6.3 in	5.6 in	2.3 in	0.5 in	0.3 in	0.1 in	0.1 in	0.5 in	2.4 in	6.5 in	7.1 in

Degrees in Fahrenheit