

The Bermuda Wine Circle presents...

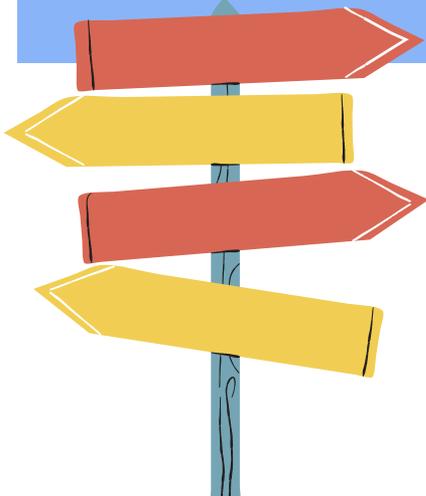
A CALIFORNIA ROAD TRIP

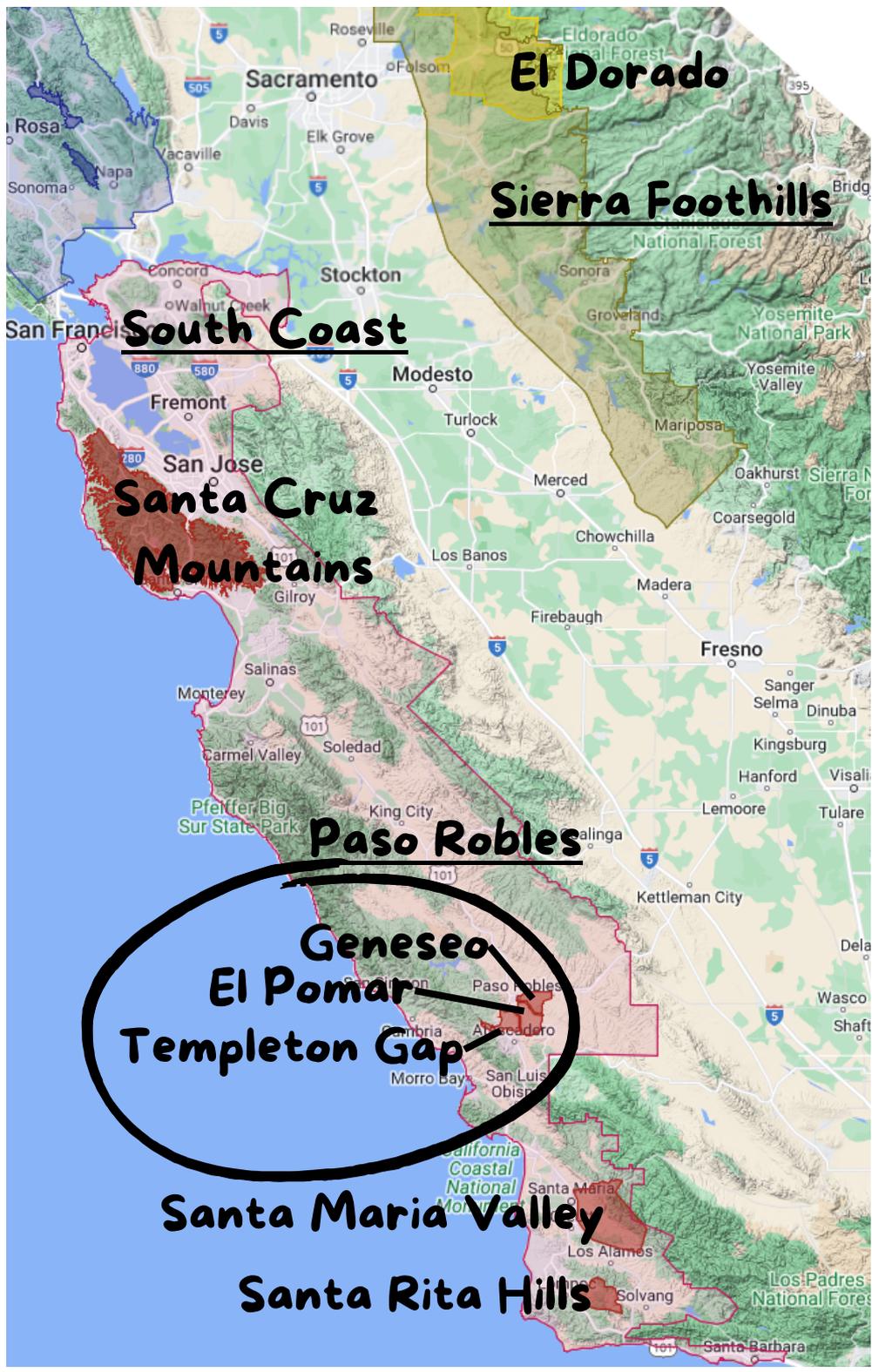


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American Viticultural Areas (AVAs)





El Dorado

Sierra Foothills

South Coast

Santa Cruz Mountains

Paso Robles

Geneseo
El Pomar
Templeton Gap

Santa Maria Valley

Santa Rita Hills

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1. Roederer Estate Brut NV

*North Coast - Anderson Valley
Bristol Cellars - \$30*

Following the popularity of the Roederer Champagne NV at our Christmas tasting, we decided to feature their California Estate NV tonight. It has the 'Roederer stamp' all over it - full flavoured, sur-lie and barrel aged.

The cool climate of Anderson Valley helps grapes maintain their acidity, perfect for producing sparkling wine from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir which requires acidity to maintain its 'crispness' and balance.

2. Brendel 'Everbloom' Sauvignon Blanc

*North Coast - Calistoga
Goslings - \$39.5*



Calistoga lies in the valley between two mountain ranges. Although it is known for having some of the hottest daytime temperatures in Napa Valley, this is tempered by cool nights that maintain acid balance and freshness in the Sauvignon Blanc. This is an early harvest wine made in the Loire style.

3. Marimar 'Don Miguel' Albariño 2020

*North Coast - Green Valley
Discovery Wines - \$39*

The Don Miguel vineyard in Green Valley is only ten miles from the Pacific, creating the perfect microclimate to mimic coastal Rias Baixas in Spain where Albariño is traditionally grown. The famous Russian River Valley fog cools the grapes, and ocean breezes keeps them dry and protected from disease, while the vines are trained to provides optimum air flow and light.

4. Ceritas 'Peter Martin Ray' Chardonnay 2019

South Coast - Santa Cruz Mountains
Two Rock Wines - \$65



The Peter Martin Ray vineyard is 1800 feet above sea level in the Santa Cruz Mountains, this ensures the grapes get more direct exposure to sunlight, producing thicker skins and more complex flavours, while the cooler nights at altitude preserve acidity as malic acid is converted into sugar during the ripening process.

5. Cambria "Katherine's Vineyard" Chardonnay 2021



South Coast - Santa Maria Valley
Goslings - \$45

Cool ocean breezes funnel through the valley, moderating temperatures and preventing the grapes from ripening too early, allowing more time for complex flavours to develop. Diverse soils add further complexity.

6. Arnot-Roberts California Rose 2022

Sierra Foothills - El Dorado
Two Rock Wines - \$30



This is a blend of Touriga Nacional, Gamay, Cabernet Franc and Grenache. The Gamay in particular has found a home at 2800 feet above sea level in the Sierra foothills. Mountain breezes from the Sierra Nevada mountains provide cooling influences and the granite soils are similar to the homeland of Gamay - Beaujolais in France.

7. Sea Smoke 'Southing' Pinot Noir 2021



*South Coast - Santa Rita Hills
Discovery Wines - \$108*

This is the most southerly region we are tasting from today - although it is closer to the equator than any European wine region, the Pacific breezes funneled through the valleys are able to keep the grapes cool and reduce the risk of disease. Fog helps to lower the temperature in hot summer months and the loam soil with marine deposits gives minerality and salinity.

8. Mt Brave "Mt Veeder" Napa Malbec 2018

*North Coast - Mt Veeder
Goslings - 109.75*



The elevated vineyards in Mt Veeder are covered with a thin free draining volcanic soil that imparts minerality. Combined with run off from steep slopes this means vines struggle to survive, producing smaller yields, but highly concentrated flavours.

9. Wild Hogge 'Moongate' Primitivo 2021

*South Coast - Paso Robles
Discovery Wines - 39.90*



Primitivo is genetically identically to Zinfandel and was originally brought to California from southern Italy, making it well suited adapted for the climate of Paso Robles. Hot days are tempered by often dramatically cooler nights away from moderating coastal influences. There are many microclimates in this region - the Primitivo for this blend is sourced from the Templeton Gap - a wetter and cooler region of Paso Robles that allows for a longer growing season.

10. Hawk and Horse Petit Verdot 2019

North Coast - Red Hills

Waterfront Wines - \$85.20



Soils are thin in the Red Hills and drain instantly. The elevation places vines well above the hot summer heat trapped in the valleys below, and aligns them in the path of cool westerly Pacific breezes. At the same time, the grapes are exposed to a greater solar intensity. Because of the high elevation, the differential between day and night time temperatures (diurnal range) is dramatic resulting in intensely flavored grapes.

11. The Prisoner Cabernet Sauvignon 2019

North Coast - Napa Valley

Goslings - \$80.50



Our final stop on this journey brings us up Highway 29, through the heart of Napa Valley to the Prisoner Wine Company.

Born in Rutherford, Napa Valley, The Prisoner began as a little-known red blend, created by winemaker Dave Phinney in 2000, but the brand quickly garnered a huge fan base, becoming famous for its untraditional label and style.

Due to the complexity of it's geography, California is able to grow a variety of grapes well, and blending will always be a huge part of Californian wine. The Prisoner sources their grapes from a variety of small-scale producers in California who grow unique varietals. This Cabernet Sauvignon based blend also contains small amounts of Merlot, Syrah, Malbec, Petit Sirah and Charbono.