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**Visit Temecula Valley**

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**VisitTemeculaValley.com**

**Fact Sheet for Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country**

**LOCATION**

Casual, picturesque, Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is situated within southwest Riverside County and conveniently located about 1 hour from San Diego, Orange County and Palm Desert, and 1 1/2 hours from Los Angeles. Each visit to this genuine, inviting get-away promises a wide variety of things to experience, enhanced by the sunny, relaxed spirit synonymous with Southern California.

**GPS**

Latitude: 33.50 degrees N

Longitude: 117.12 degrees W

**DESTINATIONS**

Three tourism destinations contribute to a full, robust Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country experience: **Downtown Old Town Temecula**, **Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country**, and **Pechanga Resort & Casino.** Located within minutes of each other, each has unique, premium varietal character that invites exploration, and all are connected to the local lifestyle, celebrating the richness of the valley.

**Downtown Old Town Temecula**

With a backdrop of untouched hillsides that bloom with lilac in spring, dynamic Downtown Old Town Temecula is Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country's lively entertainment-dining-shopping district. The vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, hip and historic, 12-block neighborhood melds genuine respect and appreciation for Temecula’s rich history with casual, contemporary Downtown Temecula style and enthusiasm.

Visitors enjoy Old Town Temecula for its festive special events, lively nightlife and entertainment; friendly restaurants, cafes, and coffee houses; welcoming wine tasting rooms and wine bars; and a noteworthy collection of unique, specialty stores and boutiques with something for everyone—from art and antiques to vintage records. The Old Town district is especially popular for festive, holiday shopping.

Old Town's wine tasting rooms offer the opportunity to swirl, sniff, and sip some of the many quality, premium varietal and proprietary blended, award-winning wines of Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country. Local, artisan food shops like Temecula Olive Oil Company garner an exceptional following for their quality products.

**Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country**

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is a beautiful wine region of rolling hills with high mountains forming a dramatic backdrop. More than 40 wineries thrive in the significant and diverse appellation that is gaining well-deserved recognition for its quality, premium varietal and proprietary blended wines. A growing collection of more than 5,000 awards attests to the quality of Temecula Valley vintages.

Visitors from throughout California and beyond are attracted to Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country by its natural gifts of climate and geography, and return again and again to experience the region's gracious and friendly wineries (most offer wine tastings daily); excellent winery restaurants (serving the pleasures of food and wine overlooking beautiful rolling hills and vineyards); relaxed and carefree wine country tours (local transportation companies are terrific guides); hot air balloon flights (exhilarating serenity with a commanding wine country view); horseback rides through the vineyards; and vintage relaxation for body, mind, and soul at The GrapeSeed Spa.

One of the major, signature Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country events is the annual Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival that attracts 40,000 attendees over three days to savor balloon glows, lift-offs, wine tasting, and live entertainment.

**Pechanga Resort & Casino**

Pechanga Resort & Casino is a AAA Four Diamond resort and one of the largest casinos in the U.S. The casino is also the *Orange County Register* People's Choice for Best Casino. The spectacular, Arthur-Hills designed Journey at Pechanga golf course garners highly desirable accolades from top golf publications and is recognized as one of the finest golf courses in California. Pechanga Resort & Casino is also recognized as one of Southern California's premier live venues for concerts and entertainment. Annual New Year's celebrations rival those of Las Vegas; more than 79,000 people descend upon Pechanga Resort & Casino for New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

Visitors seeking the ultimate in entertainment and luxury head to the upscale and relaxed resort as do visitors who appreciate casino gaming excitement 24/7. Those who enjoy high stakes wagering are at home in the luxurious, High Limit Gaming Area. Poker enthusiasts converge in the state-of-the-art, 54-table, smoke-free Poker Room, while others head for the 130+ table games and 3,000+ Vegas-style slots. For golfers, Journey at Pechanga is on the *GolfWeek Magazine* "Best Courses You Can Play" list and features a signature Hole 6 with a spectacular 175-foot drop to the fairway—the largest elevation drop on a California course. Journey also boasts a 62,000 square-foot clubhouse with high-end resort amenities, pro shop, and restaurant.

Pechanga offers elite entertainment venues. It hosts superstar, headline acts at summer, outdoor concerts and at the state-of-the-art Pechanga Theater. Leading comedians play at Comedy Club at Pechanga. Also at Pechanga are Silk (Southern California's largest mega-club), the Cabaret Lounge, and the rooftop Eagle's Nest. The resort also features magnificent dining for every taste: from the fine dining Great Oak Steakhouse (renowned for its 100% prime Black Angus beef and exceptional 900+ selection wine list) to the newly updated buffet with a fresh variety of cuisines and amazing desserts.

**GEOGRAPHY**

Just over the Coastal Mountain Range to the west of Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country, a distance of just 22 miles, is the Pacific Ocean. At the valley's southwest corner are the hallmark Rainbow Gap and the Santa Margarita Gap, a dramatic canyon formed by the Santa Margarita River. The San Jacinto Mountains and Santa Rosa Mountains border the Valley on the east. To the southeast is Palomar Mountain.

Temecula Valley spans a 32-square mile area. Elevations range from approximately 1,175 to 2,600 feet. The region is distinguished by natural, rolling hills with a big, open sky overhead. In winter, the snow-capped peaks of Mount San Jacinto and Palomar Mountain, as well as Mount San Bernardino and Mount San Gorgonio to the north, semi-circle the valley's panoramic vistas.

**CLIMATE AND AVERAGE TEMPERATURES**

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country enjoys welcoming weather year-round, often characterized as a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers, and cool winters with relatively low rainfall. Also significant is the valley's general weather pattern of morning mist, warm midday sun, cooling afternoon ocean breezes and cooler nights. This tempo of nature lends a pleasing, natural rhythm to any schedule for the day.

The dynamics of onshore-flow bring cool, gentle winds from the coast to Temecula Valley almost daily. The same dynamics also pull cool, moist, ocean air into the valley, most often in summer. These conditions combined help keep summer daytime temperatures lower and air quality better than that of surrounding Southern California areas.

**Average Temperatures**

Season Average Daytime High Average Nighttime Low

* **Spring** 74o F / 23o C 49o F / 9o C

March, April, May

* **Summer** 88o F / 31o C 60o F / 16o C

June, July, August

* **Autumn** 82o F / 28o C 52o F / 11o C

September, October, November

* **Winter** 68o F / 20o C 41o F / 5o C

December, January, February

Annual rainfall in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country averages 14 inches/356 millimeters.

**HISTORY**

Temecula is a name derived from the area's largest, Native American ancestral village; it has come to mean "land where the sun shines through the mist." The first travelers to Temecula were Spanish explorers and Franciscan missionaries (1700s and early 1800s), followed by travelers who arrived via the southern Emigrant Trail (beginning in the 1820s), then by Butterfield Stage (1858) followed by the railroads (1882). The first, paved, two-lane road (ancestor of Highway 395) was built through Temecula in 1915.

From the 1800s until the 1960s, cattle were the backbone of the Temecula Valley economy and Temecula's Old West lifestyle flourished. The mid-1960s saw the purchase of more than 87,500 acres of ranch land, and the launch of a semi-urban, pastoral, master-planned community to be known as Rancho California.

In 1968 and 1969, the first of Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country pioneers had purchased acreage and planted their vineyards; and in 1974, the founding of Callaway Winery marked the beginning of winemaking in Temecula Valley. "Clean air and vineyard views, new restaurants and a good bed and breakfast make the Temecula wine region a fine weekend destination," said *Wine Spectator* in 1989 in an article entitled “Discovering Wine Country Two Hours from L.A.”

**VITICULTURE**

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is a beautiful wine region of rolling hills with high mountains forming a dramatic backdrop. The 33,000-acre Temecula Valley American Viticulture Area (AVA) is part of the larger, 115,200-acre South Coast AVA, the largest AVA in Southern California. Within the Temecula Valley AVA, 5,185 acres are protected in an agricultural preserve known as the Citrus/Vineyard zone. Within the CV zone, there are approximately 2,525 planted vineyard acres.

The region's vineyard plantings grow at elevations ranging from 1,400 to 2,500 feet above sea level. Soils are granitic, a light sandy loam, that is excellent for growing high-quality grapes. Grapevines thrive in these well-drained soils that also contribute to clean, pure, varietal wine flavors. The valley's unique microclimate makes for a general pattern of morning mist, warm midday sun, cooling afternoon breezes, and cooler nights. These weather factors combined with the perfect balance of geography and well-drained soils create an ideal environment for growing high-quality wine grapes.

More than 40 wineries comprise Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country, a significant and diverse wine region that is gaining well-deserved recognition for its quality, premium varietal and proprietary blended wines. A growing collection of more than 5,000 awards attests to the quality of Temecula Valley vintages.

**VISITOR HIGHLIGHTS AND AMENITIES**

As diverse as Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country's destinations is the rich variety of activities encouraging visitors to stay and play. Each season brings new possibilities and each visit promises a rich new experience.

**Major Events and Seasonal Fests**

* **Springfest** (March, April, May)

Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association World of Wine Weekend

Old Town Temecula Rod Run

Western Cultural Heritage Day

Taste of Temecula Valley

Temecula Valley Balloon & Wine Festival

* **Summerfest** (June, July, August)

Temecula Art & Street Painting Festival

Old Town Temecula 4th of July Parade

Pechanga MicroBrew Festival

Hatch Chili Festival

* **Autumnfest** (September, October, November)

California Wine Month—Temecula Style (throughout September)

Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association CRUSH Wine & Culinary Showcase

Old Town Temecula Outdoor Quilt Show

Ralph Love Plein Air Festival

Greek Festival

Big Horse Feed Corn Maze & Harvest Festival

* **Winterfest Holidays** (December)

Temecula Chilled

Santa's Electric Light Parade in Downtown Old Town Temecula

Holiday Ice Skating Rink at Old Town Temecula Town Square

New Year’s Eve Grape Drop

* **Winterfest January-February**

California Restaurant Month—Temecula Style (throughout January)

Winter Barrel Tasting Celebration

Valentine Romance in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country (throughout February)

Plus: California-Certified Farmers Market every Saturday morning in Old Town, and Wednesday morning at Promenade Temecula.

\*Please also see the Event Calendar at VisitTemeculaValley.com.

**Outdoor Recreation and Adventures**

* Golfing on 7 impressive, extended-stay and vacation-worthy courses.
* Hot Air Balloon flights over Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country.
* Horseback riding through vineyards in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country.
* Strolling the Class 1 walking trails adjacent Old Town Front Street and Jefferson Avenue.
* Hiking at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.

**Natural Treasures**

* The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve protects unique ecosystems like vernal pools—home to fairy shrimp, found nowhere else on earth. Small songbirds winter in the ancient Engelmann oak woodlands. In spring, the rare bunchgrass prairie hosts native wildflowers.
* The Santa Margarita River is one of the last free-flowing rivers in Southern California, and is widely recognized as an irreplaceable, scenic, ecological treasure. The Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve is located on the upper river. Sycamore, cottonwood, and willow forests are part of a 30-mile, protected, riparian corridor.
* Locally unearthed mastodon and mammoth Ice Age fossils are the hallmarks of the Western Science Center's collection that also exhibits the fossils of a giant ground sloth, birds, and lizards.

**LODGING**

For a full, robust experience, savvy visitors (first-timers and those who return again and again) realize it is much more fun and enjoyable to stay-over in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country.

Arriving at any of the 16 inviting hotels, motels, and resorts conveniently just off the I-15 freeway puts visitors minutes—even steps—from the most popular destinations. With guest rooms for every budget, visitors enjoy accommodations ranging from luxurious, AAA Four Diamond hospitality to clean, comfortable, friendly, and economical. The variety truly provides lodging for each get-away and every occasion.

**DINING**

Throughout Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country, talented chefs and restaurateurs abound. Dining opportunities range from contemporary, white tablecloth to open-air casual. In Downtown Old Town Temecula, 19 excellent, independent restaurants, bistros, and coffee houses serve fresh, creative cuisine; classic and authentic-ethnic fare; and robust java. In Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country, the pleasures of food and wine are enjoyed overlooking rolling hills and vineyards; 9 friendly and gracious, winery restaurants expertly pair premium, award-winning wines with uniquely inspired menus featuring seasonal foods. Pechanga Resort & Casino hosts 10 outstanding places to dine, including 4 gourmet restaurants.

**SHOPPING**

Passionate and enthusiastic shoppers know that shopping in casual, picturesque, Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is always fun and familiar, and surprising and new. Retail experiences span from the distinctive, trendy stores and upscale specialty boutiques at Promenade Temecula to the lively and unique Downtown Old Town Temecula shopping experience; from the intriguing winery gift shops of Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country and festive California Certified Farmers' Markets on Saturday and Wednesday mornings, to the merchandise of popular and widely recognized national retail stores throughout Temecula.

**GETTING HERE AND AROUND**

**Highways**

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is located just off Interstate 15 (I-15).

* From Orange County, Highway 55 (CA-55) north to Highway 91 (CA-91) east to I-15 south, about 1 hour.
* From Palm Desert, Highway 111 (CA-111) north to Highway 74 (CA-74) to Highway 79 (CA-79), about 1 scenic hour.
* From San Diego, I-15 north, about 1 hour.
* From Los Angeles, Interstate 10 or Highway 60 (I-10 or CA-60) east to I-15 south, about 1 1/2 hours.
* From Pasadena, Interstate 210 (I-210) east to Highway 210 (CA-210) to I-15 south, about 1 1/2 hours.

**Airports**

Primary airports served by commercial, domestic and international carriers include:

* LA/Ontario International Airport (ONT), about a 45-minute drive.
* John Wayne Airport (SNA), Orange County, about a 1-hour drive.
* Palm Springs International Airport (PSP), about a 1-hour drive.
* San Diego International Airport (SAN), about a 1-hour drive.
* Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), about a 1 1/2-hour drive.

**Shuttles, Tours, and Transportation**

A variety of transportation companies offer transport solutions for groups and individual travelers to, from, and in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country. One of the most popular, carefree ways to experience Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is on a wine tasting tour via mini-coach, shuttle, limousine, or trolley.

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

* Official website: VisitTemeculaValley.com

Available online:

* + Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country Visitor's Guide
  + Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country Meeting & Event Planning Guide
  + Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country Event Calendar
* Visit Temecula Valley’s Visitor Center

Open Mondays—Saturdays in Old Town Temecula

Third Street and Mercedes

28690 Mercedes Street, Suite A, Temecula, CA 92590

Adjacent the Old Town Temecula Parking Garage (parking is free)

Telephone: 951-491-6085

**JOIN US AND FOLLOW US**

* "Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country" on Facebook
* @Visit\_Temecula on Twitter
* @visittemecula on Instagram

**CONTACT US**

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Please note: Information is believed to be accurate but may be subject to change.