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**PLEASE NOTE**:

The companion piece is "Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country"

**The Wineries of**

**Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country**

***\*Information is believed to be current as of March 2014.***

The cover of the April 30, 1989, edition of *The Wine Spectator* touted "Discovering Wine Country Two Hours From Los Angeles." The article also noted that pioneers set the stage for an influx of wineries, of which there were then 11, and that "Local vintners and growers recognize the importance of preserving the agricultural nature of Temecula Valley."

There are now more than 40 wineries in the significant and diverse Temecula Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area), considered to be the major AVA in Southern California. The wine region continues to gain recognition for its award-winning, premium varietal and proprietary blended wines, and for its talented winemakers; and is home to three-time, award-winning California State Winery of the Year, South Coast Winery.

Meanwhile, the commitment for preserving the agricultural nature of Temecula Valley endures with the efforts of ‘first generation’ pioneers like **Phil and Carol Baily**, **Joe and Nancy Hart**, and **Maurice Van Roekel**. Legacies live on authentically at historic wineries like **Callaway** and **Mount Palomar**. Earnest individuals like **Jim Carter**, **Ben Drake**, **Robert Olson**, and **Mike Rennie** also help to perpetuate the valley’s agricultural nature. As do families like the **Thorntons**, the **Pontes**, the **Falkners**, the **Wilsons,** and the **Wiens**; and new-generation winemakers and winery owners like **Nick Palumbo** and **Cane Vanderhoof**.

Perhaps because of the sunny, relaxed spirit synonymous with Southern California, Temecula Valley Wine Country is one of California’s most engaging and approachable wine regions. Travelers from throughout California and beyond are naturally attracted to Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country by its natural gifts of climate and geography. Many return to enjoy again the region's welcoming wineries; learning experiences, VIP tours and wine tastings, wine education programs, and cooking classes; concerts and signature wine-and-live-music events; outdoor activities; and dining in excellent winery restaurants amidst the vineyards. Less-busy weekdays are ideal for savoring Temecula Valley Wine Country and wineries’ and wine tasting rooms’ new releases. Midweek also provides potential opportunities to converse with talented winemakers and gracious and friendly, winemaking family members.

**TEMECULA VALLEY WINE COUNTRY INSIGHTS**

From a Temecula Valley Wine Country first-generation, small-winery pioneer (recognized as one of the most influential winemakers in the United States):

***“Temecula Valley Wine Country has remarkable diversity of wine styles.***

***Almost anyone can find wine they like.”***

From a Temecula Valley Wine Country new-generation, artisanal winemaker, and winery owner (with certified sustainable vineyards and winery under the strict standards of the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance program created by the Wine Institute and the California Association of Winegrape Growers):

***“A quality, wine country experience in beautiful Southern California is tough to beat.”***

From a Temecula Valley chef (ardent *Slow Food* and “local” champion):

***“I love the bounty of farms, ranches, and vineyards we have.***

***The weather is perfect; the food is fresh; and the wine is handcrafted.”***

**TEMECULA VALLEY WINERIES**

**\*BAILY VINEYARD & WINERY**

**• Carol’s Restaurant at Baily Winery**

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/676-9463; bailywinery.com

Established in 1986, Baily is one of Temecula Valley Wine Country’s original grape growers and producers of handcrafted, premium Temecula Valley vintages. **Phil and Carol Baily** set out to produce a small quantity of excellent wine from their own grapes to be sold primarily at the winery. Since, Baily Temecula Valley AVA and Estate Bordeaux varietal wines have won gold medals in all of California's major wine competitions. The new Baily Estate club tasting room (open Thurs-Sun) provides guests the opportunity to taste and purchase older Baily red wines in an intimate setting. The Bailys believe good wine tastes better with food and food tastes better with wine. Fresh California cuisine accompanied by Baily wine at **Carol's Restaurant** (open Thurs-Sun) **at Baily Winery** is the way to experience and enjoy; dine indoors or on the patio, adjacent the Cabernet vines. Also in the Baily family are **Baily's Fine Dining** and **Front Street Bar & Grill**, in Downtown Old Town Temecula.

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, live music, special events\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*BEL VINO WINERY**

**• Bel Vino Bistro at Bel Vino Winery**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/676-6414; belvinowinery.com

Set on a hilltop with panoramic views, both seasoned wine connoisseurs and relaxed wine enthusiasts, discover a friendly dedication to making memorable experiences. The winery (established in 1998) produces a full line of handcrafted, Temecula Valley AVA and Estate varietals. The **Bel Vino Bistro** (open Fri-Sun) serves casual wine country fare like charcuterie, burgers, and flatbread pizzas.

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, special events\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*BRIAR ROSE WINERY**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

951/308-1098; briarrosewinery.com

**Les and Dorian Linkogle**'s quaint, historic, fairy tale, cottage-style winery (established 2006) is an enchanting place with fine, award-winning, handcrafted, small lot, premium and artisan wines. By advance reservation only, guests are invited to “taste the enchantment;” the wine tasting experience is seated, table-service. Temecula Valley AVA and Estate wines are produced from healthy, ripe, hand-picked grapes and include Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel, as well as Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, Super Tuscan, and Sangiovese; Viognier and Gewurztraminer, Riesling, Fume Blanc, and Chardonnay; and fun, innovative Citronier (Viognier with Meyer lemon zest), and the wine lager, Talking Frog (Viognier and lager Hefeweizen).

Amenities: Tasting room, gift shop.

Open: Tuesday through Sunday by appointment only.

**\*CALLAWAY VINEYARD & WINERY**

**• Meritage restaurant at Callaway Vineyard & Winery**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/676-4001; callawaywinery.com

The valley's oldest winery first helped put Temecula Valley Southern California wines on the map in 1976 when the Estate bottled, 1974 White Riesling was served to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II at New York City's Waldorf Astoria. Her majesty, not known to be a wine drinker, requested a second glass! Then as now, the carefully crafted, premium Temecula Valley AVA and Estate wines are well-balanced with fresh fruit flavor, round body, and crisp character. Among recent winners in the 2014 San Francisco Chronicle International competition, were the Callaway 2012 Winemaker's Reserve Roussanne, 2012 Special Selection Rosé of Sangiovese, 2010 Winemaker's Reserve Syrah, 2010 Winemaker's Reserve Profonde, 2011 Special selection Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2012 Special Selection Muscat Canelli. Spring 2014 releases will include 2010 Winemaker's Reserve Calliope Red, 2011 special selection Pinot Gris, 2010 special selection Mourvedre, 2011 special selection Viognier, and 2010 special selection Grenache. Dining is with vineyard views at **Meritage at Callaway** (open daily) where the menu is based on the “small plate” concept of big flavor and variety; and the freshest local ingredients are used to create seasonal tapas, salads, and flavorful entrees. The full menu includes wine pairing suggestions by the glass and by the taste.

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, complimentary tours, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*CHURON WINERY**

951/694-9071; innatchuronwinery.com

The Temecula Valley AVA and Estate Syrah wines of this intimate, boutique winery-chateau established in 2006 and nestled atop 11 acres/4 hectares of hillside vineyards have repeatedly been gold medal winners. Each year new varietals are blended to produce Churon Classic White, and Churon Classic Red. Friday and Saturday evenings, 5-course wine-paired dinners are served by advance reservation.

Amenities: Tasting room, gift shop, special events\*\*, weddings\*\*, 22-room B & B\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*COUGAR VINEYARD & WINERY**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

**LOCATED ALONG THE DE PORTOLA WINE TRAIL**

951/491-0825; cougarvineyards.com

With a love for Italian varietals and 14 years home-winemaking experience, **Rick and Jennifer Buffington** were the first 'couple winemakers' in the Temecula Valley when they opened their boutique winery in 2004. The hand-crafted, award-winning wines are 100% Estate grown, Temecula Valley AVA, Italian varietals including several varietals rarely found in the United States: Lambrusca di Alessandria, Brachetto, Prosecco, Falangini and Nero Amaro. Cougar also grows more commonly known varietals on their 17-acre/7-hectare property including: Sangiovese, Aglianico, Primitivo, Montepulciano, Vermentino, Pinot Grigio and Arneis. The tasting room provides picturesque views of the valley; and the picnic area is surrounded by olive trees and grapevines.

Amenities: Tasting area, gourmet deli items, picnic area, gift shop, special events\*\*, wedding ceremonies\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*DANZA DEL SOL WINERY**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

**LOCATED ALONG THE DE PORTOLA WINE TRAIL**

951/302-6363; danzadelsol.com

This 35-acre estate winery located on the De Portola Wine Trail was originally established in 1978. Purchased by **Robert Olson** it opened in 2010 as Danza del Sol Winery and is is dedicated to producing premium varietal and distinctive, proprietary blended wines. With a relaxed, Old World Italian countryside ambiance, the tasting experience is friendly and personalized. The 25-acre/10-hectare vineyard includes Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Tempranillo, Sangiovese, Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc, Gewürztraminer, and Viognier. Among the winery’s award-winning Temecula Valley AVA wines are the 2011 Petite Sirah, 2011 Trilogy, 2011 Rousanne, 2011 Sinfonia, 2012 Tres Rosé. Danza del Sol Wines can only be purchased through the tasting room.

Amenities: Tasting room and patio, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open daily.

**\*DOFFO VINEYARD & WINERY**

951/676-6989; doffowines.com

Owned by **Marcelo Doffo and family**, this petite winery (purchased in 1997) is situated on 15 acres/ 6 hectares of lush vineyards and is home to an historical landmark schoolhouse. The philosophy here is that “good winemaking begins in the vineyard” and the vineyards - where classical music is played - are meticulously cared for to produce intense, rich fruit. At Doffo, the goal is to handcraft wines that represent some of the best varietals grown in the Temecula Valley and that are of complex structure, texture, and bold, rich fruit. Also of note: Doffo Winery opens it MotoDoffo Barrel Room with a private collection of 100 racing and vintage motorcycles, to visitors Thursday and Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. for limited viewing.

Amenities: Tasting room.

Open: Daily.

**\*EUROPA VILLAGE**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/506-1818; europavillage.com

Europa Village land was formerly part of the historic Callaway vineyards. Planted in the 1970s, this vineyard produced many award-winning wines. One such vintage brought national and international attention for the small Callaway Winey and Temecula Valley. In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan experienced a vintage grown and crafted in his Southern California homeland. His appreciation of the Callaway Chardonnay prompted him to order a steady supply for the White House. One of his guests at a state dinner was so impressed, she ordered the wine to be sent to her home. Her home was Buckingham Palace, and the accolades were from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. Established in 2006 and with 30 acres/12 hectares of vineyards currently planted, Europa Village plans to have 210 acres/85 hectares of vineyards when planting is complete in 2017. The on-site winery was established in 2011 and is one of the newest additions to Temecula Valley Wine Country. The winery is dedicated to producing outstanding handcrafted wines that respect the art of old world European winemaking traditions. Current release Temecula Valley AVA Estate wines include 2011 Pinot Grigio (.375 ml), 2012 Vermentino, 2012 Viognier, 2012 Barbera, 2012 Sangiovese, 2012 Primitivo, 2010 Syrah (1.5L), 2011 Syrah, 2012 Garnacha Rosa, 2012 Vanita, 2012 Muscat Canelli, 2012 Arneis, and 2011 Tempranillo. Temecula Valley AVA Estate wines to be released in 2014 include 2012 Montepulciano, 2011 Private Reserve Syrah, 2012 Mistero Artist Series, 2012 Garnacha, 2012 Syrah, 2013 Chardonnay, 2013 Pinot Grigio, 2013 Vermentino, 2013 Arneis, 2013 Muscat Canelli, and 2013 Garnacha Rosa. Additionally, Temecula Valley AVA 2012 Tempranillo, 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2013 Viognier, 2013 Sauvignon Blanc will be released. On-site, the old world Europa Village atmosphere celebrates the wine country lifestyle with French, Spanish, and Italian elements and influences.

Amenities: Tasting room, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*, 10-room B&B\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*FALKNER WINERY**

**• The Pinnacle restaurant at Falkner Winery**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/676-8231; falknerwinery.com

The Falkner property includes 15 acres of vineyards (originally established in the early 1970s and early 1980s) and currently produces Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, Viognier, Sangiovese, and Zinfandel. Constructed in 1984, the tasting room and winery building have undergone numerous renovations over the years but the tasting room has always maintained the rustic feel and ambiance to best reflect the authenticity of winery operations. From the tasting room, guests are able to observe the production area and see where wines are made. The Falkner’s, Ray and Loretta, purchased the winery in 2000. Falkner Winery produces premium varietal wines with outstanding varietal character in small batches. Among recent winners in the 2014 San Francisco Chronicle International competition, were the Falkner Temecula Valley AVA Estate 2012 Sauvignon Blanc, Temecula Valley AVA 2009 Meritage-Bordeaux Blend, and 2012 Rosato. Current Falkner releases also include 2012 Chardonay, 2012 Riesling, 2010 Merlot, 2009 Amante - Super Tuscan Style, and 2011 Port. With panoramic, hilltop views, **The Pinnacle** restaurant serves beautifully prepared healthful menus consistent with a Mediterranean diet.

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*FOOT PATH WINERY**

951/265-9951; footpathwinery.com

Very small, family-owned-and-operated, no-frills Foot Path Winery makes Estate wines from Temecula Valley AVA 100% organically grown, California Certified Organic grapes. Natural cover crops and no pesticides (an organic, chrysanthemum-based alternative is used instead), and hawks and owls on-patrol are examples of Foot Path vineyard practices. Owners **Deane and Christine Foote** keep it simple and handcraft only red wines that are not filtered, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The Foot Path Winery also features a small **Foote Path Farms**-stand with tree fruit in-season, such as navel, Valencia, and blood oranges; tangerines; pomegranates; figs; or apricots.

Amenities: Tasting area, small gift area.

Open: Daily.

**\*GERSHON BACHUS VINTNERS**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**LOCATED ALONG THE DE PORTOLA WINE TRAIL**

877/458-8428; gershonbachus.com

**Ken and Christina Falik**'s 20-acre Tuscan-style estate is perched above the De Portola Wine Trail with a 360o view of wine country. Tastings (by appointment only) are seated, table-service style to allow guests to savor the limited-production varietals and limited wine series.

Amenities: Tasting room, special events\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily by appointment.

**\*KEYWAYS VINEYARD & WINERY**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

**LOCATED ALONG THE DE PORTOLA WINE TRAIL**

951/302-7888; keywayswine.com

Established in 1989, Keyways was one of the earlier wineries in Temecula Valley. The entire estate has been renovated to reflect the warmth, charm, and ambiance of an Early California boutique winery surrounded by picturesque vineyards and ranches.

Amenities: Tasting room, live food station weekends, gift shop, special events\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*LEONESS CELLARS**

**• The Restaurant at Leoness**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

**LOCATED ALONG THE DE PORTOLA WINE TRAIL**

951/302-7601; leonessecellars.com

**Mike Rennie and Gary Winder** have a true understanding of growing high-quality wine grapes that ultimately produce wines of incredible depth and flavor. They began managing vineyards in Temecula Valley in 1991 and established Rolling Hill Estate Vineyard (at the future site of the Leoness winery) in 1997. Founded in 2003, Leoness Cellars (Gaelic for “village of dreams”) carefully crafts wines to preserve the subtle, varietal flavors and nuances; and produces critically acclaimed, exceptionally fine wines including small lots of specially selected varietals. The Leoness wine tiers include Cellar Selection (crafted to suit a range of palates); Vineyard Selection (handcrafted, small lot wines from single vineyards); and Signature Selection (wines blended for the utmost elegance and character). With a wide variety of private tour and tasting programs, Leoness Cellars believes that the more guests learn about wine, the more they will enjoy it. Leoness developed a self-guided vineyard tour to enable guests to see and touch the vines and grapes in every stage: from flowering, to fruit set, to fruit development, and learn about what’s involved in viticulture. The self-guided tour puts visitors right in the middle of agriculture. Leoness also offers extensive educational tours like Wine 101, to teach people how wine is made in different regions. The focal point of the tasting room is the large windows looking out on Rolling Hill Vineyard; the design feature is intentional, to remind guests that a great wine’s journey begins in the vineyard. The Temecula Valley AVA Leoness wines to be released in 2014 include Signature Selection, 2011 Grande Melange, 2011 Syrah, and 2011 Merlot; Vineyard Selection, 2011 Estate Cabernet Sauvingnon (Rolling Hills Vineyard), and 2011 Merlot (Los Caballos Vineyard); Cellar Selection, 2012 Chardonnay, 2011 Cinsaut, 2013 Dry Muscat Canelli, 2013 Viognier, 2011 Meritage, 2013 Muscat Canelli, 2013 Melange de Blanc, 2011 Syrah, 2011 Mourvedre, and 2013 White Merlot. The **Restaurant at Leoness** (open Fri-Sun) serves Mediterranean and French artisanal cuisine including seasonally prepared artisan appetizers, salads and entrées paired with Leoness wines.

Amenities: Tasting room and patio, restaurant, self-guided vineyard trail, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*LORIMAR VINEYARDS & WINERY**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

Owned by **Mark Manfield** and **Lawrie Lipton**, and one of the newest wineries in the Temecula Valley, Lorimar Vineyards & Winery’s goal is to create good wines and charge reasonable prices in a beautiful environment. The Tuscan-style winery is set amidst orange groves adjoining the 22-acre/9-hectare Temecula Valley AVA Estate vineyard. In addition to a tasting room and gift shop, the Lorimar winery estate also includes an art gallery and a sunset patio with lighting, sails, fireplaces, and outdoor heaters. The venue is popular for its weekend live music, and hand-tossed cooked-to-order pizzas paired with Lorimar wines. The handcrafted wines are approachable with a fruit forward style that showcases clean crisp fruit. Lorimar creates premium varietal and proprietary blended wines using the best of the old world ways combined with today’s more advanced technology.

Amenities: Tasting room and patio, gift shop, art gallery, food service weekends, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*LUMIERE WINERY**

951/972-0585; lumierewinery.com

This family-owned and operated boutique winery specializes in small lots of premium, hand-crafted, wines made from grapes grown on the 20-acre/8-hectare estate. The 17-acre /7-hectare vineyard was originally planted in 1980. The winery began production in 2006 and opened its doors in 2010. All wines are Temecula Valley AVA Estate grown and bottled, and include Bordeaux style blends, red and white varietals.

Amenities: Tasting room.

Open: Friday through Sunday.

**\*MAURICE CAR’RIE VINEYARD & WINERY**

**• Maurice’s Kitchen at Maurice Car’rie Winery**

951/676-1711; mauricecarriewinery.com

**Budd and Maurice Car'rie Van Roekel** founded their 67-acre/27-hectare vineyard estate with its cheerful and inviting, Victorian-style farmhouse winery in 1986. The winery handcrafts an array of premium varietals and proprietary blends including award-winning Temecula Valley AVA Estate Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Moscato, Chardonnay, Grenache, Sara Bella (Rosé of Cabernet), White Zinfandel, Cody's Crush (Red Blend). The winery also specializes in a variety of sparkling wines and wines that are on the “sweeter side.” On-site restaurant, **Maurice's Kitchen** (open Fri-Sun), serves casual wine country fare like sandwiches and burgers, and brie baked inside sourdough bread. Also popular is the year-round, al fresco/outdoor Arts and Crafts fair (Fri-Sun).

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, picnic area, gift shop, arts and crafts fair (Fri-Sun), weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*MIRAMONTE WINERY**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/506-5500; miramontewinery.com

Miramonte was founded in 2001 by **Cane Vanderhoof** and later joined in ownership by a few close friends, all avid wine collectors and enthusiasts. This boutique winery is nestled on a hill overlooking the valley. The estate vineyards sit at an elevation of 1400 feet, with other vineyards located between 1400 and 1600 feet. Miramonte owns, co-manages or otherwise buys fruit from a total of about 44 acres of vineyards in the Temecula Valley AVA and tends to focus on Rhone grape varieties, but also continually looks for interesting expressions of other varieties. Miramonte’s goal is wines of depth, character and sophistication. Miramonte’s wine style focuses on intensity, individuality, regional distinction, and elegance of expression. Miramonte is noted for its friendly and knowledgeable tasting room staff and for popular, weekend vino-cultural experiences.

Amenities: Tasting room and terrace.

Open: Daily.

**\*MONTE DE ORO WINERY**

**• Monte de Oro Bistro at Monte de Oro Winery**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/491-6551; montedeoro.com

With a passion for growing quality grapes, Monte De Oro's 100% Estate grown, Temecula Valley AVA award-winning, handcrafted wines start in the 72-acre/29-hectare vineyard. Great care is taken to cultivate quality grapes from the time they bud in the spring to the time they are harvested in the fall. Annual grape production is 125-180 tons/113-163 tonnes, generating between 8,000 and 11,000 cases of wine. One of Monte De Oro Winery’s main attractions is its 2,500 square-foot/250 square-meter main tasting room space complete with cathedral ceilings, two tasting bars, six alabaster chandeliers and a glass floor that gives its guests a sneak-peak of the winery’s subterranean barrel cellar. Another of Monte De Oro’s assets is the breathtaking 180-degree panoramic view of the surrounding Temecula Valley Wine Country from the expansive outdoor patio. The **Monte de Oro Bistro** (open Fri-Sun) serves casual wine country fare like snack boards, pastas, burgers, and sandwiches.

Amenities: Tasting room and outdoor terrace, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*MOUNT PALOMAR WINERY**

**• Shorty’s Bistro at Mount Palomar Winery**

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/676-5047; mountpalomar.com

One of Temecula Valley’s pioneering establishment, This Early California-style winery with tasting room, vineyards, and citrus groves situated on 315 acres/127 hectares is one of the original wine estates that helped pioneer Temecula Valley Wine Country. The goal from the early days of the winery has remained a constant, to “"enhance the lives of friends and guests with an exceptional wine country experience." Set back and nestled away from the Rancho California Road thoroughfare, the Mount Palomar Winery and guest center provide a relaxing and peaceful environment. Guests enjoy breathtaking views of the valley filled with meticulously cared for vineyards, the authenticity of a traditional winemaking facility, and tasting bars brimming with award-winning Temecula Valley AVA wines. **Shorty's Bistro** (open daily) features a diverse array of authentic Mediterranean appetizers, sandwiches, stone oven pizzas, and desserts.

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily

**\*OAK MOUNTAIN WINERY**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

**LOCATED ALONG THE DE PORTOLA WINE TRAIL**

951/699-9102; oakmountainwinery.com

**Steve and Valerie Andrews**' Oak Mountain Temecula Valley AVA estate vineyards are planted to the classic Bordeaux varieties Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petite Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. Steep hillsides at their Temecula Valley AVA Temecula Hills vineyard provide excellent terrain for Rhone varietals; planted at this location are estate Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Viognier, Syrah, Mourvedre, Grenache, Sangiovese and Primativo varietals. Wines from both Oak Mountain and Temecula Hills wines are available for tasting and purchase at the Oak Mountain Winery. Visitors are invited to picnic in the Vista Pavilion at Oak Mountain with panoramic views overlooking hillsides of vineyards surrounded by picturesque mountains.

Amenities: Tasting room, picnic area, gift shop, special events\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*PALUMBO FAMILY VINEYARDS & WINERY**

**\*MEMBER, CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING ALLIANCE**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

951/676-7900; palumbofamilyvineyards.com

**Nicholas and Cindy Palumbo**'s commitment is to small lot, handcrafted wines from grape varieties grown on the estate vineyards along with a select few other properties that adhere to strict farming practices to ensure only the best grapes. The family-run winery has often been described as “boutique” but favors the term “artisanal” to describe the involvement and passion that goes into the daily operations. One foot stands in modern techniques and the other foot is firmly planted in tradition. The first release was a 2000 Temecula Valley AVA Estate vintage. The original 7 acres/3 hectares of vineyards was established in 1991. In 1998, the Palumbos purchased the property and in 1999 expanded the vineyards to 13 acres/5 hectares. That original 13 acres is planted with Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Sangiovese varietals. A new block of Viognier and Syrah was planted on neighboring properties to round-out the line of wines available. Specializing in full bodied reds, the estate-grown and produced offerings include both single variety bottlings in addition to a few special blends. Together, this combination of offerings helps showcase both varietal character and the artistic expression of the winemaker. Wines produced include varietals like Viognier (the only Palumbo white wine offering), “Rosato Secco” Rosé (a very classic European style dry rosé made to impress even the most doubtful), Syrah “clone 877” (from Clone 877 cuttings taken from historic vineyards in the South of France, and planted and grown in the Temecula Valley AVA). Various Palumbo blends include the extremely popular Tre Fratelli “Meritage” (a traditional and elegant blend of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc). Palumbo Winery garners a reputation for exceptional quality and the wine club is continually at capacity. Visits here are described as “down to earth” and the tasting room is described as “relaxed.”

Amenities: Tasting room, groups\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*PONTE FAMILY ESTATE WINERY**

**\*MEMBER, CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING ALLIANCE**

**• The Restaurant at Ponte Family Estate Winery**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/694-8855; pontewinery.com

Grape growers in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country since 1984, the Ponte Family estate with its impeccable grounds is located on a 300-acre vineyard. Established in 2003, Ponte Family Estate Winery is a boutique producer, crafting a classic line of single varietals, blends using multiple varieties, as well as sweet wines, and sparkling wines. Most of the 40 year-old vines on the property produce Cabernet, Merlot, and Chardonnay. The Pontes also farm Zinfandel, Sangiovese, Muscat, Pinot Grigio, Vermentino, Nero d'Avola, Grenache, Montepulciano and other Italian varietals. The alfresco **Restaurant at Ponte** (open daily) serves delicious, casually elegant, locally grown and locally sourced fare. Handmade pizzas are fired in a wood-burning oven using reclaimed estate grapevines from Ponte vineyards.

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, special events\*\*, weddings\*\*, 60-room boutique hotel\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*ROBERT RENZONI VINEYARDS**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

**LOCATED ALONG THE DE PORTOLA WINE TRAIL**

951/302-8466; robertrenzonivineyards.com

**Robert Renzoni Vineyards** is a tribute to the history of winemaking in the Renzoni family that dates to 1886 in Italy. Established in 2008, the 13-acre/5-hectare Renzoni Temecula Valley AVA vineyard estate is planted with Barbera, Brunello of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Pinot Grigio grape varietals. At the winery (also established in 2008), the hospitality is gracious and warm. Spring 2014 sees the debut of the new Tuscan-style Villa tasting room; the structure includes a subterranean wine cellar and a 3-story bell tower with a vintage 1889 bell. Estate wines released in 2014 will include Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Grigio, and Brunello Sangiovese.

Amenities: Tasting room, picnic area, groups\*\*.

Open: Daily."

**\*SOUTH COAST WINERY RESORT & SPA**

**\*MEMBER, CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING ALLIANCE**

**• The Vineyard Rose restaurant at South Coast Winery**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/587-9463; wineresort.com

Rooted in the celebration of sun and soil, **Jim Carter** established this 39-acre, winery resort with the winemaking philosophy: “In order for outstanding grapes to become unforgettable wine, it necessitates an essential dedication of marrying the best of Mother Nature with the best of man.” The success of this approach has three times earned South Coast Winery "best of the best" as California State Winery of the Year award (2008/09, 2009/10, and 2013/14). South Coast Winery’s Wild Horse Peak vineyards are located on the eastern side of Mount Palomar, in the South Coast AVA of Southern California. Devoted to the good life of wine country in Temecula Valley, the warm and friendly tasting room serves up award-winning wines, while the Temecula Valley AVA estate vineyards of this 39-acre/16-hectare resort house an award-winning restaurant and luxurious spa.

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*, day spa\*\*, 76 resort villas\*\*, new all-suite hotel tower\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*THORNTON WINERY**

**• Café Champagne at Thornton Winery**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

Established in 1988, Thornton Winery utilizes the Methode Champenoise process to create complex and interesting NV California sparkling wine varietals. In 1993, the winery introduced their premium varietal wines that emulate classic wine styles of the Mediterranean and Rhone regions. Temecula Valley AVA Thornton wines to be released in 2014 include 2011 Estate Syrah, 2012 Cabernet-Merlot, 2012 Merlot, 2012 Cabernet Franc, 2013 Thorny's Coat White, 2013 Vermentino, 2013 Rosé, and 2012 Nebbiolo. The much-admired, majestic French-Mediterranean estate is popular for its Champagne Jazz Concert series (May through October), beautiful grounds, and **Café Champagne Restaurant** (open daily) offering fresh, seasonal, French-country, contemporary cuisine and patio and indoor dining.

Amenities: Tasting lounge, restaurant, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*VAN ROEKEL WINERY**

951/699-6961; mauricecarriewinery.com

Founded in 1994, this is the sister winery to **Budd and Maurice Van Roekel**'s **Maurice Car’rie Winery**. The tasting room is European in flavor and features Van Roekel premium wines. Picnic grounds overlook beautiful vineyards where guests are invited to enjoy gourmet cheeses, a selection of deli items, and VR wines.

Amenities: Tasting room, picnic area, gift shop, special events\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*VINDEMIA VINEYARD & WINERY**

951/699-0601; vindemia.com

**David and Gail Bradley**’s family-owned and operated Temecula Valley hillside winery produces handcrafted wines representing some of the best varietals grown in the Temecula Valley AVA.

Amenities: Tasting room, private tastings\*\* in the rose garden, weddings\*\*, 2-room B & B\*\*, California Dreamin’ hot air balloon flights.

Open: Fridays through Sundays.

**\*WIENS FAMILY CELLARS**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/694-9892; wienscellars.com

The **Wiens family** established its winery in 2001 and opened its tasting room in 2006. Owned by four brothers, Wiens Family Cellars is supported by 46 members of the extended Wiens family. What once began as a hobby has since grown into a successful family business. Wiens is known for their award-winning, estate-farmed Temecula Valley AVA varietal wines, their "Big Reds,” and their down-to-earth family lifestyle.

Amenities: Tasting room, picnic area, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*.

Open: Daily.

**\*WILSON CREEK WINERY**

**• Creekside Grille at Wilson Creek Winery**

**- Learning experiences by advance reservation\*\***

**- Signature wine-and-live-music events**

951/699-9463; wilsoncreekwinery.com

Like the namesake Wilson Family, this is perhaps Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country’s best gathering place for extraordinary wines and experiences driven by a heart for family, friendship and fun. Proud growers and producers of fine award-winning Temecula Valley AVA Estate wines, the 93-acre/38-hectare Wilson Creek property is also home of the famed almond sparkling wine. The 68-acre/28-hectare Wilson Creek estate vineyards were originally established in 1970, then refurbished and updated in 2000. The 2014 Wilson Creek Temecula Valley AVA include 2013 Arneis, 2013 Spring White, 2013 Muscat Canelli, 2011 Syrah, 2011 Merlot, 2011 Meritage, 2011 Duet, and 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon. **Creekside Grille** (open daily)offers alfresco dining, and a seasonal menu that also includes Wilson Family favorites, and gluten-free fare.

Amenities: Tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, special events\*\*, groups\*\*, weddings\*\*, Wilson Creek Manor exclusive accommodations\*\*.

Open: Daily.

\*Information is believed accurate but may be subject to change.

\*\*Reservations required or recommended.

**ABOUT THE TEMECULA VALLEY AND VISIT TEMECULA VALLEY**

Welcoming more than 2 million visitors each year, the casual, picturesque Temecula Valley is a year-round getaway and vacation destination located 60 minutes from San Diego, Orange County, and Palm Springs; 90 minutes from Los Angeles and Hollywood.

With natural gifts of climate and geography, bolstered by Pu’eska Mountain, the Rainbow Gap, and Santa Margarita Gap, Temecula Valley is widely recognized for its scenic vineyards, award-winning wines, and gracious and friendly wineries as Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country. The popular boutique destination includes the Temecula Valley A.V.A. (American Viticulture Area) as well as Downtown Old Town Temecula, Pechanga Resort & Casino, and the Temecula Wine Country Golf Trail, and is home to three-time award-winning California Golden State Winery of the Year, South Coast Winery.

Visit Temecula Valley (formerly the Temecula Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau), the region’s official tourism marketing organization and resource for visitors is online including a complete daily Event Calendar at VisitTemeculaValley.com; “Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country” on Facebook; and @Visit\_Temecula on Twitter. Visit Temecula Valley also welcomes ad agencies, location scouts, writers, and directors online at FilmTemecula.com. The Temecula Valley Visitors Center is located in Downtown Old Town Temecula (Third Street and Mercedes) adjacent the Old Town Temecula Parking Garage. For visitor information and assistance, please call 888/363-2852 or 951/491-6085.

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