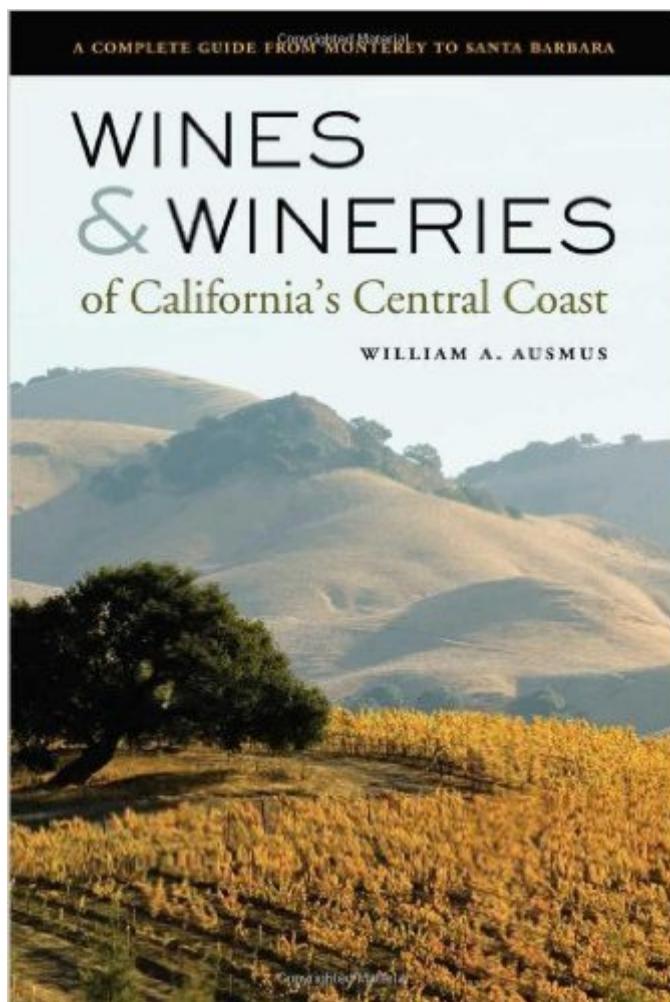


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Wines And Wineries Of California's Central Coast: A Complete Guide From Monterey To Santa Barbara



Synopsis

In comparative tastings, wines from California's Central Coast rival those from such renowned regions as Bordeaux, Burgundy, and Napa, yet they also offer superb value. This is the first comprehensive guide to one of the world's most dynamic and beautiful wine regions-and the setting for the award-winning movie *Sideways*. An excellent, one-stop resource for touring and tasting at convenient wineries located from Monterey to Santa Barbara, the guide is organized into county-by-county alphabetical listings for this up-and-coming region. Wines and Wineries of California's Central Coast includes:^{*} Profiles of nearly 300 wineries personally visited by the author^{*} Profiles of individual vintners^{*} 5 maps^{*} Winery ratings, plus author and winemaker recommendations^{*} Visitors' and contact information for each winery^{*} Discussions of regional wine history and terroir^{*} Descriptions of designated American Viticultural Areas and grape varietals

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Customer Reviews

This book provides basic information about a large number of Central Coast wineries, including short histories and descriptions of most of them. I found these to be well done, and even learned a few facts about wineries I was quite familiar with. I was less impressed with the author's ratings (on a one to five scale) of the wineries. Many (although certainly not all) of the wineries I am familiar with I would have rated differently. There are several potential reasons for this difference of opinion. One is simply that taste in wine varies, and the author and I may like different styles of wine. Another is that smaller wineries will have different wine lists available at different times, and what you think of them will depend on when you visit. Finally, some wineries are improving with time, and others are

declining. This book was published mid 2008, but reading between the lines I suspect many of the tastings were two to three years earlier. As with any such guide, you should use it to identify wineries or tasting rooms that might be interesting to visit, not to tell you if you will like someone's wine. This book provides URLs for wineries with websites, and it is always a good idea to check before a trip to see if they have changed their hours, and if the wines they currently have in release are varietals you might be interested in trying. With most wineries charging for tasting it is entirely reasonable to look at the tasting menu before committing to a tasting, and if it's not interesting just being honest and going elsewhere. You can only do a good tasting at a few wineries in a day, and it's a buyer's market with so many wineries competing for a shot at your business.

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