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Discover Fairfield's wine country

It's time to embrace your explorer spirit, venture off the beaten path traveled by so many, and discover a wine region many consider one of Northern California's hidden gems.

Just five miles from the famous Napa Valley is the beautiful Suisun Valley, a small but thriving wine region in Fairfield nestled amid rolling hills and blue skies. This is a place for visitors searching for world-class wines, home grown farm products and a beautiful countryside. In this wine region, there is more traffic from wildlife than passing cars and tourists. Family owned farms dot the area, where locals grow a variety of fruits and vegetables alongside acres of grapevines.

Fairfield's Suisun Valley and its neighbor Green Valley are two of Northern California's secret treasures. Few travelers driving Interstate 80 between Sacramento and San Francisco realize that just mere miles from the Fairfield city limits is this thriving wine region, where acres of grapevines grow amid a backdrop of green rolling hills and blue skies.

Altogether, the two valleys are home to over a dozen wineries and the region produces over two-dozen wine-grape varieties every year – and it continues to grow. Many of the wineries have opened their own tasting rooms on their properties. In between sampling the delicious wine, visitors fall in love with the quaint restaurants, family-owned farm stands, and unique shops. Whether you come for the day or stay for the weekend, the beauty of these valleys will leave you wanting more.

Suisun Valley's tasting rooms:

Wooden Valley Winery, located at 4756 Suisun Valley Road, has been owned and operated by the Lanza family for three generations. The winery and its gift shop is open daily, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and specializes in Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, White Gamay, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Zinfandel, Miscela, Vino Bianco, Vino Rosso and Zinfandel Port.

Vezer Family Vineyard and the Blue Victorian Winery are owned by the Vezer family, who also have a ranch estate open for appointments only. Vezer Family Vineyard's tasting room is located at 2522 Mankas Corner Road and the Blue Victorian is at 5071 Suisun Valley Road. Both are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends. The Vezer wineries are best known for their Petite Sirah and Zinfandel.

Suisun Valley Wine Co-op is open Thursday to Sunday, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The co-op, located at 4495 Suisun Valley Road, serves as a tasting room for four wineries.

- Blacksmith Cellars specializes in Chenin Blanc, Torrontes, Verdelho, Chardonnay, Syrah,

Cabernet Sauvignon, Late Harvest Syrah, and Late Harvest Malvasia Bianca.

- King Andrews Vineyards specializes in Albariño, Muscat Blanc, Noir, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon
- Mangels Vineyards specializes in Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, Verdelho, Rose, Petite Sirah, Syrah, and Tempranillo
- Sunset Cellars specializes in Barbera, Petite Sirah, Syrah, Zinfandel, and Pinot Gris

Seven Artisans Winery, located at 4341 Abernathy Road, features Sly Dog Cellars, Seven Artisans and Red Cote wines. The tasting room is open Friday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Galvan Family Cellars opened Fairfield's newest tasting room, at 499 Edison Court, in March of 2015. Galvan is dedicated to crafting unique wines from unique California vineyards in Suisun Valley, Green Valley and Napa Valley. The tasting room is open Friday-Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Two other Suisun Valley wineries, Tenbrink Winery and BackRoad Vines, are open by appointment only. Meanwhile, Il Fiorello Olive Oil Company, which offers delicious olive oil tastings, also has its own wine available. Oh the possibilities all around us!

Green Valley's tasting rooms:

GV Cellars: GV Cellars, located at 1635 Mason Road, focuses on Italian varieties, producing mainly Green Valley estate wines. The tasting room is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rock Creek: Rock Creek Vineyard, located at 4610 Green Valley Road, harvest, crush, ferment, press, age and bottle at the winery – and all by hand. The vineyard only produces red wines, as part of their focus on delicious, robust and fruit-forward wines. The tasting room is open every Sunday and by appointment.

For more information on Suisun Valley and Green Valley wineries, visit www.VisitFairfieldCA.com