

# Wine Spectator

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## WHERE TO DRINK WELL

OUR GUIDE TO 3,592  
AWARD-WINNING  
WINE LISTS  
AROUND THE WORLD

Grand Award Winner  
Grill 23 & Bar, Boston

**FIVE NEW GRAND AWARD WINNERS**  
**PORTUGAL: WHITE WINES STAR**  
**NEW ZEALAND: GREAT PINOT NOIR**  
**WASHINGTON: WHAT TO BUY NOW**



A vintner panel at last year's Taste of Sonoma event

## **Taste of Sonoma**

**Website** [www.sonomawinecountryweekend.com/events/taste-of-sonoma](http://www.sonomawinecountryweekend.com/events/taste-of-sonoma)

Last year, Sonoma Wine Country Weekend's one-day tasting event brought together more than 200 wineries and dozens of chefs to celebrate the good things in life. This September, Taste of Sonoma is back—but it has swelled to two days, and its host is the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University. (An hour's drive north of San Francisco, the campus is home to the Wine Business Institute and the new Wine Spectator Learning Center, slated to open later this year.)

The festivities begin on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. In addition to the bustling Grand Tasting, both days offer sommelier-guided tours of the event, blind-tasting challenges and seminars on Dry Creek Zinfandels, Russian River Pinot Noirs and others. When you get hungry, step outside for a taste of the festival's Sonoma County Marketplace, which brings in local goods such as cheese, sausage and cider from more than 50 artisans in Sonoma County. Meanwhile, the Gloria Ferrer lounge offers sparkling wine and oysters. Ticket prices range from \$180 for a single-day pass to \$330 for weekend-long Club Reserve access.

—S.F.