

Vineyard	Wines	Wine	Exper	Purchase(s)	Comments
Failla	Chard, Pinot, Syrah	★★★	★★★½	2015 Chuy Chardonnay 2016 Savoy Pinot 2016 Singler Pinot	Very nice sit down tasting in an old hunting lodge with a great host. This is a small winery and their wines are made in the French style – less fruit and alcohol. The Pinots are particularly good. Appointment visit.
Trinchero	Chard, Pinot	★★★½	★★★	2015 Vera's Chardonnay 2012 Mario's Cabernet 2013 Central Park West Cabernet 2013 Haystack Cabernet	This is a longtime favorite of ours – we've been club members twice in the past. They make quintessential Napa Cabernets and red varietals that are irresistible to us. Although we were walk-ins, we had a nice sit down tasting in their newly remodeled and almost-over-the-top tasting room. The reds were just as good as we remembered, plus they are now making an excellent chardonnay. We joined their club for a third time.
Swanson	Cabernet Chard, Merlot	★★¾	★★★½	2016 Pinot Grigio 2014 Merlot 2014 Cabernet 2105 Salon Zinfandel	We tasted outside in their "orange grove" patio area. The ladies even ate one of the oranges. The wines were outstanding including Merlot and Pinot Grigio, neither of which we had really seen in Napa on this visit. Appointment visit.
Robert Biale	Zin, Petite Sirah	★★★¼	★★★¾	2016 Nonna's Sangiovese 2016 Royal Punishers Petite Sirah 2016 Limerick Lane Zinfandel 2015 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel	If Seghesio is the king of Sonoma Zinfandels, Biale may be the king of Napa Zins – they had a number of unique and excellent variants. On top of this, the experience was arguably the best in Napa. It was a private tasting overlooking the vineyards on a perfect day and our host poured a significant number of delicious wines. She entertained us with stories of how the Biales survived the depression and how the old vines evolved.
Keenan	Reds	★★¾	★★★¼	2017 Summer Blend White 2013 Napa Valley Cabernet 2014 Napa Valley Syrah	The wines were good, but not great. However, it was a lot of fun. The drive to Keenan is a long narrow road with switchbacks to get to the winery – it feels more like being the Anderson Valley than the Napa Valley. It was in a large room with a lit fireplace and a great view of their vineyards. Our host poured us more than a dozen wines and would have poured more if we asked. They had an excellent Reserve Cabernet, but it was more than a \$100 and not in the same league as the Hobbs or Trinchero. Appointment visit.

Wine - quality of the wines **Exper** - tasting experience including server, ambience, food, time taken, facilities.

Note: The scores are not scaled (0 to 4). They are calibrated to the Paso Robles tastings.

Vineyard	Wines	Wine	Exper	Purchase(s)	Comments
Chateau Montelena	Chard, Cab	★★★½	★★★½	2014 Calistoga Zinfandel 2015 Cabernet	We went there primarily to check off the bucket list for Susie and Suzanne. However, it turned out to be a very nice experience and the quality of the wines was outstanding. The winery is absolutely gorgeous and reminded me, both inside and out, of Oak Hill Country Club. You also can walk the parklike grounds. Despite being walk-ins we ended up with a virtual private tasting with an excellent server. The Chardonnays for which they are famous were very good but overpriced – most likely because they are famous. The reds were surprisingly excellent. Our only regret is that we were a bit rushed due to the upcoming appointment at Envy.
Orin Swift	Cab, Red blends	★★★¼	★¾	2016 Mannequin white 2016 Machete Petit Sirah blend 2015 Papillion Bordeaux blend	The Orin Swift tasting room is located in a small store in “downtown” St. Helena and is very contemporary. Orin Swift has become a large winery and is known for their massive reds – they tend to be powerful and intense without being fruit bombs. The blends are unique and unusual. They also have some interesting whites that are relatively inexpensive. It was a walk-in, and there were only a few other people there, but our server barely managed to tolerate us.
Cakebread	Chard, Cab, Merlot	★★★¼	★★½	2015 Apple Bard Pinot 2014 Napa Valley Merlot 2014 Napa Valley Cabernet	This was an emergency substitution for Relic due to a scheduling faux pas on Bill's part. We hadn't been there for a decade but always loved their Chardonnays. The tasting building is also used to store wine in barrels and is set up to handle a lot of people. The tasting experience was somewhat average – the server wasn't particularly knowledgeable, they only poured a few wines, and they charged us for tasting even though we bought a fair amount of wine. But they did fit us into the schedule at the last minute and their wines were excellent – the reds surprisingly so.

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Envy	Petite Sirah, Cab	★★★¾	★★★½	2015 Envy Fortuna Petit Sirah 2015 Napa Valley Petit Sirah 2015 Oso Vineyard Petit Sirah 2015 Calistoga Cabernet 2015 Reserve Cabernet 2012 Late Harvest Dessert	This may have been the biggest find of the week. This is a tiny boutique winery of less than 2000 cases per year. The tasting room was small, but quite new and modern. Despite running nearly an hour past their closing time, our host poured us more than a dozen wines including 6 of the best petite sirahs I've ever had. We circled back on several of them to determine which we'd buy. Our host offered us a 20% discount if our party collectively bought a case. At that point the feeding frenzy went to the next level. I think we came close to 2 cases. It was a great ending to 6 weeks of tasting for us. On a humorous note, when we arrived and during our visit there was another couple present whom had allegedly been there "all day". Apparently, they were club members and they took advantage of the "endless tasting". It wasn't clear how, or when, they were actually going to get back "home". Yet another great reason to live in Napa Valley.

Restaurant	Location	Meal	Food	Exper	Comments
Bouchon Bakery	Yountville	Lunch	★★¾		This is a Thomas Keller property and features breads, desserts, and sandwiches. They provided sandwiches for our Napa tastings with the Rosnicks.
Bistro Don Giovanni's	Yountville	Dinner	★★★½	★★★½	Thoroughly enjoyable dinner. We had a great table outside and dined as the sun went down. The food was elegant and they had a very nice and affordable wine list. The service was outstanding.
Mustards	Yountville	Dinner	★★★½	★★¾	This iconic restaurant has been around for a long time. And with good reason – the food is excellent. Bill truly enjoyed the "Napa Cabernet flight". Although we had one of the better tables, it was still pretty cramped and loud. The service was good, but not great. Very Manhattan'ish.
Market	St. Helena	Lunch	★★★¼	★★★¼	Very nice contemporary gourmet food for lunch. It's located in a large renovated room on the main road through St. Helena. The wait staff handled our party of 6 expertly and the drinks we quite good. There was nothing not to like.

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