

Vineyard	Focus	Wine	Exper	Purchase(s)	Comments
Benovia	Chard, Pinot, Zin	★★★	★★★½	2015 Sonoma Zinfandel 2014 Grenache 2015 Cohn Pinot Noir	Great sit down tasting of Chards, Pinots, and other varietals with an outstanding host. Wines were elegant and refined. Appointment visit.
Arista	Chard, Pinot, Zin	★★★½	★★★¾	2015 Russian River Pinot 2015 Sonoma Coast Pinot 2015 Banfield Zinfandel 2012 Smoke Ridge Zinfandel 2013 Smoke Ridge Zinfandel	We tasted a lot of wines, both red and white. The Pinots and Zins were exceptionally good. Our host spent over an hour with us and passed on a wealth of knowledge. The winery grounds were fabulous and included a large Japanese-style garden with a view of mountains between Sonoma and Napa. He heartily encouraged us to eat our picnic lunch on the grounds and finish the remainder of our (generous) tasting pours. Appointment visit.
Chalk Hill	Whites, Reds	★★½	★★	2016 Windy Bridge Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Syrah	This was the biggest disappointment of the week. We've been there several times in the past and it was always outstanding. There was no effort to pour anything extra, the wines that were poured weren't their best, and the server seemed "not all that interested". In fairness, this was a walk-in visit.
Mueller	Chard, Pinot	★★★	★★★★	2014 Old Vine Zinfandel – Qty 3 2015 August Recher Pinot	We've belonged to their wine club for nearly a decade and considered this a must-visit. We had two private tastings with Bob Mueller, the winemaker. One with the Rosnicks at the tasting room, and one at the production facility with the Herefords. A great hour and a half of getting Bob's history, insights to his wines, and industry knowledge as we tasted his most recent releases. Just a great experience – both times. Two of our parties joined their club.
Seghesio	Zin	★★★½	★★½	2104 Sangiovese 2015 Home Ranch Zinfandel 2015 Rockpile Zinfandel 2015 Cortina Zinfandel 2015 Old Vine Zinfandel 2016 Sonoma County Zinfandel	Like with Mueller, we made 2 trips to the mecca of Sonoma Zinfandels. The tasting room hasn't changed in 10 years and doesn't knock your socks off. However, as always, the wine did. Despite being walk-in visits they poured all their best stuff and it was amazing. We bought a lot and only found out after the 1 st visit that 4 of the wines we bought had just been rated as a Wine Spectator 93 or higher. Just amazing that they can consistently do this with bottles that sell for less than \$50.

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

Note: The scores are not scaled (0 to 4).

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Carol Shelton	All	★★½	★★	2015 Coquille Blanc 2015 Cuvée Jacqueline Zinfandel 2104 Karma Reserve	Carol Shelton is supposed to be the most "awarded" wine maker in Sonoma and she had all the ribbons to prove it in her tasting room. We had a quirky server who poured us about a dozen wines. Most weren't great, but a few hit the mark when considering their price point. Walk-in visit.
Robert Young	Chard, Cab	★★★¼	★★½	2015 Estate Chardonnay 2015 Scion Cabernet	Dean joined their wine club recently and it was a must-do. Tasting experience was nice, but not out of the ordinary. The wines were all very good, with the Cabs and Chards shining (as they have in the past). Call ahead walk-in.
Quivira	Reds	★★¾	★★¾	2017 Wine Creek Ranch Rose 2014 Black Boar Zinfandel 2015 OTP Cabernet	We were given a fair amount of love for a walk-in tasting, but it wasn't overwhelming. They have a nice campus with outside tasting when weather permits. They have a number of very nice reds that are relatively inexpensive. Go when it's nice and taste outside. Walk-in visit.
Limerick Lane	Zin, Syrah	★★★¼	★★★★	2017 Rose 2015 Block 1023 ZSM	This was one of the most pleasant surprises of the week. Our host was something of a cowboy – a bit rough around the edges, but incredibly knowledgeable about all aspects of growing grapes and making wine. He spent an hour and a half and told us lots of interesting things about the business that you simply don't read in print. Zins are their thing but their blends are great too. Appointment visit.
Paul Hobbs	Pinots, Cabs	★★★¾	★★★★	2013 Hyde Vineyard Pinot 2014 Napa Valley Cabernet Qty 2	This was one of those "premium tastings" that we normally wouldn't do because of the cost. However, sometimes you just have to do it for the experience. And this was an experience. It was an opulent setting with a host who knew the high end wine business inside and out. We tasted Pinots and Cabs that we out of this world (both in quality and price). They served a charcuterie platter complete with several hard-to-get cheeses that complemented the individual wines. Unforgettable experience.
Martinelli	Chard, Zin	★★★½	★★★½	2014 Bella Vigna Chardonnay 2014 Muscat 2016 Guiseppi & Luisa Zinfandel 2016 Martenelli Road Zinfandel 2015 Vigneto di Evo Zinfandel	This was a return to an old favorite with great chardonnays and zinfandels. We showed up as walk-ins less than a half hour before they closed and they showered us with great wines and hospitality in their "old mill" tasting room. It's a hair on the pricey side, but just oh so excellent.

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

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Hartford	Zins, Pinot	★★★	★★	2014 Far Coast Vineyard Pinot 2016 Russian River Zinfandel	This was another walk-in return to a favorite. Like in the past, the server was not enthusiastic and a bit rushed. However, the zins and pinots were very good. On their tasting room walls they have a dozen or so thank you letters from the White House for supplying wines for State Affair dinners. Several were new since our last visit. Walk-in visit.
Carlisle	Zin, Sirah	★★★½	★★★	2015 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel 2015 Palisades Vineyard Petite Sirah	Like Limerick Lane, Carlisle was a pleasant surprise. We tasted in their production facility on a couple of wine barrels with a host who was quite good. Several whites and reds that were outstanding. Oddly, we tasted on the very spot where we first tasted Mueller wines a decade ago when Mueller owned the building. Appointment visit.
Kosta Brown	Pinot, Chard	★★½	★★★★	No wines to sell – they are only available for Allocation list members via electronic order	This was both a disappointing and fantastic experience. It was disappointing because we only tasted 2 wines – neither of which we could buy. We were invited because Dean was just moved onto the “Allocation list” after a year on the “Waiting list” – meaning he could now buy certain wines when they became available. We tasted an OK Chard and a fabulous Pinot but the prize was the tour and the barrel tasting. Our host was a Sommelier who joined KB to learn how to make wine. She took us through their “advanced wine technology” production facility expertly explaining and showing us every step. We barrel tasted a host of in-process wines along the way to help understand the process. It was simply amazing. Appointment visit.
Siduri/Novy	Pinots, reds	★★★½	★★★	2014 Rita Hills Pinot 2014 Novy Syrah	This was another great find – Siduri is the parent label and is focused almost entirely on Pinots. Novy is the label for all the other varietals. We tasted in their production facility in the middle of a Santa Rosa industrial complex – but looks can be deceiving. The Pinots are made in the French way – light, elegant and refined. They make a dozen or so estate wines from all over CA and they do it extremely well. The Novy wines were good, but not on the same level. Susie and Dean joined their club. Appointment visit.

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

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Restaurant	Location	Meal	Food	Exper	Comments
Ike's Place	Santa Rosa	Lunch	★★★½		This is a gourmet sandwich place. They have a list of dozens of sandwiches they make – the bread baking is completed while you wait. Just delicious.
Central Market	Petaluma	Dinner	★★★	★★★	Contemporary gymnasium type restaurant in downtown Petaluma. Upscale casual food that was quite good. Service was solid. A bit loud and crowded, but we had a good table. Parking is a bear.
Pete's Henny Penny	Petaluma	Break-fast	★★★¼	★★★½	Large dinner that looks like nothing special on the inside or out. Some imaginative food though that was very good. Service was excellent.
Farmhouse Inn	Forestville	Dinner	★★★¼	★★★¼	High end restaurant and Inn in a rural setting. The restaurant décor was elegant. The menu was a "pick 3" or "pick 4" type with small, nearly tasting menu portions. The food was delicious and as you would expect, the service was exceptional. Their Sommelier picked out a nice bottle of Pinot for us. The evening was not inexpensive.

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

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