

Vineyard	Wine	Exper	Purchases	Comments
Mettler	★★½	★★	2020 Estate Chardonnay 2021 Rose 2019 Estate GSM	Although Mettler is not huge, it is one of the larger Lodi wineries. They have a good reputation and their wines can be found around the country. The grounds and tasting room are just beautiful, but it was just skin-deep. They were either sold out of many of their red wines or simply weren't pouring them. Their whites were quite good, but the reds, save the GSM, were unremarkable. The serving staff was new and really didn't know much about the winery or wine in general. This could have been so much better.
Berghold	★★★★	★★★★	2021 French Oaked Viognier 2020 Foot Stomp Zin 2017 Hypocrite Merlot 2016 Capitalist Cab 2019 Estate Sangiovese 2020 Crankcase Red Blend	Just. About. Perfect. The beautiful customer complex was decorated beyond imagination for Christmas with elaborate Santa Clauses and everything else you could think of. But that was just the first impression. They poured nearly everything they make and every single wine was excellent. The staff was attentive, informed, and fun. After tasting for more than two hours, we had a difficult time settling on just 6 bottles and (reluctantly) passed on their outstanding White Blend, Cab Franc, Ports, and Petite Sirah. They don't sell their wines outside of the Berghold estate, as the wine club and tasting room consume every bottle they make. Despite our full intention not to join anymore clubs, we guiltlessly signed up for theirs.
Oak Farms	★★★	★★	2019 Genevieve Meritage 2020 Hohenrieder Zin	Oak Farms has an awesome tasting and production complex in the middle of nowhere. Their wines they served were classic Lodi and quite good. They are not outrageously expensive. The people manning the tasting room were knowledgeable, but the tasting experience was decidedly flat. Admittedly, we were their first party of the day. However, they seemed distracted and they didn't pour anything off the limited tasting menu, even when asked. The wines we bought were nice, but their best stuff went unopened.
Klinker Brick	★★★½	★★★½	2020 Old Ghost Old Vine Zin 2019 Farrah Syrah 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 Dolcetto 2020 1850° Blend 2018 Petite Sirah 2018 Carignane 2018 Mourvedre	Klinker Brick was our surprise of Lodi. We expected a lot of average reds. We couldn't have been more wrong. What we had was a huge variety of very good varietals and blends. The breadth of the lineup is astounding and includes some really unusual wines like Carignane and Dolcetto. Our server was awesome: attentive, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic. The tasting experience was just great and the Klinker bang-for-the-buck is amazing. We bought a case.

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

Note: The scores are NOT normalized because the scores were too close. They are the raw averages.

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Michael David	★★½	★★½	2020 Inkblot Petit Verdot 2019 Lust Zinfandel 2019 Politically Correct Red 2020 Rapture Cabernet	Michael David is best known for their Freakshow wines with the colorful labels. You can find them at many, if not most, wine stores. We passed on tasting them and went straight to their limited production and reserve wines. These were quite varied and included Cinsaut, Carmenere, and Petit Verdot as well as other "standard" varietals. Most were very nice with the best being the Zins and Cabs. The tasting complex included a cool wine shop and a sit-down bakery. It was a pleasant experience, but the best wines were over-priced compared to the other Lodi wineries were visited.
Harney Lane	★★★½	★★★½	2020 Home Ranch Chard 2020 Scottsdale Zin 2020 Lizzy James OV Zin 2019 Home Ranch Tempranillo Lot 21 Patriarch's Promise	Harney is a relatively new winery, but the vineyards have been in the family for over 100 years. They made up for lost time by making excellent Zinfandels along with some very good whites and a solid Tempranillo. Everything we tasted was delicious and are very affordable. And yes, we joined their club ... one last time ... we hope ... but we'll be in Paso Robles in January

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