

Vineyard	Wine	Exper	Purchases	Comments
Herman Story	★★★★	★★★	2021 On the Road Grenache 2021 Larner Syrah/Grenache 2021 White Hawk Syrah	We've belonged to their wine club for several years and thoroughly enjoyed everything we've consumed. The owner and wine maker, Russell From, is rather eccentric. His web site, correspondence, and even his tasting notes are wacky and hysterical. For example, from the <i>On the Road Grenache</i> tasting notes: " <i>Charred plum pistol kickback meets cherry Fun Dip. Worn leather jackets drive while strawberry gumdrops ride shotgun. Star anise attitude and Swedish fish wisecracks play bad cop-good cop while interrogating perps</i> ". His wines are powerful and awesome. Their tasting room is modest, but fitting for their persona. We bought three bottles for the road.
J. Dusi	★★★	★★★	2023 Pinot Grigio 2022 Zinfandel 20201 The Don Cab blend	This was a new winery for us and it was a hit. Their tasting room is on their estate which is small, but beautiful. The family of Janell Dusi, the owner and wine make, has grown grapes and made wine for more than a century. They make a wide variety of wines, but their roots are in Zinfandel. We had a very nice tasting on their patio with a knowledgeable server.
Peachy Canyon	★★★	★★★	2021 Bailey Zin 2021 Para Siempre blend 2022 The Odd One Zin blend	Peachy was definitely a surprise. Based on the cute name and seeing a couple of their wines on the bottom shelf in wines stores, I assumed they were a only "value" producer. Not true. While they do produce a lot of volume wines, they make a dozen or so outstanding Zins and a few nice blends.
Shale Oak	★★★	★★★½	2020 Grenache Blanc 2020 Zinfandel 2019 Syrah 2020 Grenache 2020 KU - Heaven & Sky	Shale Oak is a small (3000 cases) boutique winery with a beautiful tasting room. They grow a wide range of grapes in a sustainable environment. Our server was a well-traveled sommelier who was very knowledgeable about wine from all over the world. We tasted pretty much everything they made - probably a dozen wines. The whites were flavorful and viscous. The reds included all the standard varietals and tended toward the bold side. We would have joined their club, but they don't ship to NY or CT.

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

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Turley	★★½	★★★	2022 Amadeo's Zin 2022 Kirschenmann Zin	We are big fans of Turley zinfandels and order them at least once a year. They have several tasting rooms in CA. The Paso facility is one of their largest and we've stopped in each time we've been in town. Our experience over several visits: at any given time they are tasting a small portion of the dozens of different wines (most Zins) that they make. The tasting list is dependent on what time of year, what's not sold out, and what wines complement each other to offer an "overview" of their portfolio. Our objective was to taste wines we haven't had or can't buy on-line. As usual, most of what we tasted was excellent and we bought the best it.
Whalebone	★★½	★★½	2020 Zinagain Zin blend 2021 Boneyard GSM 2021 Estate Cabernet	Whalebone is another small boutique winery tucked up in the hills, off Vineyard Drive. Compared to other Paso wineries, I would characterize their wines as "lighter". Although they have a nice Rose, their line-up was dominated by red blends, all of which were tasty. Even though we arrived promptly at 11:00, we were joined by 40 people who road their bikes more than 10 miles from Paso Robles on the treacherous Vineyard Drive. As we left, they were still pouring full glasses of wine. ... bet it was an interesting ride back to Paso.
McPrice Meyers	★★★★	★★★★	2021 <i>L'Ange Rouge Grenache</i> 2022 <i>Altas Vinas Mourvèdre blend</i> 2022 <i>Brave Fortune Syrah</i> 2021 <i>Accoutrements blend</i> <i>Every Beautiful Earth blend</i>	We've belonged to the McPrice wine club for many years and order a LOT of wine for us and our extended family. They have three product tiers, the Single Vineyard/Proprietary, the Beautiful Earth, and the Hardworking Wines series. They retail from 0 to . Each bottle is amazing. We tasted all the latest wines, most of which we have in our cellar, but hadn't opened yet. The bottles we would have bought, but didn't, for lack of space in our RV are shown to the left in italics. However, the highlight of the tasting was a drop-by McPrice Meyers himself. We enjoyed a conversation about the business with "the Man". His most memorable comment was "I had several other owners ask me to raise our prices, but I've always believed that everyone, no matter how wealthy they are, should be able to drink a great bottle of wine". Mac is my hero.

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Thacher	★★	★★	2021 Triumvirate Reserve Zin 2020 Serious Play GSM blend	Thacher occupies an old horse ranch built 100 years ago. The owners bought it 20 years ago, planted grapes, and made wine. The grounds and building are beautiful and tucked to the western hills of Paso. To say the tasting was relaxed is a gross understatement. Even though we were the only people there, we were left alone for nearly ten minutes between tastes - I think they used a large egg timer. Their wines are unusual, light and "elegant". They had a Cinsault, a red grape made into a white wine. The visual effect that reminded me of the unnerving "clear Pepsi". They had Grenache, Syrah, and Zinfandel varietals, but the rest were strange blends. Several were a bit tannic and just not great. We bought the two best of the lot, even though they were overpriced.
Calcareous	★★★★	★★★★	2021 Devils Canyon Syrah 2022 Estate Cabernet 2021 Lloyd Cab blend	We visited Calcareous in 2018 and remembered it for their huge outdoor patio with an incredible view of the Paso area. Their wines were very good at the time. In recent years they have been on a tear with lots of awards and great ratings. The original plan was to get a glass of wine, sit on the patio, and admire the view. We immediately changed our mind and went into to taste at the bar. The result was a fantastic experience and wines. We tasted a host of Cabs and Syrahs, some of which were mini-verticals. The only regret was that we arrived late in the day and they couldn't open any of the Grenaches or Viognier. We couldn't help ourselves and joined their club. In lieu of buying on the spot, we elected to take November club shipment (shown in italics).
Tobin James	★½	★★★	2018 Petit Sirah Silver Reserve 2019 Lagrein Silver Reserve 2021 Primitivo James Gang Reserve	This was a weird place. Most of their business is in high end "super market" wine. They make lot of varietals that are fruity and relatively inexpensive. They also make a large number of reserve varietals and blends that are pretty good, but lack the polish that most of the higher end vineyards produce. The tasting room is decorated in a "Late 1800's Saloon" motif, except for the video game consoles. They do not have a set tasting menu, you can taste as many of the 27 wines on their list as you can in one hour. I imagine that many people accept that challenge. However, we told our server that we were only interested in the Reserve reds and she pulled together an itinerary on the spot. Suddenly all kinds of wines that weren't on the list materialized and we sampled about ten wines that varied from awful to really nice. Although we frequently have a server bring out "bonus" tastes, never have we seen the server allowed create a massive custom tasting only limited by time. Just wacky. But it wasn't boring.

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Ultima Tulie	★★★½	★★★	2021 Cab Franc/Petit Verdot 2021 White Hawk Syrah 2022 Shell Creek Petite Sirah	This winery is located in Tin City and is owned and run by Cameron Stoffel and he makes about 1000 cases a year in his spare time. During the day, he works for Herman Story Winery. Not surprisingly, his wines are big, powerful, and delicious. Our server called them "Herman Story with a feminine touch" and "a bit easier on the pallet". She was right on the both counts. The reds were wonderfully balanced with a great smooth finish. Despite their expense, it was all we could do to resist buying one of everything and joining their club.
Ella's Vineyard	★★★½	★★★★	2015 Lavoro Super Tuscan	Ella's was the surprise of the trip. Several servers on our tastings recommended that we go there. Their calling card is Italian grapes and wine styles. I would characterize their wines as medium bodied with unique flavors. They are dedicated to making wines the Italian way, including barrel aging in accordance with Italian DOCG rules. The terroir of Paso Robles is nearly identical to may of the vineyards of Tuscany. The result is very different wines than we normally get in the US. It was all so good that we joined their wine club and eagerly await our 1 st delivery.

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