

4/5/2025

1 of 2

Central California Tasting Summary – March/April 2025

Vineyard	Wine	Exper	Purchases	Comments
Wrath (near Soledad)	★★★	★★★	2019 San Saba Syrah 2022 Lemoravo Pinot 2022 Tondre Pinot 2021 KW Pinot 2021 San Saba Chardonnay	We visited Wrath about 6 years ago and loved their Pinots and Chardonnays. It's located in the Santa Lucia Highlands which are on the western side of the California Central Valley. The breeze off the Pacific Ocean keeps the area cool enough to grow Pinot and Chardonnay grapes. They still make great Pinots that are bolder than Willamette, but lighter than Sonoma. Their Chards are still very nice, but not quite as oaky or good as we remember them.
Odonata (near Salinas)	★★½	★★★½	2020 Blanc de Blanc Sparkling 2021 Sparkling Grenache Rouge 2023 Boekenooogen Chardonnay 2022 Escolle Pinot 2022 Aglianico 2021 CdD Grenache/Syrah 2020 Petite Sirah	Odonata is only 15 miles from Wrath and is another winery we visited in 2018. At the time, their wines were nothing special. However, due to an unusual arrangement between McPrice Meyers winery (which we belong to) and Odonata, we were made honorary members of the Odonata wine club for the month of March. Armed with a club discount, we were emotionally forced to stop in and taste their wines. Their owner/wine maker is a bit of a mad scientist and makes dozens of different wines. It turns out that some are mediocre and some are excellent, albeit "unique". We bought a fair number and refuse to apologize for it.
Integrity (near Santa Cruz)	★★½	★★★	2021 Santa Lucia Riesling 2021 Calaveras County GSM 2020 Paso Robles Cabernet	Integrity has a small tasting Room in Watsonville, CA which is near Santa Cruz. They produce about 1500 cases of wine a year in small batches. Their wines consist of a wide variety of whites and reds from all over California. Several of the wines we tasted were unimpressive, but they had several which were quite good. They buy almost all of their grapes, but the winemaker has chosen his suppliers extremely well for their location and quality. For example, he has Pinots from Santa Lucia Highlands, Zinfandel from Lodi, and Cabernet from Paso Robles. The tasting environment was like getting together with a raucous family. Overall, the wines are a good value.
Bokisch (Lodi)	★★	★★★½	2021 Liberty Oaks Tempranillo 2022 Tizona Merlot	We visited Bokisch after reading about them in several blogs. They are known for their wines made from Spanish grapes using Spanish methods. They have a beautiful outdoor campus and the server was great. They make a dozen or so wines from Albarino, Grenache, and Tempranillo grapes. The whites were very dry and were a reminder of why we don't care for Spanish whites. Although the reds were true to their grapes, they were fairly light and not the powerhouses we've experienced here and in Spain. Bokisch also features a line of French style wines under the Tizona label. The Tizona reds are also light and subtle. To sum it up, the wines were well made, but just not a good stylistic match with us.

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

Note: The scores are NOT normalized. They are the raw averages.

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2 of 2

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Klinker Brick (Lodi)	★★½	★★★	2022 1850° Red Blend 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel 2018 Old Vine Zinfandel 2018 Farrah Syrah Grand Reserve	We belong to the KB wine club and regularly buy a lot of their wine. They make a wide variety of reds that include some weird varietals like Dolcetto, Carignane, and Mourvèdre. In a sentence: They make excellent, affordable, everyday wines that are a great value. Although we are quite familiar with everything they make, it's hard to make a call on which to buy because we never open enough bottles open to do side-by-side comparisons. Our mission on this tasting was to compare their Zinfandels, as well as compare all the other varietals to each other to determine favorites for future orders. Our server was awesome and pulled it all together just the way we hoped. Great club to belong to.
Amador Cellars (Amador)	★★	★★★	2019 Family Reserve Zinfandel 2018 Syrah	This was our first visit to a Amador wine region in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada's. There are more than 40 wineries concentrated around the village of Plymouth, CA. Like most of the Amador wineries, Amador Cellars has been around for about 20 or so years. They are focused on Italian varietals and blends. Most of the wines we tasted were of moderate intensity. The reds were decent, but not anything special. The exceptions were the Reserve Zin and the Syrah, which were quite good.
Bella Grace (Amador)	★★★½	★★★½	2023 Estate Grenache Blanc 2023 Graces Blanc 2018 Estate Primitivo 2020 1646 Red Blend 2018 Old Vine Zinfandel 2020 Amador Barbera 2018 Estate Grenache Noir	Tasting at the Bella Grace Vineyard was a pleasant surprise. They have beautiful outside-tasting overlooking the vineyards surrounding foothills as well as inside-tasting in their wine cave. The second surprise was the quality of their whites. They served us several varietals and a blend that were all excellent, including a rare "good Albarino". The third and best surprise were the reds. The Grenache, Zins, Barbera, and blends were smooth as silk. On top of this, they grow olives and make some excellent olive oil on-site. They threw in an oil/vinegar/spice tasting to complement the wine tasting. It made for a great overall experience. Despite still being of sound mind, we joined their wine club.

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