

CALIFORNIA

AN OVERVIEW

THE WINE COUNTRY IS A REGION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IN THE UNITED STATES KNOWN AS A PREMIUM WINE GROWING REGION. VITICULTURE AND WINE MAKING HAVE BEEN PRACTICED IN THE REGION SINCE THE MID 19TH CENTURY. THERE ARE OVER 400 WINERIES IN THE AREA NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO MOSTLY LOCATED IN THE AREA'S VALLEYS INCLUDING NAPA VALLEY IN NAPA COUNTY AND THE SONOMA VALLEY ALEXANDER VALLEY DRY CREEK VALLEY BENNETT VALLEY AND RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY. IN SONOMA COUNTY WINE GRAPES ARE ALSO GROWN AT HIGHER ELEVATIONS SUCH AS ATLAS PEAK AND MOUNT VEEDER. THE REGION IS DEFINED NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF VITICULTURE BUT ALSO ITS ECOLOGY GEOLOGY ARCHITECTURE CUISINE AND CULTURE. THE MAJORITY OF THE GRAPE HARVEST IN TERMS OF BOTH AREA AND VALUE DERIVES FROM SONOMA COUNTY.

APPELLATIONS

WINE COUNTRY PROPER IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE COMBINED COUNTIES OF NAPA SONOMA AND MENDOCINO HOWEVER SOME REFERENCE WORKS INCLUDE PART OF LAKE IN THE TERM WINE COUNTRY THESE COUNTIES CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS.

- IN SONOMA COUNTY ALEXANDER VALLEY BENNETT VALLEY CHALK HILL DRY CREEK VALLEY GREEN VALLEY OF RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY KNIGHTS VALLEY LOS CARNEROS NORTHERN SONOMA ROCKPILE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY SONOMA COAST SONOMA MOUNTAIN AND SONOMA VALLEY
- IN NAPA COUNTY ATLAS PEAK LOS CARNEROS MOUNT VEEDER NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE RUTHERFORD SAINT HELENA CALISTOGA STAGS LEAP DISTRICT AND YOUNTVILLE
- IN MENDOCINO COUNTY ANDERSON VALLEY COVELO MENDOCINO AND POTTER VALLEY
- IN LAKE COUNTY CLEAR LAKE GUENOC VALLEY HIGH VALLEY AND RED HILLS LAKE COUNTY