Ultimate SUMMER DRINKS Guide

20 Seasonal Recipes
Perfect Iced Coffee
Summer’s Best Wines
Heading to wine country? Plan ahead.

Summer wine-tasting trips can be memorable, but not always in a good way. Sometimes a spontaneous jaunt to wine country to take advantage of a warm-weather weekend can feel like an Ironman event. The crowds, the cheese samples, the dizzying bevy of wines to taste—it can be as disorienting as a day at Ikea. But with smart planning, a day spent in wine country can be all fun, no frenzy. Start with these five tips from wine writer and consultant Liza Zimmerman. For more of her wine wisdom, visit lizathewinechick.com.

1. **Don’t be afraid to make appointments at wineries that aren’t open to the public.**
You’ll get to try cutting edge wines and are likely to spend time with the actual owners or winemakers. Most winemakers welcome it—just call ahead.

2. **Try to explore new, less-touristed wine regions that may be further from a major city.**
If you are in San Francisco go to Mendocino; in Santiago, Chile, hit Casablanca over Maipo.

3. **Ask the winemakers where they eat, and have lunch there.**
I had an amazing meal in a strip mall in Santa Maria, Calif., at a place I never would’ve come across had I not been tipped off.

4. **Visit wine country during the week.**
Tasting rooms will be relatively empty and you’ll get more attention (and maybe even a chance to try some wines that aren’t on the tasting list).

5. **Ask about the tasting fee.**
Most wineries allow a tasting fee to be used toward the purchase of a bottle of wine—and the rest of them should.

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**BEST of the FESTS**

It’s the season to celebrate wine and warm weather. These wine festivals offer a chance to taste some of the country’s best.

**May**

- **Indie Wine Festival**
  May 2–4 | Portland, Ore.
  indiewinefestival.com

- **Paso Robles Wine Festival**
  May 17 | Paso Robles, Calif.
  pasowine.com

- **Austin Wine Festival**
  May 24–26 | Austin, Texas
  austinwinefestival.com

- **Memorial Day Wine Weekend**
  May 24–26 | Willamette Valley, Ore.
  willamettewines.com

**June**

- **Vintage Walla Walla**
  June 6–7 | Walla Walla, Wash.
  wallawallawine.com

- **Telluride Wine Festival**
  June 26–29 | Telluride, Colo.
  telluridewinefestival.com

- **Pinot Days**
  June 27–29 | San Francisco
  pinotdays.com

**July**

- **Toast of Taos**
  July 4–12 | Taos, N.M.
  toastoftaos.com

- **Finger Lakes Wine Festival**
  July 18–20 | Watkins Glen, N.Y.
  flwinefest.com

- **Castle Rock Wine Fest**
  July 19 | Castle Rock, Colo.
  castlerockwinefest.com