

Although the Santa Clara Valley is the oldest winemaking region in California — with the first varietals brought here from Spain in 1777—it has been a long road to the thriving industry we see today. It's hard to think of our growing wine industry without thinking "we've come a long way baby." But from the increasing number of wineries to the quality of the wines they produce, it is undeniable that our South Valley wine industry is bursting with potential and alive with a very promising future.

We thank the participating wineries who are included in these pages. We hope that our readers will take the time to experience their offerings and share some awesome wine adventures with family and friends.

Winery Service Key



Fee

Tasting Family



Friendly



Pet

Friendly







Reservations 8+People

Food for Purchase

W/iFi Service

All the wineries on the following pages have tasting rooms and wine clubs.



Alara Cellars

6500 Brem Lane Gilroy • 408.834.8828, alaracellars.com

Open: 12- 5 p.m Weekends

Founded: 2017

"Behind Alara Cellars was an inspiration to bring together my two loves--Wine and Fashion. Fashion can vary from being whimsical and flirty to bold and provocative. This is also the case for wine. I craft my wine and direct the art of the fashion for a beautifully delicious show. - Vin à la Mode."

Janu Goelz, Owner/Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

2017 Grenache Blanc. This wine won Best of Show, Best White, Best of Class and a Double Gold at the 2018 Central Coast Wine Competition. It has aromas of pear, gardenias, and raw coconut with flavors of toasted almonds, starfruit, lime and vanilla. It was barrel aged for 5 months with 33.3% New French Oak.

Future Plans

Having just opened our tasting room doors in 2017, we are excited to bottle and release a mixture of new varietals. Some other future plans include hosting live music and fun events at The Stomping Ground.









Aver Family Vineyards

2900 Soma Way Gilroy, • 408.203.8575 averfamilyvineyards.com

Open: 12-5 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday SUMMER HOURS

Founded: 2005

"At Aver Family Vineyards we strive to create wines of distinction that you will be proud to share with your family and friends."

John Aver, Owner/Vigneron

Most Celebrated Wine

Blessings, our flagship wine, estate-grown Petite Sirah

Future Plans

We are constantly working to elevate the experience of our club members and guests, to expand our holistic farming practices, and to elevate the quality of our wines. Also we want to drive awareness that the Santa Clara Valley produces premium Rhône varietal wines.





Calerrain Wines

6500 Brem Lane Gilroy • 408.427.5680 calerrainwine.com

Open: 12-5 pm Weekends

Founded: 2016

"Our goal is simple; to explore California's Coastal vineyards and discover how the vast and varying terrain can influence wine. Join the journey and enjoy wines crafted to bring delight and intrigue to your table."

Geoff Mace, Owner/Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

2016 Santa Clara Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Future Plans

We are excited for the release of our Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir this Fall.









Clos LaChance Vineyards

1 Hummingbird Lane San Martin • 408.686.1050 clos com

Open: 11 am - 4:30 pm Daily

Founded: 2002

"Clos LaChance is like Disneyland for adults."

Bill Murphy Founder/CEO

Most Celebrated Wine

Santa Cruz Mountain Chardonnay is the flagship wine and the number one selling wine.

Future Plans

To grow the brand in the markets to include our newly released 94 point Rhone style wine "22 Pirates".







Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards

22645 Garrod Road Saratoga • 408.867.7116 cgv.com

Open: Weekdays 12-5 Weekends 11-5

Founded: By the Family

1893 -

Apricot and prune orchards

1962 -

Garrod Farms Riding Stable

1972 -

First vineyard planted

1991 -

First Cooper-Garrod wine

"Cooper-Garrod is "A Destination Worth Knowing!" Taste wine where the grapes are grown." Bill Cooper, Vintner

Most Celebrated Wine

Our Test Pilot blends honor founding winemaker and former NASA test pilot, George Cooper.

Future Plans

Our 5th generation is coming on board. Stay in touch to see where they take us!









Dorcich Family Vinevards

11775 Watsonville Road Gilroy • 408.846.4141 DorcichFamilyVineyards.com

Open: 11 am - 5 pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

Founded: Estate 1989 by Stephen Dorcich. Celebrated a grand opening and release of Dorcich Family Vineyard and Ankora wines in 2018.

"From the Earth to the bottle"
Our passion for farming and love of wine stems from the generations that came before us. As farmers and landowners, we love the land and are ever mindful of giving back what the grapes take out each year. Environmental stewardship comes naturally because it makes sense for our business, our family, and our community."

Stephen N. Dorcich, Vineyard Manager/Owner

Most Celebrated Wine

"Dad's Blend" is our crowd pleaser, as is our flagship Monte Bello Cabernet Sauvignon.

Future Plans

To produce wines that showcase our estate grown fruit and terroir. This fall we will be releasing our 2016 Monte Bello Cabernet Sauvignon, 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2016 Merlot, and 2017 Oaked Chardonnay.











Fernwood Cellars

7137 Redwood Retreat Road Gilroy • 408-848-0611 fernwoodcellars.com

Open: 12 -5 pm First & Third Weekends

Founded: 2001

"We only make wine from grapes that we grow."

Matt & Tiffany Oetinger Winemakers/Owners

Most Celebrated Wine

Flagship wines are Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay but have also had tremendous success with our Rhone and Bordeaux blends as well

Future Plans

We plan to expand and continue to provide our clients with fantastic and unique events throughout the year.









Fortino Winery

4525 Hecker Pass Highway Gilroy • 408.842.3305 fortinowinery.com

Open: 10 am -5 pm Tuesday thru Saturday Sundays 11 am - 5 pm

Founded: 1970

"Our winery represents to me a sharing of good times and a celebration of family and community. Each bottle is handcrafted and coaxed to evolve in a natural and inviting way."

Gino Fortino, Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

Maribella; named in honor of the family matriarch.

Future Plans

To have our boys, the third generation, come in and start learning to run the winery.











Guglielmo Winery

1480 E. Main Avenue Morgan Hill • 408.779.2145 guglielmowinery.com

Open: SUMMER HOURS Tuesday-Thursday 10 am -5 pm Friday 10 am - 6 pm, Sat-Sun 11 am - 6 pm

Founded: 1925

"With our 93 year history and family legacy, Guglielmo Winery continues to strive to produce wines of exceptional quality... wines for everyday enjoyment...as well as wines for all of life's most important celebrations. Poviding memorable public and private events are also priority goals, coupled with a continued involvement in the wine community whether it be local, regional or national. Salute!"

George & Gene Guglielmo, Winemakers/Owners

Most Celebrated Wine

Our Santa Clara Valley, Estate Produced, Private Reserve Zinfandel and Estate Produced, Private Reserve Petite Sirah have been our pride, enjoyed by many throughout decades of their successful production.

Future Plans

We hope to continue to produce the very best wines that we can from our Estate grapes, here in Santa Clara Valley. We hope to steadily increase our winery visitors and also help to educate them about our winery and the history of wine production in this AVA.





Heller Winery

2009 Bridle Lane San Martin • 408.821.9023 hellerwinery.com

Open: 12- 5 pm Every Third Weekend

Founded: 2010

"Our vineyard was planted in 2010 and we harvested our first grapes in 2013. We are family-owned and hands-on in every aspect of our vineyard maintenance and the wine making process. We are proud of the small lot production of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon which we now have to offer. We would love to have you visit us and enjoy a glass of wine."

William Heller Owner & Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

Our Library 2014 Merlot always gets high marks from visitors to our tasting room.

Future Plans

Our first barrel of Carignane, harvested from our vineyard in 2017, is shaping up nicely. In 2019 we will be expanding our tasting menu with some new wines and hope to be open two weekends each month.





J. Winston Winery

6500 Brem Lane Gilroy • 408.744.6725 jwinstonwinery.com

Open: 12-5 pm Saturday & Sunday

Founded: 2017

As a builder, I have found creating and constructing with my own hands so fulfilling. I get this from my Grandfather, who in Portugal, was a rancher and a winemaker. My love of creating along with my passion for my heritage has led me to winemaking as a homage to my Grandfather in his style—big, bold, flavorful.»

John Bannister, Owner/Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

Our most celebrated wine is our 2015 Reserve Meritage. Our Meritage is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. It has been placed in multiple local restaurants. It is a well balanced big, bold, red.

Future Plans

As one of the newest wineries in the area we plan to continue to grow on The Stomping Ground and producing the best wine possible. Our focus will stay on crafting big and bold red wines.





Jason-Stephens Winery

6500 Brem Lane Gilroy • 408.846.8463 jstephens.com

Open: 11 am - 6 pm Daily

Founded: 2008

"We creatively blend to highlight pure varietal character and "palate expanding" flavor. Our goal is to create well-balanced wines that maintain bold flavors and seamless textures."

Jason Goelz, Owner/Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

Our Cabernet Sauvignon is a favorite among our visitors in the tasting room as well as nationally. It is typically blended with five varietals giving the wine more depth, complexity, and balance.

Future Plans

Our future plans include hosting fun events, in conjunction with the three other wineries located at The Stomping Ground. We look forward to Fall Passport Month when we will host live music every weekend.







La Vie Dansante Wines

3200 Dryden Avenue, Ste A Gilroy • 408.826.2712 laviedansantewines.com

Open: 12- 5 pm Thursday through Monday

Founded: 2013

"La Vie Dansante is a boutique winery crafting wines of elegance and finesse from locally-grown Rhone varietals. Our wines are truly hand-crafted - if you find a fingerprint on the bottle it likely belongs to me!"

Jeff Fadness, Owner & Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

The Love Song triplet – "Aubade", a white blend of Roussanne, Grenache blanc, and Picpoul blanc, "Serenade", a lighter-red blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre, and "Nocturne", a darker-red blend based on Syrah.

Future Plans

As one of the new generation of wineries in the Gilroy/ San Martin/Morgan Hill area we are loving growing and maturing with our new wine friends. This summer we've added a "lawn games" area and are bringing movie nights and music to the winery.





Lion Ranch Vineyards & Winery

645 West San Martin Avenue San Martin • 408.713.8501 lionranch.com

Open: 11 am - 4 pm Saturdays & Sundays

Founded: 2013 Opened tasting room 2015

"Each vine of our estate vineyard is meticulously tended using sustainable farming to reflect the area's terroir, producing wines that are fruit forward with restrained oak and minimal interventions. Our open air tasting pavilion, views of the vineyard, tables in the shade of umbrellas and olive trees are perfect for a relaxing picnic and a bottle of wine."

Todd & Kim Engelhardt, Winemakers/Owners

Most Celebrated Wine

We opened our doors with only white Rhone wines, a nd have become known for them. Our 2016 Estate Viognier was rated 90 by Wine Enthusiast and has sold out.

Future Plans

As our estate red Rhone varietals will begin producing this year we are excited to continue to expand our red and rosé wine offerings and be 100% estate grown.





Martin Ranch Winery

6675 Redwood Retreat Road Gilroy, • 408.842.9197 wine@martinranch.com

Open: 12-5 pm First & Third Fri & Sat SUMMER HOURS

Founded:

Vineyard 1993 Winery 2002

"Being a part of a community of Wine Enthusiasts who share our passion for great wine, and witnessing them create lifelong memories around food, wine, and family is the joy of what we do."

Therése Martin, Owner

Most Celebrated Wine

J.D. Hurley Cabernet Sauvignon, Santa Cruz Mtns. Therése Vineyards Malbec, Santa Clara Valley

Future Plans

To continue to make great wine and share our passion for many years to come.









Medeiros Family Wines

3200 Dryden Avenue, Ste A Gilroy • 408.427.7536 medeirosfamilywines.com

Open: 12-5 pm Saturday & Sunday

Founded: 2012

"Always looking for the next "T.O." in every vintage. It doesn't always happen, but when it does, your knees get weak, and your heart races!"

Ted and Tammie Medeiros, Winemakers/Owners

Most Celebrated Wine

Saudade. Bordeaux Style red wine blend. Saudade is full bodied and smooth. Inviting aromas of Black cherry, plum, and vanilla on the nose. Layers of earthiness, dried flowers, and cocoa integrate harmoniously into a finely balanced marriage between tannin and acid. Finish is long and lingering.

Future Plans

Wake up with a cup of black coffee before dawn. Work hard all day. Fire up the pit and crack open a bottle in the evening. Share with family and friends. Do it again but better!





Morgan Hill Cellars

1645 San Pedro Avenue Morgan Hill • 408.779.7389 morganhillcellars.com

Open: 10 am - 5 pm Tuesday - Sunday

Founded: 1913

"We strive to be all inclusive and make everyone comfortable as soon as they walk in the door."

Michael and Maryclaire Sampognaro, Owners

Most Celebrated Wine

Blackberry Merlot - This is a friendly blend of merlot and blackberry fruit wine. It is very fruit forward with a lovely dry finish. A great companion to some spicy foods but still sweet enough to pair well with cheesecake for dessert.

Future Plans

Our plans are simple: to take daily joy in continuing the 100 years of making great wine for our family, friends and community.









Sarah's Vineyard

4005 Hecker Pass Road Gilroy • 408.847.1947 sarahsvineyard.com

Open: 12-5 pm

Daily

Founded: 1978 — 40 years

"We've designated the new vintage of our "Estate" Chardonnay as the winery's official 40th anniversary bottling. Sarah's Vineyard became well known early-on for the quality of its Chardonnay; naming the Estate Chardonnay as our anniversary wine honors both the past and the future of Sarah's Vineyard."

Tim Slater Proprietor/Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

2016 Estate Chardonnay & 2015 Reserve Estate Pinot Noir which Wine Enthusiast gave 93 points and Robert Parker, from Wine Advocate, gave 92 points.

Future Plans

Upcoming 40th anniversary celebration.









Satori Cellars

2100 Buena Vista Avenue Gilroy • 408.848.5823 satoricellars.com

Open: 12-5 pm Saturday & Sunday

Founded: 2006

"We grow and craft big reds, pour them into colorful bottles, and offer them with love, ease and humor."

Tom Muller, Co-Owner/Winemaker

Most Celebrated Wine

All the "kids" win medals, but we'd probably take the Zins—we have 4—to a deserted island—for the BBO.

Future Plans

We're constantly evolving the fun. Next up is a new stage and picnic area alongside our outdoor tasting cabana. Enlightenment is also a possibility.













Seeker Vineyard

11755 Turlock Avenue Gilroy • 949.370.1040 seekervineyard.com

Open: Saturdays 12 -5 pm Check website to confirm

Founded: 2015

"We specialize in the art and science of making high-quality, small-batch wine from several grape varietals. Our outdoor winery, filled with redwoods and roses, is known as a place of inclusion, and for sharing stories, laughter, and hugs. Think of us next time you are celebrating a special event—bridal or baby shower, corporate meeting or dinner, wedding—we promise to make your day everything you dreamed it would be."

Karen Seeker, Owner

Most Celebrated Wine

2013 Santa Teresa Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Future Plans

Our free admission music series continues with five more bands this year: August 4th—Black Mountain Radio Band, August 18th—David Johnson, September 8th—Tsunami, September 22nd—Trainwreck, and October 27th—Just Friends. We recently released our 2017 Besitos Rosé that won Judge's Choice at the South Valley Wine Auction. Look for more new releases later this year!







Solis Winery

3920 Hecker Pass Highway Gilroy • 408.847.6306 soliswinery.com

Open: 12-5 pm Saturday & Sunday

Founded: 1989

"At Solis Winery, it is all about the wine—and has been here for over 100 years. Our awardwinning wines are grown, produced and bottled at the Vanni Estate Vineyard in Gilroy —in the heart of the historic Santa Clara Valley."

Michael & Vic Vanni, Winemakers/Owners

Most Celebrated Wine

Sangiovese and Fiano

Future Plans

Increase production at a steady, manageable pace to ensure continued, consistent quality. A new tasting room is on the horizon too.











Stefania Wine

1800 Day Road Gilroy • 408.242 8598 stefaniawine.com

Open: Every Friday 4-7 pm Saturday & Sunday 11-4 pm

Founded: Vineyard 2001 Commercial vintage 2005

"We believe the South Valley is one of the last hidden gems in the wine world. We are very excited to contribute and be part of the community and winemaking in this region."

Paul & Stefania Romero Celebrated Winemakers Extraordinaire

Most Celebrated Wine

All of our single vineyard Cabernet Sauvignons.

Future Plans

We'll be celebrating our 4th anniversary in the South Valley, the recent tasting room remodel, and the release of our new red blend Agliorosa.









Sycamore Creek Vineyards

12775 Uvas Road Morgan Hill • 408.779.4738 liveloveleal.com/vineyards/ sycamore-creek-vineyards

Open: 11 am - 4 pm Wednesday–Sunday

Founded:

Acquired by Frank Leal as part of the live+love+léal Hospitality Portfolio in October 2015

"Surround yourself with good people & great wine and create your own memorable experience."

Frank Leal, Owner

Most Celebrated Wine

2013 Cabernet Sauvignon -Combinations of cassis, black cherry, and cocoa. Dense garnet in color with bold tannin. This Cabernet has indefinite aging potential.

Future Plans

To enhance the wine growing region in Santa Clara Valley and create a spot for wine enthusiasts and new day visitors to enjoy an experience.





TASS Vineyards & Winery

3200 Dryden Avenue, Ste A Gilroy • 408.858.5117 tasswines.com

Open: 12 -5 pm Saturday & Sunday,

Founded: 2015

"TASS is a name that encompasses my experience over 30 seasons working the vineyard and sharing in the mysterious transformation of making grapes into wine. My wine only reflects the careful attention given to each vineyard and the selection of the cluster, from where great wines are born."

TASS – Tradition Art Style Science

Ron Mosley, Owner-Vintner

Most Celebrated Wine

Pinot Noir – because it's one of my favorite wines to grow and make.

Future Plans

Continue working with vineyards that will express the style of wine I enjoy making. And expanding into new varieties, so everyone can find a wine that appeals to them.







Verde Vineyards

2143 Buena Vista Gilroy • 408.848.5907 verdevineyards.com

Open: 12 -5 pm First & Third Weekends

Founded: 2017

"We are excited to be a new part of the South Bay wine scene and look forward to positively contributing to the Santa Clara Valley wine industry. Our first releases have already received 90+ point wine ratings and gold medals and our new vintages will be even better."

Lynda & George Green , Owners

Most Celebrated Wine

Our 2015 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon.

Future Plans

We are getting ready to bottle some new wines to add to our award winning current releases that will give our customers even more to taste. As our vineyards mature, our production and quality will continue to rise.

Wine Club: Coming Soon



South Valley Wineries

Rich in History

An excerpt from Images of America, Wineries of Santa Clara Valley by Bev Stenehjem

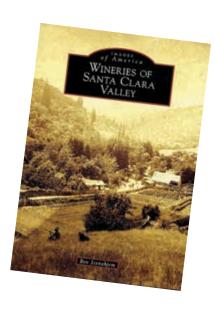
he wineries of Santa Clara Valley have a rich history, dating back to the 1700s. First came the Spaniards, then the Frenchmen, and finally the Italians. The secret was out, the mild climate here in Santa Clara Valley was ideal, not only for growing vines, but also for living comfortably. The Spanish padres founded Mission Santa Clara in 1777 and seeing snarls of native grapevines climbing the trees along the creeks and valley, they knew that their grape cuttings would thrive here. Although the quality of the wine varied, much of it was crude and mostly used for religious purposes.

In the mid-1800s, the French started to arrive, first lured to the Sierra Mountains by the Gold rush and then settling in the San Jose area for all the good land available. The French greatly improved the quality of wines by planting the right varietals and employing years of established techniques to improve vineyard health and grape quality.

By 1880, the Italians came in droves, bringing their fruit-growing skills and hard work ethic to share in the bounty of the Santa Clara Valley. The Italians did most of the pruning, with centuries of best practices behind them.

Thousands of acres were planted in grapevines. Most of the young wine was sold to the growing population and restaurants in San Francisco-oftentimes finished and blended there for further sale and shipped off to other parts of the country.

The booming wine industry almost ground to a halt in the early 1900s. First, phylloxera appeared-a tiny, sap-sucking aphid that threatened to wipe out most of the vineyards. As winemakers struggled to stop the devastation of this pest, in 1906, the San Francisco earthquake hit. The resulting fires destroyed 15 million gallons of wine and several major wine cellars.



With little time to recuperate from phylloxera and the earthquake, Prohibition started in 1920, criminalizing the manufacture and sale of wine. And to cap it all off, the Great Depression began in 1929. People could hardly afford bread, let along wine.

Many of our wineries tore out their remaining vineyards and sought other ways to make a living. However, more than a few of our valley winemakers stayed the course, keeping their vineyards alive by either selling their wine to a church (which was legal) or secretly selling their wines to people of all walks of life, including the police and other government officials. Trapdoors, secret cellars, and get-away cars were the name of the game. With the end of Prohibition in 1933, the wineries slowly made a comeback. For the next 30 years or so, most wine was called jug wine. People would bring their own jugs to the wineries and ask for a fill up. They had two choices: red or white. Wines were usually a blend of several kinds of grapes, and the varietals or vintage years were not specified.

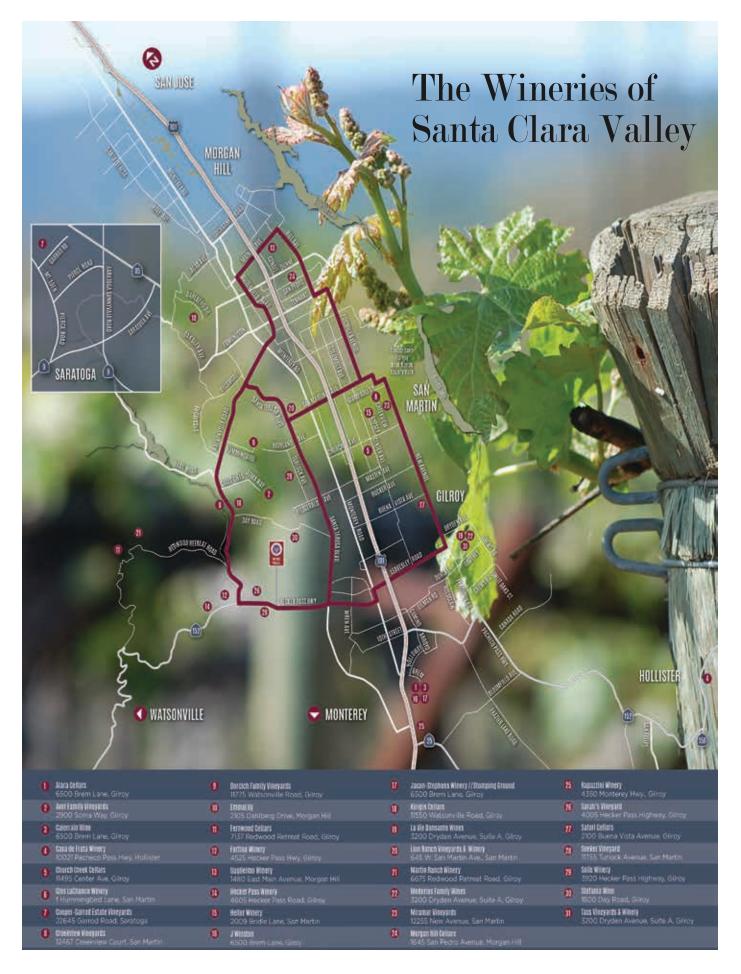
In the mid-1900s, the Santa Clara Valley was a profusion of orchards and vineyards from one

end to the other. Our wine region famously became called the Valley of Heart's Delight.

When the Judgment of Paris occurred in 1976, the California wine industry exploded. At a blind tasting of French and American wines, an all-French panel of wine experts award d the top honors to several California wines. Mayhem ensued when the French wine judges learned that the California wines had won. Several of the judges stormed out in protest, bitterly denouncing the contest.

The mystique of Old World, French wines gave way to the New World of California wines as the finest in the world. In fact,

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South Valley Wineries

Rich in History

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California produces such excellent wine that 90 percent of all American wine is produced in California, ranking the Golden State just behind Italy, France and Spain as the top-producing wine grower in the world.

To this day, the Santa Clara Valley remains the first premier winegrowing region in the state and is home to many world-class, award-winning wineries. Thanks to nearby Silicon Valley, our vine-yards employ state-of-the-art technology measuring soil, moisture, wind, and temperature conditions. Our wines are now labeled to specify varietals and vintage year.

Our winemakers and owners are farmers at heart. They talk constantly about how the very quality of their wine starts in the vineyard. Although Mother Nature is a strong influence on the outcome of the grape quality, each wine-maker has his or her own technique and skill to bring the best tasting wine to consumers' glasses. Winemaking is part science, part art form, and, some would say, part magic.

Despite the quality wines being produced here in the South Valley, visitors and even some residents still express surprise to learn that there are so many wineries between Morgan Hill and Gilroy. To their delight, they are finding out that each winery offers its own ambience, decor, and accommodations, a different feel for just about any mood or personality, ranging from Old World elegance to rustic, contemporary, or even whimsical. Some wineries offer sweeping views, bocce ball courts, picnic tables, and deli

items. Year-round events include live music concerts, cooking demonstrations, holiday fairs, and wine-stomping contests. But for all their differences, all are far from pretentious. They are still family owned and operated. Some winemakers even have day jobs, juggling two careers at once. It is common to find the owners and/or the winemakers on the premises, if not in the tasting rooms, happy to pour a sip and answer any questions.

