

4 Great Ways to Celebrate California Wine Month



Labels: [Napa Valley wineries](#), [Wine Tasting Events](#), [Red Wine](#), [Restaurants](#), [Sonoma Wineries](#), [Paso Robles wineries](#), [Zinfandel](#), [Livermore Valley Wineries](#), [Santa Cruz Mountains wineries](#), [Sierra Foothills Wineries](#), [Art](#), [Lodi Wineries](#), [Lifestyle](#), [Food](#)

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This is [California Wine Month](#). Now, that doesn't mean you won't be allowed the occasional glass of Champagne. But it is the ideal time to learn more about wines from California, taste some that you've never tried and have fun recognizing an [important](#) industry for California (and the entire country actually).

Taste wines from all over California, conveniently poured for you in one fun location.



[California Wine Rush 2011](#) takes place on **Saturday, September 17 from noon to 3PM** in the Grand Hall of San Francisco's **Ferry Building**. There will be more than 100 wines to taste, collected from **Napa Valley, Paso Robles, Sonoma, Lodi, Amador, Livermore Valley, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz Mountains** and other California AVAs. Meet winemakers and growers. Nosh on artisanal cheeses and salumi. Get there early and you can enjoy the famous **Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market** too.

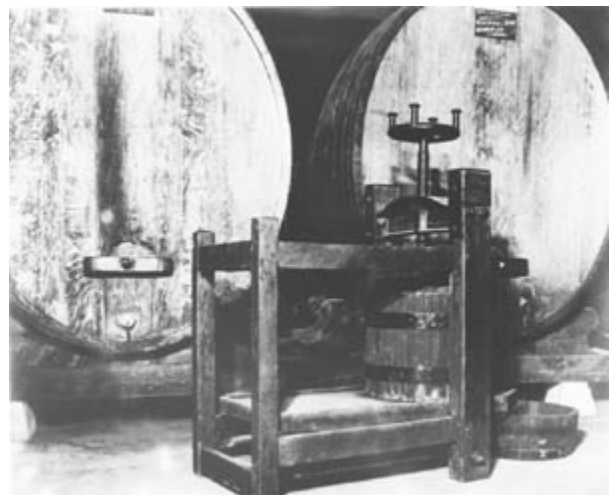
Tickets for California Wine Rush 2011 are \$45. Attendance is limited, so hurry if you want to Rush. Get your tickets [here](#).

Enjoy Charles Krug Winery's 150th Anniversary Party

Governor Jerry Brown has not only proclaimed September to be California Wine Month, he's named September 10 "**Charles Krug Winery Day**." You can join in the celebration at the winery in **St. Helena** on **September 10 from 2 to 5pm**. Tickets are \$40 and available [here](#).

Charles Krug Winery is the oldest in Napa Valley, established in 1861 with a dream and a cider press. Back then, Abraham Lincoln was president, the Civil War had just started and the fastest way to get a message to California from the East was by [Pony Express](#). 150 years later, we've got an African-American president, email and Twitter. And Charles Krug Winery is still making excellent wine in Napa Valley. It's all pretty amazing.

The **Mondavi family** has owned Charles Krug Winery for almost 70 years now. It was the "Mondavi" winery before **Robert Mondavi** went off and started his own. His brother, **Peter Mondavi Sr.**, became president of Charles Krug Winery in 1966. Peter, now 96, will attend the celebration himself and officially receive the Governor's proclamation.



The party will include [tasting](#) all of Charles Krug's current releases and food from Napa Valley restaurants, including **Michael Chiarello's Bottega** and **Cindy Pawlcy's Backstreet Kitchen** and **Brassica**. There will also be [barrel](#) tasting and, for an extra fee, tasting of library wines. You'll be able to see the original Krug cider press and actors in period dress portraying Charles Krug and his wife. The Mondavi family will sign bottles and photos. And there'll be a Steely Dan tribute band. I'll see you there!

Drink old vine [Zinfandel](#)

While **Zinfandel** is not officially the official wine of California, it is arguably unofficially official. Just don't say that to a [Cabernet Sauvignon](#) guy. Zinfandel is the third most planted grape in the state. Ask anyone where Zinfandel grows and only a smart-aleck won't give **California** as their first answer. It is also a long-lived variety that was often planted on hearty rootstock. So there are several wines being made from vines planted way back in the 19th century. You should try some.

Here are four of my favorites:

[Bedrock Wine Company "Bedrock \(Vineyard\) Heirloom"](#) - A field blend, 40% of which is Zinfandel, from 120 year old vines in **Sonoma Valley**.

[Jessie's Grove Westwind Zinfandel](#) - This Lodi Zinfandel is a blend from three estate vineyards, the oldest of which was planted 120 years ago.

[Sausal Century Vines Zinfandel](#) - An **Alexander Valley** Zinfandel made from vines dating back to 1877.

[Scott Harvey Vineyard 1869 Zinfandel](#) - 96% of the grapes for this wine come from the Zinfandel vineyard officially recognized as America's oldest, planted in **Amador County** in 1869 or earlier. Of course, not all of the vines are that old. But, still.



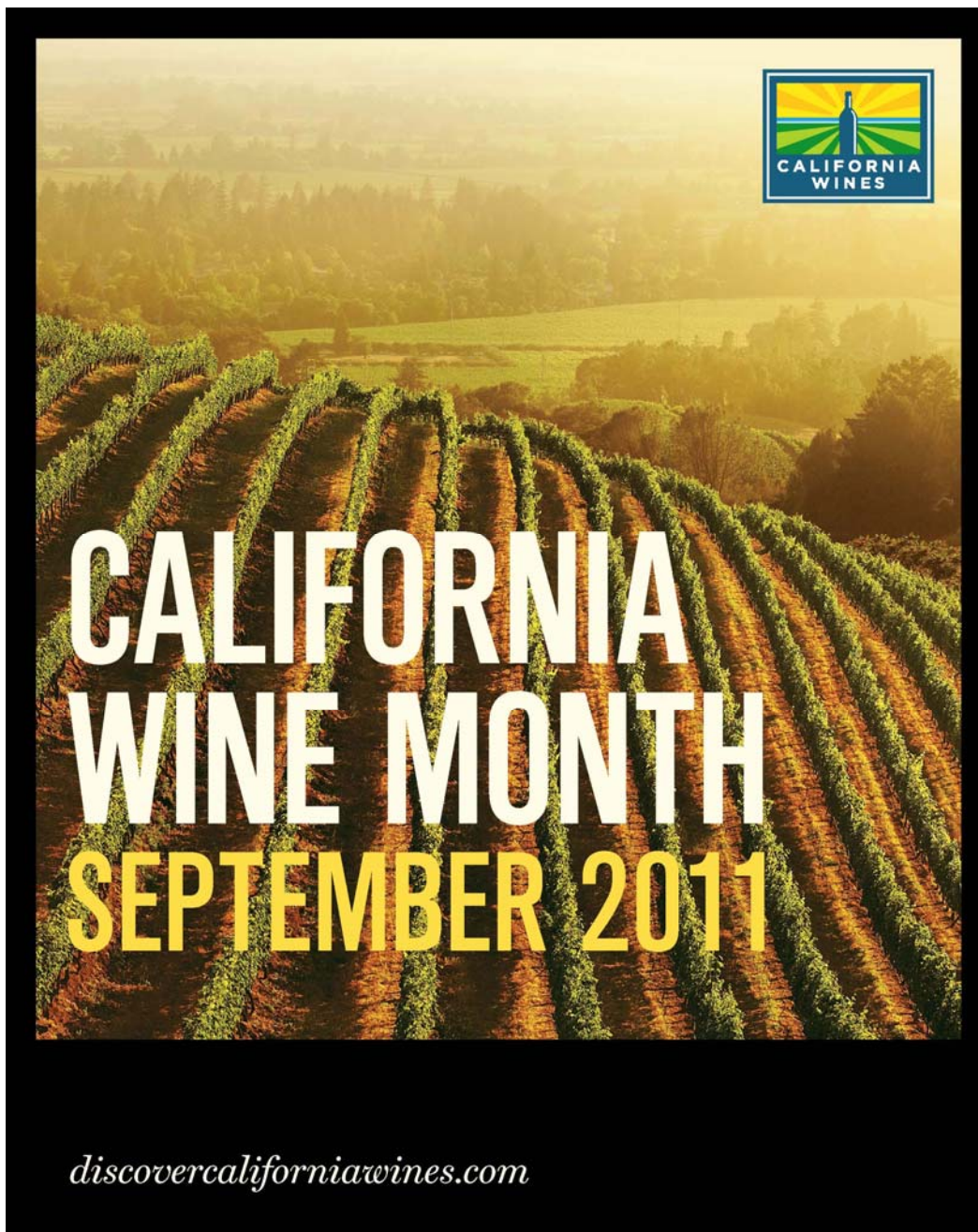
This gnarly, tree-like thing is a 118-year old Zinfandel vine at Jessie's Grove Winery in Lodi.

Speaking of Zinfandel, tickets for the **2012 ZAP Festival** are now [on sale](#) to members. There's a 15% discount on tickets purchased by September 30.



Put a California Wine Month poster on your wall.

Sometimes, you've got to go a while without leaving the house or drinking wine. Maybe you're pregnant and under strict orders for bed rest. Or you're under house-arrest (on totally bogus charges). Whatever the reason for your sequestration, you can still celebrate California Wine Week by putting an attractive poster on your wall.



Wine Institute is offering the pretty poster shown above for **just \$5**. Send your check (made out to Wine Institute), name, mailing address and phone number to:

CA Wine Month Poster Offer
425 Market St. Suite 1000
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 512-0151

How are you going to celebrate California Wine Month?

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