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# Traveler

**Best Wine Regions to Visit in 2019**

*From Australia to the Azores*

By Laura Giannatempo



We tapped a few of the country's leading [wine experts](#) to give us the lowdown on the most interesting, unusual, and unexpected wine regions. Here's a shortlist of destinations not miss in 2019.



*Courtesy Big Basin Vineyards*

## **Santa Cruz Mountains, California**

Overshadowed by Napa and Sonoma, this wine region is one of the oldest in the country, which gained international recognition in the legendary 1976 Judgment of Paris, a blind tasting where California reds and whites outperformed their French counterparts. “This is an area that produces world-class chardonnay, pinot noir, and cabernet sauvignon,” says Jim Rollston MS, wine director at Manresa in Los Gatos, California. “The mountainous geography means that the fog affects the vineyards in variable ways: Some are hot enough to ripen cabernet, others are cooler and better suited for chardonnay and pinot noir.” The roads wind up and down the mountains through redwood and eucalyptus groves, making you forget you’re in the heart of Silicon Valley. This also means the wineries are spread apart, so you can only visit a couple per day without feeling rushed. Don’t miss Lester Vineyards’ tasting room filled with eclectic art and artifacts collected by the owners during years of world travel and Ridge Vineyards’ outdoor tasting area overlooking Cupertino and the Santa Clara Valley. Or go for a hike at Big Basin State Park and wind down at Big Basin Vineyards (pictured). And if you want a taste of royalty, stop by Mount Eden Winery, whose wines were poured at the royal wedding earlier this year.

<https://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/best-wine-regions-to-visit>