

Nevada City Wineries—An Easy Walk to Some of the Best

By Valerie Moberg



If wine is the nectar of the Gods, Nevada County must be God's country. If your perfect weekend includes wine, women and song or a day of antiquing followed by great local wine paired with the perfect meal -- all within walking distance from your Victorian Inn-- Nevada City is one destination you don't want to miss.

Nevada City, once a bustling Gold Rush town, has become a mecca for wine lovers. With grapes grown to perfection during the warm days and cool nights of autumn that typify the Sierra Nevada, it's no wonder there are now 18? wineries dotting the County. Each winery offers a unique opportunity to sample the distinctive flavors of the County's mountain grown wine.

Four of the most popular wineries are located in historic Nevada City, an easy walk from the Broad Street Inn located at the top of Broad Street. **Indian Springs Vineyards** is focused on producing an impressive assortment of wines, including: Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Semillon, Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chardonnay. The winery is open for tasting daily 11 AM – 5 PM. Recently, Indian Springs won a Gold Medal for its 2005 Syrah Port at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition and a Gold Medal for its 2006 Hog Wild Red Wine!

Nevada City Winery has been producing award-winning wines since 1980. A premium, full production winery, Nevada City Winery's original vineyards date back to the Gold Rush. In 2010, Nevada City Winery's 2997 Cabernet Franc won the "Best Cabernet Franc of California Award at the California State Fair. The 2007 Syrah won top honors two years in a row at New World International. With a range of wines that includes Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Sirah, Syrah, White Zinfandel, and Gewürztraminer, a visit to the Nevada City Winery is a must. The winery is open daily for tasting 11 AM – 5 PM except Sundays, when tasting hours are Noon – 5 PM.

Szabo Vineyards, a small family owned boutique winery, is a relatively recent addition to Nevada City. Their wines are made exclusively from their estate-grown grapes and are known for being big, bold, and fruit-forward. The wines are elegant and food-friendly in style with the Syrah and the Rhone-style blend 'Voila' being particularly noteworthy. Szabo Wines have won awards at the California State Fair, the West Coast Wine Competition, Orange County Wine Competition, and the San Francisco International Wine Competition, just to name a few. With family roots in Hungary, Alex Szabo's goal is to produce only the best quality grapes and ultimately the best quality wine. The tasting room is open Thursday 2 PM – 8 PM, Friday 12 PM – 7 PM, and weekends 12 PM – 6 PM.

A recent addition to the Nevada City tasting scene is **Clavey Class V Wines tasting room**, located on Commercial Street. The tasting room is a great place to enjoy a glass of red wine and sample their Syrahs, Cabernets, and Sangiovese, which are grown without the use of pesticides or herbicides. The tasting room is open from 12 PM – 6 PM Monday through Thursday, 12 PM – 8 PM Friday and Saturday and 11 PM – 5:00 PM on Sunday. While you're there, be sure to ask about their Custom Crushes and the option of harvesting Clavey grapes with your family.

The opportunity for wine tasting extends beyond the city limits. Some of the other wineries worth visiting are Double Oak Winery, which has won Gold Medals at the California State Fair for their Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon; Smith Vineyard which specializes in hand-crafted, small lot Merlot, Chardonnay, and Cabernet Sauvignon; and Lucchesi Vineyards & Winery whose wines have won many awards including a Gold "Chairman's Award" for their Syrah. They also produce Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Port. For a complete list of Nevada County Wineries, visit [Crazy About Wine](#).

Valerie Moberg is the proprietor of the historic Broad Street Inn, and the go-to person for information about Nevada City. Built in 1870, Broad Street Inn is a small, family-owned, eco-friendly green business that prides itself on providing comfortable accommodations at affordable rates. Located in the heart of historic downtown Nevada City, this Victorian inn offers six contemporary rooms and a peaceful garden setting just a short walk from downtown Nevada City's great shops, restaurants, theaters, and wineries. For more information about the Broad Street Inn and the Nevada City area, contact Valerie by phone (530.265.2239) or email (info@broadstreetinn.com) or on the Web: <http://www.broadstreetinn.com>.