

# HAUTE LIVING

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## Wineries With Beautiful Architecture in Sonoma and Napa Wine Country

BY NOEL BURGESS, JANUARY 1, 2023



Credit: Michael Hospelt

DID YOU THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT thing about a winery was the wine? Wine is clearly an important factor, but what would your experience be without the ambience? If the sensory part of wine tasting didn't matter, wouldn't more people consistently drink wine out of a plastic cup while sitting on the couch watching traffic go by? Humans love aesthetically pleasing things. From modern designs to Old World châteaux, these seven wineries offer a “full-bodied” experience to lovers of architecture in Sonoma and Napa Wine Country.

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## Bouchaine Winery, Napa, CA

The Bouchaine Winery, tasting room, and hospitality center are located in the bucolic southern portion of Napa Valley closest to San Francisco, Marin, and the East Bay. Sitting atop a hill overlooking the existing historical winery is the 5,000-square-foot visitor center opened in 2019. The building is designed in a semicircle, reminiscent of an open embrace, to maximize spectacular views of the vineyard and surrounding hills. The outdoor terrace offers a perfect place for a relaxed wine tasting, surrounded by two soothing water features, landscaped gardens, comfortable sofas and armchairs, and the warm glow of fire pits.

*“When designing the hospitality center, we wanted to build a place that really welcomed visitors to the Napa Valley and served as a gathering place for events and for friends. We have a world class test kitchen where we have hosted dinners and cooking sessions with many of the Valley’s greatest chefs. We have a grand piano and have hosted Festival Napa Valley events with great classical musicians like the Gavilan Brothers and Australian duo Boyd Meets Girl. Our terrace, which overlooks sweeping views of the San Pablo Bay, is literally nestled into the hospitality center’s half-circle embrace. Everything about this building is meant to express a sense of warmth and welcoming. We strongly believe that wine is about coming together and celebrating with friends, family, and our community, and wanted our hospitality center to reflect that, which it does down to the very words embossed in the floor entrance, our slogan: ‘Wine Makes You Happy.’”*

— Chris Kajani, winemaker and general manager

The centerpiece of the hospitality center is the striking tasting room bar made from reclaimed cypress slabs. The room provides seating for up to 80 people, easily accommodating large groups or intimate gatherings with an inviting view of the large terrace and the breathtaking scenery of the San Pablo Bay.



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Credit: Adrian Gregorutti

The overall project included a renovation of the existing 3,000 square foot tasting room, a 22,000-square-foot expansion of the production facilities, a new 2,100-square-foot terrace, and ample parking space, including handicap and clean air vehicle parking. The project design was led by Michael Cook and his consulting team, including architect Kevin O'Malley of O'Malley, Wilson & Westphal.