

Once you brush past the gift shop entrance, you'll find the tasting room filled with Wine Country vacationers of all sorts. It's hard to find a place to stand at the bar on a busy weekend afternoon and, once you do, it can be a bit of a struggle to get the host to give you some attention at all. So, if you like discussing your wines as you taste, bring along a like-minded wine-loving friend to chat with. But whether tasting from the Appellation or Vineyard Select series (the two available walk-in flights), you'll find the wines taste a bit textbook.

The view from the patio is unbeatable, and it's the perfect spot to hang out for a picnic, away from the crowd. Certainly the reason to come and the reason to stay is the historic site itself, so you may as well enjoy the view at the best seat in the house and leave some time to wander the property.

WHAT TO TRY: Because walk-ins don't seem to be the way to go, think about signing up for one of the reserved classes, tours or tastings listed on the website. They'll be more private, ensuring more knowledgeable hosts who will provide more attention.

INSIDE INFO: You're welcome to wander around the estate yourself if interested. If you do, be sure to walk downstairs into what used to be **Richard Kunde's** "man-cave." It's now a restaurant-grade kitchen that'll make any home cook or foodie's jaw drop.