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The Best Wineries You've Never Heard of In Yountville

Ian White | Photo: Courtesy Dominus | June 4, 2015

The secret gems hidden in plain site in the middle of Napa.



Right in the middle of Napa Valley, Yountville is home to the French Laundry, Bottega, Bouchon, and slew of other famous restaurants, wineries, and resorts—but few people know the splendor that Yountville's hidden wineries offer. Almost all of the locations on this list are appointment only, but are well worth the planning.

Visitors to [Keever Vineyards](#) talk most about the warm and welcoming family, and its brazen cabernet and silky sauvignon blanc. But Keever also has one of the most sultry caves in the valley—and a view that overlooks all of Yountville.

You'll feel like you're approaching the lair of a James Bond villain as you close in on [Dominus Estate](#). The modern gray building is towering, but it fits gently into the landscape. The wines here are as bold as the architecture, so bring a good camera and spend some time tasting and admiring the view.

[Blankiet Estate](#) looks like a Tuscan castle and its wines regularly score between 95 and 100 points from Robert Parker. This grandiose winery has impressive gardens, streams, and olive trees. It will also likely rank very high on your list of places to buy if you ever win the lottery.

Despite being perched on a hill just off the second-most traveled road in Napa Valley, [Silverado Vineyards](#) is too often overlooked. Its terrace is one of the best places in the Valley to watch the sunset. The wines not only vary widely in style, but are also reasonably priced and true to the terroir. If you're looking for a casual place with serious wines, or an impressive location for an event, you've found it.

[Hill Family Estate](#) has a tasting room on the main drag (Washington St.) in downtown Yountville, but its Secret Garden tour is something few have experienced. Hidden in a residential community only a few minutes from the tasting room, this 1.3-acre garden has over 120 different fruit trees and hundreds of vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Sip Hill's tasty wines at the tasting room and then stop to smell the pineapple guava blossoms before returning to your busy day of tasting.

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