



Founded in 1981 by Justin Baldwin and his wife, Deborah, Justin Winery is off the beaten path, but its tasting room, inn and restaurant make it a worthwhile destination.

room is located at the intersection of two major wine roads: Highway 46 and Vineyard Drive. It's a small but busy space, situated behind the gourmet country deli Farmstand 46, which Tietje and his partners also own. Snare a table outside and squeeze in lunch while you're there.

JUSTIN WINERY

11680 Chimney Rock Road **Telephone** (805) 238-6932 **Web site** www.justinwine.com **Open** Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; tours by appointment **Cost** Tastings \$10

Well off the beaten path but worth seeking out, Justin is the sort of showplace you might find in Napa, but the appeal goes beyond the visuals. Justin produces some of the best Cabernets in the area, particularly the Cabernet-blend Isosceles. Former banker Justin Baldwin and his wife, Deborah, were among the first to lay claim to west Paso, launching their winery in 1981. In addition to the fashionable tasting room, the winery also has JUST Inn Bed & Breakfast and Deborah's Room, a small restaurant with an Award of Excellence-winning wine list.

L'AVENTURE

2815 Live Oak Road **Telephone** (805) 227-1588 **Web site** www.aventurewine.com **Open** Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Cost** Tastings \$10

After making wine in his native France for 15 years, Stephan Asseo was lured by the promise and freedom of Paso Robles and launched L'Aventure in 1998, placing him at the forefront of a new wave of producers west of Highway 101. Asseo has about 56 acres (both Bordeaux and Rhône varieties) planted in the rolling hills around the winery, which is down a winding gravel road. The tasting room is a modest salon but offers L'Aventure's top wines, including a Rhône-style blend called Côte à Côte that has both finesse and muscle, and the Estate Cuvée, a blend



The innovative Paso Wine Centre, in the middle of downtown, dispenses 48 different wines. Customers can find regional selections from a high-tech tasting machine called the Enomat.

LINNE CALODO WINERY

3030 Vineyard Drive **Telephone** (805) 227-0797 **Web site** www.linnecalodo.com **Open** Daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Cost** Tastings \$10

With wines labeled Problem Child, Nemesis and Outsider, winemaker Matt Trevisan shows not only an independent streak but a sense of humor. One of the pioneers of west Paso, Trevisan makes blends of Zinfandel, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Grenache. Thanks to the rocky, limestone soil of the region that gives the winery its name, the wines are dense, complex yet sinuous creations. "There's a bit of magic to be found by combining different varietals together," he says. Each wine displays a singular personality; find your favorite as you explore them in the visitors center, a distinctively contemporary building done in geometric angles and polished cedar.

PASO WINE CENTRE

1240 Park St. **Telephone** (805) 239-9156 **Web site** www.pasowine.com/retail.php **Open** Tuesday to Sunday

This wine bar is an informative first stop on any tour of Paso wine country. Located just off the downtown square, it has a fashionable urban atmosphere and features a high-tech automatic dispenser from which customers can sample any of 48 different wines from the region, many of them from hard-to-find boutique labels like Sassafras, Denner and Booker. Tasting fees vary widely, depending on the wine and size of the pour. But the net proceeds go to a charity organization focusing on clean drinking water projects in troubled areas.

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