



Family Winemakers of California

Helpful Hints Consumer guide to wine tastings

1. Pick up a tasting book so that you can see which wineries are there and what they are pouring. A tasting booklet is available online at www.familywinemakers.org, click on the Tasting tab and then click on the Tasting Book. You will not be able to see them all in the time allotted so plan your visits to the wineries you definitely want to see first. Then as time allows, go to your second choices and so on.
2. The wineries are listed in alphabetical order. The actual row where the alphabet begins varies each year so that wineries are given an opportunity to be in a different location. This makes it a little confusing as to where a winery is located but we do have winery maps and alphabet listings signs at the beginning of each row of tables.
3. Family Winemakers and its members support responsible wine consumption. Remember, if you taste and drink the 1 ounce pours, after 25 you will have consumed one bottle of wine. You do not need to drink the entire pour to taste the wine. Sip, swirl and spit (use a red cup). Use the buckets provided at each table to pour out the rest. You will not offend the winery – this is how you can taste many wines and still remain alert to the subtleties of each wine.
4. We have water and food available for you during the tasting. It is important to keep hydrated and eat while you are at the tasting.
5. We encourage you to purchase the wines you like from the wineries. They will take your order and ship them to you when they get back to the winery.
6. In the Tasting Book, use the “Notes” section below each winery name to list your comments concerning each wine tasted.
7. If you find a wine you like and are a social media participant, let others know through Twitter. Take photos and post them on your Facebook page.
8. The winery personnel are there for you. Ask questions and engage them to find out what makes their wines worth your money. Find out where it can be purchased at retail. If you want to visit the winery ask what are the best days to visit. The wineries are happy to tell you if they have a wine club you can join and if there any discounts for ordering at the tasting.
9. The wine glass is yours to keep as a commemorative of the tasting – one per person.