

FEATURED

Stags Leap District opens its doors for personal experiences

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Anne Ward Ernst, weekly calistogan

Adam Pappelbaum of Malk Family Vineyards offers a taste of wine to a V2V guest at last year's event.

Each year, member wineries of the Stags Leap District Winegrowers open their doors for one weekend to give visitors exclusive access to the wines, vineyards and people behind one of Napa Valley's iconic wine regions.

The weekend includes "backstage" access to vintner homes, historic wineries, private tour, barrel tasting, and food pairing.

"Vineyard to Vintner offers visitors a wine experience like no other," said Nancy Bialek, executive director of Stags Leap District Winegrowers. "It's a full weekend with library wine dinners, open houses and a vintner-hosted lunch. Guests have unparalleled vintner and winemaker access and can taste the world-renowned cabernets of this region in the most relaxed of settings. Cabernet fans look forward to this weekend, year after year."

This year's Vineyard to Vintner hosting wineries include Baldacci Family Vineyards, Chimney Rock Winery, Cliff Lede Vineyards, Clos Du Val, Ilesley Vineyards, Lindstrom Wines, Malk Family Vineyards, Odette Estate, Pine Ridge Vineyards, Quixote Winery, Regusci Winery, Shafer Vineyards, Silverado Vineyards, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, Stags' Leap Winery, Steltzner Vineyards, and Taylor Family Vineyards.

The Vineyard to Vintner weekend includes an exclusive vintner-hosted Library Wine Dinners on Friday, April 28, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in four distinct dinners prepared by a Napa Valley chef for 45 people each. Each co-hosting vintner (Cliff Lede Vineyards, Clos Du Val, Silverado Vineyards, and Stags Leap Winery) digs deep into their cellars to share their most cherished library wines for this food and wine experience.

On Saturday, April 29, the Back-Stage Open Houses from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. allow guests to spend the day with vintners and winemakers at their private homes and historic wineries and enjoy special access to wines and food not available to the general public.

A Vintner-hosted Lunch and Appellation Collection Tasting on Sunday, April 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. includes a farm-to-table buffet lunch. Set among the sprawling vineyards at Regusci Winery V2V guests also get the first "sneak peak" of the 2014 Stags Leap District

For tickets and more information go to Stagsleapdistrict.com/V2V.

Anne Ernst