

The West at its best

Think pink

The rosé spigot started flowing five years ago in the West, and since then, California's Central Coast has broken from the pack as the best wine region to drink pink. But that doesn't mean all rosés you find there are created equal. A great pink should be dry and crisp, with racy red fruit and refreshing citrus: Here are the wineries and restaurants that are getting it right.



Santa Barbara County

TASTE

Beckmen Vineyards » A light, airy tasting room full of yummy Rhône varieties. *Los Olivos*; tasting fee from \$10; beckmenvineyards.com

Longoria » Lush wines and art in one of the oldest buildings in town. *Los Olivos*; \$10 tasting fee; longoriawine.com

PAIR IT WITH FOOD

Root 246 » Über-chef Bradley Ogden's newest restaurant triumphs with deep-flavored, farm-fresh cooking. Slam-dunk rosé pairing: the "garden party salad" with goat-cheese croquettes. *Solvang*; \$\$\$\$; root-246.com



San Luis Obispo County

TASTE

L'Aventure » A metal shed where Stephan Asseo breaks the wine-making rules he left behind in France. *Paso Robles*; \$10 tasting fee; open Thu–Sun; aventurewine.com

Tablas Creek Vineyard » This winery leads the West in its use of Rhône grapes. Getting to its knoll-top tasting room and picnic patio is a schlep, but worth every gorgeous curve. *Paso Robles*; \$10 tasting fee; tablascreek.com

PAIR IT WITH FOOD

Thomas Hill Organics » Every dish here goes with rosé, but the barbecued pork-belly sandwich is made for pink. *Paso Robles*; \$\$\$; closed Tue; thomashillorganics.com



Pink picks Our favorite rosés from the Central Coast

- 1 | Beckmen Purisima Mountain Vineyard Grenache Rosé 2009 (*Santa Ynez Valley*; \$18). Zippy lime-spritzed red fruit.
- 2 | Buttonwood Syrah Rosé 2009 (*Santa Ynez Valley*; \$16). Spicy, tart cranberries.
- 3 | Halter Ranch Rosé 2009 (*Paso Robles*; \$14). Fresh cherries edged with bitter orange zest—think Campari.
- 4 | Hartley Ostini Hitching Post "Pinks" Dry Rosé 2009 (*Central Coast*; \$15). Hint of sweet with sour cherry and rhubarb.
- 5 | L'Aventure Rosé 2009 (*Paso Robles*; \$25). A medley of rose petals, spicy Rainier cherries, lime zest, and earth.
- 6 | Tablas Creek Rosé 2009 (*Paso Robles*; \$27). Bone-dry, rich, and spicy.
- 7 | Trenza Rosado 2009 (*San Luis Obispo County*; \$17). Bold, aromatic cherry, honeysuckle, and a touch of cinnamon.
- 8 | Zaca Mesa "Z Gris" 2009 (*Santa Ynez Valley*; \$16). Tart cherries, rose petals, and warm spices.