



## Fact Sheet for Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country

### LOCATION

Casual, picturesque, Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is situated within southwest Riverside County and conveniently located about one hour from San Diego, Orange County and Palm Springs, and 90 minutes from Los Angeles. Each visit to this genuine, inviting destination promises a wide variety of things to experience, enhanced by the sunny, relaxed spirit synonymous with Southern California.

### DESTINATION

Three attractions contribute to a wine-plus Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country experience: **Downtown Old Town Temecula**, **Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country**, and **Pechanga Resort & Casino** each have unique characteristics worthy of exploration where shopping, outdoor recreation, tasting, dining, and entertainment are the top things to do. Recognized by Wine Enthusiast Magazine as a 2019 10 Best Wine Travel Destination proves the world is taking notice of this lovely, authentic town located in the center of southern California, U.S.A.

### Downtown Old Town Temecula

With a backdrop of untouched hillsides that bloom with lilac in spring, dynamic Downtown Old Town Temecula is Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country's lively entertainment-dining-shopping district. The vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, hip and historic, 12-block neighborhood melds genuine appreciation for Temecula Valley's rich history with casual, contemporary Downtown Temecula style.

Visitors enjoy Old Town Temecula for its festive special events, lively nightlife, live entertainment, farm fresh dining options, welcoming wine and brewery tasting rooms, and unique, specialty shops. Historic buildings have been repurposed as restaurants, hotels, museums, and retail shops.

Local, artisan shops like Temecula Olive Oil Company garner an exceptional following for their quality products. Other made-in-Temecula products featured include Temecula Lavender Company and Old Town Spice & Tea Merchants.

### Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is a beautiful wine region of rolling hills with high mountains forming a dramatic backdrop. Nearly 50 wineries thrive in the diverse appellation that is gaining well-deserved recognition for its quality, premium varietal, and proprietary blended wines.

Visitors from around the world are attracted to Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country by its natural gifts of climate and geography, and they keep returning for the region's friendly wineries, great food, relaxed

and carefree atmosphere. With so many things to do, a three to five-night stay is recommended. Temecula Valley also makes a great hub to see everything in southern California since all major airports, attractions and cities are only about an hour away in each direction.

### **Pechanga Resort Casino**

Pechanga Resort Casino is a AAA Four Diamond resort and one of the largest casinos in the U.S. The spectacular Journey at Pechanga golf course garners highly desirable accolades from top golf publications and is recognized as one of the finest golf courses in California. Pechanga Resort Casino is also recognized as one of Southern California's premier live venues for concerts and entertainment. The property also features 13 restaurants, 4.5 pool complex, and a luxury spa.

### **GEOGRAPHY**

Just over the Coastal Mountain Range to the west of Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country, is the Pacific Ocean. At the valley's southwest corner are the hallmark Rainbow Gap and the Santa Margarita Gap, a dramatic canyon formed by the Santa Margarita River. The San Jacinto Mountains and Santa Rosa Mountains border the Valley on the east. To the southeast is Palomar Mountain.

Temecula Valley spans a 32-square mile (51 km) area. Elevations range from approximately 1,175 to 2,600 feet (358 to 792 meters). The region is distinguished by natural, rolling hills with a big, open sky overhead. In winter, the snow-capped peaks of Mount San Jacinto and Palomar Mountain, as well as Mount San Bernardino and Mount San Geronio to the north, semi-circle the valley's panoramic vistas.

### **CLIMATE AND AVERAGE TEMPERATURES**

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country enjoys welcoming weather year-round, often characterized as a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers, and cool winters with relatively low rainfall. Also significant is the valley's general weather pattern of morning mist, warm midday sun, cooling afternoon ocean breezes and cooler nights. This tempo of nature lends a pleasing, natural rhythm to any schedule for the day.

The dynamics of onshore-flow bring cool, gentle winds from the coast to Temecula Valley almost daily. The same dynamics also pull cool, moist, ocean air into the valley, most often in summer. These conditions combined help keep summer daytime temperatures lower and air quality better than that of surrounding Southern California areas.

#### **Average Temperatures**

<u>Season</u>	<u>Average Daytime High</u>	<u>Average Nighttime Low</u>
• <b><u>Spring</u></b> March, April, May	74° F / 23° C	49° F / 9° C
• <b><u>Summer</u></b> June, July, August	88° F / 31° C	60° F / 16° C
• <b><u>Autumn</u></b> September, October, November	82° F / 28° C	52° F / 11° C
• <b><u>Winter</u></b> December, January, February	68° F / 20° C	41° F / 5° C

Annual rainfall in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country averages 14 inches/356 millimeters.

## **HISTORY**

Temecula is a name derived from the area's largest, Native American ancestral village; it is said to mean "place of the sun." The first travelers to Temecula were Spanish explorers and Franciscan missionaries (1700s and early 1800s), followed by travelers who arrived via the southern Emigrant Trail (beginning in the 1820s), then by Butterfield Stage (1858) followed by the railroads (1882). The first, paved, two-lane road (ancestor of Highway 395) was built through Temecula in 1915.

From the 1800s until the 1960s, cattle were the backbone of the Temecula Valley economy and Temecula's Old West lifestyle flourished. The mid-1960s saw the purchase of more than 87,500 acres of ranch land, and the launch of a semi-urban, pastoral, master-planned community to be known as Rancho California.

In 1968 and 1969, the first of Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country pioneers had purchased acreage and planted their vineyards; and in 1974, the founding of Callaway Winery marked the beginning of winemaking in Temecula Valley. The area now boasts nearly 50 wineries with thousands of award-winning wines.

## **VITICULTURE**

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is a beautiful wine region of rolling hills with high mountains forming a dramatic backdrop. The 33,000-acre (13,355 hectare) Temecula Valley American Viticulture Area (AVA) is part of the larger, 115,200-acre (46,620 hectare) South Coast AVA, the largest AVA in Southern California. Within the Temecula Valley AVA, 5,185 acres (2,098 hectare) are protected in an agricultural preserve known as the Citrus/Vineyard zone. Within the CV zone, there are approximately 2,530 (1024) planted vineyard acres (hectare).

The region's vineyard plantings grow at elevations ranging from 1,400 to 2,500 feet (427 to 762 meters) above sea level. Soils are granitic, a light sandy loam, that is excellent for growing high-quality grapes. Grapevines thrive in these well-drained soils that also contribute to clean, pure, varietal wine flavors. The valley's unique microclimate makes for a general pattern of morning mist, warm midday sun, cooling afternoon breezes, and cooler nights. These weather factors combined with the perfect balance of geography and well-drained soils create an ideal environment for growing high-quality wine grapes.

Nearly 50 wineries comprise Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country, a significant and diverse wine region that is gaining well-deserved recognition for its quality, premium varietal and proprietary blended wines. A growing collection of thousands of national and international awards attests to the quality of Temecula Valley vintages.

## **VISITOR HIGHLIGHTS AND AMENITIES**

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country has a variety of activities encouraging visitors to stay at least three nights to experience everything the region has to offer. Each season brings new reasons to visit.

### **Major Events and Seasonal Fests**

- **Spring (March, April, May)**  
Chocolate Decadence & Wine Festival

- Temecula Blues Festival
- Sushi & Sake Festival
- Old Town Temecula Rod Run
- Reality Rally
- Craft Brew Month
- Temecula Valley Balloon & Wine Festival
- **Summer (June, July, August)**
  - Temecula Art & Street Painting Festival
  - Summer Solstice
  - Old Town Live
  - 4th of July Parade & Firework Spectacular
  - MicroBrew Festival & Chili Cook-off
- **Fall (September, October, November)**
  - Temecula Valley Wine Month
  - CRUSH Wine & Culinary Showcase
  - Old Town Temecula Outdoor Quilt Show
  - Ralph Love Plein Air Festival
  - Greek Festival
  - Peltzer Farms
  - Big Horse Feed Corn Maze & Harvest Festival
- **Winter (December)**
  - Temecula Chilled
  - Holiday Taste of Old Town
  - Three open air ice skating rinks
  - New Year's Eve Grape Drop
- **Winter January-February**
  - Annual Barrel Tasting Celebration
  - Valentine Romance

Plus: California-Certified Farmers Market every Saturday morning in Old Town, Tuesday morning at Vail Ranch Headquarters, and Wednesday morning at Promenade Temecula.

\*Please also see the Event Calendar at [VisitTemeculaValley.com](http://VisitTemeculaValley.com).

### **Outdoor Recreation and Adventures**

- Golfing on impressive, pristine courses with clubhouses, restaurants, and spectacular views.
- Hot air balloon sunrise flights over Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country.
- Horseback riding in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country.
- Strolling the Class 1 walking trails adjacent Old Town Front Street.
- Electric bicycling in Temecula Valley Wine Country and Old Town Temecula.
- Hiking within 9,000 acres of nature at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.
- Mountain biking on 25-acres of hilly terrain at Vail Lake.

## **Natural Treasures**

- The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve protects unique ecosystems like vernal pools—home to fairy shrimp, found nowhere else on earth. Small songbirds winter in the ancient Engelmann oak woodlands. In spring, the rare bunchgrass prairie hosts native wildflowers.
- The Santa Margarita River is one of the last free-flowing rivers in Southern California, and is widely recognized as an irreplaceable, scenic, ecological treasure. The Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve is located on the upper river. Sycamore, cottonwood, and willow forests are part of a 30-mile, protected, riparian corridor.
- Lake Skinner is nestled in the rolling hills on the edge of wine country. The expansive vistas invite relaxation and outdoor activities, which includes picnicking, family splash pad, hiking, horseback riding, sailing, and fishing.

## **LODGING**

For a full, robust experience, savvy visitors (first-timers and those who return again and again) realize it is much more fun and enjoyable to stay overnight in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country.

Arriving at any of the hotels, inns, resorts, bed and breakfasts and vacation rentals conveniently just off the I-15 freeway puts visitors minutes—even steps—from the most popular attractions. With guest rooms for every budget, visitors enjoy accommodations ranging from luxurious, AAA Four Diamond hospitality to clean, comfortable, friendly, and economical. The variety truly provides lodging for every occasion.

## **DINING**

Throughout Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country, talented chefs and restaurateurs abound. Dining opportunities range from contemporary, white tablecloth to open-air casual. In Downtown Old Town Temecula, independent restaurants, bistros, and coffee houses serve fresh, creative cuisine; classic and authentic-ethnic fare; and robust java. In Temecula Valley Wine Country, the pleasures of food and wine are enjoyed overlooking rolling hills and vineyards; 20 winery restaurants expertly pair premium, award-winning wines with uniquely inspired menus featuring seasonal foods. Pechanga Resort & Casino hosts 13 outstanding places to dine, including four gourmet restaurants.

## **SHOPPING**

Passionate and enthusiastic shoppers know that shopping in casual, picturesque, Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is always fun and familiar, and surprising and new. Retail experiences span from the distinctive, trendy stores and upscale specialty boutiques at Promenade Temecula to the lively and unique Downtown Old Town Temecula shopping experience; from the intriguing winery gift shops of Temecula Valley Wine Country and festive California Certified Farmers' Markets, to the merchandise of popular and widely recognized national retail stores throughout Temecula.

## **GETTING HERE AND AROUND**

### **Highways**

Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is located just off Interstate 15.

- From Orange County, Highway 55 (CA-55) north to Highway 91 (CA-91) east to I-15 south, about 1 hour.
- From Palm Desert, Highway 111 (CA-111) north to Highway 74 (CA-74) to Highway 79 (CA-79), about 1 hour.
- From San Diego, I-15 north, about 1 hour.

- From Los Angeles, Interstate 10 or Highway 60 (I-10 or CA-60) east to I-15 south, about 1 1/2 hours.
- From Pasadena, Interstate 210 (I-210) east to Highway 210 (CA-210) to I-15 south, about 1 1/2 hours.

### **Airports**

Primary airports served by commercial, domestic and international carriers include:

- LA/Ontario International Airport (ONT), about a 45-minute drive.
- John Wayne Airport (SNA), Orange County, about a 1-hour drive.
- Palm Springs International Airport (PSP), about a 1-hour drive.
- San Diego International Airport (SAN), about a 1-hour drive.
- Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), about a 1 1/2-hour drive.

### **Shuttles, Tours, and Transportation**

A variety of transportation companies offer transport solutions for groups and individual travelers to, from, and in Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country. One of the most popular, carefree ways to experience Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country is on a wine tasting tour via mini-coach, shuttle, limousine, or trolley. The tour companies will pick guests up from the hotels for a four to five-hour day of exploring wine country. Reservations are required.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

- Official website: [VisitTemeculaValley.com](http://VisitTemeculaValley.com)

Available online:

- Temecula Valley Visitor Guide
- Temecula Valley Meeting & Event Planning Guide
- Temecula Valley Event Calendar
- Temecula Valley Wine Country Map
- Visit Temecula Valley's Visitor Center  
Open Mondays—Saturdays in Old Town Temecula  
28690 Mercedes Street, Suite A, Temecula, CA 92590  
Adjacent the Old Town Temecula Parking Garage (parking is free)  
Telephone: 951-491-6085, 888-363-2852 (Toll Free)

### **JOIN US AND FOLLOW US**

- "Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country" on Facebook
- @Visit\_Temecula on Twitter
- @visittemecula on Instagram

### **CONTACT US**

Visit Temecula Valley

28690 Mercedes Street, Suite A, Temecula, CA 92590

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Please note: Information is believed to be accurate but may be subject to change.