

# FOOD & WINE

OCTOBER 2007

## wine made simple

*napa*

*by paul franson*

rules  
tasting

### Napa and Sonoma's Best Winery Tours

Reservation-only tours at wineries in Napa and Sonoma offer ample rewards for type-A travelers who make an appointment ahead of time: unique experiences like visits to historic caves, sit-down lunches and up-close-and-personal visits with winemakers.

#### Ladera Vineyards

Ladera is known for its hillside estate Cabernet Sauvignon from the top of Howell Mountain and from Mount Veeder at the other end of Napa Valley. Tours of the historic 1886 stone winery are led by owners Pat and Dan Stotesbery or other family members. Tastings include wines that are sold only on-site. If you arrange in advance, the Stotesberys will lead a tour of their prized Lone Canyon Vineyard on Mount Veeder, followed by lunch and a tasting of Ladera wines.

#### MUST-BUY BOTTLES

The appellation-designate Cabernets--fruity 2004 Howell Mountain (\$70) and the intense 2003 Mount Veeder's Lone Canyon (\$65).

**DETAILS** Regular tours free; Lone Canyon Vineyard tours \$50 per person (four-person minimum). 150 White Cottage Rd. S., Angwin; 707-965-2445 or [laderavineyards.com](http://laderavineyards.com)



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*(and their bargain twins)*