

Del Dotto Vineyards Has it All

It is unusual for one winery to be able to offer the best of wines, tours, pairings, architecture, food and education, but Del Dotto puts it all together.

By Monty & Sara Preiser • Photography Courtesy of Del Dotto Vineyards



FOR MOST FOLKS, THE WORDS “WINE country” conjure up visions of an idyllic location in the shadows of some of the most spectacular scenery on earth, while dreams of world renowned wineries and the finest of dining abound. Fortunately, the Napa Valley realistically provides all of the above, though without proper planning and reservations an anticipated trip can become a glaring disappointment.

So let us help you begin your journey by taking you to a winery that offers its visitors a little bit of everything – a magnificent structure, wines crafted by masters from the finest of vineyards, educational tours and tastings that go beyond the norm, and the opportunity to experience a wine/food pairing that has no equal in Napa.

Del Dotto Vineyards was founded 20 years ago by, and is still operated by, the

family – David, Yolanda, and the next generation Desiree and Giovanni. In consultation with winemakers Gerard Zanzonico and Robbie Meyer, the Del Dottos have spent these last two decades acquiring vineyards from the most sought after regions of Napa and Sonoma (such as Rutherford, Fort Ross-Seaview, Pritchard Hill, Oakville, and Howell Mountain) in the family’s efforts to produce small lot luxury wines. These writers are here



Opposite Page: Estate Winery building and breathtaking grounds located in the beautiful Napa Valley.

This Page Clockwise from Left: Great wall and fireplace at the Estate Winery; Tasting bar and main room where guest can sample a glass of the Del Dotto’s premium wines; Constructed of Italian marble, the Estate Caves are a spectacular sight.

to assure you that the endeavor has been more successful than the Del Dottos could have conceived.

Actually, there are two wineries (with another to open soon) – one in Napa and one in St. Helena. The former, crowned the “Historic Winery and Caves,” was the first to open in an old Ghost Winery where the caves still look as they must have 100 years ago. It was here that Dave began his now noted experimentation with barrels from various forests world-wide. He would routinely place a finished (except for aging) wine in different barrels so that the sole differentiating factor among the product when it was finished would be tastes imparted by the barrel. And it was here that Dave formulated his educational plan to allow visitors to sample and learn about the differences.

As with all successfully ambitious people, Dave and Yolanda wanted to expand and improve, and so as the children reached the age to become seriously involved, the Del Dottos opened their Italian influenced “Venetian Estate Winery and Caves” in St. Helena. Using natural marble handcrafted into ornate, graceful patterns, this is a cathedral like structure that pays homage to the twelfth century. The caves are lined with marble while ancient tiles depict the history

of wine. The barrels within the caves are filled with Del Dotto small lot, high scoring wines just waiting to be sampled by visitors.

Finally, a Napa “must do” – “Delicacies by Del Dotto.” If you choose this experience, following a tour and tasting in the caves you will be treated to a sit down pairing of five large “bites” beautifully paired by master

chef (late of the French Laundry) Joshua Schwartz. From Maine lobster rolls to truffle sliders, we cannot praise this experience enough. □

Considering wine country? Del Dotto is indeed one of your best dreams.
www.deldottovineyards.com

