

# San Francisco Chronicle

TOP 25

## WINERIES

FALL 2022: BEST BAY AREA WINERIES TO VISIT



### Merry Edwards Winery

2959 Gravenstein Hwy. N., Sebastopol

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#### A Russian River Valley stalwart for Pinot Noir.

Merry Edwards has long been synonymous with a certain brand of poised, generous Russian River Valley Pinot Noir, and it continues to earn that reputation even after the departure of its longtime owner and winemaker, Merry Edwards herself. Since 2019, the winery has been owned by the French Champagne company Louis Roederer, but little about the tasting experience or the wines themselves has changed. (Before retiring, Edwards trained a successor, winemaker Heidi von der Mehden.) Tastings are held in an outdoor patio surrounded by fragrant fruit trees, which provide welcome shade on sunny Sebastopol days. You'll try a range of Pinot Noirs, including one from the Coopersmith Vineyard, which is just a few yards away from where you'll be sitting. Unlike many of the wineries in the area, which tend to focus their white-wine energy on Chardonnay, the real white wine star at Merry Edwards is Sauvignon Blanc. Fashioned as a creamy, rich, layered wine, it's a delicious contrast to the more commonly sharp and herbal versions.

**Tasting fee:** \$25

**Phone:** 888-388-9050

**Website:** [merryedwards.com](https://merryedwards.com)

[Chronicle coverage of this winery](#)

