



BEHIND THE CELLAR DOOR

MARCH 7-8, 2020
IN AMADOR WINE COUNTRY



**43 WINERIES ACROSS
AMADOR WINE COUNTRY**

**SEMINARS / LIBRARY SELECTIONS
BARREL TASTINGS / FOOD PAIRINGS
VINEYARD TOURS / LIVE MUSIC**



TICKETS
& INFO

BCDAMADOR.COM



The tasting room at Andis Wines bustles with activity.

PHOTO BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

A rising star in Amador

Andis Wines rocks
near Plymouth

Wine-tasting is married to the California lifestyle, of course, but let's remember there's a closer, far less crowded destination for sips than Napa and Sonoma. This nearby wine country is less commercialized and less expensive as well, and no reservations required.

That would be the Sierra Foothills American Viticultural Area (AVA), inclusive of eight counties and more than 100 wineries — a prime destination for discovery.

Take for instance Andis Wines along Shenandoah Road near Plymouth in Amador County. It's a model of green practices and sleek design that opened in 2010. Outside, a 30-foot-high steel wall bears 1,000 barrel staves engraved with the names of its wine-club members. Inside, the art-filled public tasting room overlooks serene hills and vineyards, and a picnic area where Adirondack chairs underneath wide umbrellas invite guests to stay awhile.

The latest feature is the private event facility, with wall-to-wall sliding glass doors that bring the outdoors in. "It's for all kinds of functions, and our private tasting room can be booked in conjunction," said Andis founder/co-owner Andy Friedlander.

Andis grows grapes on only 25 acres, but produces about 8,500 cases a year by sourcing fruit from a few other select Amador County vineyards.

Still, its wines are sold in 27 states and retail locally at Corti Bros. Market. They appear on the wine lists of some of Sacramento's premiere restaurants, including Waterboy, Allora, Biba and the Firehouse.

"Our style of winemaking has always been varietal correctness and sense of place," said national sales manager/partner Lorenzo Muslia. Among the varietals are barbera, cabernet franc, grenache and four zinfandels. Its premier white is 100 percent semillion, an honored outlier.

Do look for the schioppettino, a rarely seen Italian red that was saved from extinction in the 1970s.

Andis has taken its share of awards at prestigious competitions, and got a bonus in February when Wine Business Monthly included it on its list of Top 10 Hot Brands. In 2018, renowned master sommelier Peter Neptune included Andis' semillion on his list of "Hidden Gems," an informed pick of 10 top wines from around the world.

Flights: Taste up to seven first-tier wines for \$5, refundable with purchase of a bottle. Taste four reserve wines for \$10, nonrefundable. Tasting room: 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

Andis Wines, 11000 Shenandoah Road, Plymouth; 209-245-6177, www.andiswines.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Amador Wine Country: Behind the Cellar Door, March 7-8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.: Tastings, food pairings, seminars and rare vintages at 43 wineries. Details and tickets: www.amadorwine.com

Spring into Zin: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. April 18: Taste a variety of zinfandels at nine wineries. Details and tickets: www.startonsteiner.com

Placer Wine Trail: Sip Into Spring, noon-5 p.m., March 21-22: Meet winemakers, tour budding vineyards and sample limited-production wines at 20 wineries. Details and tickets: www.placerwine.com