



VALLE DE GUADALUPE MEXICO'S WINE COUNTRY



The word is getting out that the *Guadalupe Valley* may be the best kept secret amongst local wine enthusiasts and foodies. For now, it remains an under-the-radar destination.

- Just 90 minutes south of the border, Baja's wine country offers a combination of boutique wineries, gourmet restaurants, and smart bed and breakfast style lodging, in a quiet, rustic environment. Here, visitors will feel more like they've travelled off the beaten path to southern Italy, than Mexico. With roughly 60 wineries in the vicinity, French educated enologists are committed to making quality wines in wineries that are full of character, and architecturally unique.

- **Half the size of Napa Valley**, the wine growing region is approximately 15 miles long by 5 miles wide and lies roughly 10 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, extending Northeast of the port city of Ensenada along Highway 3.

With a coastal Mediterranean climate ideal for grape growing, and its fertile soil, several relatively new artisanal wineries are determined to make their mark in the world of wine.

- Vineyards were first planted in the valley in 1834, but the high quality wine industry only began to develop after 1987. The industry has grown significantly since 2004, when winemaker **Hugo D'Acosta** created a winemaking school in the valley nicknamed *La Escuelita*, "The Little School" which has since sparked the creation of over a dozen wineries by individuals who were trained there.

- According to the Mexican Winemakers Council, volumes have doubled since 2000 to about 18 million gallons and values have tripled. That ranks the valley's wine production above Slovenia's, the Czech Republic's or Israel's, but represents a small fraction of the volumes produced by top world producers such as France, Italy, the U.S., or Spain.

QUICK FACTS:

- **Distance from Orange County:** 3 ½ hours by car.
- **Best known for its unique food & wine scene.**
- **Wines price range:** \$7-120 per bottle.
- **Accommodations:** \$100-\$240 per night.
- **Visit the Farmers Market at Mogor Badan. Sat. 9am-12pm**
- **Factsheet last updated on May 22, 2015**

WINERIES: Winery visits are typically a much more personalized experience than in wine growing areas in California because they are less crowded. In many cases, the owner will conduct the wine tasting and may give a personal tour of the property. Contact each winery in advance to make a reservation.

- **Large Wineries:** L.A. Cetto, Santo Tomás.
- **Medium Sized Wineries:** Monte Xanic, Chateau Camou.
- **Some Boutique Wineries (small production):** Paralelo, Viñas de Garza, Las Nubes, Vinisterra, Hacienda la Lomita, Torres Alegre, Viñas Pijoan, Alximia.

WHERE TO EAT:

- **Deckman's** is a foodie's delight and a treat for the senses. Chef Drew Deckman is known for his award winning cuisine which earned him a Michelin star in Europe. He uses exclusively local organic ingredients. His outdoor restaurant in the middle of the Mogor Badan vineyards is a must.
- At **Finca Altozano**, Chef Javier Plascencia uses local ingredients and a wood fired oven to create mouthwatering Mexican and BajaMed dishes.

OTHER RESTAURANTS IN NEARBY ENSENADA: Muelle 3 and Manzanilla

WHERE TO STAY-BOUTIQUE B&BS:

- Hacienda Guadalupe, Encuentro Guadalupe, La Villa del Valle, Adobe Guadalupe, Hotel Coral & Marina

TRAVEL TIPS:

The newly inaugurated border crossing facility at San Ysidro has reduced wait times from over 2 hours to approximately 30 minutes in regular lanes. Keep in mind that your car insurance policy will not cover you during your visit to Mexico. Check with your insurance company or online to purchase the appropriate insurance.

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