



[Home](#) / [Articles](#) / [Clubs, Bars, Party Scene](#) / Sip & Savor: Best San Diego Wine Bars

## Sip & Savor: Best San Diego Wine Bars

Posted on 10/25/2010 By: [Ryan Eisenacher](#)



*"The discovery of wine is of greater moment than the discovery of a constellation. The universe is too full of stars" ~ Benjamin Franklin*

From funky and cozy wine bars to Temecula's massively renowned vineyards, it seems that this luscious spirit is always stealing the spotlight in San Diego. Over the years, we locals have watched as new establishments have popped all over the county, switching up the vibe of typical San Diego wine bars from years past.

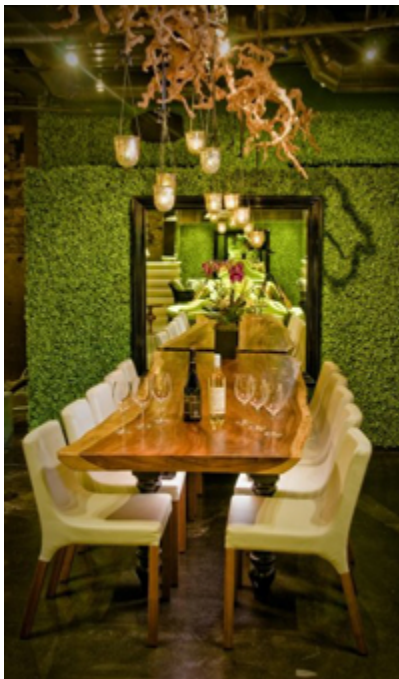
From the magical subterranean world of Syrah in Gaslamp and the elegant Red Velvet in Little Italy, to the new, homey Rose Wine Pub in South Park and the classic 3rd Corner in Ocean Beach, there is never a shortage of great spots to grab a glass of vino in San Diego.

*Discover a few of our favorite San Diego wine bars.*

### [Red Velvet](#)

Red Velvet's team of wine connoisseurs has meticulously selected unique and elegant wines that showcase varietals in their truest form. With 35 by-the-glass selections that emphasize small

production, classic, terroir driven wines, there is sure to be something to satisfy every palate. A constantly expanding bottle list offers a worldly variety hard-to-find wines at all price points which will provide patrons with an experience unlike any other. Red Velvet's by-the-glass program also includes older vintage, rare, and top-tier wines from around the globe and their half-glass option encourages you to easily taste and experiment as well as pair wines with Chef Luke Johnson's distinguished cuisine. Red Velvet features an ever-changing menu of seasonal, small plates that are made to pair with the diverse wine list. Chef Luke prepares a cuvée of organic and locally based produce to create fresh and balanced dishes in a contemporary American style that may be enjoyed a-la-carte or in a personalized tasting menu. For more information, please visit [Red Velvet in Little Italy](#).



### [Syrah Wine Parlor](#)

Inspired by the eclectic lounges of New York's "meat packing district" and the warm brasseries of turn of the century Paris, the Alice In Wonderland-inspired Syrah Wine Parlor is a breath of fresh air in the downtown San Diego nightlife scene. The subterranean yet organic space pays respect to the old but embraces the new world with a contemporary style all its own and is complemented by amazing cheeses, unique beer and of course, an array of beautiful wines by the glass. Sip on a racy red wine, a wild white varietal or a classic red Bordeaux while you listen to the unique beats of San Diego's most eclectic DJs or the soothing rhythms of live jazz. Syrah provides an all-encompassing ambiance that unlike any other wine bar and every Friday from 8pm-9pm, Syrah's resident sommelier hosts a special wine tasting at their 12 foot, candle lit tasting table where each unique wine is paired with a hand crafted canapé from the charcuterie station. Score a deal on drinks when you head in during Happy Hour every Tuesday through Sunday from 4-8pm for \$3 drafts, \$4 wells, \$5 wine and sangria and \$10 wine flights.

For more information, please visit [Syrah Wine Parlor in San Diego](#).

### [East Village Wine Steals](#)

East Village Wine Steals brings a refreshing vibrancy to the downtown nightlife scene to life through colorful windowpanes, European bar settings, and casual lounge seating. With three other locations in San Diego including Hillcrest, Point Loma and Cardiff, the fourth location in East Village opened earlier this year and instantly became a local hotspot. Wine Steals East Village is a two-story wine bar and lounge with an incredible location at PETCO Park. Oenophiles and casual admirers alike will enjoy the unpretentious East Village Wine Steals as the knowledgeable staff is always readily available to help you customize a flight of wines and cheeses to match, pick out a glass to sip on, or help you choose the perfect bottle of wine. Nibble on thin crust pizzas like the Margherita or Veggie; sample the yummy cheese boards with Brie,

Blue, Gouda, Havarti and Swiss or indulge in some seriously sinful chocolates. Weekly specials at Wine Steals East Village also include: \$5 Tuesday tastings 5:30-7:00pm; no corkage Mondays with \$2 slices of pizza; \$10 Saturday tastings from 4pm-6:30pm and half-off wine flights Sundays. For more information, please visit [East Village Wine Steals](#).

### **Mosaic Wine Bar**

Nestled on the bustling 30th block in the North Park neighborhood, Mosaic Wine Bar boasts a casual and eclectic environment that celebrates an array of the world's most distinctive wines. Dark colors, creative lighting and a long, lively bar give this humble venue a distinctly urban and upscale ambience. Mosaic is a place where you can sit back and unwind, enrich your life with culture and converse about your love and appreciation for wine. Patrons will find a myriad of varietals that are offered both by the glass and by the bottle, to be enjoyed in house with friends or at home during a special occasion. *Hungry?* Pair your pinot with a gourmet pizza topped with sun-dried tomatoes, goat cheese, roasted pine nuts and fresh basil; nibble on a tasty flatbread with brie, pear, arugula and honey; share a charcuterie board with a selection of cured dried meats, sausages and demi baguettes; or savor a Baked Brie puff pastry with aged mango chutney and roasted walnuts. To top it off, Mosaic hosts a daily Happy Hour from 4-7pm that includes \$4 selected glasses of wines, \$2 off bottled beers, \$3 for premium draft beers and \$5 off all pizzas and flatbreads. For more information, please visit [Mosaic Wine Bar in North Park](#).

### **Ivy Wine Bar Ultra Lounge**

For a more relaxing experience, oenophiles can cozy into Ivy Wine Bar Ultra Lounge at Andaz Hotel and peruse 88 unique wines by the glass by-the-glass alongside a pairing menu designed by Executive Chef Nathan Coulon. The Ultra Lounge and Wine Bar gives guests the opportunity to taste wines ranging from highly sought-after "cult" wines to tried-and-true, in Taste (1.5 oz.), Half (4 oz.) and Full (6 oz.) glasses from Ivy's 20 high-tech and interactive WineStations. Each of the WineStations can be used with a touch of a button and swiping a SmartCard, or a pre-loaded debit card in the amount a customer chooses, which can be purchased from staff members at the Ivy Ultra Lounge and Wine Bar. Take a journey around the world of wines at Ivy's wine tasting and pairing events which include the Five-for-Five promotion from 5pm-8pm Monday through Friday which highlights five wine tastings for \$5. For more information, please visit [Ivy Wine Bar in San Diego](#).



### **The Rose Wine Pub**

The recently opened Rose Wine Pub in South Park is a humble and elegant venue. Funky chairs and eclectic décor pair perfectly with the venue's dark oak tables, crisp leather bar stools and multi-colored hardwood floors, creating a homey, feel-good ambience. The Rose's wine list has been carefully selected through many tastings and discussions, incorporating palates and opinions of varied levels of wine lovers. The Rose is centered on

the belief that a variety of small production wines from around the world are a necessity to keep in the store so that each of customers can try something new at a reasonable cost. Accompanying the generous selection of boutique wines are savory bites including handmade pizzas, freshly sliced paninis, salads, charcuterie, and artisan cheese boards. For more information, please visit the [Rose Wine Pub in South Park](#).

### **3rd Corner**

With two convenient locations in San Diego in the North County coastal community of Encinitas and in the bustling neighborhood of Ocean Beach, 3rd Corner is the one stop shop for all your vino needs. 3rd Corner houses dozens of wine racks all for your perusing pleasure and a sommelier is always on hand to help pick the perfect wine for your taste and budget. After you browse the many wine racks and make your selection, bring the bottle to your table and a 3rd Corner servers will cork it for you for only \$5. For customers who can't decide on a single bottle, there are also plenty of wines by the glass from Chardonnay and Riesling to Malbec, Syrah and Cabernet blends. In addition to the bountiful wine selection, 3rd Corner's menu offers a wide variety of delectable choices for the most discerning palate. Nosh on a selection of cheeses including Baked Humboldt Fog Goat Cheese and Baked Brie Puff Pastries; small bites such as the Smoked Salmon Plate with toasted brioche, capers, pickled onion, cornichons and crème fraiche or the Seafood Medley served with sautéed calamari, shrimp, scallops and mussels in an herb and garlic tomato sauce; or heartier pasta and meat dishes such as Black Truffle Risotto, Beef Short Ribs or Duck Confit. For more information, please visit [3rd Corner in Encinitas](#).

### **Wet Stone Winebar & Café**

The quaint Wet Stone Winebar and Café in Banker's Hill offers patrons a unique selection of scrumptious small bites and generous glasses in a contemporary urban environment. The venue boasts an elemental design comprised of raw concrete floors, metal accents, knotted natural woods and tropical plant life paired with soundtracks of smooth samba, traditional tango, eclectic electronic beats or some old-school jazz. Wet Stone serves up a copious selection of stateside and global wines, several unique boutique brews, and their infamous Sangria by the glass or carafe. Whether you choose a well-structured red or an austere white, pair your beverage with delicious bites such as the Braised Pork Belly Crostinis with fennel slaw and pickled red onions; Mac & Cheese with Italian prosciutto, Spanish chorizo, Bilbao and wilted greens; the Quesadilla Do Guayaba with three mixed cheeses and guava paste garnished with charred scallion; or the Curried Tiger Shrimp Skewers with toasted cumin, white wine and garlic marinated with aji Amarillo aioli. For more information, please visit [Wet Stone Winebar in Banker's Hill](#).

### **Sogno di Vino**

Situated in the heart of Little Italy, Sogno Divino screams authenticity from the moment you wander into the rustic Mediterranean style restaurant and wine bar - but we recommend you hang out on the street-side outdoor patio. Enjoy luscious libation including refreshing white blends

from Italy and France or rich, full-bodied reds from Spain and Australia. Pair your wine with a dish from the extensive Italian appetizer menu. Try a celestial salad such as the Strawberries & Brie or the Belgium Endive and Celery, or nosh on the Crostini and Olive plate or the spinach and gorgonzola stuffed mushrooms with marinated red & yellow peppers drizzled with aged balsamic vinegar. Sogno di Vino also has specialty items available for purchase including cold pressed olive oil from Sardinia, Miele Amaro, Fregula and Balsamic Vinegar Chianti Classico. For more information, please visit [Sogno di Vino in Little Italy](#).

### **Splash Wine Lounge**

Splash is committed to providing a comfortable environment for people to learn about and discover the pleasures of wine. Splash brings people together for the love of wine, conversation, friendships and enjoyment of life, doing so with supreme customer service and quality products. Splash serves 72 different wines from self dispensing wine machines that consistently change on a regular basis. When you visit this laidback lounge, you simply purchase a debit card, insert the card in a wine station slot of your choice, align your glass, push the button and voila! You'll instantly receive a 1-ounce "splash" of vino. After you make your beverage selection, peruse the menu and pick out a the gourmet Spring Splash flatbread pizza with pesto, mozzarella, tomatoes, topped with fresh basil, feta, pepper and balsamic reduction; a Goat Cheese Boat topped with olive oil, pesto and sundried tomatoes; or Spinach Salad with balsamic, bread and herb crusted goat cheese atop a bed of leafy green spinach. Splash boasts a daily Happy Hour Monday through Saturday from 4pm-6pm and all day on Sundays, 1/2 price wine every Tuesday night and \$3 menu items all night on Wednesdays. For more information, please visit [Splash Wine Lounge in North Park](#).