

# PASO ROBLES WINE COUNTRY



Paso Robles Wine Country is ideally located along California's Central Coast. Situated ten minutes inland over the Santa Lucia Mountains, the region provides optimum growing conditions with warm days and cool nights for growing nearly 26,000 vineyard acres. Benefiting from the state's largest diurnal temperature swing, grapes fully ripen with balanced sugar and acid flavors. The region's vineyards are located throughout the 24-square mile territory, taking advantage of the various microclimates to produce more than 40 different wine varieties. The Paso Robles and York Mountain American Viticulture Areas (AVA) were established in 1983 as recognized and defined by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). For more information about Paso Robles Wine Country visit [pasowine.com](http://pasowine.com).

distinct. different.  
**PASO ROBLES**  
[pasowine.com](http://pasowine.com)



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# Paso Robles Wine Region: Quick Facts

- ▶ Paso Robles is California's fastest growing wine region and largest geographic appellation, the 24 square mile territory encompasses more than 26,000 vineyard acres and nearly 170 wineries.
- ▶ Cabernet Sauvignon is the most widely planted varietal, but the AVA is also an important area for Rhone varietal grapes. The Central Coast chapter of the Rhone Rangers is located in Paso Robles.
- ▶ The Paso Robles wine region is in the center of California's Central Coast, halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles on U.S. Highway 101.
- ▶ Paso Robles was named for its local oak trees, El Paso de Robles: The Pass of the Oaks. The name was shortened to Paso Robles when California gained its independence from Mexico in 1850.
- ▶ Wine grapes were introduced in 1797 by the Franciscan missionaries at the Mission San Miguel Arcangel. They produced sacramental wine and made brandy for export.
- ▶ European immigrant farmers began to arrive in the 1860s, following California's independence. They revived the old mission vineyards and began new vineyard plantings of their own.
- ▶ The Paso Robles American Viticultural Area (AVA) was established in 1983, and expanded in 1997.
- ▶ The Paso Robles AVA's western boundary is just six miles from the Pacific Ocean. The major geographical features are the Santa Lucia Range, the Salinas River Valley and the Templeton Gap.
- ▶ The City of Paso Robles is 740 feet above sea level. Vineyards east of the Salinas River range from 700 to 1,000 feet in elevation while those to the west range from 850 to 2,000 feet.
- ▶ More than 45 soil series are found in the Paso Robles AVA. These are primarily bedrock derived soils. Soil diversity is the norm and a vineyard block commonly contains several soil types.
- ▶ The Paso Robles AVA has a predominance of calcareous soils. The high pH values of 7.4 to 8.6 associated with those soils are not typical of California's other viticultural areas.
- ▶ Paso Robles has the largest diurnal temperature change in California. By midafternoon cooling marine air begins to flow east through the Templeton Gap and south along the Salinas River.
- ▶ The summer growing season is characterized by warm, clear days, generally without clouds, fog or severe winds.
- ▶ Summer growing season daytime high temperatures fall between 85 and 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Nighttime low temperatures drop by 40 to 50 degrees. The fall grape harvest season is typically rain-free and warm. The first rainfall in November is about two weeks later than Napa or Sonoma, and a month later than Mendocino.
- ▶ Annual rainfall ranges from 8 to 45 inches, driest in the eastern extremes of the appellation, and wettest on the far western ridges. The heaviest rainfall months are January through March.
- ▶ Winter temperatures tend to dip into the low twenties in the cooler regions, with most vineyards becoming fully dormant by mid-December. Frost is also a potential threat through mid-May.

*Clayhouse*  
W I N E S

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