

Navigating the Wine Country In Style

by Stevie Ann Rinehart

Nearly 500 wineries – and counting – pepper the adjacent Napa and Sonoma counties, each offering something unique for visitors to enjoy – from tasting selections to tours to scenery and so on. With so many to choose from, how do you decide on which wineries to visit? How do you navigate your way amidst the winding roads and unmarked driveways to find them? Without careful planning, you could easily spend more time driving than truly experiencing what you came to Wine Country for. (And we all know that wine does not pair well with driving.)

Cristal Blue Carriage could be just the answer. Billing itself as “boutique transport to boutique wineries,” this limousine or “carriage” service takes over the planning – and the driving – for those of you who want to savor what California Wine Country has to offer.

But Cristal Blue Carriage is not your typical limousine company. And owners Bill Kane and Chris Rodriguez are not your typical drivers. They have developed true relationships – friendships, really – with many of the winery staffs as well as with some of the winery owners. They have dined at many of the restaurants in the area so they can make informed recommendations that will tempt your palate. And they pride themselves on exemplary service, which includes everything from opening all doors for you (you’ll be gently reprimanded if you even think about touching the carriage doors) to introducing you to tasting room staff who are already expecting you. Bill and Chris not only help create your Wine Country experience, they become a welcome part of it.

After all, the “boys in blue” of Cristal Blue Carriage say that much of what they introduce to you is what they themselves have experienced when visiting Napa and Sonoma wineries over the years. But they don’t take you just anywhere. Bill and Chris find out what types of wines you enjoy and what you are most interested in experiencing while in Wine Country. They then customize an itinerary that can include specially arranged tastings and tours, meetings with wine-makers, stops at scenic vineyards and visits to must-see hot spots around the region. And, all escorted in comfort and style in one of Cristal Blue Carriage’s distinctive blue carriages.

On top of all of that, Bill and Chris always want to ensure that your experience at each destination meets your – and their – standards. After all, it’s the collective experience of everything you do and see with Cristal Blue Carriage that you’ll never forget, that will become part of your memories of Wine Country.

Cristal Blue Carriage specializes in tours of Napa and Sonoma Wine Country. Bill and Chris can be reached at (925) 459-TOUR (8687) or through their website at www.CristalBlueCarriage.com.

HALL



HALL is a Napa Valley winery committed first and foremost to crafting inspired, ultra-premium wines focused on classic Bordeaux grape varietals



Craig and Kathryn Hall warmly invite you to visit their tasting room to sample these new and exciting wines, picnic in the winery courtyard arbor and enjoy original modern art from the Halls’ personal collection.



HALL is open to the public from 10:00 until 5:30 daily
Private tours are also available by appointment
Please call 707.967.2620 for reservations



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