

# Southeast Arizona Wine Country

From [GVnews.com](http://GVnews.com) "Inside Green Valley Sahuarita" and [www.discoversouthernaz.com](http://www.discoversouthernaz.com)

## A Sip of Southeastern Arizona Wine Country



Prior to the early 1970s, few people would have guessed that wine grapes could be grown successfully in this region. But Gordon Dutt, a retired soil scientist from the University of Arizona, proved it could be done. Dutt experimented with growing wine grapes near Elgin in 1973. He showed that the area's soil and climate were right for growing wine grapes, and went on to found Sonoita Vine yards, Arizona's oldest commercial vineyard, in 1979.

Over the years, vineyards have been established across northeastern Santa Cruz County. All of them welcome visitors to their tasting rooms, and wine lovers should plan on spending the better part of a day, or even a weekend, to tour them.

Many of the local wineries sell only at their tasting room. Others have limited distribution in Arizona. Check each winery's website for location and a listing of wines available.

**AZ Hops and Vines Winery** is a cheeky little winery in Southern Arizona whose mission is to bring the best wines to nice people, to create the nicest place to hang out in the Southwest, and have a great time doing it! This family farm is a fun, warm place for families and wine aficionados alike. Come in and enjoy the patio, tell some stories, and explore the wonders of a winery that has free Cheetos and live events.  
**3450 Highway 82, Sonoita 301-237-6556**  
[www.azhopsandvines.com](http://www.azhopsandvines.com)

**Autumn Sage Vineyards** has acres of 8,300 Sagrantino, Albariño, Counoise, Cabernet Franc, Aglianico, and Sangiovese grape vines. The Tasting Room offers a unique tasting experience. Situated next to the vine-

yard, it has comfortable handicap accessible indoor and outdoor seating. Autumn Park boasts a classic gazebo and dock overlooking a fishing pond.

**90 Elgin Rd. 602-904-2120 [autumnsage.com](http://autumnsage.com)**

**Callaghan Vineyards** produces rich, complex red and white wines with Spanish and Mediterranean varietals. Founded in 1990, it has been honored by having its wines served three times at the White House. In 2006, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano designated Callaghan Vineyards one of Arizona's treasures.

**336 Elgin Road, Elgin 520-455-5322**  
[callaghanvineyards.com](http://callaghanvineyards.com)

**Dos Cabezas WineWorks** has been producing wines in Arizona since 1995. Its wines have been enjoyed at the White House, earned critical acclaim and grabbed international attention.

**3248 Highway 82, Sonoita 520-455-5141**  
[doscabezas.com](http://doscabezas.com)

**Hannah's Hill Vineyard** strives to be local and sustainable. Owners Ann and Jim Gardner encourage visitors to become involved in all the activities in the vineyard and winery, including planting, pruning, harvesting and bottling. The vineyard specializes in red and white Rhone varietals.

**3989 Highway 82, Sonoita. 520-456-9000 3989**  
[hannahshill.com](http://hannahshill.com)

**Deep Sky Vineyard** reflects the passion of owners Kim and Philip Asmundson, who established vineyards in Willcox and in Argentina before planting 10 acres of grapes, including Malbec and Rhone varieties, and opening their newest tasting room in Elgin.

**124 Elgin Road, Elgin 520-490-6170**  
[deepskyvineyard.com](http://deepskyvineyard.com)



**Elgin Winery and Distillery** specializes in making wines from grapes grown in Arizona and has been producing wines since the post-prohibition resurgence in winemaking in the Sonoran Desert. It also is now home to an awarded distillery.  
**471-473 Elgin Road 520-455-9309**  
**[ElginWines.com](http://ElginWines.com)**

**Flying Leap Vineyard and Winery** was established in 2010 and farms wine grapes on two large vineyards in Santa Cruz and Cochise counties. It produces ultra-premium, hand crafted wines.  
**342 Elgin Road, Elgin 888-431-5777**  
**[flyingleapvineyards.com](http://flyingleapvineyards.com)**

**Lightning Ridge Cellars**, established in 2005, offers wines based on the owner's Italian heritage, including estate wines made from Italian varietals: Sangiovese, Montepulciano, Zinfandel, Cabernet and Aglianico.  
**2368 Highway 83 (Vaughn Loop road), Elgin, AZ 520-455-5383**  
**[lightningridgecellars.com](http://lightningridgecellars.com)**

**Los Milics Vineyards** is the new kid in town. Pavle Milic and his wife, Carla, co-own this 20-acre property on Mustang Mountains, 12 of which are planted. An additional 13.5 acres of wine grapes are planted at their property in Elfrida, called Jenny's Vineyard. Their wines include Monastrell, Tempranillo and Graciano.  
**423 Upper Elgin Road near Highway 82**  
**520-221-0180 [losmilicsvineyards.com/](http://losmilicsvineyards.com/) Rancho**

**The Meading Room** is operated by a mother/daughter duo who realized that Sonoita, full of wineries, brewer ies, and distilleries, was missing one thing (well, actually three): mead, cider and fruit wine. They bought the Sonoita property in 2015, and slowly began the transformation from grasslands to farm. Mead, in case you were wondering, is one of the oldest alcoholic beverages and one of the tastiest. By fermenting honey with yeast, you can create some very delicate and complex flavors.  
**3470 AZ-82, Sonoita, AZ 85637 (520) 428-1170**  
**[Themeadroom.com](http://Themeadroom.com)**

**Rossa Vineyards** produces about 1,200 cases of wine each year from its 22-acre vineyard near Elgin. It specializes in ultra-premium dry varietal wines. The first vines were planted in 2002.  
**201 Cattle Ranch Lane, six miles southeast of Sonoita off Elgin Road, Elgin**  
**520-455-0700 [Ranchorossa.com](http://Ranchorossa.com)**

**Rune Wines** is a solar-powered winery with an outdoor tasting room with beautiful 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains. Winemaker and owner James Callahan perfected his craft working in wineries in New Zealand, Washington and California. The focus at Rune Wines is on wine quality and terroir, bringing forth a sense of place in the wine. Their flagship wine is Wild Syrah.  
**3969 Highway 82, seven miles east of Sonoita.**  
**520-338-8823 [runewines.com](http://runewines.com)**



**Sonoita Vineyards** offers wines ranging from crisp to fruity to bold. In addition to its tasting room, the winery offers tours and private party events such as weddings and receptions.  
**290 Elgin-Canelo Rd, off of Highway 83 south of Elgin 520-455-5893**  
**[sonoitavineyards.com](http://sonoitavineyards.com)**

**Twisted Union Wine Company**, formerly Kief Joshua Vineyards, opened in fall 2020. The 20-acre property grows Tempranillo, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Petit Verdot, Riesling, Sémillon, Viognier and Mourvèdre.  
**370 Elgin Road, Elgin. 520-455-5582**  
**[twistedunionwinecompany.com](http://twistedunionwinecompany.com)**

**Vino Stache Winery** is a 100 percent woman-owned winery in the Sonoita viticulture area. Owner and winemaker Brooke Lowry Ide sources her meticulously farmed grapes from boutique, family-owned vineyards in Sonoita and Willcox, Arizona. 6 Lone Mesquite Ct, Elgin, AZ 85611 (480) 266-0515  
**[vinostache.com](http://vinostache.com)**

**Wilhelm Family Vineyards**, established in 2008, offers several reds, whites and dessert wines. Check the website for Wine & Cheese Social events.  
**21 Mountain Ranch Drive off Lower Elgin road**  
**520-455-9291 [Wilhelmfamilyvineyards.com](http://Wilhelmfamilyvineyards.com)**

