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SWEET STAYS

HOTELS FOR WINE-LOVERS

Whether in bucolic wine country or a bustling big city, wine takes centre stage at these diverse properties.



COASTAL CALIFORNIA

TIMBER COVE RESORT Sonoma County, Calif.

It's a long and winding road along jagged ocean bluffs to get here, but this 46-room hideaway is worth the trek. Explore the many hiking trails that surround the property, or, on stormy days, stay inside and enjoy a glass of Fort Ross Vineyard's Pinot Noir from the mini-bar. Vintage throwbacks include record players in every room and retro Smeg refrigerators in the suites. Ask about the VIP wine passport for free tastings and discounts on all wine purchases at nearby wineries. Timber Cove partners with Hirsch Vineyards to offer Pinot Noir and Chardonnay flights in an exclusive tasting room facing the sea. And amiable servers at Coast Kitchen will gladly pair your meal with the best Sonoma wines. Rates from US\$250. (timbercoveresort.com)



GOURMET GLAMOUR

THE RITZ-CARLTON, TORONTO Toronto

The Ritz-Carlton's signature restaurant, TOCA, is among the best fine-dining options in town, with an impressive glass-walled cheese cave as a focal point. Pairing options are endless between the collection of three-dozen local and international cheeses and 400 different bottles of wine. The hotel also offers its guests exclusive experiences at Niagara wineries, such as picking and stomping grapes at Flat Rock Cellars during the fall harvest, sampling from small batch barrels at Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery or learning about organic and biodynamic wine production on a behind-the-scenes tour at Tawse Winery. Back at the hotel, indulge with a signature facial at Spa My Blend by Clarins. Rates from \$659. (ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/canada/toronto)



LIVING LARGE

CAESARS PALACE Las Vegas

Everything is bigger in Vegas, and the dining options and wine lists are no exception. Restaurant Guy Savoy is the crown jewel at Caesars, and the wine list here is so enormous (600 Burgundy and 400 Bordeaux bottles) that it arrives with its own table. Meanwhile, another of the hotel's on-site dining options, MR CHOW, offers tableside Champagne trolley service—Krug, Dom Pérignon and Laurent-Perrier Rosé by the glass is a lively and effervescent way to begin an evening of dining. After dinner, head to the circus tent to take in the acrobatic show, Absinthe. The jokes may be raunchy, but the performances are exquisite. Book a room in the renovated 587-room Julius Tower, where splashes of yellow and ocean blue add a contemporary pop to an otherwise-neutral palette. Rates from US\$149. (caesars.com/caesars-palace) —Amber Gibson

PERFECT HOME BASE FOR ...

A daytrip to Niagara's wine country, which is about an hour's drive from downtown Toronto.

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