

A TOAST ON THE TOWN IN VENTURA COUNTY

We check out some of the great wineries and make a stop in to Anacapa Brewery along the way



The Herzog tasting room opens daily at 11am and stays open until Tierra Sur's closing.

With all of the stress from every day life, sometimes it's nice to get out and enjoy it a bit (life that is.) At this time of year, almost every year, like clockwork, all of us around here gripe about the money spent on Christmas (even though that was months ago), complain about taxes due, and generally whine a lot. So it's no wonder that it's around the same time of year we really concentrate on making sure our evening activities don't break the bank. One of our favorite pastimes, if you can call it that, is going out for a night of wine tasting, and stopping by Anacapa Brewery.

Join us as we highlight just a few of the many wine tasting stores, wine bars, vineyards, and brewery in Ventura. If you enjoy relaxing in the evenings, listening to great music, or getting out and seeing a beautiful ranch, then this may be right up your alley.

HERZOG

The Herzog family has made wine since the 19th century, when Philip Herzog made wine in Slovakia for the Austro-Hungarian court. Philip Herzog's wines were so appreciated by Emperor Franz-Josef, that the emperor awarded him the title of Baron. Philip's modern-day descendants have continued his tradition of wine making excellence with Herzog ultra-premium California wines. Produced at Herzog Wine Cellars in California's Central Coast region, both the wines and the winery commemorate the family's revered lineage.

Baron Philip's grandson, Eugene, brought the family to America in 1948 after the Holocaust. During World War II, he hid his family from the Nazis by moving them around the Slovakian countryside. After the war's end, he emerged from behind a false wall in a courageous Christian friend's woodshed to reclaim his family's winery.

But three years later, the new Czech communist regime drove the Herzogs away from their European home for good. Forced to leave with little more than the clothes on their backs, the family said goodbye to their former royal economic and social stature.

Eugene arrived in New York City with his wife, Sidonia, his six children and two war orphans. They moved to the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn with only enough money to rent a two-bedroom tenement flat. With his wine making skills, Eugene found a job at a small kosher winery tucked away into a storefront on Manhattan's Lower East Side. For a paltry salary, he made sweet, Concord-grape wines in the cellar. (European grape varieties for dry wines were not easy to obtain in post World War II New York). He also drove the wine delivery truck and was paid in company shares, not cash.

By 1958 all the other shareholders had given up their shares, assuming the business was doomed to failure. However, Eugene

and his sons, who all went to work at the winery, proved them wrong. They called their new venture Royal Wines, in honor of Eugene's grandfather, Philip.

In 1985, the Herzogs expanded their wine making operations to California. On the West Coast, they were able to source high quality wine grapes from all the major wine regions, including Napa and Sonoma counties. Working with a renowned native California wine maker, Joe Hurliman, the Herzogs tapped into the wine making renaissance that has occurred in California. Spanning much of the varietal spectrum, the wines have received numerous awards and have been praised by the national media, including such influential magazines as *Wine Spectator* and *Wine Enthusiast*.

Finally, after years of renting space in various wineries, the

Herzogs built their own state-of-the-art winery just south of Santa Barbara, in the town of Oxnard. Wine makers-Peter Stern and Joe Hurliman oversee the region's newest winery, which is a modern-day center for premium wine making that blends the best of both Old and New World traditions

Herzog's new winery, designed with the Special Reserve wines and small-lot wine making in mind, combines state-of-the-art wine

making technology with a hands-on artisan approach.

In June 2005, Herzog Wine Cellars dedicated 77,000 square feet of space to fine wine making, wine tasting and wine education, offering Californians a new perspective in a new location that is ideally located.

Open to the public, the winery offers tastings of its premium red and white varietals in its newly opened spacious and inviting tasting room. Herzog Wine Cellars gives visitors a true wine country experience at the southern gateway to the Central Coast.



HERZOG

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