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RATINGS BETA

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By Lisa Rogak



Mixing horses and alcohol is a tradition as old as the hills. In fact, some would say that's how the West was won.

But the fact is this practice is alive and well today, particularly when the alcohol in question is wine. For the lovers of wines and equines, we've rounded up a list of outfitters who will take care of everything from saddling up to preparing a tasting menu.

**Oregon:** In the Willamette Valley, Deborah and Marvin Hausman own [Quailhurst Vineyard Estate](#), a winery as well as an established equestrian center. Deborah is an accomplished horsewoman who also trains competition dressage horses on the property. While only serious

equestrians can train and participate in clinics at the property's [equestrian center](#), winery visitors are occasionally invited to observe demonstrations either outside or in the indoor arena while enjoying a bottle of the estate Pinot Noir.

**Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas:** [Marshall Creek Ranch](#) in the suburb of Southlake offers horseback riding and camping excursions out to Lake Grapevine both day and night. Nighttime rides circle around the lakeshore and end with wine around the campfire.

**Santa Barbara, California:** The wellness retreat [SOMA Get Fit](#) offers equestrian vinophiles several half- and full-day options. One journey begins on the beach and is followed by a gourmet picnic accompanied by wines from Santa Barbara vineyards. Riders can continue with a tasting at nearby [Summerland Winery](#). Another excursion takes you from a winery in Santa Ynez for a ride through the surrounding hills and the vineyards.

**Mendoza, Argentina:** Jerry Ward of the Ikal [1150 Vineyard](#) refers to the estate's three native horses—named Manchita, Almendrita and Fosforito—as some of their best staff members. “While they don't tend the grape fields, they help our farmhands work other parts of the land, and during their time off, they serve as great hosts to our visitors,” he says. An equestrian concierge arranges all activities and day trips, which include gourmet picnics in the vineyard and rides to other vineyards in the area.

**New York:** Manhattan-based outfitter [Outdoor Bound](#) provides a day trip upstate filled with horses and wine tasting. After being introduced to your horse (named Uno, Dos or Tres) you'll take off on a network of trails for a two-hour ride, followed by a trip to a Hudson Valley vineyard for a wine tasting before heading back to the city.