

edible MARIN & WINE COUNTRY

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DOG-FRIENDLY WINERIES

WELCOMING THE WHOLE FAMILY IS A GROWING THING IN WINE COUNTRY

BY KIRSTEN JONES NEFF | AUGUST 22, 2018

I can say from personal experience that there is nothing quite as sad as the faces of our faithful canine family members as they watch us pack up the car for a Saturday excursion that they know they will not be joining. Those pained puppy eyes peering through the window as we pull out of the driveway ... heart-wrenching!

Fortunately for those of us who are equal parts wine lover and dog lover, a growing number of wineries not only welcome our canine companions with open arms, and tasty biscuits, but in some cases make our beloved pets guests of honor.

WINERIES FEATURED INCLUDED...

MUTT LYNCH WINERY, WINDSOR

The tag line on Chris and Brenda Lynch's Mutt Lynch Winery website and promotions is "Bark Less, Wag More!" which tells you everything you need to know about their appreciation of canine companions. The couple chose their tasting room location in downtown Windsor because the town of Windsor is, in the words of Chris, "the most dog friendly place around." The Lynches have integrated their mutual love of dogs and their desire to support rescue and service dog nonprofits into their business in meaningful ways.

"Do you love your dogs? Do you love wine? If so, you are the right customer for us. It is really that simple," says Chris. The Mutt Lynch tasting room, which happens to be located exactly where the new SMART train station will be built in Windsor, is named after the Lynch family's three rescue mutts. The tasting room offers comfortable resting areas— beds and pillows—for pups in need of a nap while their humans taste away. Oh, and biscuit pairings if perhaps they would like to partake.

Once a month, a Mutt Lynch "Yappy Hour" gathering raises money for an animal charity, including Canine Companions for Independence, the Sonoma County Humane Society, Greyhound Friends for Life, Paws for Love, and others. As part of their "Wines That Give Back" series, the Lynches have created custom wines from the sale of which 25% of profits are donated to specific canine causes. There is also an "artist's series" of wine labels with stunning pet portraits created by well-known Bay Area artists. Their current release wine list includes several "mbf" (man's best friend) varietals including Unleashed Chardonnay, Hellhound Red Blend, Nectar of the Dogs Late Harvest Zinfandel and a Fou Fou Le Blanc Chenin Blanc. The Lynches, who also have two children, have always had at least one dog, and sometimes three at the same time. These days, the family is taking their commitment to dogs to the next level by fostering puppies. "Yes, it is a lot of work. But also very rewarding," says Chris Lynch. "Any way we can support animals, we will."

