

## Sedona Wine Fest, Arizona

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By, Jan Ross

Stand in the middle of downtown Sedona and turn slowly, marveling at the incredible red boulders tumbled and piled everywhere, the deep, tree-covered canyons, the hiking trails that wind through the mountains and you will find it almost impossible to believe that this is a place where someone could grow grapes.

But those hardy wine drinkers will find a place to make their grapes grow come hell or high water. We saw grapes growing in Germany on hills so perpendicular; it was amazing the growers could even balance enough to pick the grapes without falling in the Mosel River, so I suppose growing grapes in the red rock canyons is not all that crazy.

It's not actually crazy at all; Sedona is very close in weather to Italy where grapes flourish and result in some wonderful wine. Growing grapes and making wine has become a new industry for Sedona and the surrounding areas making it second only to tourism as an economic niche.

If you find it hard to believe that this wine could be as good as some made in Europe, you need to plan a trip to the 4th annual Sedona Winefest on September 22 and 23 at the Sedona Airport to try some.

This two-day festival celebrates the wine industry in Arizona and will feature some great wines from the Verde Valley, Prescott and Southern Arizona. Visitors can taste wine and enjoy local foods while relaxing and enjoying some live music. There will also be a juried art exhibition with original art for sale. You can buy by the glass, bottle and, if you find some you truly love, by the case from all the participating wineries.

After a day tasting wines, head to the Cowboy Club (<http://www.cowboyclub.com/>) for dinner. Sit on the patio where you can see the gorgeous scenery and be sure to order a bison burger – they are delicious. Plan to spend a day shopping in Sedona as there are plenty of interesting little shops that line the main street. If you are interested in some of the local arts and crafts, drop in Tlaquepaque, Sedona's Arts and Crafts Village. (<http://www.tlaq.com/>) Just ask a local how to pronounce it!

Take an extra day to drive over to the Verde Canyon Railroad (<http://verdecanyonrr.com/>), about a half hour drive from Sedona but well worth the trip. You will spend a couple hours taking a train trip through gorgeous scenery while relaxing in comfort. Spring for the first class tickets; it's much more comfortable – and you get a very nice, free buffet of snack foods!

When you are ready for some adventure, book an off-road adventure with Pink Jeep Tours. (<http://pinkjeeptours.com/about-us/>) But be prepared for a real off-road adventure; these tours are not for sissies!

We couldn't believe the jeeps could only go up and over the boulders along the trail but they can, so hang on and enjoy the ride. To get more up close and personal with the incredible red rocks of Sedona, set out on one of the many hiking trails. (<http://www.sedonahikingtrails.com/>) Take plenty of water and sunscreen and make sure someone knows where you are hiking as some of the trails are pretty rugged.

Great wine and great outdoor adventures – both wonderful but probably not a good combination. Enjoy the wine but stick to water on

the trails!

Sedona Wine Fest

September 22 & 23

<http://sedonawinefest.com/>

Planning your escape? Check out the [DealAngel hotel results for Sedona](#) first.

# Sedona Winefest 2012



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