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Wine | LOS ANGELES

End of the Vine

Take a wine tour from Sonoma to Santa Barbara at Corkbar

L.A. has more wine bars than you can throw a corkscrew at, but only one focuses solely on the bounty of California: Corkbar. Set in the ground floor of the new EVO lofts Downtown, it's a sleek, stylish place to try the best of wine country without having to hit the 101.



You'll recognize some of the big names like **Clos du Val** and **Stags' Leap** sold by the bottle, but the real finds are offered by the glass. Small-production wines like the bright **2007 Ampelos Syrah Rosé** from Santa Ynez Valley (\$12) and the dense and spicy **2006 Bokisch Garnacha** from Lodi (\$12) aren't always easy to find outside the tasting rooms.

For wine-friendly food, there are puffy, sharp-cheddar gougères (\$6) and a burger tinged with Asiago cheese (\$10)—both are discounted during happy hour (4 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday)—and a bright green salad made with Brussels sprouts and warm shredded duck (\$10) that shouldn't be missed.

With a huge patio and ample parking, this is another good stop before or after a night at Staples or the Nokia theaters, but the local loft dwellers have really hit a gold mine: The bar sells retail, too.

Corkbar, 403 W. 12th St., Downtown; 213-746-0500 or corkbar.com

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