

# Take a ride through Northern Arizona wine country

By Joel Mann

I recently met Kimmy, and recommend a scenic ride she could promote to her readers. I work in the wine business, and have always found leisurely travels through wine valleys a great way to spend an afternoon. Luckily, bikers in Arizona that enjoy fine wine don't have to go all the way to California for the experience. There's a scenic wine valley worth the trip hiding just south of Sedona. No need to worry about drinking and driving either, as it's very much socially acceptable to sample a small taste and spit it out into the bucket everywhere you go.

The ride begins with the southernmost winery, Granite Creek Vineyards, located in the town of Chino Valley. It's a little out of the way from the other wineries, but if you're out for a full trip, it's worth the scenic views coming over the Mingus Mountains to get to the next stop. You can take the back roads to Prescott along Highway 89 through Yarnell, or make the trip up I-17 to Highway 69 towards Prescott. Either way, the town of Chino Valley is a few miles north of the Prescott Airport on Highway 89. Specific directions to the winery can be found on their website [www.granitecreekvineyards.com](http://www.granitecreekvineyards.com). The next stop on the wine trail takes you up the hill along Highway 89A to the town of Jerome. As you round the bend where 89A becomes Clark Street, the small Jerome Winery tasting room sits up along a row of shops with a courtyard that allows you to look out over the Verde Valley while enjoying the wines. For more details, check out their website [www.jeromewinery.com](http://www.jeromewinery.com).



Next, you head towards Cottonwood along 89A, and turn onto Highway 260 towards Camp Verde. About halfway to the I-17 Freeway is Thousand Trails Road. Follow that to the Thousand Trails RV Park, and hang a left just before the park entrance. This takes you to the charming Alcantara Vineyards and Winery right where Oak Creek and the Verde River meet. You can say hello to the owner Barbara Predmore, who offers personal tours complete with a pair of extremely friendly tag along German Shepherds. One word of caution, the final road to the winery is unpaved for about a mile or so. It's well maintained, and should be passable for any experienced rider. Check out [www.alcantaravineyard.com](http://www.alcantaravineyard.com) for more details.

From there, head back towards Cottonwood on Highway 260, returning to Highway 89A towards Sedona. Turn right at Cornville Road, then left past the town of Cornville onto Page Springs Road. Follow that until you come to Page Springs Cellars. You can wander down and enjoy the sound of Oak Creek passing by while relaxing on their creekside deck. Check out [www.pagespringswinery.com](http://www.pagespringswinery.com) for more information.

From there, it's back onto Page Springs Road where just a quarter mile down the road you'll find the Oak Creek Winery. The owner Debbie Wahl will be there to greet you and take you through her different wines. You can find their website at [www.oakcreekvineyards.net](http://www.oakcreekvineyards.net).