

Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

To: Wine Tasting Driver LLC Attn: Gary Thompson

File: TCP 38791 B Date: December 20, 2023 Citation #: T.23-12-004 Case #: CSE000006

VIOLATIONS

You are hereby cited with having violated section(s) of the Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code and a Commission General Order (G.O.) as described below. These violations occurred during the period November 7, 2023, through November 15, 2023.

(1) Advertised as a charter-party carrier without a valid authority, in violation of Pub. Util. Code section 5414.5. [4 counts]

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The above violations are documented in the attached Investigation Report, which consists of carrier's records and substantiating documents obtained from other sources.

RESPONSE

TEB used the Penalty Assessment Methodology adopted in Resolution M-4846 and considered mitigating and exacerbating factors in setting the fine.

You are hereby called upon to answer this citation on or before January 12, 2024. By way of such answer, you may either:

- Pay a fine of \$8,000 pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 5378. (Submit your check or money order payable to California Public Utilities Commission using the attached *Citation Agreement*. Upon payment, the fine will be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Fund and the Commission staff will deem the matter closed, or
- (2) Contact the Supervisor below to make payment arrangements, or
- (3) Contest this Citation by filing an Appeal. See attached document "*How to File an Appeal and Instructions for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Certificate of Service for a Citation Appeal.*"

If you fail to respond by January 12, 2024, you will be in default and will have forfeited your right to appeal the Citation. In addition, your operating authority will be immediately suspended and may be subsequently revoked pursuant to Resolution ALJ-187. The Commission may also act through a civil or criminal proceeding to recover any unpaid fine and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and Commission orders.

Maria C. Solis

Maria C. Solis, P.E. Program and Project Supervisor Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division Transportation Enforcement Branch Telephone number: (916) 928-2534 E-mail address: <u>maria.solis@cpuc.ca.gov</u>

Attachments

TEB Enforcement Analyst: Eric Ow

Case No.: CSE-000006

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

CARRIER:	Wine Tasting Driver, LLC California Secretary of State Entity Number 201627710187- FTB Suspended 5/3/2021
OFFICERS :	Gary Thompson, owner William Miller Jr, owner
MAILING ADDRESS:	
PHONE/EMAIL:	
AUTHORITY:	TCP 38791 B - Revoked
VEHICLES:	2 SUVs
PL&PD INSURANCE:	None
WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE:	None
DRUG CONSORTIUM:	None

NARRATIVE

On November 7, 2023, I was assigned to investigate Wine Tasting Driver, LLC (hereafter referred to as Wine Tasting Driver) for advertising after revocation.

HISTORY OF ENFORCEMENT

Wine Tasting Driver's enforcement case records show that the carrier has a history of violating the California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) charter-party carrier rules and regulations as detailed below:

PSG-5839: On May 24, 2023, Wine Tasting Driver was issued Citation # T.23-05-004 and administratively fined \$6,000 [Attachment 1] for advertising charter-party carrier service without authority in violation of the Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 5414.5. The \$6,000 fine was paid in full on November 13, 2023..

PSG-5554: On July 14, 2021, Wine Tasting Driver was issued Citation # T.21-07-001 and administratively fined \$8,000 [Attachment 2] because the carrier :

- a. Operated as a charter-party carrier without authority,
- b. Engaged eight (8) employee-drivers without evidence of worker's compensation insurance in effect and on file with the Commission,
- c. Failed to enroll eight (8) drivers in the Department of Motor Vehicle Employer Pull Notice Program,
- d. Failed to enroll eight (8) drivers in a mandatory Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing Certification Program for Pre-Employment Testing, and
- e. Advertised as a charter-party carrier without authority.

The \$8,000 fine was paid in full on February 13, 2022.

PSG-4675: On May 25, 2018, Wine Tasting Driver was informed to stop transporting passengers using clients' rental vehicles without authority. No monetary fine was issued for this violation.

PSG-4324: On May 10, 2017, Wine Tasting Driver was issued an Official Notice[Attachment 3] for operating and advertising as a charter-party carrier without authority.No monetary fine was issued with the Official Notice.

VIOLATIONS

The investigation disclosed Wine Tasting Driver violated the following provisions of the Pub. Util. Code and Commission General Order (G.O.) from November 7, 2023 through November 15, 2023:

• Advertised as a charter-party carrier after revocation of its authority, in violation of the Pub. Util. Code Section 5414.5. [4 counts]

Pub. Util. Code Section 5414.5 states "Every corporation or person who knowingly and willfully issues, publishes, or affixes, or causes or permits the issuance, publishing, or affixing, of any oral or written advertisement, broadcast, or other holding out to the public, or any portion thereof, that the corporation or person is in operation as a charter-party carrier of passengers without having a valid certificate or permit issued under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, if an individual, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by both, or, if a corporation, by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000)."

The Transportation License and Analysis Branch (TLAB) database shows Wine Tasting Driver's authority was suspended on June 28, 2021 [Attachment 4] and then revoked on October 20, 2021 [Attachment 5] for failure to pay the quarterly Public Utilities Commission Transportation Reimbursement Account (PUCTRA) fee for 2021. Wine Tasting Driver's authority has never been reinstated.

Wine Tasting Driver continues to advertise its operations without authority on its website, <u>www.wine-tasting-driver.com</u>. It also advertises its business on other website

platforms: <u>www.facebook.com/wintetastingdriver</u>, <u>www.yelp.com/biz/wine-tasting-driver-napa</u>, and <u>www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g32766-d11963168-Review-</u> Wine Tasting Driver-Napa Napa Valley California.html [Attachment 6].

A Notice to Cease and Desist Order was emailed to owner Gary Thompson on November 7, 2023 at his email address, **Sector 13**, 2023 and said the company's website and all other acknowledged the email on November 13, 2023 and said the company's website and all other website platforms will be down no later than Wednesday, November 15, 2023. All internet advertisements have been disabled as of November 15, 2023. **Table 1** and **Attachment 6** show the dates Wine Tasting Driver was advertising without authority.

TABLE 1: Name of internet platform showing advertising without authority

Website	Dates of Advertising	Days
www.wine-tasting-driver.com	11/7, 11/8, 11/9, 11/13, 11/14	5
www.facebook.com/wintetastingdriver	11/7, 11/8, 11/9, 11/13, 11/14	5
www.yelp.com/biz/wine-tasting-driver- napa	11/7, 11/8, 11/9, 11/13, 11/14	5
www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction Review- g32766-d11963168-Review- Wine Tasting Driver- Napa Napa Valley California.html	11/7, 11/8, 11/9, 11/13, 11/14	5

DECLARATION

I have read the foregoing and know the contents thereof and I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe to be true.

Executed on December 20, 2023 at San Francisco, California

Eric Ow

Eric Ow Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst IV

INDEX OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Citation # T.23-05-004
- 2. Citation # T.21-07-001
- 3. May 10, 2017 Official Notice
- 4. June 28, 2021 Order of Suspension
- 5. October 20, 2021 Order of Revocation
- 6. Advertisements
- 7. November 7, 2023 Notice to Cease and Desist

ATTACHMENT 1



Public Utilities Commission STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

To: Wine Tasting Driver LLC Attn: Gary Thompson File: TCP 38791 (Revoked) Date: May 24, 2023 Citation#: T.23-05-004 Case #: PSG-5839

VIOLATION

You are hereby cited with having violated Section 5414.5 of the Public Utilities Code (PU Code) as described below. This violation occurred during the period from January 21, 2023, through May 18, 2023.

(1) Wine Tasting Driver LLC (WTD) is willfully advertising charter-party carrier services without a valid charter-party carrier permit (TCP) in violation of PU Code Section 5414.5 [4 counts].

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The above violation is documented in the attached Investigation Report, which consists of substantiating documents.

RESPONSE

Transportation Enforcement Branch (TEB) used the Penalty Assessment Methodology adopted in Resolution M-4846 and considered mitigating and exacerbating factors in setting the fine.

You are hereby called upon to answer this citation on or before June 13, 2023. By way of such answer, you may either:

- (1) Pay a fine of \$6,000.00 pursuant to P.U. Code Section 5378. (Submit your check or money order payable to California Public Utilities Commission using the attached *Citation Agreement*. Upon payment, the fine will be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Fund and the Commission staff will deem the matter closed, or
- (2) Contact the Supervisor below to make payment arrangements, or
- (3) Contest this Citation by filing an Appeal. See attached document "*How to File an Appeal and Instructions for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Certificate of Service for a Citation Appeal.*"

If you fail to respond by June 13, 2023, you will be in default and will have forfeited your right to appeal the citation. The Commission may also act through a civil or criminal proceeding to recover any unpaid fine and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and Commission orders.

Rahmon Momoh.

Rahmon Momoh Program and Project Supervisor Transportation Enforcement Branch Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division (415) 816-5754 Rahmon.Momoh@cpuc.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 2



Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

To: Wine Tasting Driver, LLC

File: TCP 38791 B Date: July 14, 2021 Citation #: T.21-07-001 Case #: PSG - 5554

VIOLATIONS

You are hereby cited with having violated sections of the Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) and California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (G.O.) as described below. These violations occurred during the period March 1, 2021 to present date:

- (1) Operated as a charter-party carrier during a period of suspension in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5379 [4 counts];
- (2) Engaged eight (8) employee-drivers without evidence of workers compensation insurance in effect and on file with the Commission in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5378.1 [8 counts];
- (3) Failed to enroll eight (8) drivers in the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Employer Pull Notice (EPN) Program in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5374(a)(1)(D), G.O. 157-E Part 5.02, and the California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 1808.1 [8 counts];
- (4) Failed to enroll eight (8) drivers in a mandatory Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing Certification Program for Pre-Employment Testing in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5374 (a)(1)(I) and G.O. 157-E [8 counts]; and
- (5) Advertised as a charter-party carrier without having a valid operating authority in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5414.5 and pursuant to Pub. Util. Code 5360 continued to advertise as a designated driver service using client's rental vehicles [2 counts].

CIT-LIC

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The above violations are documented in the attached investigator's summary report, which consists of carrier's records and substantiating documents obtained from other sources.

RESPONSE

You are hereby called upon to answer this citation on or before <u>August 3, 2021</u>. By way of such answer you may either:

- Pay a fine of \$8,000 pursuant to Pub. Util. Code section 5378. (Submit your check or money order payable to California Public Utilities Commission using the attached *Citation Compliance Agreement*. Upon payment, the fine will be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Fund and the Commission staff will deem the matter closed.) or
- (2) Contest this citation by filing an appeal. See attached document "*How to File an Appeal and Instructions for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Certificate of Service for a Citation Appeal.*"

If you fail to respond within the 20 calendar days, you will be in default of the citation and will have forfeited your right to appeal the citation. In addition, your operating authority will be immediately suspended and subsequently revoked, pursuant to Resolution ALJ-187. The Commission may also take action through a civil or criminal proceeding to recover any unpaid fine and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and Commission orders.

Rahmon Momoh Interim Program and Project Supervisor Transportation Enforcement Branch Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division e-mail: rahmom.momoh@cpuc.ca.gov

Attachments

CIT-LIC

ATTACHMENT 3



Public Utilities Commission State of California

OFFICIAL NOTICE

File #: Unlicensed Case #: PSG-4324

On May 10, 2017, Leticia Ramirez, Investigator, of the Transportation Enforcement Section, Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division, admonished:

GARY THOMPSON, owner,

an individual doing business as (dba) Wine Tasting Driver providing transportation services in Napa, CA, for the violations listed below, and also placed on notice that if similar violations are disclosed in the future, penalties as provided in the Public Utilities ("Pub. Util.") Code may be incurred:

REFERENCE

VIOLATION

Pub. Util. Code section 5371	Operating as a charter party carrier without a permit
Pub. Util. Code section 5414.5	Advertising as a charter party carrier without a permit

You are also placed on notice that a re-examination of the transportation services of

Wine Tasting Driver

will be conducted in the future and if similar violations are apparent at that time, penalties as provided in the Public Utilities Code may be incurred.

I have read the above statement and have been furnished a copy.

Leticia Ramirez Investigator, Badge #46 Dated

Gary Thompson, Owner

Dated

ATTACHMENT 4

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3298



DBA: WINE TASTING DRIVER, LLC

ATTN:WINE TASTING DRIVER, LLC

TCP CLASS B CERTIFICATE

CPUC Order of Suspension

This is notice from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that the operating authority listed on this letter is suspended effective April 19, 2021.

Failure to pay guarterly fees (PUCTRA)

Unless the suspension was requested voluntarily, if the reason(s) for the suspension are not resolved within 180 days, on October 16, 2021, the operating authority will be revoked. Voluntary suspensions may stay in effect without becoming revoked until the operating authority expires.

After the cancellation or revocation of a permit or certificate, or during the period of its suspension, or after the expiration of its permit or certificate, it is unlawful for a Passenger Stage Corporation (PSC) or a Transportation Charter-Party carrier (TCP) of passengers to conduct any operations as a carrier. (California Public Utilities Code §§ 1045, 5379). Unlawful operations are subject to fines and penalties as set forth in the California Public Utilities Code and may include permanent revocation of your operating authority or being permanently barred from receiving an operating authority.

A carrier whose certificate or permit is suspended due to failing to pass a vehicle inspection by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) (California Public Utilities Code § 5378.5, Commission Resolution TL-18336) may obtain a reinspection of its terminal and vehicles by the CHP by submitting a written request for reinstatement to CPUC and paying a reinstatement fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). (California Public Utilities Code § 5378.5(b)). Upon receipt of a written recommendation from CHP to suspend a carrier's operating authority, a carrier may request a hearing of the suspension by making a written request to CPUC and the CHP showing cause why the suspension should not be continued.

If your suspension is due to failing to maintain adequate insurance, you must contact your insurance provider to reinstate your policy on-file with the CPUC.

Date: Jun 28, 2021

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STATE OF CALIFORNIA

licensing@cpuc.ca.gov

Page 1 of 1

PSG0038791

ATTACHMENT 5

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3298



DBA: WINE TASTING DRIVER, LLC

ATTN:WINE TASTING DRIVER, LLC

TCP CLASS B CERTIFICATE

Order of Revocation

This is notice from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that the operating authority listed on this letter is revoked effective October 20, 2021.

Failure to pay quarterly fees (PUCTRA)

After the cancellation or revocation of a permit or certificate, or during the period of its suspension, or after the expiration of its permit or certificate, it is unlawful for a Passenger Stage Corporation (PSC) or a Transportation Charter-Party carrier (TCP) of passengers to conduct any operations as a carrier. (California Public Utilities Code §§ 1045, 5379). Unlawful operations are subject to fines and penalties as set forth in the California Public Utilities Code and may include permanent revocation of your operating authority or being permanently barred from receiving an operating authority.

There is a ninety (90) day period in which a revoked carrier may apply to reinstate the revoked operating authority unless it was permanently revoked.

Date: Oct 20, 2021

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STATE OF CALIFORNIA

licensing@cpuc.ca.gov

Page 1 of 1

PSG0038791

ATTACHMENT 6

Wine Tasting Driver -





WINE TASTING DRIVER

We are a group of fun-loving, wine-loving people who are social, friendly and looking to show you around wine country! Whether you're visiting Napa or Sonoma Valley, our guides are here to share knowledge, laughter and conversations about wine or anything else in between.

LEARN MORE

11/7/23, 9:40 AM

Wine Tasting Driver -

1. A.

DESIGNATED DRIVER SERVICE. We drive your car, starting at \$50/hr

CAR SERVICE

Don't have a vehicle? No worries, we're here to help! Starting at \$85/hr

CONCIERGE SERVICE

Need help planning your wine country visit? Starting at \$100/day

PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICE

erazzi for the day? Starting a

\$150 day

LEARN ABOUT HOW OUR DESIGNATED DRIVER SERVICE WORKS!





Wine Tasting Driver -

WINE TASTING DRIVER

SERVICES

» Designated Driver Service

4225 Solano Ave, Napa CA 94558

E. info@wine-tasting-driver.com

*

T. 707-681-7050

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PRICING

ABOUT

BLOG

CONTACT

Wine Tasting Driver -

- » Car Service
- » Concierge Service
- » Photography/Papparazzi service

We look forward to helping you have an amazing wine country experience!

Book an Experience •



Wine Tasting Driver -

Wine Tasting Driver -

LEARN ABOUT HOW OUR DESIGNATED DRIVER SERVICE WORKS!





WINE TASTING DRIVER	SERVICES	PRICING
4225 Solano Ave, Napa CA 94558» Designated Driver Service		ABOUT
Т. 707-681-7050	» Car Service	CONTACT
E. info@wine-tasting-driver.com	» Concierge Service	BLOG
f 🖸 🔆	» Photography/Papparazzi service	
	We look forward to helping you have an amazing wine country experience!	
	Book an Experience 🕨	

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11/9/23, 8:16 AM

Wine Tasting Driver -
11/9/23, 8:16 AM

LEARN ABOUT HOW OUR DESIGNATED DRIVER SERVICE WORKS!





WINE TASTING DRIVER	SERVICES	PRICING				
4225 Solano Ave, Napa CA 94558	3» Designated Driver Service	ABOUT				
T. 707-681-7050	» Car Service	CONTACT				
E. info@wine-tasting-driver.com	» Concierge Service	BLOG				
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We look forward to helping you have an amazing wine country experience!						
Book an Experience 🕨						



11/13/23, 10:36 AM

11/13/23, 10:36 AM

LEARN ABOUT HOW OUR DESIGNATED DRIVER SERVICE WORKS!





WINE TASTING DRIVER	SERVICES	PRICING			
4225 Solano Ave, Napa CA 94558» Designated Driver Service		ABOUT			
T. 707-681-7050	» Car Service	CONTACT			
E. info@wine-tasting-driver.com	» Concierge Service	BLOG			
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	We look forward to helping you have an amazing wine country experience!				
	Book an Experience 🕨				

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11/14/23, 8:31 AM

11/14/23, 8:31 AM

LEARN ABOUT HOW OUR DESIGNATED DRIVER SERVICE WORKS!





WINE TASTING DRIVER	SERVICES	PRICING				
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T. 707-681-7050	» Car Service	CONTACT				
E. info@wine-tasting-dri	ver.com » Concierge Service	BLOG				
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	We look forward to helping	We look forward to helping you have an amazing wine country experience!				
	Book an Experience 🕨					





Photos

See all photos



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Featured

Wine Tasting Driver February 27, 2018 · 🔇

Just had this great explainer video produced - what do you think? We're going to place it on our website soon!

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11/7/23, 9:35 AM

(3) Facebook







Ingrid Martin Minor

We had the Best day in Napa with Phillip!! He was amazing!! He thought of everything! Sent us menus of 2 local places so we could order ahead and he picked the food up for us!! He opened doors for us and checked us in. Such a delightful experience!!... See more

Like Reply 1y



Wine Tasting Driver November 14, 2021 · 🕄

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No sun? No problem, on the back roads of Sonoma.







Wine Tasting Driver

October 4, 2021 · 🕄

This is what you do when you have time to kill till your next appointment. Buy a bottles, glasses, and sit enjoy! Super cool people from Florida.

Wine Tasting Driver

We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too! See more





We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too! See more







Wine Tasting Driver September 12, 2021 · 🕄

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The Napa Valley is in disrepair... just kidding—all is great and coming back to life! This is a view of Mt. Veederand the Robert Mondavi winery as seen from Nickel & Nickel.

Wine Tasting Driver

We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too! See more



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This is what you do when you have time to kill till your next appointment Buy a bottles, glasses, and sit enjoy! Super cool people from Florida.

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We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too!

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Wine Tasting Driver is at Whetstone Wine Cellars. September 19, 2021 · Napa · 🕥

Awesome harvest party at Whetstone, one of our faves!

Wine Tasting Driver

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We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too!

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We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too!

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Wine Tasting Driver is at Whetstone Wine Cellars. September 19, 2021 · Napa · ♂

Awesome harvest party at Whetstone, one of our faves!

Wine Tasting Driver

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We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too!

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11/9/23, 8:17 AM

(1) Facebook





Just had this great explainer video



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We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too!

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Wine Tasting Driver is at Whetstone Wine Cellars. September 19, 2021 · Napa · 🕥

Awesome harvest party at Whetstone, one of our faves!

Wine Tasting Driver

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We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too!

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11/13/23, 10:35 AM

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We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too!

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Wine Tasting Driver is at Whetstone Wine Cellars. September 19, 2021 · Napa · 🚱

Awesome harvest party at Whetstone, one of our faves!

Wine Tasting Driver

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We drive your car or our car! Locals who love to share our knowledge. Fun and friendly team, too!

.... See more



11/14/23, 8:34 AM

(2) Facebook



WINE TASTING DRIVER - 41 Photos & 24 Reviews - 4225 Solano Ave, Napa, California - Wine Tours - Phone Number - Yelp



🟠 Write a review

O Add photo

[1] Share Save

Review Highlights



"We just got back from a long weekend with friends and Gary and his staff took amazing care of us the entire time." in 11 reviews



"Robert also opened the door for us, walked us inside the wineries and even called the wineries when we were running behind." in 4 reviews



"He sent us a questionnaire to find out our tastes, and what we were looking for, and then set the itinerary." in 3 reviews

wine-tasting-driver.com

(707) 681-7050

View Service Area

Suggest an edit

Gary Thompson Pho

You Might Also Consider

Sponsored ①



Evolve Travel 5.0 (1 review)

Luxury limo services, airport services, wedding and w Our specialty is to ... read more

Destiny Wine Tours



Suggest an edit 🖉

222 25.0 (42 reviews)

3.5 miles

"Destiny was the perfect choice for a day of wine tast friends! The limo ... " read more

Location	& Hours
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Serving Napa Area

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Open now
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	
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Other Wine Tours Nearby Sponsored ①

11/7/23, 9:45 AM



Offers Military Discount

X No Wi-Fi

About the Business



Our Designated Driver service provides our guests with the most amazing experiences in the Napa Valley. We are all Napa locals who have long-standing relationships within the wine country, and we are here to ensure your experience is reliable, safe, and FUN! Our drivers have extensive knowled...

Read more

Ask the Community

Ask a question +

Yelp users haven't asked any questions yet about Wine Tasting Driver.



	5 stars		
Overall rating	4 stars		
	3 stars		
24 reviews	2 stars		
	1 star		
Newest First V Filter by rat	ting ~	Search reviews	۹
Brenda T. Cypress, TX @ 0 @ 7			
May 8, 2023			
He made our wine visits enjoyal time! We will always continue to keep		t anything other than having a good	
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Scott M. Toronto, Canada @ 31 @ 106 @ 31	I.		
🛨 🛨 🛨 🛨 Oct 4, 2022			
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drove our rental car expertly th thoughtfulness was a special pa the Oakville Grocery and got us	rough treacherous climbs up m art of our vacation- we mentione sandwiches in between tasting	necdote from our previous day. He ountains and down into valleys. His ed being hungry, and John went off appointments. pe that we were lucky enough to get	
🕲 Useful 😂 Funny 🤇	Cool		
KH. Carlsbad, CA Q 0 @ 7			
* * * * * Feb 13, 2022			

WINE TASTING DRIVER - 41 Photos & 24 Reviews - 4225 Solano Ave, Napa, California - Wine Tours - Phone Number - Yelp

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What a great idea - it was so convenient and a fantastic experience - the only way to go. Cathi provided a top-notch experience. She was friendly and informative and all-in-all made it a great weekend!





•••

May 4, 2021

My husband and I and another couple (all California natives) used Wine Tasting Driver in Napa for a (you guessed it!) day of wine tasting using our own car. Our driver was Abdiel, and it was his first day on the job - we initiated him on driving giggly, wine-soaked ladies, ha ha. He was fantastic, such a nice young man. We all enjoyed getting to know him. And it made the day so much more relaxing for us not to have to worry about who would be the designated driver. The cost for their service was very reasonable and well worth it. Suzie and Gary were very responsive from the moment I sent them an inquiry, and the whole process was smooth and easy from start to finish. We did not use their concierge service (meaning they would make the tasting reservations) but made our own reservations. And let me tell you, it wasn't easy! The day we went tasting seemed to be the day everyone in California was there. So I think Wine Tasting Driver's concierge fee of \$100 is fair - we will do that next time, because I am sure they have a much more in-depth knowledge of the over 400 wineries in the area. It took me most of a day just to plan tasting at 3 wineries two weeks ahead of time - so many were already booked solid or did not have the time slots we needed. So in summary, we highly recommend Wine Tasting Driver and will definitely use their service again when we come back to Napa.



Kristen A. New York, NY

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C C C C C C Apr 22, 2021

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Petaluma, CA

🛨 🛨 🛨 🛃 Mar 22, 2021

I have had many experiences in Healdsburg with different drivers & companies in the area and this service was by far the most organized, reliable and simply enjoyable! Our driver was Steve and he was wonderful!!! Highly recommend! We will be using Wine Tasting Driver from now on.





Kimberly A. Phoenix, AZ

🖈 🖈 🖈 🖈 Nov 13, 2020

I was recently in California with some girlfriends to celebrate a birthday. We booked a Wine Tasting driver for our day in Napa. Our driver, Ashley, was wonderful! She was super knowledgeable and told us about the history of Napa and the wineries. She even recommend a great place for lunch (Gotts) and ordered it for us so we could enjoy it in between tasting without having to worry about any time constraints. She was super personable and even stopped in front of the famous Napa sign

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so we could take pictures. Our experience was 5 star and it was the best way to start our vacation. We had such a great experience we decided to book another driver for our day in Sonoma. I highly recommend this service. Thank you!



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AK Limousine

Dan C. said "Had a great experience with these guys last Saturday night. Hired them to take my 16 year old daughter and 3 friends from dinner to prom and from prom back home after. The girls really liked Carlos the driver as a person and said he..." read more in Airport Shuttles, Limos, Wine Tours

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"Robert also opened the door for us, walked us inside the wineries and even called the wineries when we were running behind." in 4 reviews



"He sent us a questionnaire to find out our tastes, and what we were looking for, and then set the **itinerary**." in 3 reviews

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"I previously posted a 3 star review following our 50th class reunion. As stated..." read more



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Santa Rosa Napa Vacaville	Wed	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Open now
Bodega Bay Sonoma	Thu	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	
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Apex Limousine Transportation and Wine Tours

⊙3.3 miles away from Wine Tasting Driver

Michele K. said "I used Apex for a limo wine tour of the Napa Valley this weekend and it was great. Booking was easy and they were totally fine with our continual "new itinerary" updates (based on needing to change some times due to winery bookings,..." read more in Limos



Wine Tour Drivers

213

Renee L. said "OMG, what a find this was! My friends and I were planning a trip to wine country and none of us wanted to be the designated driver so I looked in to hiring someone to drive our rental van for the two days we were going to be wine..." read more in Wine Tours, Wine Tasting Room

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About the Business



Our Designated Driver service provides our guests with the most amazing experiences in the Napa Valley. We are all Napa locals who have long-standing relationships within the wine country, and we are here to ensure your experience is reliable, safe, and FUN! Our drivers have extensive knowled...



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Sprenda T. Cypress, TX		
🖈 🖈 🖈 🖈 May 8, 2023		
Gordon was our driver this past weekend and it's been the 2nd time we have used him! He is so accommodating, very professional and knowledgeable. He made our wine visits enjoyable and not have to worry about anything other than having a good

time!

We will always continue to keep using him for all future visits!





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Oct 4, 2022

Our driver John was both a gentleman and a character providing honest insights into the Napa Valley where he has spent his whole life. His knowledge of wineries in the valley was impressive and his experience in how to make the most out of the day was appreciated.

John arrived at our hotel daily with a smile on his face and an anecdote from our previous day. He drove our rental car expertly through treacherous climbs up mountains and down into valleys. His thoughtfulness was a special part of our vacation- we mentioned being hungry, and John went off the Oakville Grocery and got us sandwiches in between tasting appointments.

We will use Wine Tasting Driver for our next trip, and would hope that we were lucky enough to get John again.





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Mar 24, 2020

We had an amazing experience with Wine Tasting Driver for a day in Napa. From meeting us ahead of schedule to being extremely flexible throughout the day, we had great conversations and got some of the local lore and happenings as we went up and down the valley.

Totally professional and keeping us on schedule, he was a complete joy the entire day. We were also able to create a very customized pick-up and drop-off schedule that met our exact needs and that was totally unexpected.

On top of all the praises I could give the driver (I apologize, I forget his name), the price even with tip was significantly cheaper than some of the limo options by a fair amount. I cannot recommend this company enough if you are looking for a more economical alternative to the expensive limo companies and buses that operate in the Napa area. We will be using them again when we return to the area!





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Feb 13, 2022

What a great idea - it was so convenient and a fantastic experience - the only way to go. Cathi provided a top-notch experience. She was friendly and informative and all-in-all made it a great weekend!





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Best expierence in wine country thus far! We went to do Sonoma as a late holidays party for our small business. Robert was our driver and he was amazing. We send our itinerary ahead of time and he knew how to get to our chosen wineries without any help. One of the wineries we choose was not our favorite so we left very early. He drove us to one he suggested and it ended up being one of our favorites. Next time we will pay the extra \$100 for them to plan our day. Robert also opened the door for us, walked us inside the wineries and even called the wineries when we were running behind. Which was not requested by us but it made us feel taken care of.

We will 100% use the company and we will request Robert for sure!



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Kimberly A. Phoenix, AZ

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"We just got back from a long weekend with friends and Gary and his staff took amazing care of us the entire time." in 11 reviews



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Phill F. Roseville, CA

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1 14, 2018 Jul 14, 2018

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Saracina Vineyards

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Sprenda T. Cypress, TX		
🛨 🛨 🛨 🖈 May 8, 2023		

Gordon was our driver this past weekend and it's been the 2nd time we have used him! He is so accommodating, very professional and knowledgeable. He made our wine visits enjoyable and not have to worry about anything other than having a good time!

We will always continue to keep using him for all future visits!





SCOTT M. Toronto, Canada @ 31 @ 106 🖂 31

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We will 100% use the company and we will request Robert for sure!



Q 0 € 36 A 34

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We had a blast with Robert...it was so much more than we expected! He treated us like Queens! He walked us into the wineries, checked us in, carried our wine to the car, pulled right up front to pick us up and opened the car doors for us--what a gentleman!!! He brought snacks, water, breathe mints and even thought of handiwipes for our hands. He absolutely thought of everything! He was full of history and great Napa information. We are already planning our next trip with him! Many, many kudos to Robert and Wine Tasting Drivers!!!





Kimberly A. Phoenix, AZ

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. . .

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https://www.yelp.com/biz/wine-tasting-driver-napa



Apr 22, 2021

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Wine Tour Drivers

Renee L. said "OMG, what a find this was! My friends and I were planning a trip to wine country and none of us wanted to be the designated driver so I looked in to hiring someone to drive our rental van for the two days we were going to be wine..." read more in Wine Tasting Room, Wine Tours



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Review Highlights



"We just got back from a long weekend with friends and Gary and his staff took amazing care of us the entire time." in 11 reviews



"Robert also opened the door for us, walked us inside the wineries and even called the wineries when we were running behind." in 4 reviews



"He sent us a questionnaire to find out our tastes, and what we were looking for, and then set the **itinerary**." in 3 reviews

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Platypus Wine Tours

Joyce M. said "Amazing experience!! Learned so much about the Napa Valley area, the vineyards, the different regions and great wine tasting tips. We will definitely be back! By the way, Napa was not affected nearly as bad as the fricken media made..." read more in Wine Tours



Wine Tour Drivers

Renee L. said "OMG, what a find this was! My friends and I were planning a trip to wine country and none of us wanted to be the designated driver so I looked in to hiring someone to drive our rental van for the two days we were going to be wine..." read more in Wine Tours, Wine Tasting Room

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About the Business



Our Designated Driver service provides our guests with the most amazing experiences in the Napa Valley. We are all Napa locals who have long-standing relationships within the wine country, and we are here to ensure your experience is reliable, safe, and FUN! Our drivers have extensive knowled...



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🖈 🛨 🖈 🖈 May 8, 2023		

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Saracina Vineyards



Chris K. said "WOW!!!!! I've been traveling for the past month and have not had time to leave any reviews...Jodi is AWESOME!!! I did not get the other lady's name that was working with her, but she was AWESOME also!! They make you feel very..." read more

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Wine Tasting Driver

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About

Designated Driver Service providing exceptional guides and drivers from the Napa and Sonoma Valleys. We are all wine enthusiasts, have been in the wine industry and love sharing our knowledge with friends from all over the globe. We have drivers that speak French, Spanish and Portuguese in addition to English of course. Being a designated driver means that we drive your car! Our driver will show up at your lodging location and take over driving for you and your group. We can help with winery recommendations and selections and will ensure that you have the best time possible!

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Napa Wine trip, great driver & service!	
Nov 2023 • Family We had an amazing time on our Napa trip, and Brent was an incredible driver! We will certain friends and family in the future.	nly be recommending Wine Tasting Driver to our
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Best way to enjoy wine tasting in Nappa

Oct 2023 • Friends

We chose to make our own tasting reservations but they offered to assist. We also chose the option to use our car and their driver. Our driver, Gordon Rodda, was very knowledgeable about the area. He provided lots of interesting information as we made our way through our planned itinerary. This is the best way to enjoy wine tasting in Nappa. Highly recommend and will definitely use this service again!

Review of: Private Wine Tasting Tour in Napa Valley

Written October 29, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our transparency report to learn more.



Tour29025988271 1 contribution

Exceptional Service

Oct 2023 · Family

From the first phone call to make our reservation through Ashley, to the two days spend with our driver, Brent, we had a great experience! Ashley answered all of my questions and made the booking process easy. Brent was punctual, professional, courteous, and very knowledgeable about the area

Will definitely use them again on our next trip to Napa!

Written October 18, 2023

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Fantastic way to go Wine Tasting!

Oct 2023 • Friends

This is a great way to enjoy your wine tastings without any risk! Cathy was our driver...she was extremely knowledgeable about the area, the wineries we planned to visit and had great dining suggestions. Having her local knowledge was fantastic! All for a reasonable price.....

Thank You Cathy from all of us!!!

Review of: Private Wine Tasting Tour in Napa Valley

Written October 18, 2023

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The best Oct 2023 • Family

Excellent . Hiahly recommend . we were very disoraanised and contacted Ashlev on a Sunday for a driver next day! they responded immediately

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jcho415 San Francisco, CA • 13 contributions

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Best way to see the wine country!

Oct 2023 • Friends

Great service and very professional!

This is the best service and smartest way to see the wine country! Our driver was so professional! He made sure that he was on time and checked in to see when we needed him to be back in the front to pick us up. I will use this service again the next time I visit Sonoma/Napa!

Written October 16, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our transparency report to learn more.



Bodo, Norway • 5 contributions



Awesome service!

Sep 2023 • Friends

This is the third time we have used Wine Tasting Driver and they are awesome! Always reliable, knowledgeable, and so friendly! Will use them again and again!

Review of: Private Wine Tasting Tour in Napa Valley

Written October 2, 2023

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Danny12345678 Charlotte, North Carolina, United States • 6 contributions

Great experience

Sep 2023 • Couples

Phil was an awesome driver, kept us on track, had lunch recommendations and even picked up lunch for us one day during a tight tour window. Definitely ask for Phil again!

Written September 25, 2023

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Great driver for an amazing wine tasting!

Sep 2023 • Friends

Louie was an amazing driver! We had such a great experience - he was very communicative even helped us with our reservations at each vineyard, a safe driver and fun to chat with throughout the whole experience. He was able to make great recommendations for lunch and vineyards - extremely knowledgeable about the area. Would highly recommend 'Wine Tasting Driver'. We rented a convertible that our driver drove - would highly recommend!

Review of: Private Wine Tasting Tour in Napa Valley

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Wine Tasting Driver •5

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Wine Tasting Driver

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Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Wine Tasting Experience (chlid seat avil.)

Food & Drink

from \$1,066.67 per group (up to 10)

3/23, 2:54 PM	Wine Tasting Driver - All You Need to Know BEFORE You Go (with Photos)				
Napa, California					
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😻 "wine tasting" (75 reviews)					
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Nov 2023 • Family

Keith H

1 contribution

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-	Connector30466056762
100	1 contribution

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Wine Tasting Driver Information

Excellent Reviews

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Very Good Reviews 1

Wine Tasting Driver Photos

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United States > California (CA) > Napa Valley > Napa > Things to Do in Napa > Wine Tasting Driver

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Wine Tasting Driver Information

Excellent Reviews

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Very Good Reviews 1

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Very good	1
Average	1
Poor	0
Terrible	0



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Wine Tasting Driver •5

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Excellent Reviews
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Very Good Reviews
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This is a great way to enjoy your wine tastings without any risk! Cathy was our driver...she was extremely knowledgeable about the area, the wineries we planned to visit and had great dining suggestions. Having her local knowledge was fantastic! All for a reasonable price....

Thank You Cathy from all of us!!!

Review of: Private Wine Tasting Tour in Napa Valley

Written October 18, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our transparency report to learn more.



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The best

Oct 2023 • Family

Excellent, Highly recommend, we were very disorganised and contacted Ashley on a Sunday for a driver next day! they responded immediately and we had the best wo days being hosted and driven by Troy who was nothing short of amazing - extremely knowledgeable about the whole region, great fun and found some extra visits for us. GREAT COMPANY AND SERVICE !!!

Wine Tasting Driver •5

Written October 17, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our transparency report to learn more.

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< See all things to do

Wine Tasting Driver - All You Need to Know BEFORE You Go (with Photos)

Oct 2023 • Friends

Great service and very professional!

This is the best service and smartest way to see the wine country! Our driver was so professional! He made sure that he was on time and checked in to see when we needed him to be back in the front to pick us up. I will use this service again the next time I visit Sonoma/Napa!

Written October 16, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our transparency report to learn more.

Bodo, Norway • 5 contributions

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Awesome service!

Sep 2023 • Friends

This is the third time we have used Wine Tasting Driver and they are awesome! Always reliable, knowledgeable, and so friendly! Will use them again and again!

Review of: Private Wine Tasting Tour in Napa Valley

Written October 2, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our transparency report to learn more.

Danny12345678 Charlotte, North Carolina, United States • 6 contributions

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Great experience

Sep 2023 • Couples

Phil was an awesome driver, kept us on track, had lunch recommendations and even picked up lunch for us one day during a tight tour window. Definitely ask for Phil again!

Written September 25, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our transparency report to learn more.

Hadley C essex • 2 contributions

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Great driver for an amazing wine tasting!

Sep 2023 • Friends

Louie was an amazing driver! We had such a great experience - he was very communicative even helped us with our reservations at each vineyard, a safe driver and fun to chat with throughout the whole experience. He was able to make great recommendations for lunch and vineyards - extremely knowledgeable about the area. Would highly recommend 'Wine Tasting Driver'. We rented a convertible that our driver drove - would highly recommend!

< See all things to do

Wine Tasting Driver • 5

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Showing results 1-10 of 304

Wine Tasting Driver - All You Need to Know BEFORE You Go (with Photos)

Wine Tasting Driver Information

Excellent Reviews 208

Very Good Reviews

Wine Tasting Driver Photos

\$ USD

United States

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ATTACHMENT 7

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102



November 8, 2023

TCP: 38791 (Revoked) Case No.: CSE-000006

Wine Tasting Driver LLC Attn: Gary Thompson

NOTICE TO CEASE AND DESIST

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On October 20, 2021, your charter-party carrier of passengers (TCP) operating authority was revoked for failure to pay the required quarterly Public Utilities Commission Transportation Reimbursement Account (PUCTRA) fees. In addition, Wine Tasting Driver LLC continues to advertise on its website, <u>www.wine-tasting-driver.com</u>, Facebook, Yelp, and TripAdvisor.

This letter places Wine Tasting Driver LLC on notice to cease and desist immediately all advertisements and operations as a TCP without valid authority in force with the Commission. Continued violations may result in criminal prosecutions and termination of telephone service.

The Commission regulates and licenses TCPs within California pursuant to the California Constitution. Public Utilities Code (P.U. Code) Sections 5411, 5414.5 and 5415 state that any carrier which operates and/or advertises without authority is guilty of a misdemeanor which is punishable by a minimum fine of \$1,000. Each day of continued violations is a separate and distinct offense.

P.U. Code Section 5379 states that it is unlawful for any carrier to operate after revocation of its operating authority. This letter places Wine Tasting Driver LLC on notice that continued violations of law without the required permit may result in criminal prosecutions. There will be no further warnings.

Please call me at **the second of** if you have any questions regarding this letter. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Eric Ow

Eric Ow, Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst IV California Public Utilities Commission Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division Transportation Enforcement Branch Email: <u>eric.ow@cpuc.ca.gov</u> Telephone:

cc: Maria C. Solis, Program and Project Supervisor