

Senate Select Committee on California's Wine Industry Spring 2026 Hearing

California's Wine Industry Resilience and Renewal: Charting a Path Forward

Committee Membership: Cabaldon (Chair), Alvarado-Gil, Caballero, Hurtado, Laird, Limon, McGuire, Mc Nerney, Padilla, Seyarto, Valladares

Date: Thursday, March 12th, 2026

Time: 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Napa Valley College
2277 Napa Vallejo Highway Napa, CA 94558
McPherson Administration Building Boardroom 1538

Agenda

- 2:30 – 2:45 Opening remarks
Goal: Outline the value of the wine industry and the need for creativity in addressing the current situation.
- 2:45- 3:15 Panel 1: Research and Trends
Goal: Provide a snapshot of the research on current trends and challenges in the wine industry
- Dr. Damien Wilson, Faculty Director of the Wine Business Institute, Sonoma State University
 - Dr. Ben Montpetit, Marvin Sands Department Chair & Professor, Viticulture and Enology, UC Davis
 - Chris Bitter, Senior Wine and Grape Analyst, Terrain
- 3:15 – 3:45 Panel 2: Insights from the California Wine and Grape Growing Industry
Goal: Provide an update on wine and wine grape production, discuss current trends, and review possible steps forward.
- Michael Miiller, Director of Government Relations, California Association of Winegrape Growers
 - Honore Comfort, Vice President of International Marketing, Wine Institute
 - GinaLisa Tamayo, Board President, Family Winemakers of California
- 3:45 – 4:15 Panel 3: Community Impact
Goal: Discuss current trends in the wine industry, and their impact on the wider community including tourism, farmworkers, and water usage.
- Linsey Gallagher, President & CEO, Visit Napa Valley
 - Sonya DeLuca, Executive Director & CEO, Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation
 - Annalisa Kihara, Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality, State Water Board
- 4:15 – 4:45 Public comment period
- 4:45-5:00 Closing Remarks