Bring out the Barrel at El Dorado wineries

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What: Be among the first to discover the nuances of a new vintage by joining El Dorado's award winning winemakers in their cellars for a weekend of barrel tasting. Wine lovers of all levels will get a special preview of extraordinary vintages, as well as the opportunity to learn more from local vintages.

More than 20 El Dorado wineries are offering samples straight from the barrel. The weekend features sales on wine futures, light food pairings, demonstrations and other activities.

When: 11am-5pm, Jan. 29-30

Where: A self-guided tour of more than 20 wineries throughout the El Dorado foothills — just an hour from Sacramento or South Lake Tahoe, and about two hours from the Bay Area.

Details on participating wineries, and a printer-friendly map is at www.ElDoradoWines.org.

Tickets: Weekend pass is \$20 at www.ElDoradoWines.org in advance; \$25 thereafter.

Four-pack: Buy four tickets for the price of three. Sunday only: \$15 advance; \$20 thereafter.

Designated drivers: \$5.