Summertime and beach time just seem to go together. On a recent weekend we took a trek to Malibu. While most of the wine tasting rooms are in the canyon, there is at least one on the Pacific Coast Highway.
This mini excursion was prompted by a discussion with our friend, Mary, about Malibu wines. She was commenting on the wineries number of wineries and tasting rooms popping up in the area. We decided to check out a couple and report to you what they offer. I know, it's a tough job but someone's got to do it!

SIP Malibu is the tasting room for Cielo Farms. Cielo farms has 2 labels-Cielo and Woodstock. Woodstock wines are made from grapes sourced from all over California, including Carneros and Alexander Valley, while Cielo is their estate label. Their wines are good but personally, I think the price point for their wines is too high. Their tasting room is located just off of Mulholland Hwy. They have a number of flights or you can buy wine by the glass. The cost is between $13 and $25 for 4 tastes. The tasting room is small but they have a great patio with lots of seating. small space, cool vibe, valet parking, good staff.

Cornell Winery and Tasting Room is located in the town of Cornell, which is an unincorporated section of Agoura Hills. The very quaint tasting room is flanked by an antique and architectural decor store on one side and a rustic restaurant on the other. Cornell has partnered with Sonja of Casa Dumentz to make a couple of wines for them but mostly, the tasting room features wines from the Santa Monica Mountains/ Malibu as well as other So Cal wines. Their tasting menu is 8 wines for $15. We were a little disappointed at the size of the pours. I think they were 1 oz. pours. We would rather have fewer pours but larger quantities. Overall, we had a good experience and we really liked the feel of the tasting room-eclectic, warm, interesting artwork, good tunes. The tasting room is located about 4 miles up Kanan Rd. from the 101.

We had a good lunch at The Old Place in Cornell. The restaurant is very small, quaint and rustic. Even though the lunch menu is very small, it was filled with interesting choices. I got the Rosemary Chicken Sandwich with a potato salad that had cranberries and blue cheese, very delicious. I would definitely suggest this restaurant if you want a weekend breakfast or lunch "outing". They are open for dinner but we didn't see the dinner menu so we can't comment on it.

Malibu Wines tasting room has live entertainment on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They draw a big crowd, a lot of 20 and 30 somethings. They do not have serve food but you can bring a picnic and as long as you buy wine from them you can sit out and enjoy the music. They have 2 labels to chose from-Semler and Saddlerock. Semler is their estate wine.

Rosenthal Estate Winery is located in the canyon. They have a large estate that is open by invitation only. The estate is also open a couple of times a year for special events that we have been told are very popular! The winery does have a tasting room on the Pacific Coast Highway.

Based on what we tasted, we think Malibu has some talented winemakers that are serious about producing some good wines.

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24
hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the Wine.
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A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in
front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very
large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He
then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.
The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the
jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if
the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced a bottle of wine from under the table and poured the entire bottle into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else---the small stuff.

'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

'Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your family. Take care of your health. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf ball first---the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the Wine represented. The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked..'The Wine just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a glass of wine with a friend.'