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star5112

Napa & Sonoma. A Joie de Vivre Guide

Sonoma, Napa Valley, 1 Day

Table of contents:

- Guide Description 2
- Itinerary Overview 3
- Daily Itineraries 4
- My List 5
- Sonoma Snapshot 7
- Napa Valley Snapshot 11

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: While it is true that this area is now a major tourist attraction and may be annoyingly crowded, the quality and quantity of wines, interesting restaurants, and spectacular scenery still make this a must-see of the Bay Area. Summer and fall are the most popular times to visit, but head to the valley in winter to find a pleasant retreat of empty tasting rooms and clear, crisp days.

The 'other valley', according to Napa natives, Sonoma is more spread out and can be challenging to navigate and find the hidden treasures. Sonoma County covers the area from the town of Sonoma northwest to Geyserville, with Glen Ellen, Kenwood, Santa Rosa and the Carneros District in between. There are wineries dotting the entire county.

http://www.jdvhotels.com/files/Image/4367/GaigeHouse_woodsidesuite_high.jpg

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Napa Valley



Hess Collection Winery
Art Extraordinaire & Wine Too

Day 1 - Napa Valley

QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: +1 707 255 8584 / +1 707 255 1144
fax: +1 707 253 1682
<http://www.hesscollection.com/>

location:

4411 Redwood Rd
Napa CA 94558

hours:

Daily 10am-5pm, except
some holidays

1 Hess Collection Winery

DESCRIPTION: Tucked into the hillside of rural Mount Veeder, this winery brings art and wine together like no other destination in the valley. Swiss art collector Donald Hess is behind the 1978 transformation of the Christian Brothers' 1903 property into a winery/art gallery exhibiting huge, colorful works by the likes of Frank Stella, Francis Bacon, and Andy Goldsworthy. A free self-guided tour leads through the collection and offers glimpses through tiny windows into the winemaking facilities. Newer guided tours and food and wine pairings, which include four to six wines and seasonal noshes, are available by appointment only Thursday through Saturday for \$35 to \$50 per person. But you can drop by the tasting room anytime, pay \$10, and sample the current Cabernet and Chardonnay plus one other featured wine; \$15 to \$20 gets you a reserve tasting. Current-release bottles start at \$22 and top off at around \$120. © Frommer's

MY NOTE: In addition to fine wines, this winery houses one of the most spectacular private collections of contemporary art in California. The Hess Select Chardonnay is a good reason to visit, too. A small fee is charged to taste their Cab, Chardonnay, and one other wine.



Photo courtesy of Hess Collection Winery

My List

contact:

tel: +1 707 938 5277
fax: +1 707 938 9460
<http://www.gunbun.com/>

location:

2000 Denmark Street
Sonoma CA 95476

1 Gundlach Bundschu Winery

DESCRIPTION: Gundlach Bundschu Winery's story springs in 1850s and continues to move forward with its wines and entertaining events. The lush green slopes of the vineyard is interrupted only by the walking tracks winding through the yard. Join them for the wine tasting sessions at this beautiful location. Touring their estate is a fun, especially those eerie caves in the hills. Call the winery and reserve yourself a place on the tour. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: What could be a better value than this? A free self guided tour via tram, free tastings, and scenic picnic spots. Tickets are given out on a first come, first served basis each morning. Call for daily tour times. Tastings are daily 10-5:30p.m.



Photo courtesy of Gundlach Bundschu Winery

contact:

tel: +1 707 935 4700
fax: +1 707 935 4731
<http://www.viansa.com/>

location:

25200 Arnold Drive
Sonoma CA 95476

hours:

Daily 10a-5p

2 Viansa Winery

DESCRIPTION: Viansa is a premier destination wine and food pairings. The winery retails lesser-known varietals of Aleatico and Primitivo apart from the usual Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc varieties. The on-site marketplace vends wine accessories and gift baskets and doubles as a gourmet deli for salsas and vinegars. Tuscan Club members avail invites to private events, complimentary tastings, discounts, private tours, access to limited edition releases. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: This Carneros District winery is at the very beginning of Sonoma Valley, and sits atop a knoll off the highway. This complex includes a marketplace offering a variety of gifts and foods. A counter inside the market offers free tastings. Open daily 10-5p.m. in winter, and 10-6pm. in the summer.



Photo courtesy of Viansa Winery

contact:

tel: 707- 935 5994
www.cafelahaye.com

location:

140 East Napa Street
Sonoma CA 95476

hours:

Tu-Sa 5:30p-9p

3 Cafe La Haye

DESCRIPTION: Seared black pepper-lavender filet mignon, chicken breast with goat cheese and herb stuffing, steamed mussels with fennel and garlic broth...Sounds mouth-watering? Then head to the Cafe La Haye at Sonoma since that's what's on the menu here. Sumptuous food, experienced staff and a tranquil atmosphere adds to your dining experience. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: This relatively undiscovered storefront eatery is a good choice for a casual dinner. The teeny-tiny kitchen turns out great dishes like house-smoked salmon with potato pancakes, and grilled steak perfumed with lavender. Also open for weekend brunch.



contact:

tel: 707- 935 0576

fax: 707- 933 0737

<http://www.dellasantinas.com/>

location:

133 East Napa Street
Sonoma CA 95476

hours:

Daily 11:30a-3p, 5p-9:30p

4 Della Santina's

DESCRIPTION: Della Santina's offers the best of pastas, rotisserie meats and other dishes from the Italian cuisine. The tables are neatly placed, with comfortable seating, and decorated with the best flowers, which has become a hallmark of the restaurant. The dining hall is spacious and offers a good view of the street. For more privacy, you can also sit on the back patio. This restaurant also has a garden which is available for corporate functions, cocktail parties and banquets. © wcities.com



MY NOTE: Friendly service, a comfortable setting, and traditional Italian dishes are a few reasons why this is a favorite for lunch or dinner. The garden patio is great on a warm day.

contact:

tel: 707- 938 3634

fax: 707- 938 2064

<http://www.thegirlandthefig.com>

location:

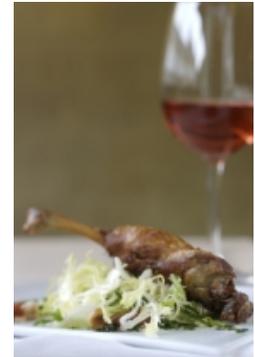
110 West Spain Street
Sonoma CA 95476

hours:

M-Th 11:30a-10p, F-Sa
11:30a-11p, Su 11:30a-10p

5 girl and the fig (the)

DESCRIPTION: On the ground level of Sonoma Hotel, The Girl and the Fig offers eclectic French cuisine. The decor is casual and laid back and can get loud when the crowd streams in. Braised pork loin, steak tartare, duck confit, croque monsieur, pan seared duck, salami and brie sandwich, niman ranch jambon, salmon nicoise and homemade fig cake are some of the menu listings. Moreover, the bar has a great selection of French wines and cocktails. Reservations are the way to go. © wcities.com



MY NOTE: This hip eatery in the Sonoma Hotel serves nouveau country French dishes, many of which do use figs. This décor is chic and quirky and prices are reasonable. The wine list consists only of wines made from Rhone grapes. Dinner is served daily, and brunch on Sunday.

Sonoma Snapshot

Local Info

Known to locals as the "real wine country," Sonoma County has fewer tourists and at least as many working farms and wineries as Napa, giving it more the sense of a country getaway. Towns at the southern end of the county, just 45 minutes north of San Francisco are close enough for day trips or weekends, while the northern end of the county maintains a rugged remoteness perfect for getting away from it all. Laid-back and back to nature are the key concepts in Sonoma; with an incredible rock-studded coastline to the west and the Russian River making lazy Z-curves through the valley, there are endless opportunities for hiking, biking, beachcombing, and water sports of all kinds.

Epicurean culture is rooted in the rich soil that has yielded world-class wines and fresh produce for generations. Wine is a way of life in "Slow-noma," birthplace of the California wine industry and home to over 250 wineries. Family-run wineries and intimate tasting rooms abound visitors eager to drink in Sonoma's offerings. Local produce fills the many restaurants, which showcase superb California cuisine in elegant-yet-casual settings. A resort destination for over 100 years, hot springs await, and luxury resorts and spas are prepared to pamper. Sonoma County captures the natural diversity of Northern California with its fertile farmlands, rolling vineyards, redwood reserves and ruggedly beautiful coastline, and features outdoor activities such as golfing, kayaking, hiking and cycling. But even as its tourism grows, Sonoma County retains its small-town approachability and historical charm. An ideal getaway destination, Sonoma gives the perfect taste of Northern California living.

Sonoma

The city of Sonoma is the historical heart of Sonoma County and serves as a great base from which to explore Sonoma Valley. Sonoma welcomes visitors with its small-town charm and first-class amenities. Despite its recent growth and rediscovery as tourist center, Sonoma remains a laid-back and more affordable alternative to its neighbor Napa. At the city's center lays the leafy and tranquil Sonoma Plaza, a national historical landmark lined with hotels,

restaurants and quaint shops. Sonoma Plaza hosts several festivals every year, including the Valley of the Moon Festival, a Sonoma tradition for over 100 years. Wine tasting rooms and artisan food markets can be found throughout the city, while natural thermal waters can be enjoyed at nearby Boyes Hot Springs, original home to Sonoma's tourist industry.

Healdsburg

In northern Sonoma County, Healdsburg is a quainter, more upscale version of Sonoma, with every shop, restaurant and service you could need to indulge your "weekend in the country" fantasy. Once the working heart of Sonoma's wine culture, today Healdsburg is packed with acclaimed and luxury bed-and-breakfasts.

Three wine appellations converge near Healdsburg, making the area rife with lauded wineries and that low-key wine-country lifestyle. Nearby Alexander Valley is Sonoma wine country's most densely planted area, famous for its Zinfandels and signature Cabernets. Whether you prefer the elegant Francophile dining experience of Cyrus, the hip, happening feeling of Cafe Zin, or the locavore artisanal indulgence of Barndiva, devoted foodies will find a critically acclaimed restaurant to their taste.

Lodging options include the warm hospitality of Honor Mansion, the romantic indulgence of Hotel Healdsburg, with its resort-like spa and pool, and-- the newest arrival-- the quaint farmstay atmosphere of Healdsburg Modern Cottages, brought to you by the artsy collective that runs Barndiva. For the outdoorsy, hiking and biking options are aplenty, while the nearby Russian River makes a picturesque setting for kayaking and inner-tubing.

Guerneville

Nestled along the Russian River, Guerneville is a popular day-trip destination for Bay Area families. The town's small beach rents paddle boats, kayaks and inner tubes, and also makes for fun splashing around. Riverside redwood reserves keep the area cool and shaded during the hot summer months. Home to many ex-urbanites, Guerneville is also known for its environmental and gay activism.

Petaluma

One of Sonoma County's larger cities, Petaluma boasts a picturesque historical downtown of restored 18th-century buildings filled with antique shops and restaurants. Although Petaluma is largely a quiet residential city, it does offer some of the area's best nightlife options. Both housed in historical buildings, McNear's Mystic Theater and the Phoenix Theater attract some of the biggest musical acts the North Bay sees. You can also play pool or karaoke at one of the many bars and pubs.

Santa Rosa

Sonoma County's biggest city, Santa Rosa is a wealthy community full of bustle and traffic jams. Three shopping districts offer everything from brand-name apparel to local art, while historical residential neighborhoods offer a glimpse into Santa Rosa's small-town past. Reasonably priced rooms can be found in Santa Rosa, in name hotels such as Hilton, Holiday Inn and Best Western. Families enjoy Santa Rosa's many kid-(and adult) friendly activities, from an ice-skating rink to Safari West, a safari-style African wildlife reserve. Comic lovers will have to make a stop at the Charles M. Schulz Museum for all things Peanuts.

Bodega Bay/Sonoma Coast

The Sonoma Coast showcases some of Northern California's most breathtaking views. Cliffs dramatically descend into the crashing Pacific surf along legendary Highway 1; take in the stunning views on a coastal hike or drive. The largest destination along the Sonoma Coast is Bodega Bay, a working-class fishing town that swells with tourists in the summer months. The town was the location for Alfred Hitchcock's horror film *The Birds*. But with luxury resorts like Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa, you have nothing to be afraid of.

Sonoma County's mild Mediterranean climate makes visiting enjoyable at any time of year. High season begins in April and runs through the summer, when many food, wine and cultural festivals take place. You'll encounter the greatest crowds during Harvest Season, or "Crush," as locals call it. The Sonoma wine country swells during this time, although the crowds are still less than in neighboring Napa County. If you are at all interested in wine and wine production, this is the best time of year to visit. Winter affords great deals

Sonoma Snapshot continued

and less crowds, though outdoor activities are limited. Weekdays are generally less busy all times of the year, as Sonoma is a popular weekend destination for San Francisco Bay Area residents.

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History

The birthplace of the California wine industry, Sonoma County has a history of isolation and discovery, of booming highs and quiet lulls. Originally home to indigenous tribes, Sonoma was discovered by Europeans, with Spanish missionaries establishing a mission in 1824; later, it played a central role in California's accession into the United States. The area sank into obscurity and neglect until the discovery of natural hot springs transformed it into a resort destination in the 1890s. Again, Sonoma fell from the limelight, growing quietly and steadily in the shadow of nearby Napa. Today, Sonoma is once again being rediscovered, emerging as a laid-back alternative to Napa's crowds and high prices.

Sonoma shares an early history similar to much of California, with indigenous tribes and Spanish missionaries. Sonoma was known as "Valley of the Moon" to the Miwoks, Pomo, Wintun and other indigenous tribes who called the area home for 12,000 years before the arrival of Europeans. "Noma" is, in fact, thought to be a Mayakmah word for town. The first Europeans to establish a presence were Russian fur traders, in the early 19th century; they also left behind their linguistic mark—the Russian River bears their name. Spanish explorers and missionaries brought about the most dramatic change to early Sonoma County. Franciscan padres established the Sonoma Mission in 1824, the northernmost link in a chain of 21 California missions; these padres also planted the area's first grape vineyards. Mission life was harsh and within 50 years, indigenous tribes all but vanished.

Sonoma's prominence grew in 1834, when Sonoma Mission was completely secularized by the newly independent Mexican government. General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo transformed the Mission into a bustling Mexican pueblo, setting a street grid and building Sonoma Plaza, a national historical landmark which still serves as the center of Sonoma. By the

1840s, a steady encroachment of American settlers began to challenge Mexican power, and in 1846, Mexican rule ended with the legendary Bear Flag Revolt. The ensuing independent Bear Flag Republic only lasted a month before paving the way for California's accession to the United States.

Sonoma saw fell into neglect and isolation during the Gold Rush, as wealth poured down to San Francisco. Natural thermal baths discovered at Boyes Hot Springs created a rush of tourists in the 1890s, as Sonoma evolved into a resort retreat. Sonoma County's wine industry continued growing quietly, surviving both a root disease epidemic and Prohibition. Following World War II, Sonoma was rediscovered and again outsiders poured in. The population swelled, but urban development was kept in check. As neighboring Napa County's wine industry and tourism boomed, Sonoma continued producing top-quality wines with a fraction of the fuss. This sheltering from the limelight, along with well-managed growth, has allowed Sonoma County to retain the rustic, small-town roots and pastoral beauty that charms visitors. Today, Sonoma County and its wine country have turned into a top Northern California getaway destination.

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Hotel Insights

Time to relax and rejuvenate. Since its turn-of-the-century heyday as a hot springs retreat, Sonoma hotels have offered peaceful oases for vacationers wanting to get away from it all. Sonoma lodging options vary from tucked-away cottages to Victorian bed-and-breakfasts to luxury hotels, with many offering on-site spas and pampering services. Many hotels and inns are housed in historic buildings and blend a rustic country charm with modern renovations and new amenities.

Sonoma Valley is home to luxury resorts, as well quaint bed-and-breakfasts and even a few budget options. For those seeking some spoiling, the beautifully landscaped and historic MacArthur Place offers a cozy county atmosphere with four-star amenities. The Lodge at Sonoma – Renaissance Resort & Spa provides similar luxury in a more contemporary setting. Sonoma's many bed-and-breakfasts combine intimacy with location. Just steps from the Sonoma Plaza, the elegant Cottage Inn & Spa offers

a restful oasis, while lush gardens surround The Victorian Garden Inn, housed in a 1870s Greek Revival farmhouse. For value in the center of town, the Inn at Sonoma and Best Western Sonoma Valley Inn stand as excellent budget-friendly choices that don't sacrifice quality or service.

Sonoma's surrounding towns offer even greater intimacy. Literally amid vineyards, resort The Kenwood Inn & Spa exudes old-world charm in the heart of the Sonoma wine country. Romance abounds at the creekside cottages of The Glen Ellen Inn, equipped with fireplaces and Jacuzzi tubs built for two. A Glen Ellen bed-and-breakfast, The Beltane Ranch is housed in a historic ranch house with a view of vineyards.

To the North, the Russian River area is filled with tucked-away bed-and-breakfasts. Healdsburg hosts the romantic and restful Raford House Bed and Breakfast Inn, and the gem Honor Mansion, an ideal getaway where service shines. You'll feel like family at Forestville's Farmhouse Inn, which also features a top-rated romantic restaurant. Guerneville has the several value options, including the West Sonoma Inn and Sonoma Orchid Inn. For a little more pampering, head to luxurious Hotel Healdsburg; for more bang for your buck, Best Western Dry Creek Inn makes a great option.

Along the coast, Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa offers a luxury hideaway with stunning ocean views. To the North, Sea Ranch and the encompassing Gualala provide seaside value at The Surf Motel and Seacliff on the Bluff, as well as bed-and-breakfasts like Whale Watch Inn by the Sea, which boasts a private secluded beach.

Sonoma's largest cities, Santa Rosa and Petaluma, make for more affordable stays, mostly at big-name chain hotels like Hilton, Quality Inn and Best Western. The plus is that you're among all the conveniences of a city but only a short drive from the wine country. But with all the intimate and unique Sonoma lodging options, stays here are not recommended.

© NileGuide

Restaurants Insights

Sonoma County's long culinary tradition is yours for the tasting. From award-winning bakeries to chef-owned restaurants with

Sonoma Snapshot continued

extensive wine lists, Sonoma restaurants deliver the ultimate California dining experience. California cuisine reigns supreme, along with Italian, French and various fusions. Most of Sonoma's restaurants use locally grown produce, compliments of Sonoma County's mild Mediterranean climate and fertile soil, while many feature the gourmet breads, artisan cheeses and olive oils for which the area is known. Four restaurants in Sonoma County have received coveted Michelin Guide stars, while six are included in the San Francisco Chronicle's Top 100 Restaurants. You'll encounter a plenty of dining aplenty, with attire at Sonoma restaurants a comfortable vacation casual.

You could do just fine not leaving the city of Sonoma at all. Café Le Haye serves perfectly prepared contemporary California cuisine in a casual, if cramped, setting. Della Santina's authentic Italian fare is beloved by locals, while the ever-popular The Girl and the Fig serves French Bistro cuisine on the Sonoma Plaza. Family-friendly Breakaway Café has traditional American dishes and features a kid's menu. Those seeking a more unusual culinary experience should head to La Salette for Portuguese food. Top take-out lunches can be found at the Sonoma Cheese Factory and the newer Basque Boulangerie.

Northern Sonoma County offers a handful of first-class restaurants. Sonoma County's most critically acclaimed restaurant is Healdsburg's Cyrus, which showcases exquisite cross-cultural California cuisine chef Douglas Keane describes as "contemporary luxury." Another California choice, Madrona Manor's surrounding garden provides much of the produce for its excellent dishes, to which wines are expertly paired. Forestville's romantic Farmhouse Inn and Restaurant makes a perfect evening for couples.

Santa Rosa boasts several good eateries, while Petaluma affords low-key and reasonably priced dining. Pizza-lovers will appreciate the thin crusts at Santa Rosa's Rosso Pizzeria & Wine Bar, while the happening Willi's Wine Bar features an eclectic California menu. Flavor Bistro is popular for breakfast and brunch. Locals love Old Chicago Pizza in Petaluma, as well as the Italian offerings at Cucina Paradiso; for bargain Mexican, head to Taqueria Mi Pueblo.

Bodega Bay's limited dining options include seafood at restaurants such as Lucas Wharf and Spud Point Crab Company. Terrapin Creek Café & Restaurants serves comfort food with warm service, while the restaurant at Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa provides the area's best fine-dining experience.

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Nightlife Insights

Most visitors come to Sonoma in search of rest and rejuvenation. Suffice to say, the nightlife scene isn't exactly hopping, but fun activities are out there. Live entertainment can be found at a variety of historic venues in Sonoma County. Sonoma's Sebastiani offers a truly unique experience with its eclectic blend of cinema and live entertainment. Petaluma's McNear's Mystic Theater is often cited as the North Bay's premiere music venue, while the all-ages Phoenix Theater showcases edgier rock and hip-hop acts. To the North, Geyserville's River Rock Casino features live acts as well as 24-hour gaming.

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Things to Do Insights

It's not just about the wineries. From jazz festivals to balloon rides, hot springs soaks to African safaris (yes), Sonoma County offers the ultimate Northern California getaway. Rent kayaks along the Russian River, hike through Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve, cycle through Sonoma Valley. Gaze at stunning coastal views and dine at four-star restaurants. Browse farmers markets and quaint boutiques. Get cultured at art museums, galleries and film festivals. Golf at one of the luxury courses, explore the historic mission and barracks, or simply unwind at one of Sonoma County's many spas. And, yes, visit the wineries too.

Wine is a way of life in Sonoma County. Thirteen AVAs produce a wide range of varietals, from Russian River Pinots to Alexander Valley Cabs to Los Carneros Chards and Champagnes. More than 250 wineries and dozens of tasting rooms offer a wide range of wine-tasting experiences, from intimate cellars to large vineyard tours. Larger Sonoma wineries include Ravenswood Winery, Dry Creek Vineyards

and Kenwood Vineyards, while eco-friendly Benziger Family Vineyards is the first biodynamic Sonoma winery. Wineries such as sustainable Kunde Estate offer fascinating tours of wine caves, which make for perfect aging conditions. Kenwood is home to two winery co-op tasting rooms, Family Winery and Tasting Room, which offer more obscure wines at reasonable prices. Get further off the beaten path at Sonoma's smaller wineries, such as family-owned Unti Vineyards and Quivira Vineyards. Wine tours companies include the highly regarded Beau Wine Tours and stylish Vintage Wine Tours of Sonoma.

Foodies delight in Sonoma's long culinary tradition. Aside from top-notch restaurants, Sonoma teems with markets like The Olive Press, Vella Cheese Company and North Bay Made. Almost every town and hamlet hosts a seasonal or year-around farmers market. Ramekins Sonoma Valley Culinary School offers quality hands-on and demonstration cooking classes. Sweeties will want to make a bee line for Glen Ellen's Wine County Chocolates, which includes a chocolate tasting room.

Arts and cultural events flourish in Sonoma. Local and national artists are featured at Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, while Peanuts fans find heaven in Santa Rosa's the Charles M. Schulz Museum. Popular local artists such as Michael Holland and Beverly Provost maintain galleries and studios that bear their names. Sonoma County hosts several festivals throughout the year, most featuring wine and food tasting. Music and art fans appreciate Sonoma Jazz+ and Sonoma International Film Festival, while foodies feast on all things olive at the Sonoma Valley Olive Festival. History lovers experience Sonoma County's hometown tradition at Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival, a century-old parade that features vintage fire engines; car enthusiasts have a blast at the Vintage Race Car Festival. Held the first weekend in October, Sonoma County Harvest Festival is the area's biggest wine event of the year. Passport to Dry Creek is arguably the most raucous of the festivals; hosted by popular wineries, limited ticketing ensures an intimate experience.

Sonoma County is an outdoor lover's paradise, with activities that range from active to romantically laid-back. Cyclists will enjoy both Sonoma Cyclery, which offers affordable bike rentals, and Goodtime

Sonoma Snapshot continued

Touring Company, which provides bike excursions at various levels. Burke's Canoe Trips on the Russian River leads canoe and kayak trips through the redwoods; Bodega Bay Kayak provides tours and rentals along the coast. Golfers have over a dozen courses to choose from, from the luxurious Sonoma Golf Club to the coastal Links at Bodega Harbor. Hikers encounter a variety of trails, from coastal hikes to redwoods walks. Experience Sonoma from a bird's eye view with Up & Away Hot Air Ballooning's unique and romantic rides, or with Vintage Aircraft Company's exciting excursions. Rejuvenate at one of the many spas, from Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa's healing thermal baths to pomegranate and fig oil massages at MacArthur Place's Garden Spa. Or have it all at Morton's Warm Springs Resort, featuring picnic sites, warm mineral swimming pools, trails and sports fields.

And it's not just a playground for adults; Sonoma County is home to plenty of family-friendly fun. Children and adults alike enjoy Train Town, a scale railroad with over a mile

of track. Families also enjoy educational Audubon Canyon Ranch, a marshland preserve for native plants and animals, as well as exotic Safari West, an African-style safari and reserve featuring African wildlife. For older kids, Macdougald Skate Park is located just 10 minutes south of Sonoma Plaza.

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Travel Tips

Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport serves Sonoma County, with direct flights from Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland and Las Vegas via Horizon Air. Nearby international airports include San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento.

Most visitors opt to rent a car, as the sights of Sonoma County are spread out and often not serviced by mass transit. Highway 101 and 116 runs through the heart of Sonoma Valley, while the ever-spectacular Highway 1 hugs the curves of the Sonoma Coast. Truly off-the-beaten-path, the city of Sonoma has no freeways

or major highways running through; the closest is Highway 12 from Napa, Petaluma or Santa Rosa. Highway 116 takes you to Guerneville, on the northern edge of the county. Once in Sonoma, bicycle rental is a pleasant option and makes for a fantastic day trip. Sonoma Valley Cyclery (707 935-3377) rents bikes at approximately \$6 per hour.

Mass transit is an option in Sonoma County, although bus service is limited and often infrequent. Sonoma County Transit (www.sctransit.com) connects Sonoma County's cities and towns, with limited local service in Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Sebastopol, Windsor and Guerneville. Golden Gate Transit (www.goldengatetransit.org) serves Sonoma County's larger cities of Santa Rosa and Petaluma along Highway 116, with connections to San Francisco, Marin and Contra Costa Counties. Taxis, airporters and car service are also available.

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Napa Valley Snapshot

Local Info

Napa Valley attracts some 5 million visitors each year, and for good reason. Located 50 miles north of San Francisco, Napa Valley is one of the world's premier wine-growing regions, home to picturesque small towns filled with foodie-fave restaurants, wellness spas, award-winning golf courses, artisan-oriented shops, and beautiful open spaces offering hiking adventures and ridgetop views...What's not to love?

Napa

The city of Napa is the largest of Napa Valley's communities, yet downtown Napa retains the feel of a quiet country town. While quite a few mansions and large estates rest back against the hill, Napa tends to be a friendly, down-to-earth town with a refreshingly unpretentious personality. In every season, the farms and wineries dotting the valley make a glorious setting for bike rides and country drives.

Napa's history as the center of the valley's Italian heritage is reflected in a variety of top-quality Italian restaurants. The valley's Hispanic population leaves its culinary mark as well; no drive down Soscol is complete without a quick bite to eat at one of the town's famous beloved taco trucks. The Carneros area on Napa's south side, prized by aficionados for its Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays, now features a slew of hip new inns and restaurants. And the revitalized riverfront area is a mecca for hopping bars and lively galleries.

The commercial center, known as the "Old Town" district, bustles with retail stores and boutique wine shops like Bounty Hunter Rare Wine and Provisions. "Old Town" provides casual dining options like ZuZu, a popular tapas restaurant with tons of local color, literally: most of the artwork featured is from Napa Valley artists.

Yountville

Yountville is far closer to the popular Falcon Crest image of Napa Valley, retaining as it does the quaint charm a small, country town. Less populous and more gentrified than the city of Napa, there are also a lot of grapes growing here. You may see the vineyards first, strangely enough, as a bright, metallic twinkle: growers use reflective foil to scare away grape-eating birds. Yountville, however is perhaps

most famous for first-class dining: French Laundry, Bistro Jeanty, Bouchon, and Ad Hoc are clustered right here. Nationally famed, these establishments are happily embraced by San Franciscans as an integral part of the Bay Area restaurant culture, but clearly, they and Yountville stand on their own (and standing is indeed what you will do if you don't make a reservation weeks in advance). In 2007, the inaugural year of the Michelin Guide to San Francisco, Bay Area & Wine Country, several Yountville restaurants were awarded Michelin Stars.

Oakville

By this point, one has entered the heart of Napa Valley: Wine production. Robert Mondavi, one of the titans of California wine, is headquartered in Oakville. Other, smaller wineries can be seen on both sides of the valley, though the premium cellars seem to be on the west side. While tiny Oakville has a post office, it's really an unincorporated part of Napa County, best known for the Oakville Grocery, a legendary roadside delicatessen stocked with a mind-boggling array of gourmet delights from France, Italy, and their own kitchens. As with other spots throughout the valley, one is likely to be greeted in the early spring by a waving sea of yellow under sparse vineyards: growers often plant mustard underneath grapevines.

Rutherford

Microscopic Rutherford is home to Beaulieu Vineyards, Rutherford Grove, Rutherford Hill, and St. Supery Vineyards & Winery. Take in Napa's landscape with a chilled bottle of sparkling wine in Mumm's outdoor terrace. Francis Ford Coppola's Niebaum-Coppola Estate, generally mobbed with tourists, features memorabilia from his career in cinema. Rutherford is also a fine place to eat: Restaurant at Auberge du Soleil and La Toque are two exceptional Napa Valley restaurants.

St. Helena

With its rows of historic stone and beam storefronts and perfectly restored Victorians, downtown St. Helena looks much it did in the early 1900s. Off the main street, cottage gardens are tucked between elegant bed and breakfasts in historic mansions, while elegant boutique hotels surround fountain-bedecked quiet

courtyards. The Silverado Museum hosts an exhibit of Robert Louis Stevenson ephemera. Fans of ghost story writer and misanthrope Ambrose Bierce will want to stay at the Ambrose Bierce House, now a bed and breakfast. St. Helena is also home to the Beringer Vineyards, a popular tasting destination.

The Culinary Institute of America at Greystone is hidden in the vineyards of St. Helena. The CIA is a master's level training center for working, certified chefs. It's situated in the former home of the Christian Brothers winery, an awe-striking, three-story, 101-year-old building that housed generations of winemaking friars. Take a look at some of the history exhibits inside, and don't miss Brother Timothy's 1800-piece corkscrew collection. The CIA gives cooking demonstrations in their fully equipped teaching theater. Then enjoy the sights at the outdoor terrace of Wine Spectator Greystone Restaurant.

Calistoga

Calistoga is famous for the hot springs that bubble out of the geyser-studded northern end of the valley, and the mineral-infused mud that Europeans traditionally believed had healthful properties. Mud baths, along with mineral baths, saunas, hot steam treatments, whirlpools, and herbal body wraps, have all been an attraction of the area ever since San Francisco entrepreneur Sam Brannan first promoted the benefits of the area's hot springs in the mid-19th century. Dr. Wilkinson's Hot Springs Resort, Lavender Hill Spa, and Indian Springs Hotel & Spa are good spots to enjoy relaxing spa treatments.

To get a feeling for the thermal springs without getting in one, go two miles out of town on Tubbs Lane and catch Old Faithful Geyser of California. The geyser spouts boiling water 60 feet into the air every half-hour or so.

Calistoga is an engaging, health-conscious, bustling little town in every way. The Calistoga Inn Restaurant & Brewery or Wappo Bar & Bistro are all great places to replenish yourself after the ardors of a rub, steam, or scalding soak.

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Napa Valley Snapshot continued

History

The Wappo Indians, original residents of this fertile valley, named it Napa, meaning 'land of plenty'. Thinking of the acres and acres of robust grapes, it seems like a perfect name for the picturesque valley. The Wappos, however, were referring to the abundance of salmon, elk, and waterfowl in the Napa River. Even then, small wild grapes grew.

With the arrival of the Spanish, Napa Valley became Napa Rancho, a virtually unpopulated tract in the vast ranchland of Alta California. The Wappo way of life was quickly subsumed and rendered extinct by mission culture. Between 1820-1840, under Mexican rule, Napa County was divided into 12 ranchos. In 1836 the Mexican government gave the pioneer George Yount a grant for the Caymus Rancho, thereby putting into motion the foundations of modern Napa.

Yount was a pioneer in the development of the Napa Valley. He was one of the first Anglo-Saxon settlers, residents and builder of the first local homestead. Lastly, he cultivated the first grapes of Napa. After his death in 1865, Yountville was named in his honor.

Other homesteaders quickly followed Yount. The valley's soil was fertile; its wide hills were perfect for ranching. The river made it easy to ship cargo to San Francisco. The city of Napa became an important port and commercial center. Cattle, lumber, wheat, and quicksilver—mined, grown, and raised in Napa County, were shipped into the San Francisco Bay to feed a growing state.

The 1840s Gold Rush, coupled with Mexican cession of 1846, opened California to migration and settlement: ultimately forming the Napa Valley. Viable communities sprouted in Yountville, St. Helena, and Calistoga. Napa County was one of the original counties when California became a part of the United States in 1849.

Charles Krug established the first commercial winery in Napa Valley in 1861, and by 1889 there were 140 wineries in the area. The quick growth of the new wine industry was its undoing, however. In the late 1890s a surplus sank prices, and Phylloxera arrived on American shores. So it was hardly cheering, then, when in 1920 the National Prohibition Act became law. The vineyards lay fallow. Throughout

the Roaring Twenties, Napa was in the doldrums.

The Great Depression further slowed business. The 21st Amendment, which overturned Prohibition and was for Wine Country a message from the divine. In 1938, André Tchelistcheff introduced new techniques: aging wine in small French oak barrels, cold fermentation, vineyard frost prevention and malolactic fermentation—the process of change in wine in which tart malic acid is converted into a softer tasting lactic acid. These techniques helped bring Napa's wine production into the modern era.

In 1965, Robert Mondavi left his family's Charles Krug estate and opened the Robert Mondavi Winery in Oakville. It was the first large-scale production winery to be established since before prohibition. Following the introduction of the Mondavi estate, new wineries sprang up and grew rapidly. Today there are over 300 wineries in the Napa Valley growing several grape varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

The Paris Wine Tasting of 1976—a blind taste test, where Napa wines were tested among their rival French wines, shook the world of viticulture. In the results, California wines outranked their French counterparts. As a result, Californian wines, in the 1970s, grew in prestige and production.

Napa has become synonymous with luxury, from its wine to its five-star dining. In 2007, the inaugural year of the Michelin Guide San Francisco, Bay Area & Wine Country, Bouchon, The French Laundry, Restaurant at Auberge du Soleil, La Toque and Bistro Jeanty, all received Michelin Stars.

©

Hotel Insights

Of the millions of tourists traveling through Napa Valley every year, there are some who naturally want to stay for a day or two. The valley's lodgings stand ready, as graceful, pleasant, and varied as its wines. The first question one needs to ask oneself is whether to stay in a hotel or a bed and breakfast. Bed and breakfasts aren't for everyone: for better or worse, you are staying in a home. There may be chocolates and milk at bedtime, but the floorboards can squeak. There are, however, more B&Bs than hotels and

motels, especially when you get outside the city of Napa and go up-valley.

Napa

If one wants their hotel to reflect a bit of the region's character and history, Napa's Old World Inn is a good example: built in 1906, its color scheme is a hyper-Victorian pink, violet, blue and mint green. Of the larger bed and breakfasts, La Residence Country Inn with 16 rooms, and Blue Violet Mansion with 17 rooms are two of the more popular.

Yountville

For something truly one-of-a-kind, try Napa Valley Railway Inn, a complex of nine restored railway cars arranged around a central platform and station house. Unimpressed by those kinds of bells and whistles? Yountville's Napa Valley Lodge lays out complimentary champagne breakfasts.

St. Helena

If part of your attraction to bed and breakfasts is to escape the suffocating, corporate sameness of hotel chains, you would do well to try the Ambrose Bierce House. Bierce, author of the Devil's Dictionary, was famed for writing ghost stories, being a misanthrope, and disappearing mysteriously and permanently into Mexico. And this is indeed his house. There's nothing at all spooky about the lovely St. Helena three-room B&B, however, and the hosts aren't the least bit misanthropic.

Calistoga

Another vintage hostelry that tends towards the quirky is the creaky-floored Calistoga Inn, straight out of the Old West and perched atop a microbrewery. The nearby Pink Mansion rated a mention in Wine Spectator.

©

Restaurants Insights

Just as Napa Valley saved the French wine industry with vine cuttings after the 19th-century Phylloxera blight, today's Wine Country chefs have given a new life and new direction to French cooking. It may not be a direction chefs in France acknowledge, of course, but the national awards showered upon chefs and restaurants in the Napa Valley is indicative of their influence on fine cuisine in America.

Napa Valley Snapshot continued

Cooks at Tra Vigne, the French Laundry, Auberge du Soleil, and a score of other valley kitchens have led the way.

Napa

Downtown Napa, trying to pull itself into the high orbit of brighter stars like Yountville and St. Helena, is scattered with bright, youngish spots like Celadon with its snappy fish satays, jerked pork, and a no-reservations policy.

On the farther edges of Napa are some excellent choices, as well: Bistro Don Giovanni and the The Royal Oak Vintner's Court at the Silverado Resort boast some of the city's best kitchens.

Yountville

Napa Valley's culinary capital: Bistro Jeanty, Bouchon, Brix Restaurant, The French Laundry, and Mustard's are some of the excellent restaurants sprinkled through sparsely populated Yountville. The specialty here is French cuisine, albeit with a California accent. Accolades for Yountville's restaurants tend to fly about like a ticker-tape in a parade: to save space, we'll simply mention that the James Beard Foundation dubbed Bouchon and French Laundry chef Thomas Keller "The Best Chef in America."

Travelers would be well advised to make their reservations weeks in advance of their journey, especially in the case of the French Laundry, Bistro Jeanty and-- well, any of the above-mentioned restaurants. Give it a good college try, at least-- there's no guarantee they won't be fully booked a month ahead of time.

Oakville

Not exactly a restaurant, the Oakville Grocery is still a must-stop for the epicure. What looks from the outside like an outdated roadside gas station is really a delicatessen stocked with a mind-boggling array of gourmet delights from France, Italy, and their own kitchens. Not much else in Oakville for would-be sit-down diners, but then it isn't even really a town (it's unincorporated).

Rutherford

Auberge du Soleil rivals the finest restaurants in Napa, and may have the edge in ambience: the sweeping view from its terrace is the best in the valley. First among the many attractions on Auberge's

menu is rotating, five-course "Taste of the Wine Country" menu. Auberge de Soleil is now also the Auberge du Soleil Inn, in the event you're too stuffed to leave the premises.

St. Helena

More recognizably a city than Yountville, Oakville, or Rutherford, St. Helena features a greater concentration and variety of restaurants. Most are on or near Main Street (Highway 29). While St. Helena's pricey reputation is justified, there are a few attractive, reasonably priced choices (which offer the additional advantage of eating without making a huge production out of it) like Pizzeria Tra Vigne and Taylor's Automatic Refresher.

A pricier middle range of bistros like Terra provide creative and polished renditions of French-Mediterranean classics. Expect the unexpected in the use of exotic local ingredients. Solidly in the huge-production category are the Restaurant at Meadowood and Tra Vigne, St. Helena's celebrity restaurants.

Another approach to lunch or dinner might be to try the Wine Spectator Greystone restaurant. Set in the Culinary Institute of America building, you needn't worry about being a guinea pig: the executive chef is Todd Humphries, also of San Francisco's vaunted Campton Place. Tuesdays and Wednesdays from mid-January through March, the Wine Spectator Greystone hosts Winter Evenings in Wine Country, a series of special food and wine events.

Calistoga

Attractive and refreshingly unpretentious, Calistoga offers day trippers and mudbathers a vibrant dining scene. Just about everything except Wappo Bar & Bistro is right on Lincoln Avenue, the main street. Brannan's Grill and the Calistoga Inn Restaurant & Brewery and other Lincoln Avenue restaurants share an obvious affection for Calistoga's frontiersy heritage. As with everywhere else in the valley, chefs are unafraid to innovate and cross boundaries.

Dressing for dinner? Leave your Valentino at home. You're eating with people who have spent all day in a mud bath.

©

Nightlife Insights

Napa Valley may have many delights, and for residents and many guests, one of them is its peace and quiet. Communities here are small, and tend to be affluent. Which is by way of saying that you won't find big-city nightlife here, and won't find a lot of hoe-downs or honky-tonks, either. There are bars, sure, but Wine Country propriety, noise ordinances, and the amount of wine consumed as part of the job all militate against raucous, after-hour saloons.

What you will find, albeit in more specialized and rarified formats, is culture. Classical. Jazz. The Arts. Primarily in a festival format, and often at wineries.

Arts Groups and Festivals

The Napa Valley Symphony, an unsung (no pun intended) but quite capable ensemble, plays year round in Yountville's Lincoln Theatre, with summer appearances at the Robert Mondavi Winery and occasionally elsewhere in the valley.

While Napa's Opera House now functions primarily as a civic center, the Jarvis Conservatory puts on an energetic program of operas, as well as Spanish-language zarzuelas. They're located at 2970 Monticello Road in Napa.

Chamber concerts and recitals are held regularly at Napa's First Methodist Church. (+1 707 252 7122 for the latest schedule).

The Napa Valley Stage Company (+1 707 257 6872) mounts productions May through December around the county.

Under the spreading oaks of Skyline Park, the Napa Valley Wine Festival features the work of songwriters and musicians in a series of concerts on three continuous stages, with attendant music workshops, gourmet food, and, of course, Napa Valley wines.

Calistoga's Napa Valley Blues Festival may be one exception to the rule. Big beats and jive talk rule the stage.

The Wineries

The foremost cultural nexus of the Napa Valley is not an arts center or symphony hall, it's-- and this should hardly surprise-- a winery. And not just any winery-- Robert Mondavi's. For years, Oakville's Mondavi Winery has been putting on concerts and series at their arts center. Their summer

Napa Valley Snapshot continued

festival is a big attraction, of which the Napa Valley Symphony is a mainstay, but smaller ensembles and solo artists, as well as jazz and popular musicians, put in appearances both in the summer series and throughout the year.

Domaine Chandon, Niebaum-Coppola Estate, Charles Krug and others put on occasional concerts and art exhibits, and the Napa Valley Wine Train has a semi-annual "jazz train," as well.

©

Things to Do Insights

Napa Valley is filled with wineries, spas and fabulous restaurants, all located in lovely natural surroundings.

St. Helena Stop by the St. Helena Farmer's Market, where you're sure to find some of the most fresh and delicious produce in the area. The Charles Krug Winery is the oldest in the Valley, and the St. Supery Vineyards & Winery is just as well-respected. Be sure to tour both and do some sampling. Check out the historic wheat mill at Bale Grist Mill State Park, then dine at the award-winning Terra.

Robert Mondavi Winery The Robert Mondavi Winery, started by arguably the most important figure in Napa winemaking history, the Hess Collection Winery and the Bouchaine Vineyards are all located close to one another, making a trip to each an easy option. Dine at the popular Bistro Don Giovanni. Also take the opportunity to catch a Napa Valley Symphony Performance.

Clos du Bois Winery There are as many wineries in Sonoma as there are in Napa. Notable among them are the Clos du Bois Winery, the Robert Young Estate Winery and the J Rochioli Vineyards & Winery. Have a fabulous dinner at the Hilltop Dining Room or the Foothill Cafe.

Old Town The Napa Valley Opera House was restored recently, although it is no longer functional. Visit the historic Stag's Leap Wine Cellars nearby. If you're a mountain bike enthusiast, you will like rocky Skyline Wilderness Park, famed for its rough terrain. The shopping and fine restaurants, such as Pearl, make Old Town a tourist hot spot.

Silverado Museum The Silverado Museum hosts an exhibit of 8,000 Robert Louis Stevenson's manuscripts and

belongings. Fans of ghost story writer Ambrose Bierce will want to see the display and perhaps even stay at the Ambrose Bierce House, now a bed and breakfast. In nearby Calistoga, you'll find the Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the famed Old Faithful Geyser. Enjoy the traditional Italian fare at Bosko's Ristorante.

Seeing Napa Valley on wheels is the preferred option, since so many of its attractions are spread out.

Bike Tours St. Helena Cyclery Tour(+1 707 963 7736/http://www.sthelenacyclery.com/) Napa Valley Cyclery Tour(+1 707 255 3377) Backroads Bicycle Tours(+1 510 527 1555)

Wine Tours Niebaum-Coppola Estate Winery Tours(+1 800 782 4266/http://niebaumcoppola.com/) Wine Train Tour(+1 707 253 2111/http://www.winetrain.com/) St. Supery Vineyards & Winery Tours(+1 707 963 4507/http://www.stsupery.com/) Robert Mondavi Winery Tours(+1 888 766 6328/http://www.robertmondaviwinery.com) Hess Collection Winery Tours(+1 877 707 4377/http://www.hesscollection.com/)

Train Tours Wine Train Tour(+1 707 253 2111/http://www.winetrain.com/)

Jeep Tours Wine Country Jeep Tours(+1 800 539 5337)

Balloon Tours Napa Valley Balloons(+1 707 253 2224) Balloons Above the Valley(+1 707 253 2222)

Glider Tours Calistoga Gliders(+1 707 942 5000)

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Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

The Napa County Airport(APC)+1 707 253 4300http://www.napacountyairport.org/

APC is located seven miles south of downtown Napa and accommodates small commercial and charter planes.

San Francisco International Airport(SFO)+1 800 435 9736http://www.flysfo.com

SFO is located 58 miles from Napa.

Oakland International Airport(OAK)+1 510 563 3300http://www.flyoakland.com/

OAK is located 50 miles from Napa.

Sacramento International Airport(SMF)+1 916 922 4789http://www.sacairports.org/

SMF is located 66.6 miles from Napa.

Some providers for SFO, OAK and SMF are:

American Airlines(+1 800 433 7300;http://www.aa.com) Continental(+1 800 525 0280;http://www.flycontinental.com) Delta Airlines(+1 800 221 1212;http://www.delta-air.com) Alaska Airlines(+1 800 252 7522;http://alaskaair.com) Southwest Airlines(+1 800 435 9792;http://www.iflyswa.com) United Airlines(+1 800 241 6522;http://www.ual.com) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/http://www.usairways.com) jetBlue(+1 800 538 2583;http://www.jetblue.com)

Additional providers for SFO:

Air Canada(+1 888 247 2262;http://www.aircanada.ca/home.html) Air China(+1 800 986-1985;http://www.airchina.com.cn/en/index.jsp) Air France(+1 800 237-2747;http://www.airfrance.com/us) Air New Zealand(+1 800 262-1234;http://www.airnewzealand.com) AirTran Airways(+1 800 247-8726;http://www.airtran.com) ATA Airlines(+1 800 435-9282;http://www.ata.com) British Airways(+1 800 247-9297;http://www.british-airways.com) Cathay Pacific(+1 800 233-2742;http://www.cathaypacific.com) China Airlines(+1 800 227-5118;http://www.china-airlines.com/en/index.htm) Horizon Air(+1 800 547-9308;http://horizonair.alaskaair.com) Japan Airlines(+1 800 525-3663;http://www.japanair.com) Korean Air(+1 800 438-5000;http://www.koreanair.com) Lufthansa(+1 800 645-3880;http://www.lufthansa.com) Midwest Airlines(+1 800 452-2022;http://www.midwestairlines.com) Philippine Airlines(+1 800 435-9725;http://www.philippineair.com) Singapore Airlines(+1 800 742-3333;http://www.singaporeair.com) Virgin America(+1 1 877 359-8474;http://www.virginamerica.com/va/priceToFlyAct.do?method=showPriceWindow)

Additional providers for OAK and SMF:

Aloha Airlines(+1 800 367 5250;http://www.alohaairlines.com) Mexicana(+1 800 531 7921;http://www.mexicana.com)

Napa Valley Snapshot continued

From San Francisco International Airport

A-1 Yellow Cab.com(+1 650 878 0251;<http://www.a-1yellowcab.com>) Serra Yellow Cab(+1 650 991 3881;<http://www.dalycityyellowcab.com>) American Taxi Cab(+1 415 775 3315) Central Cab(+1 415 487 1004) Lucky Cab(+1 415 487 1004)

From Oakland International Airport

Yellow Cab Express(+1 510 528 9999) Friendly Cab(+1 510 536 3000) Yellow Airport Taxicab(+1 510 522 9999) Airport A1 Service(+1 510 594 9797) Airport Express Taxi Service(+1 510 524 7777) Airport Express Sunny Cab(+1 510 653 6333)

From Sacramento International Airport

Affordable Van& Taxi Service(+1 916 821 4471) AAA Taxi Shuttle Service(+1 916 362 5525) A Cab Co(+1 916 455 2727) Americab(+1 916 505 8294) Blondie's Taxi(+1 916 481 8111) Greyhound Taxi(+1 916 923 2121) Metro Cab(+1 916 416 0333) Sunshine Taxi(+1 916 791 2932)

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Car Rental: Avis(+1 800 831 2847;<http://www.avis.com>) Thrifty(+1 866 857 4545;<http://www.thrifty.com>) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131;<http://www.hertz.com>) National(+1 800 227 7368;<http://www.nationalcar.com>)

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Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245;<http://www.amtrak.com>)

Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 229 9424;<http://www.greyhound.com>)

Highway

From the Bay Area:

Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 37 in Vallejo to Hwy 29(Sonoma Blvd) to the Napa Vallejo Hwy 221 which will become Soscol Ave in Napa or take I-80 E to Hwy 12 toward Napa and Sonoma to Hwy 29 to Hwy 221 which turns into Soscol Avenue.

From Sacramento:

Take I-80 W toward San Francisco and exit on Hwy 12 toward Napa and Sonoma. Take Hwy 29 to the Napa Vallejo Hwy 221 which turns into Soscol Avenue in Napa.

Getting Around

Plane

The Wine Plane(+1 888 779 6600)

Bus

Brewster Transport Company(+1 780 852 3211;<http://www.brewster.ca>)

Train

Napa Valley Wine Train(+1 800 427 4124;<http://www.winetrain.com>)

Rental Car Companies

Hertz(+1 800 654 3131;<http://www.hertz.com>) Enterprise(+1 707 253 8000;<http://www.enterprise.com>) Budget(+1 707 224 7846;<http://www.budget.com>)

Limousine Companies

Antique Tours Limousine Service(+1 707 226 9227;<http://www.antiquetours.net>) Beau Limousine Tours& Transportation(+1 800-792-5551;<http://www.beaulimousine.com>) Bordeaux Limousine, Inc.(+1 707 257 4501) California Wine Tours(+1 800 294 6386;<http://www.californiawinetours.com>) Celebrity Limousine Wine Tours(+1 800 307 7974) Classic Cadillac Limousine Service(+1 707 226 2739) Classic Limousine(+1 800 259 8401) First(1st) Classic Limousine(+1 800 658 5679) Napa Valley Crown Limousine(+1 800 286 8228) Napa Valley Limousine Services(+1 707 258 0689) Personal Limousine

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Taxi Companies

Black Tie Taxi Co.(+1 888 544 TAXI) Napa Valley Cab Napa Valley Cab Northbay Taxi& Wheelchair Northbay Taxi& Wheelchair

Public Transportation

VINE(+1 800 696 6443;<http://www.nctpa.net/vine.cfm>) is the fixed route bus system serving the Napa Valley. Napa Downtown Trolley(+1 707 251 2800;+1 800 696 6443) American Canyon Transit(+1 707 648 7275) Calistoga HandyVan(+1 707 963 4229) St. Helena VINE Shuttle(+1 707 963 3007) Yountville Shuttle(+1 707 944 1234)

Other

ABC Transport Express(+1 707 259 0363) All Airport Transport(+1 866 793 5466) Napa Wine Shuttle(+1 707 257 1950;<http://www.wineshuttle.com>)

Trip Planner

511 is a Bay Area Transportation Hotline which creates custom itineraries for public transportation in the Bay Area(dial 511 in the Bay Area;+1 510 817 1717;<http://www.511.org>).

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at<https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out<http://travel.state.gov/>
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Fun Facts

Napa Valley State: California **Country:** United States

Napa Valley by the Numbers:

Population: 124,279 Elevation: 33ft/10m Average Annual Rainfall: 26.5in/67cm Average Jan. Temperature: 57°F/14°C Average July Temperature: 83°F/28°C

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Viticulture, Tourism Major Tourist Destinations: wineries, COPIA(the American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts), spas, dining, golf courses. Ethnic

Napa Valley Snapshot continued

Mix: 80.32% Caucasian, 0.52% African American, 26.83% Hispanic, 1.72% Asian
Time Zone: GMT-8 Country Dialing Code: 1
Area Code: 707

Did You Know?

Napa's mild climate and topography provide the perfect conditions for the vineyards, making one of the premier wine regions. Napa is home to over 300 wineries, and its popularity continues to grow. Hence, the term 'Wine Country' is synonymous with Napa.

Orientation:

Located in northern California, the Napa Valley is 50 miles/80 kilometers northeast of San Francisco, 40 miles/64 kilometers north of Oakland and 58 miles/93 kilometers southwest of Sacramento.

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