

FIRST LOOK | GETAWAY



CAB SEASON

It's always a fine time to #VisitNapaValley, but mild temperatures, smaller crowds, epic deals, and special events make Cabernet Season, November through April, one to remember. During these months the region seems to roll out the red carpet — or lemon yellow, to be exact — as the fields come alive with blankets of mustard flowers. Cool events abound, including the Napa Truffle Festival, Napa Lighted Art Festival, and Napa Valley Restaurant Week in January, and the Yountville International Short Film Festival in February. You can even lace up for March's Napa Valley Marathon, named one of the "12 top marathons worth traveling for." The cooler climate certainly complements the region's legendary Cabernet Sauvignon and you won't want to miss the variety of cozy tastings that highlight Louis M. Martini Winery's portfolio of world-class reds. If you're a guest at Meadowood Napa Valley, the spa's Treehouse Retreat has a roaring fire and hammered-copper tub that round out any treatment. And when night falls, you can turn up the heat with a show at Blue Note Napa, a classy jazz club, or the art deco Uptown Theater.

CHECK IN: Settle in at Bardessono, a Yountville resort with luxe villas, suites, and spa. (Wintertime treatments support your immune system and enhance circulation!)

- 1: Uptown Theater. 2: Brannan Cottage Inn 3: Lake Berryessa
- 4: Culinary class 5: Oxbow Public Market

INSIDER INFO
 Nichelini is the valley's oldest family-owned winery. Its small-batch wines are crafted by a fifth-generation Nichelini.

LIKE A LOCAL

No longer a Napa Valley novice? Or simply wishing to live like a local? Not-your-average tourists can find off-the-beaten-path options that veer from the usual foot traffic. Sam's Social Club at Calistoga's historically iconic Indian Springs Resort serves three meals a day in a picturesque setting. Start your morning with the duck confit hash and a grapefruit mimosa, or ask about the day's fresh smoothie special. From there, venture off the Silverado Trail to the 54-acre CADE Estate. The first organically farmed LEED Gold Certified estate winery in Napa Valley, CADE is 1,800 feet above the valley floor on Howell Mountain. A contrast to CADE's modern design, Nichelini Winery was established in 1890, and its original hand-hewn stone winery, wine press, and seven-bedroom house still stand today. When it's time to turn from wine to water, Pleasure Cove Marina at Lake Berryessa has year-round recreation opportunities for the whole family. The marina provides a fleet of rentals, including luxury fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, ski boats, even houseboats with capacity for a crowd.



CHECK IN: Brannan Cottage Inn, a National Register of Historic Places Certified Icon, was once part of the legendary Hot Springs Resort, built in Calistoga in 1862. Restored and reborn, the inn fuses historic charm and modern comforts, and is easy walking distance to Calistoga's authentic spa experiences.



1: MITCHELL GLOTZER / COURTESY OF UPTOWN THEATER; 2: COURTESY OF BRANNAN COTTAGE INN; 3: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



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SIP + SAVE

NAPA

The Downtown Napa Wine Tasting Card at the Welcome Center; \$15; 50 percent off at tasting rooms

CALISTOGA

Winter in the Wineries Passport; \$60; free tasting flights at 16 Calistoga wineries, December - February.

ST. HELENA

The Little Book of Big Experiences; \$75; discounts on elevated tasting experiences; November - March

THE VALUE VACAY

Want to save your pennies for bring-home bottles? There are plenty of budget-friendly ways to explore Napa Valley.

See more of town without hiring a car: Cycling is Napa Valley's favorite sport. Rent a set of wheels for about \$45 and travel the **Napa Valley Vine Trail** at your own pace. This free route meanders past vineyards and wineries. When you work up an appetite, don an apron and work for your lunch with a culinary class at **The CIA at Copia**. Or head to **Southside Café**, with locations in Napa and Yountville, for their amazing avocado toast.

For live music, there's plenty of free outdoor concerts around the valley in the summer. Pack a picnic and check one out! Each Friday in downtown Napa, **Napa City Nights** brings entertainment overlooking the Napa River. **Yountville's Music in the Park**, every Sunday evening, has food trucks and live tunes. **St. Helena's Summer Concert Series**, during select Thursdays, is held in the town's charming **Lyman Park**. Also on Thursdays, spread a blanket out in Pioneer Park for **Calistoga Concerts in the Park**.

CHECK IN: Select the all-suites **SpringHill Suites Napa Valley** and enjoy a heated outdoor pool and complimentary breakfast. American Canyon has an assortment of familiar hotel brands and serves as a convenient home base for a Napa Valley vacay.

THE FOOD FORAY

Known as much for its food as its wine, Napa Valley is one of the world's premier culinary kings.

Explore the **Oxbow Public Market**, open daily alongside the Napa River. Diverse tenants include cafes, local farm stands, and vendors selling coffee, cupcakes, cheeses, and more. Satisfy your sweet tooth and pop by **Anette's Chocolates** for artisan truffles and caramels.

A picnic and wine tasting at **V. Sattui Winery** is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. The estate's artisan deli features all the makings for an Italian picnic. The estate's culinary program is directed by Michelin Star-rated chef Stefano Masanti.

"V. Sattui's culinary philosophy expresses our rich Italian heritage by presenting fresh, seasonal, local ingredients in an uncomplicated yet elegant manner," says Masanti.

Also synonymous with fine cuisine, decorated chef Thomas Keller has five restaurants and bakeries in the town of Yountville. While it's difficult to snag a reservation at **The French Laundry**, Keller's other acclaimed options are just down the street — **Ad Hoc**, **Bouchon**, **Bouchon Bakery**, and **La Calenda** offer exquisite examples of the chef's influence.

Inspired? Sharpen your own skills at the **Silverado Cooking School**, where hands-on classes teach all levels. Bon appétit! ☞

CHECK IN: Although sweet sleep is easy to come by at **Inn on Randolph**, the guesthouse's gourmet gluten-free breakfast is sure to draw you from your slumber.



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