

24-Hours in Napa: Where to Stay and What to Do

Written by Jackie Stahl

It would be a shame to visit Northern California without exploring the rich wine country of Napa Valley. Whether as a large group or a romantic getaway, wine tasting through the plush vineyards is never a disappointment.



Top Napa Restaurant



Angele is our pick for a must-try restaurant on your trip to the wine country. This French favorite features a menu, layering elements from traditional recipes with contemporary influences. Its focus on rich and soothing French cuisine ranges from the classic simplicity of vegetable potage to the robust balance of veal stew. The ambiance is chic but French quaint and the patio view is gorgeous. www.angelrestaurant.com

Top Napa Hotel



Set among the rolling hills of Napa Valley's wine country, **Silverado Resort** is not your typical modern resort. This mansion getaway is in the midst of the green agriculture and provides guests with the total feel for life in the vineyards. The elegant Silverado features all the first class amenities, from a lavish spa to championship golf to fine dining. Your dream vacation awaits. www.silveradoresort.com

Napa Wine Tasting



Visiting Napa Valley without the taste of its homegrown grapes would be a travesty, not only because the wines are so fresh and pure but also because it's a chance to learn how your wines are made and the difference among the varieties.

Wine Tasting Tips

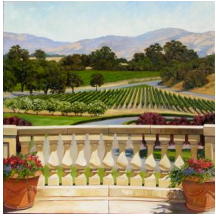
Although you may get anxious to try all the wines and hit the next winery, be sure to ask questions about each. The owners are usually very friendly and love to talk about their beloved self-made wines and winery. You will find that the process of making wine is quite interesting and will lead you in your quest to discover your own personal favorite selection and type.

It is customary for the white wines to be poured first, followed by red wines, and then dessert wines.

Must-Try Wineries

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Domaine Carneros: For the ultimate romantic backdrop, visit Domaine Carneros which patio overlooks the breathtaking vineyards. domainecarneros.com

Spring Mountain Vineyard: This winery is said to have one of the most beautiful settings and is one of the oldest settled properties in Napa. The wineries signature wine is its Cabernet Sauvignon. Reservations required. www.springmountainvineyard.com

Chateau Montelena: Not only was the winery quaint, hidden and absolutely beautiful, their red Zinfandel is incredible. The vineyard is rich in history and the architecture is ornate. www.montelena.com