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UN-WINED *in* WINE COUNTRY

With spas, natural hot springs, farm-fresh foods, fabulous shopping, and gorgeous views, there's more to *Napa Valley* than just its world-class wine.

Story by
Noelle Primavera

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Photographs by
Matt Wier



EVER SINCE Chateau Montelena's Chardonnay won the 1976 "Judgment of Paris" and put California makers on the map, wine is usually the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about Napa Valley. There are now approximately 475 (!) wineries in the county, many globally recognized for their award-winning wines. And most recently, Amy Poehler's much talked about Netflix movie *Wine Country* has surely inspired many wild, wine-filled weekend getaways since it premiered in May. After the devastating fires of October 2017 drastically impacted the area's economy, that's not entirely a bad thing. So while wine does get most of the fanfare, there is still *so much more* to this stunningly beautiful area of Northern California. ¶ Situated about an hour north of San Francisco, the Napa Valley is nestled between the Vaca Range and the Mayacamas Mountains. An agricultural community at its core, the valley is a magnet for crofters, artisans, creatives, and chefs who take inspiration from the abundant bounty of this verdant area. Its many small towns, including Calistoga, St. Helena, and Yountville, as well as the newly reinvigorated city of Napa itself, feature quaint, walkable downtowns ideal for exploring, shopping, dining, and indulging. ¶ After spending two days soaking in and savoring all that Napa Valley has to offer, we're sharing some of our favorite ways to "un-wined" in Wine Country (see what we did there?).



Indian Springs Calistoga

1712 Lincoln Avenue, Calistoga

indianspringscalistoga.com

● Simply walking onto the palm tree-lined grounds of the Spanish Mission Revival-styled resort, which offers bungalows, cottages, and even two houses to choose from, instantly switches you over to vacation mode. While there are four natural geysers on the 17-acre property, only one is tapped in order to create the most nutrient rich water possible for the property's Olympic-sized mineral pool, as well as their spa's services, which are also often combined with the locally sourced volcanic ash. The water is so nutrient rich in fact that beautiful crystals mineralize inside the water pipes, building up to the point the pipes need to be regularly replaced. FYI: Those crystal filled pipes are upcycled into artwork that is displayed in a small gallery one block from the resort.





Vista Collina

850 Bordeaux Way, Napa

meritagecollection.com/vista-collina

• Set amid a rapidly expanding corporate complex south of the city of Napa, the new 145-room Vista Collina is located at the gateway to the valley, making it an easy starting point for further exploration. With all the amenities you'd expect from a large resort, it features an on-site grocery store, cooking classes, live music, and a food & wine center, as well as a Mediterranean inspired spa that is housed inside the resort's former wine cave. The subterranean spa's warm, cocoon-like environment—not to mention the Serenity Lounge with its soothing cascading water wall, comfy chairs, and soft blankets—will put you in the right mindset to enjoy an utterly relaxing trip.



Sam's Social Club

1712 Lincoln Avenue, Calistoga

samssocialclub.com

• As part of Indian Springs Calistoga, Sam's Social Club is Michelin-rated for a reason. It's warm and welcoming, from the clubby interior to the outdoor patio and the conversational firepit area, and everything—from their salads and sandwiches to seafood dishes—is created using the freshest, locally sourced, seasonal ingredients. And trust us, you have to order the homemade Candy Cap Churros with whipped cream drizzled with dulce de leche. Yes, they're actually made with Candy Cap mushroom powder so these light and crunchy bits of heaven, served in a portion ideal for sharing, are the perfect combination of sweet and savory.