

CALIFORNIA

NAPA VALLEY

1 STAY

2 PLAY

3 EAT



CLOSEST AIRPORT

SFO



IDEAL TIME OF YEAR

JUNE OR NOVEMBER



MUST DO

HIRE A
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{ where to stay }

MY PICK ~ YOUNTVILLE

- o On our most recent trip, we stayed at [Hotel Villaggio](#). This is part of a larger property that also houses another hotel, [Vintage House](#), and an estate house, [The Villa](#), a five bedroom home perfect for families or celebrations. We didn't see the estate house, but both hotels are really cool. Hotel Villaggio is a bit hipper, darker, more masculine rooms, cool lobby and lobby bar, while Vintage House is calming, decorated with white, grey, and purple and has a more cottage-y feel. Both were beautiful, you can walk to the other through the property and they have golf carts that will transport you anywhere on property, and most places in the Yountville area. When we were booking, Vintage House was full, so we ended up at Villaggio, and I am so glad that we did. It allowed us to check out both properties. They also offer a heavy continental breakfast for all hotel guests.
- o What I love about Yountville is that you can walk everywhere! RH is right down the street, featuring a wine bar, outdoor seating, and a [restaurant](#). Side note: I thought the wine was a bit pricey. We didn't look at the menu, but their wine selection was subpar for the price. Especially when you can get a whole bottle literally anywhere!
 - There is a little Italian place, [Ciccio](#) (locals raved about it, it was good, but not amazing), [The French Laundry](#) (we have never been, but full disclosure, I don't like prix fixe menus so this is never on my list).
 - [Bistro Don Giovanni](#) - we happened across this place and really enjoyed it! Actually, I think we ended up getting small plates here after our dinner at Ciccio.
 - You also have [Bouchon Bistro](#), [Bottega](#), [Ad Hoc](#), [Bistro Jeanty](#), and [Coqueta](#) all within walking distance or a very short drive.
 - Don't forget about the ever famous [Bouchon Bakery](#). Get there early because the line gets long!
 - They also have a few places on property. [Perry Lang's](#), an American steakhouse on property. We didn't even know about it until we got to Napa, because it had just opened the week before, but was getting really great reviews.

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OTHER NOTABLE PLACES

- [Silverado Resort](#) - we have stayed here twice. It's not one of my favorites, HOWEVER, it was always reasonably priced AND they have spa, golf, pools, etc. So, depending on how long you are staying, this may be worth looking into. The last time that I stayed here was 2015, and it was undergoing major renovations. We rented several condos. Everyone's condos were updated except for ours. At this point, I am sure that they are updated! It was nice to have a little kitchen area, and one of the condos had an awesome deck!. We hosted happy hours with appetizers before we headed out for dinner. This is great for larger groups that want separate space. I still like the location of Yountville better!
- [Auberge de Soleil](#) - gorgeous! This was one of my favorites, but I think I would pick Hotel Villagio again, simply for location.
- [Meritage Resort](#) - this is on my list. Every time that we were going, the room rate was insane. It just seems so beautiful to me!



 CADE

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MY WINERY PICKS

- **Chimney Rock** - I. Love. This. Place. Full disclosure, my main reason is the look and feel of it. The driveway through white pillars and iron gates is one of my absolute favorite places. Pulling up to a beautiful white chateau with a small flower garden courtyard in front takes me to France, but stateside! They've only made it better over the years but adding a beautiful courtyard for seating out back with a large barn like building that you can hit events such as weddings, private dinners, etc. I've gone every time that we've been in Napa, and it never disappoints. The wine is pretty good, too!
- **Cade, Joseph Phelps, and Pride Mountain** are all BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! They can be a little off of the beaten path (especially Pride Mtn.). Cade is an absolute MUST for us every time, and Joseph Phelps is very impressive (good lunch spot, too!)
- **Frank Family** - Another favorite. The wine is great, especially the Zinfandel, and they have always had a beautiful dog on the property, which can never hurt from my perspective!
- **Plumpjack** is great, and is in the Cade Family, so you may be able to get Cade at Plumpjack as a tasting. Wear a bit more sensible shoes, as the walkway is dirt/gravel at Plump. If they don't serve Cade, try Odette (one of their other wineries, which is also very good).
- **Nickel & Nickel** - The grounds are beautiful. Wine is good, but give yourself some time at some of these places. This is one that you will want to just sit and relax for your tasting (same with Cade and Joseph Phelps).
- **Caymus** - this is a must stop by. They have beautiful outdoor tastings that allow you a really sweet experience. Wines are great!
- **Quintessa** - we love this. We joined the club and sent several cases home. Great tasting, great wine, a little on the pricier side. Also, parent winery to one of my favorite wines, Faust.
- **Silver Oak** - we like their wine, but skipped them on our latest trip. It was quick tasting, and they didn't really offer anything more than just a few tidbits of conversation at the tasting room.
- **Cakebread** - we did a full tour here, and it was pretty interesting to hear about the family business.

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IF YOU GET TO THEM, YOU GET TO THEM

- o [Stag's Leap / Stags' Leap](#) – there are two wineries that are different (based on the apostrophe)! I have been to Stag's Leap, and that is a great one. Our server was a little pretentious, but we were pretty lit at that point, I don't think any of us cared! Ha!
- o [Chateau Montelena](#) - So, this was not one of my faves. We went because of the history of putting Napa on the map, but besides being able to say we went, it was only okay. Don't let me discourage you though. We just didn't find the wine or the grounds to be overly impressive.
- o [Heitz](#) - wouldn't bother. The wine is fine, but the guys at the tasting room were kind of jerks. This can make or break an experience.
- o [Honig](#) - pretty setting, and the wine was good, but nothing out of the ordinary.
- o [Girard](#) - we always make a stop in here, but it is truly a tasting room, and just because it's our thing! :-)
- o [Del Dotto](#) - we weren't into this one. It was very over the top. Again, our sommelier was a little obnoxious, so that could have soured our experience a bit. I think they have a spot for lunch, too!
- o [Darioush](#) - this was nice, but pretty crowded. If I remember correctly, there was a cute gift shop that you might find something, but it hasn't been on our list to go back.

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A WINE TASTING LUNCH

- o [Rutherford Hill](#) - great place to have lunch. You may need to reserve, I can't remember. See below for lunch spots. This place is pretty overlooking the valley!
- o [Joseph Phelps](#) - this may be one of my favorite days. Reserve a picnic table at Joseph Phelps, grab lunch and snacks from Oakville Grocery, and just enjoy your lunch overlooking the beautiful vineyard. They also offer a food pairing prepared by their chef. We haven't done this, but friends of ours have gone to their events and said the food is excellent.
- o [Dariosh](#) - I've been to the winery, but haven't had the prepared pairing.
- o [Cliff Family](#) - Food Trucks for the win!



GRAB N GO LUNCH

- o [Oakville Grocery](#) - this is one of my favorite places. Stop in for cheese, bread, or maybe even a sandwich and side to get you ready for your day! They take call ahead orders so you don't waste too much time! Coffee and morning drinks to go, too!
- o [Oxbow Public Market](#) - lots of options and most you can order ahead and pick up. This allows you to stay on schedule, but also stay fed (IMPORTANT!)
- o [Fivetown Grocery](#) - located at The Meritage. If you want to checkout the property without staying there, this is a good way!
- o [Fatted Calf Charcuterie](#)

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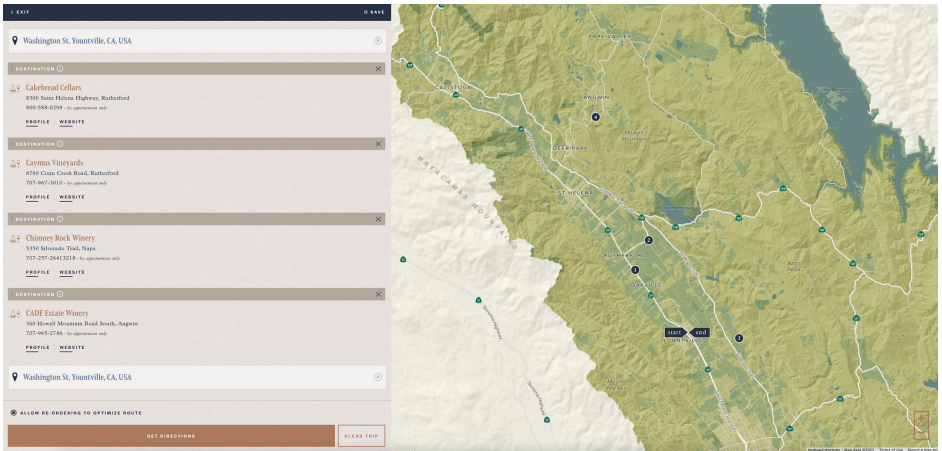
{where to play}

MAP IT OUT

I found an amazing resource for you that we didn't have in the past! I spent hours upon hours mapping out our wineries and lunch options, and it looks like this will be very helpful!

NAPA VALLEY WINERIES - Select which wineries you would like to go and it will map it out for you. There is a toggle at the bottom left that allows you "optimize route". It even allows you to filter by varietal, complimentary tastings, or if you are looking for a full tour or a barrel tasting.

My recommendation is to make your list of the places you absolutely WANT to go to. Those should be your first or second stops of the day. Remember, these are tastings, but sometimes you are trying four or more different wines at each, and it adds up!



HIRE A DRIVER FOR THE DAY

Yes, it will cost you, but it is so worth it!

Elite Limo - we have used this company every time. They may also help you to put together a daily tour, but we've always planned our own and sent them the itinerary. They will review and let you know if there are any issues.

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SOME OF OUR FAVES

LUNCH

- [Oakville Grocery](#) - amazing little market to get lunch provisions. We typically head here first thing in the morning, grab sandwiches, salads, snacks, plates/napkins, etc, and then pack in a little disposable cooler and take to one of the wineries that we have reserved for lunch. Joseph Phelps, Rutherford Hill, Frank Family are all good spots for this!
- [Mustards](#) - this is good for lunch, but gets packed.
- [R&D Kitchen](#) (Yountville) – this is a fun little spot. We first found it in Santa Monica, and then Napa, and then Newport Beach. The crispy chicken sandwich is YUM!
- [Gott's Roadside](#) - a great burger!
- [Goose & Gander](#) - we happened across this because it made sense on where we were in between wineries.

DINNER (NAPA AND SURROUNDING AREA)

- [Morimoto](#) is always on my list in any city!
- [Auberge du Soleil](#) - amazing sunset view, but super expensive for a solid, but not over the top amazing dinner.
- [Celadon](#) - this is really cute, especially if you can sit out on the patio.
- [Cole's Chop House](#) - standard steakhouse, but we like it!
- [Bistro Don Giovanni](#) - we happened across this place and really enjoyed it! Actually, I think we ended up getting small plates here after our dinner at Ciccio.
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