



Food & Wine Tour  
*Napa ~ Sonoma, California*

 *Napa Valley is about 30 miles long, and has more than 45,000 acres planted to grapes. Its width ranges from five miles near the city of Napa to just one mile where the valley narrows near the town of Calistoga. Internationally known as one of the world's greatest wine regions, it is just one-eighth the size of Bordeaux, France.*

Suggested travel: November

**T**his is a perfect time to visit this magnificent region of California; the weather is beautiful and the tourism has lessened. You'll return home rested and ready to begin the Holiday Season!

 *Yountville gold and silver may have been behind the hordes that flocked in the 1800s, but liquid gold - Chardonnays, Cabernet Sauvignons and Pinot Noirs - is behind the migration to this dream destination for wine lovers! Charles Krug is credited with developing Napa's first winery in 1861 and within 7 years, there were more than 140 wineries in the Napa area. But with rapid expansion, wine quality suffered and many wineries did as well. In 1920, Prohibition created even more business troubles, but when it was repealed, the wine industry began to rebound. In 1943, a group of vintners came together to share ideas, and that group now called the Napa Valley Vintners is credited with creating a thriving and competitive wine industry in Napa.*

*The evolution of wine in California during the 1960's & '70's was largely initiated by professional men and women, all possessing a passion for wine. California's winemakers are among the most innovative and open to experimentation in the world. Currently there are over 2,000 wineries in California, producing over 17 million gallons per year!*



Depart for California. Please make your flight arrangements into Oakland, to arrive before 2 pm. We will meet at the Oakland Airport and transfer to Yountville in Napa Valley - 50 miles.

Check-in for four nights at the **VINTAGE INN** in Yountville, Napa Valley, "An inn that's more like a chateau in France" - *SUNSET MAGAZINE*. This intimate 4-Diamond French country-style property blends 19<sup>th</sup> century romance with simple wine country elegance. A central waterway flows through the luxurious gardens creating a relaxing environment for total rejuvenation of mind body and spirit. You can treat yourself to a luxurious sense of wellness in their world-class Mediterranean-style Spa Villaggio or browse the boutique shops and art galleries, all on the Vintage Estate.

There will be time to relax before a food and wine pairing dinner at **ANGELE** in Napa. Chef Claude Rouas and his daughters offer a menu that layers elements of traditional recipes with contemporary influences - a focus on rich and soothing French cuisine. The wine list highlights the flavors in the menu as well as producers from Napa Valley and around the world.



After a delicious champagne breakfast at the Inn, we begin our adventure in Wine Country with what else, a wine tasting!

Our first stop is **SILVER OAK CELLARS** in Oakville, just a short drive from Yountville. Not many wineries can survive on the production of one wine, but then Silver Oak isn't just any winery. Here, Cabernet Sauvignon has been raised to an art form; velvety and opulent and in done in a distinct California style.

Following this, we will enjoy an olive oil mill tour and tasting, followed by a tasting and lunch at **ROUND POND ESTATE**, a family-owned estate in Rutherford, dedicated to producing artisan gourmet olive oils, vinegars and limited-production Cabernet Sauvignon and Nebbiolo wines. Their 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon just made the list of 100 top wines of 2007 from the San Francisco Chronicle.

The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure.

Dinner will be enjoyed at **AD HOC** in Yountville – another unique dining concept by the renewed Chef Thomas Keller. The menu changes daily features American, Spanish/Basque and Italian cuisine. Creative food served family-style with thoughtfully chosen wine list in a great contemporary space.



After a delicious champagne breakfast at the Inn, we enjoy another visit and tasting at **DOMAINE CHANDON**, a leader in viticulture as well as winemaking - the 1<sup>st</sup> American sparkling wine venture by a French Champagne House. Chandon has been a leader in premium sparkling wine production since 1973. Their principle achievement has been to craft a wide range of sparkling wines the reflect California's vibrant regional character yet remaining true to the practices of "le mode traditionnelle".

Next we will enjoy a tour, tasting and lunch at one of Napa Valley's best-kept secrets, **KULETO ESTATE**. With world-class wines, unparalleled scenic beauty reminiscent of the Tuscan countryside and outstanding architecture, this is the winery visit that will linger in your memory. Renowned restaurateur and designer Pat Kuleto, has created a winery estate that embodies the rustic yet elegant outdoor living that he embraces.

Before returning to Yountville, we will visit **DOMAINE CHARBAY** in St. Helena, an American family winery and micro-distillery. With a heritage of 13 generations of wine making and distilling, they are dedicated to handcrafting the finest releases (often single barrels) of wines, Charbay Vodkas, classic spirits and ports. Domaine Charbay was awarded the title of "*Vodka Visionary*" by Food & Wine Magazine.

Our day concludes with an elegant dinner at the Vintage Inn.



Enjoy another champagne breakfast at the Inn and then the day is yours to enjoy spa services, shopping, art galleries and the beautiful Vintage Estate property!

In the late afternoon, we will be treated to a private Estate tour to explore the 125-year old chateau, the state of the art production facilities and the wine caves at the **RUBICON ESTATE** in Rutherford. Once inside the caves, we will enjoy a special selection of library wines, including their flagship Rubicon. After the tasting, Chef Kelly McCown will delight us with an hors d'oeuvres and wine reception, followed by a custom wine pairing dinner served in their majestic South Barrel Room.



Farewell Champagne Brunch at the Inn and departure for the Oakland Airport.

WHEN MAKING YOUR FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR RETURN FLIGHTS AFTER 2 PM TO ALLOW TIME TO FOR BRUNCH AND TRAVEL TO THE AIRPORT.

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*The wineries included on this culinary adventure were selected by the World of MBI based on reputation, quality, variety and availability.*