



"I want to feel like a visitor and live the wine-country lifestyle to the absolute max—but I can't spend like I'm on vacation every day."



By Lisa Adams Walter

Live Like a Tourist

On a Local's Budget

Last year I wrote a story about "living the life" in the Napa Valley like a tourist, without breaking the bank. Data shows that visitors from across the globe flock to our region every day. Meanwhile, most of us are already here every day—and our tendency is to go through our daily routine, without pausing to smell the roses. Or, perhaps I should say, without pausing to enjoy the aroma of the wine-tasting glass!

I like to regularly map out a "staycation" daytrip or a touristy activity to remind myself (and those close to me) how lucky we are. So, once again, in that vacation mindset, I've been on the hunt for tips and deals for "Napa Valley Locals" so that we too may enjoy the best of the valley. My desire remains: I want to feel like a visitor and live the wine-country lifestyle to the absolute max—but I can't spend like I'm on vacation every day.

Not long ago, I was chatting with some visitors who decided to meet up in Napa. One pair was from Southern California, and the

If you have tips and ideas to share, that I might be able to include in a future issue, please send them my way to lisa@adamswalter.com.



other from the now-bitterly-cold, Northeastern US. The tourists excitedly shared details of their “traditions” when then make their annual visit to the Napa Valley. It surprised me that one of their traditions was to rent bicycles and plot out an afternoon of wine tasting. At first I thought that they could not be serious; my thoughts immediately wandered to an exhausting ride up a steep mountain or a terrifying experience along a busy thoroughfare such as Highway 29. After listening to the description of their annual tradition, however, it made sense. They pick out a few wineries within easy proximity, located on less-traveled roads, pack a lunch, and then head out to taste responsibly. They report that, on these excursions, they purchase several cases of wine that they ship home.

Many of us have bicycles. So, think about it. If you are on a bicycle, you really CAN stop to smell the roses! An easy trip would be in Yountville beginning at Domaine Chandon, then riding down to the relaxing lobby at Somerston Wine Company on Washington Street, before stopping in at the Yountville Deli (located within Ranch Market Too) to gather delicious, made-to-order sandwiches and fresh salads, made on site daily. For locals, the Yountville Deli has a “frequent sandwich” card. So, if you stop in regularly, at some point there really will be a free lunch. I like to stroll, or ride, the quaint streets and the bike path in Yountville. It’s an easy ride, and the neighborhoods are fun to explore. Eventually you could end up at a more distant winery such as Cliff Lede on Yountville Crossroad, or you may choose to taste at hope & grace

Get out and enjoy the Napa Valley like a tourist.

Domaine Chandon

1 California Drive, Yountville
www.domainechandon.com

Somerston Wine Company

6490 Washington Street, Yountville
www.somerstonwineco.com

Yountville Deli

6498 Washington Street, Yountville
www.yountvilledeli.com

Cliff Lede

1473 Yountville Cross Road,
Yountville
www.cliffledevineyards.com

hope & grace Tasting Salon

6540 Washington Street, Yountville
www.hopeandgracewines.com

Girard Winery

6795 Washington Street, Yountville
www.girardwinery.com

Yountville Park

At Washington St. & Lincoln St.
Yountville

Mumm Napa Valley

8445 Silverado Trail, Rutherford
www.mummnapa.com

Napa Art Walk

www.NapaArtWalk.org

Yountville Arts

www.townofyountville.com

Napa Valley Welcome Center

600 Main Street, Napa
www.visitnapavalley.com

Yountville Chamber of Commerce

6484 Washington Street, Yountville
www.yountville.com

Castello di Amorosa

4045 North St. Helena Highway,
Calistoga
www.castellodiamorosa.com

Tasting Salon in the middle of town, or Girard Winery tasting room in NoYo (yep, North Yountville). Speaking of the north end of town, the Yountville Park at the very northern perimeter of Yountville would be a prime, spacious choice for enjoying that picnic you’ve been toting around.

Other extremely affordable, yet culturally rich, activities include our many museums, art walks and permanent collections such as the Private Collection Gallery at Mumm Napa Valley, which features a collection of original Ansel Adams prints on loan from the Adams family. Both Napa and Yountville have art walks lined with incredible pieces of visual art that are installed along some sort of easy-to-traverse route, and the walks are completely free. Usually, these are medium to large sculptural pieces that make an interesting visual study. As a local, I am always surprised when a new piece pops up on the landscape and catches my eye. For information on both walks, visit either the Napa Valley Welcome Center, located near the riverfront on Main Street in downtown Napa, or stop in to the Yountville Chamber of Commerce.

Finally, you’ve likely heard about The Castle, but have you been there? Castello di Amorosa, known as The Castle, is a fully-functional winery. The twist is that it just happens to operate within an authentically-styled, 13th century, Tuscan castle that was built over a 14-year period by Dario Sattui, a fourth generation winemaker who also owns V. Sattui Winery in St. Helena. The fortress is complete with high walls, five defensive towers and more than 30 acres of estate vineyards. A visit to Castello di Amorosa is a fantasy experience that will transport you beyond a vacation mindset; it will take you to another world and time. Sattui studied European castles for decades before breaking ground in 1994. Today, the mag-

nificent winery, crafted out of 8,000 tons of hand-squared stone, features 107 rooms that total 121,000 square feet (95 of the rooms are dedicated to wine production). As at any real castle, you will cross the moat on a drawbridge and, depending upon the tour that you select, you may also see the magnificent great hall, fit for a king, as well as other authentic spaces, such as the dungeon and torture chamber, secret passageways, a chapel, a barnyard and stables. General admission for adults is less than \$20 and includes a wine tasting. However, Castello di Amorosa is extremely popular, so to make tour reservations, call well in advance.

CARNEROS RUN 2014 : 5k & 10k

BENEFITING THE CARNEROS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SATURDAY MARCH 29TH

Join us for the Annual Carneros 5k or 10k Run/Walk through the vineyards, followed by a Pancake Breakfast, Raffle and Wine Tasting.

TIME 8AM start. Parking is limited, consider carpooling and early arrival. Please note, last shuttle to run location leaves parking area at 7:30AM.

LOCATION Artesa Winery 1345 Henry Road, Napa, CA

REGISTER at www.active.com until March 26, 2014 or at **The Napa Running Company** 942 Main St., Napa until the day before the event.

FEE \$45 by March 10/ \$50 thereafter. Fee includes run registration, t-shirt, wine glass, taste, 1 raffle ticket and pancake breakfast.

RAFFLE/SILENT AUCTION \$1/1 or \$5/6 raffle tickets. A raffle drawing and silent auction with many exciting prizes will follow the run.

INFORMATION call 707-265-6043 or visit www.carnerosfire.org

A special thank you to Artesa Winery and Napa Host Lion's Club.

