

WHEN NAPA VALLEY'S BEST SOMMELIER GETS A TASTE FOR THE SPA ...
It Leads To A Sensory Treat Of Wines Paired With Signature Treatments at Auberge Spa

RUTHERFORD, Calif. – To most, Napa Valley evokes images of sublime sensory experiences – the taste of superb cuisine prepared by renowned local chefs; the bouquet of a Napa Valley vintage swirled in a glass; vivid reds and golds of the vines turning color in the fall; and the blissful touch of a seasoned spa therapist. At Auberge du Soleil, such sensory experiences complement one another with Auberge Spa's wine and spa pairings, enjoyed in the one of the most serene and picturesque retreats in the California Wine Country.

“Auberge Spa is a place where guests reconnect with themselves, each other and nature in an intimate environment,” said Spa Director Amy Wilson-Moghina. “Our wine pairings complement that experience by indulging the senses and blending the aromas of the treatments and the wines.”

The pairings are a collaboration of the spa and Auberge du Soleil's Head Sommelier Kris Margerum. A veteran with more than 20 years experience at Auberge du Soleil, Margerum has spent years developing close relationships with the top winemakers of the region to assemble the hotel's wine list of 1,500 selections and 17,000-bottle cellar – the largest in the Valley.

“Just as wine complements food for a memorable dining experience, the right wine can complement the notes and fragrances of spa treatments, creating an unforgettable sensory experience,” said Margerum.

Upon entering their serene garden treatment rooms at Auberge Spa, guests are offered a glass of wine and invited to savor the aromas of the treatment's botanical ingredients. The sommelier's accompanying tasting notes discuss the features of the wine and why it was selected to complement the particular treatment. While new pairings are continually offered, examples of spa treatment-wine pairings include:

- ***Rosemary and Grape Seed Foot Scrub paired with the 2005 Swanson Oakville Merlot (Napa Valley)***

This merlot has balanced fruit with subtle earth and herbal notes, which are brought to life wonderfully by the matching aromatics of grape seeds and rosemary that are a part of this treatment.

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- **Body Purifier Bath Salts paired with the 2007 Hirsch (Austria)**
This Heiligenstein matches aromas of minerals, citrus and light spice. The mild perfume of the body purifier salts enhances the white pepper notes in this crisp white wine, making the aroma even more complex.
- **Honey Rose Sugar Scrub and Rose Oil paired with the 2001 Gattinara Nebbiolo (Italy)**
As Nebbiolo ages, the aroma of rose petals develops in the wine bouquet. The elegant floral aroma of this wine is accentuated as the air fills the room with the scent of roses.

Created for the exclusive use of the inn's guests, Auberge Spa occupies a 7,000- square-foot building overlooking the Napa Valley. Anchored by a central courtyard punctuated by fountains and 100-year old olive trees, the spa reflects the French country inn charm and elegant simplicity of Auberge du Soleil. The seven treatment rooms – including three designed specifically for couples – surround the courtyard, each bathed in natural light streaming through French doors that lead to a private garden with outdoor shower or tub. Spa treatment-wine pairings at Auberge Spa are offered daily and are complimentary.

About Auberge Resorts

Auberge Resorts is a collection of exceptional hotels, resorts and private clubs, each with a unique personality that assures a memorable guest experience. Among the distinctive properties are Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley; Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas; Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley; The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina; Encantado, Santa Fe; Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif, with several others currently in development. While Auberge Resorts nurtures the individuality of each establishment, all are characterized by a set of communal elements: intimate, understated elegance; captivating locations that inspire exceptional cuisine and spa experiences; and gracious yet unobtrusive service. For more information about Auberge Resorts, please visit www.aubergeresorts.com.

Auberge du Soleil is also a member of **Relais & Châteaux**, the prestigious global hospitality association of intimate, elegant and independently owned hotels and acclaimed restaurants. Founded in 1954 in France, the association is comprised of 480 luxurious establishments in 56 countries.

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