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Annual Interest

Four key holidays call for advance planning to have the ultimate experience. Here, what to book now for 2010

BY ANDREA STANFORD

There is no better time or place to enjoy the finest of Napa reds than a late September evening at Auberge du Soleil.

NAPA VALLEY (Fall Harvest)

THE RESORT Auberge du Soleil. A perfect pairing for well-traveled Napa Valley regulars usually means a reservation at French Laundry (see below) and accommodations at Auberge du Soleil. Book the Champagne Maison with a private terrace, bedside fireplace and sweeping valley views. aubergedusoleil.com.

PRIORITY CHECKLIST

- **Secure** your reservation at French Laundry: They are accepted two months to the calendar date. The private dining room can be booked up to a year in advance. opentable.com; frenchlaundry.com.
 - **Reserve** the Auberge du Soleil's house Mercedes E350 Cabriolet for open-air wine outings.
 - **Arrange** for a half-day at The Carneros Inn for a Huichica Creek Bath followed by a signature massage. thecarnerosinn.com.
- OTHER PRE-ARRIVAL MUSTS**
- **Cyrus Restaurant:** Don't miss acclaimed chef Douglas Keane's culinary revelations at this Healdsburg hot spot. cyrusrestaurant.com.
 - **Cade Winery:**

Book a private food and wine pairing with food prepared in their on-site organic gardens. cadewinery.com.

- **Ladera Vineyards:** Celebrate the crush with an insider tour detailing the wine process from grape to bottle. ladera-vineyards.com.
- **Staglin Family Vineyard:** Book your private wine tasting and tour at this Napa mainstay. staglinfamily.com.
- **Swanson Vineyards:** Experience the friendly side of wine tasting by booking a Harvey tasting at the private Swanson Vineyards tasting room, complete with their signature caviar and bonbons. swansonvineyards.com.
- **Cakebread Cellars:** Take a break from wine tasting and book a private cooking class at this exclusive winery. Classes include a vineyard tour. cakebread.com.



FROM TOP Private wine tasting at Cade Winery; Ladera Vineyards; Auberge du Soleil's Champagne Maison.



THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII (Winter Holidays)

THE RESORT Four Seasons Hualalai. With a brand-new spa and apothecary experience, several just-completed two-bedroom ocean-view suites and shopping at Seaside Luxe (pick up Lanvin sandals and a Kendall Conrad cuff) this ultimate Hawaiian resort is better than ever. Make like an insider and book Bungalow 33 or experience one of the new suites. fourseasons.com/hualalai.

PRIORITY CHECKLIST

- **Book** your dinner reservations at the resort or you will be stuck dining at 10

p.m. The Beach Tree Restaurant is a must (request the lower level). It is newly renovated with a California/Italian menu and the perfect sunset views.

- **Reserve** a Therapeutic Hinoki Oil and Ginger Water Cure and Duet Massage at the spa.
- **Arrange** for a private sunset dinner on

the beach complete with entertainment.

OTHER PRE-ARRIVAL MUSTS

- **Na'alapa Stables:** Book a ride to discover the sacred Waipi'o Valley on horseback. naalapastables.com.
- **Mauna Kea Stargazing:** Reserve a sunset watch from 13,000 feet with the largest collection of telescopes around. maunakea.com.
- **Four Seasons tennis:** Book a private with the pro—you don't pay if you win!



LEFT Riding in the Waipi'o Valley (Na'alapa Stables). BELOW Four Seasons Hualalai private sunset dinner.

