



Sunset

Travel Guide

Napa Valley:
Wineries, Hotels, Dining, and More 2010



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COVER: SOLAGE CALISTOGA RESORT. CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: ANNABELLE BREAKEY, BERINGER VINEYARDS, THOMAS J. STORY



The charming Auberge du Soleil **BELOW** Poetry Inn's pool

Where to stay

Napa Valley accommodations for all budgets



Auberge du Soleil. The luxe resort has large rooms, stunning views, and a notable restaurant (\$\$\$\$). *From \$550. In Rutherford; 800/348-5406 or www.aubergedusoleil.com.*

Avia Hotel. Welcome the fashionable and fairly priced Avia Hotel, which opened in July 2009 on a downtown corner. Colorful throne-like velvet chairs dominate the lobby, and in some rooms, soaking tubs dress up the space. The rooftop deck has swinging benches and a firepit. Ask for something on the fifth floor if you want valley views. *From*

\$200. In Napa; 707/224-3900 or aviahotels.com
Blackbird Inn. The newly renovated California Arts and Crafts home has a front porch, huge stone fireplace, and lots of fine woodwork. The eight guest rooms are contemporary, with down comforters, four-poster beds, and gas fireplaces. *From \$185, breakfast included. In Napa; 888/567-9811 or www.blackbirdinnnapa.com.*

Calistoga Ranch. A sibling to Auberge du Soleil, the resort rests in a 157-acre canyon in the mountains east of Calistoga. Secluded and luxurious, it has its own spa along with 4 miles of hiking trails. *From \$735. In Calistoga; 800/942-4220 or www.calistogaranch.com.*

The Carneros Inn. The board-and-batten cottages hark back to Napa's agrarian past but offer contemporary luxury. *From \$395. In*

Pedal straight from your doorstep at Solage Calistoga Resort **RIGHT** Chic comfort at the Cottages of Napa Valley



Napa; 888/400-9000 or www.thecarnerosinn.com.

The Cottages of Napa Valley. Two rows of cheery Provençal-style cottages facing a shaded lawn and garden dotted with fountains outdo Napa's famed luxury hotels on hospitality, throwing in complimentary wine, snacks, and a breakfast basket of Bouchon Bakery pastries delivered to your porch. They're also affordable, as far as Napa prices go, providing the sort of privacy and personal touches you can't find at larger resorts. *From \$350. In Napa; 707/252-7810 or www.napacottages.com.*

Dr. Wilkinson's Hot Springs Resort. Go for "The Works," a traditional mud bath with facial mask, aromatic mineral whirlpool bath, steam room, massage, and blanket wrap at the Calistoga classic. *Motel units from \$149,*

plus cottages and bungalows. In Calistoga; 707/942-4102 or www.drwilkinson.com.

El Bonita Motel. For years St. Helena's motel with the neon sign and the retro road-trip vibe was a cherished Napa Valley secret. Now the word is out, which means you'll need to book in advance. *From \$149. In St. Helena; 707/963-3216 or www.elbonita.com.*

Indian Springs Resort & Spa. The cabins are nice for an over-nighter, and the sprawling complex offers an unfussy approach to the spa experience, with mud baths, a thermal pool, and a Buddhist garden. *Cottages from \$225, lodge rooms from \$185. In Calistoga; 707/942-4913 or www.indianspringscalistoga.com.*

Milliken Creek Inn and Spa. Overlooking the Napa River, the 10 rooms hint at the exotic, with fresh flowers, burlwood-type flooring,

and sea grass lounges along with fireplaces and spa tubs, and beds mounded with Italian linen sheets and white comforters. You can stroll the tranquil gardens. *From \$550, breakfast included. In Napa; 888/622-5775, 707/255-1197, or www.millikencreekinn.com.*

Mount View Hotel & Spa. Small but nice rooms. *From \$189. In Calistoga; 800/816-6877 or www.mountviewhotel.com.*

Napa River Inn. The 1884 Hatt Building has been tastefully remodeled with 66 rooms and suites, each offering a fireplace or a view of the river. *From \$239. In Napa; 877/251-8500, 707/251-8500, or www.napariverinn.com.*

Poetry Inn. Comfort, style, and world-class views (and wine cellar) in the Stags Leap District. *From \$590. In Napa; 707/944-0646 or www.poetryinn.com.*

Solage Calistoga Resort. The sister property to Auberge du Soleil, Solage is designed for a younger crowd with (slightly) shallower pockets. The to-die-for spa offers 120-minute Mudslide experience for two (\$215), a sophisticated take on the century-old tradition of the Calistoga mud bath that includes a bake in a spacious sauna with a specially blended cocktail of mud and essential oils, a soak in the area's famous thermal waters, and a swaddled rest in a "sound chair," which pulses to the New Age music on your headphones. *From \$375. In Calistoga; 866/942-7442 or www.solagecalistoga.com.*