

A Modern Guide to Downtown Napa

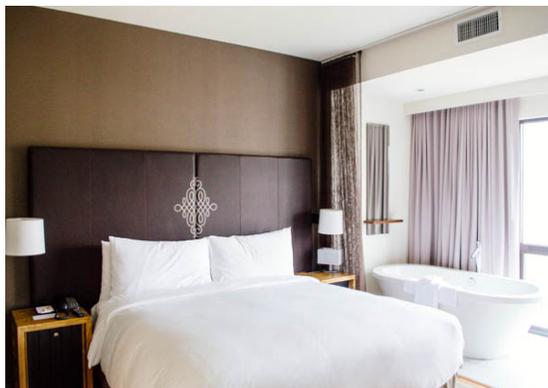
By [Ana Kamin](#) on February 24, 2016 9:30 AM



Downtown Napa is undergoing a massive revival with new restaurants, bars, and shops popping up on every corner. *(Photography by Ana Kamin, except where noted)*

No longer just the early-morning meeting place for Wine Country excursions, Downtown Napa is becoming a glamorous destination with new restaurants, shops, bars, and, of course, wine tasting rooms popping up on every corner. And for those who needs a slight adrenaline spike in their getaways, bicycling, kayaking, or hot air ballooning will satisfy the adventurer in you.

STAY



Andaz Napa

Crisp white sheets, modern design, tasty room service, and a full-soak bathtub in the middle of the room greet you as you enter your room at Andaz Napa. A laid-back atmosphere, craft cocktail bar, and gourmet in-house restaurant make Andaz Napa the perfect home base for all your Napa Valley ventures. // 1450 First Street, anadznapa.com

EAT

Atlas Social

American tapas done extremely right fill the menu at Atlas Social. A variety of unique, small plates divided into three categories—“from the farm,” “from the sea,” and “from the ranch,”—combine with a modern rustic ambiance for the perfect meal in Downtown Napa. Savor the local ingredients, sip on world-class wine, and try to taste as many plates as you can. // 1124 1st St, Napa, CA , atlassocialnapa.com



Grace's Table

"A cheerful Napa bistro" Grace's Table serves up dishes inspired by Italy, France, and the Americas. Grace's is a bustling spot from 8.30am to 10pm, so prepare for a bit of a wait, but a changing seasonal menu with a focus on comfort food will make it all worth it at this “global kitchen.” Try the Iron Skillet Cornbread with lavender Honey Bitter for the breakfast of champions. // 1400 2nd St, gracetable.com



Oxbow Public Market

Hog Island Oyster, Ritual Coffee, C'Momi, Kitchen Table, and Napa Valley Distillery, are just a few of the shops and eateries that make Oxbow Market a must-stroll and must-eat spot. // 610 & 644 1st St, oxbowpublicmarket.com



Melted

Grilled waffle sandwiches with a side of creamy tomato soup? Yes, please. Melted is a small eatery with big flavors serving 14 different sandwich combinations on savory waffle bread. Grab your favorite (we recommend the Don Caballero & Settin' The Woods on Fire) and enjoy it at one of their outdoor tables on the cute and calm Pearl Street. // 966 Pearl St, meltednapavalley.com



Gott's Roadside

A juicy burger and fries is always a good idea, and Gott's makes some of the best burgers we have ever tested. For non-burger fans (if there are any?) try the Ahi Poke Crispy tacos. // 644 1st St, Napa, gotts.com



Angele

What was once a ship chandlery is now a riverside restaurant with an outdoor patio for a relaxed lunch under yellow-and-white striped umbrellas. The menu is comfortable rustic fare bringing the French country to Napa. // 540 Main Street, Napa, angelerestaurant.com



Morimoto

This high-end Japanese restaurant features local wines and innovative dishes created by master chef Masaharu Morimoto, best known for his stints on *Iron Chef* and *Iron Chef America*. If you're looking for artfully presented dishes and cocktails with exciting flavors, this is the place to go. // 610 Main St, Napa, morimotonapa.com

Model Bakery

Since 1908, Model Bakery has been an institution in the Napa Valley kneading all sorts of bread and pastries every morning. Best known for their English Muffin—a love affair between a brioche and a donut—you can't go wrong with anything off their sweet menu. Originally located in St. Helena, Model Bakery is just next door to the Oxbow Market and Fatted Calf. If you're on the run to your next wine tasting, they also offer a small deli menu and pizza by the slice. // 644 1st St, Napa, themodelbakery.com



Eiko's

Japanese tapas, sushi, soups and salads are served al fresco in this spacious, sleek restaurant with an indoor fire pit and couch seating. The namesake, Eiko Nakamura, has been a well-known sushi master in Napa for over 24 years. // 1385 Napa Town Center, Napa, eikosnapa.com

The Thomas (soon to be NINEBARK)

Upscale restaurant The Thomas boasts three floors with an extensive bar, spacious dining areas, and garden rooftop for romantic Napa evenings. The restaurant will soon get an interior facelift, culinary upgrade under the leadership of two-Michelin starred chef Matthew Lightner, and a new name. Keep an eye on this one. // 813 Main St, Napa, thethomas-napa.com



1313 Main

Chef Adam Ross creates unique dishes at this new American restaurant influenced by his experience working with famed chefs in Hawaii, Denver, San Francisco, New York, and Napa's own Ad Hoc and The Restaurant at Meadowood. The taste and reasonable prices make 1313 Main a great spot for classic Wine Country experience. // 1313 Main St, Napa, 1313main.com



Cadet Beer & Wine Bar

Who runs the newest bar in Napa? Girls! Or we prefer to call them young ladies who know wine and beer. Colleen Fleming and Aubrey Bailey, both old hands in the wine industry, serve more than 100 wines and small provision to nibble on at their simple, yet cozy wine bar. // 930 Franklin St, Napa, cadetbeerandwinebar.com



SHOP

Boho Lifestyle

Owner Indra Fortney has been rocking bohemian style since she was a kid (keep an eye out for cool vintage family pictures on the walls), so it's not surprising that she opened a clothing store embracing floral maxi dresses, vintage denim, lace crop tops, and jewelry from local designers. // 1390 1st Street, Napa, shopboholifestyle.com



Napa Valley Distillery

Jazz up your home bar with booze and bitters from Napa Valley Distillery and a cocktail hour at home will get a whole lot more exciting. Small batch spirits, handcrafted bitters, and knowledgeable bartenders in black vest, bring back a piece of old-school bars back. // 610 1st St, Napa (at the Oxbow Market), napadistillery.com



Napa Valley Olive Oil

Napa's famous olive oil is almost as coveted as its wine. Bring a bottle home and massage your kale with the best of the best. // 1331 1st St, Napa, nvaliveoil.com



General Store Napa

Set in the old Mill, Napa General Store is half restaurant-half shop for all things about Napa and made in Napa. Souvenirs, wood boards and racks, as well as art and jewelry, will satisfy your souvenir needs. // 540 Main St #100, Napa, napageneralstore.com



TO-DO

Wine Tasting

Wine tasting is why you came to Napa in the first place probably, right?

Phifer Pavitt

This rustic-American barn made of reclaimed materials offers tastings by appointment to experience their Date Night Wine. Why is it called Date Night? That story is best told by charismatic owner Suzanne. // 4660 Silverado Trail N, Calistoga, phiferpavittwine.com



Ehlers Estate

True old-world charm inhabits this barn built in 1886. The manager Marie and winemaker Kevin are passionate about the story and the wine they are creating the same way the owners were when they first bought this charming piece of land in the mid-19th century. // 3222 Ehlers Ln, St Helena, ehlersestate.com

Sequoia Grove

Get ready to break the wine and food pairings rules. "A taste for Cabernet" is an educational and fun tasting to learn what pairs well with Cabernet and how to keep the taste of wines you love when consuming it with different foods. // 8338 St Helena Hwy, Napa, sequoiagrove.com

Farmer's Market

Sample fresh fruit, homemade products, and have a chit-chat with the farmers and makers. // Oxbow Public Market Parking Lot, napafarmersmarket.org Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8am to 12:30pm



Kayaking and Stand-Up Paddleboarding on the Napa River

If you get a bit "tired" of all the eating and wine tasting, paddle away on the Napa River flowing through downtown. For locations, rates, and times check out **Napa Valley Adventure** for kayaking and **Napa Valley Paddle** for stand-up paddle.

Hot Air Ballooning

Soaring over rolling hills covered with vineyards in the morning sun is what dreams are made of. This dream can come true if you book your own flight with one of the few hot air balloon companies located in the valley. For more information check out [Balloon Over the Valley](#), [Napa Valley Aloft](#) or [Napa Valley Balloons, Inc.](#)



Biking

Prefer two wheels when getting around? For tours, locations and rates, check out [Napa Cycle Sport](#) or Napa Velo. For extended guided tours check our [Napa Valley Bike Tours](#)

