

Daydream: Rural Calistoga

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One of the (many) reasons I wanted to move to the [San Francisco Bay Area](#) was its proximity to the wine countries of [Napa](#) and [Sonoma](#) – and many others that will soon start to make an appearance on this blog. One of my very first trips after I moved here was to Calistoga, the northernmost town of Napa. I had never been to this neat little town known for its hot springs. **It seemed like a throwback to the “old” Napa, from before Downtown Napa exploded and became trendy.** I had actually noticed the last time I had been in southern Napa that people were starting to dress up more for the more scene-y restaurants. And I hadn’t even packed one pair of heels! As I wrote in [Huffington Post](#), during my years living in Las Vegas, I always enjoyed my getaways to wine country, which I turned into my little escape, where I could be outside and learn about farming before heading back to to the

bright lights of the [Strip](#). **It's strange how a lot of people think Napa and such are so "fancy" – but it really is all about the land!** In fact, I just wrote about [Sonoma's Benziger](#) and the pictured Phifer Pavitt, in Calistoga, in a piece for [Los Angeles Confidential](#) about how eco-friendly wine country has become.

Well, Calistoga was rural and fabulous – with a walk-able old-fashioned downtown with great shopping. **The above shot was taken in the tasting room of [Phifer Pavitt](#), which is in a barn made of recycled materials such as blue jeans for insulation and a 1,000-pound piece of wood from one tree** that hangs from the ceiling as the table for the tasting area.

It's a bit of a longer drive from San Francisco – but worth every minute. It was quirky and fun, and the wines of course were great.

I can't wait to go back!