



Napa Valley has drawn oenophiles and foodies since the 1970s. In recent years, this delicious destination has gained notoriety, leading to an increase in tourism and widespread growth. While some misinformed folks will tell you it's "too built up," savvy travelers know there's more to this beloved viticulture region than pomp and chardonnay.

Seeking a down-to-earth escape? Turn your attention toward Calistoga, Carneros, Rutherford, and St. Helena. (There are few gems in Napa proper too.) The casual atmosphere and idyllic landscapes—sun-drenched vineyards and rolling hills—are downright delightful. From boutique wineries and farm-focused fare to tranquil treatments and refined yet relaxed lodgings, you'll find plenty to appeal to low-key visitors. And, as to be expected, there's no shortage of world-class vino. Ahead are our favorite laid-back spots to sip, savor, stay, and spa (that's a verb right?) in Napa Valley.

Alpha Omega is something of a dying breed in Napa Valley, a family-owned winery with a focus on sustainability and quality over quantity. The annual production of 15,000 cases is far less than big-name competitors—and that's a purposeful decision. If you're looking to spend a lovely afternoon sipping Bordeaux-style nectar, the Rutherford tasting room (open daily from 10 to 6) is the place to do it. Reflective of the region, the setting is pastoral and picturesque. Umbrellas provide a reprieve from the sun. Another distinguishing feature is the fountain, which is particularly pleasant when the breeze gets going.