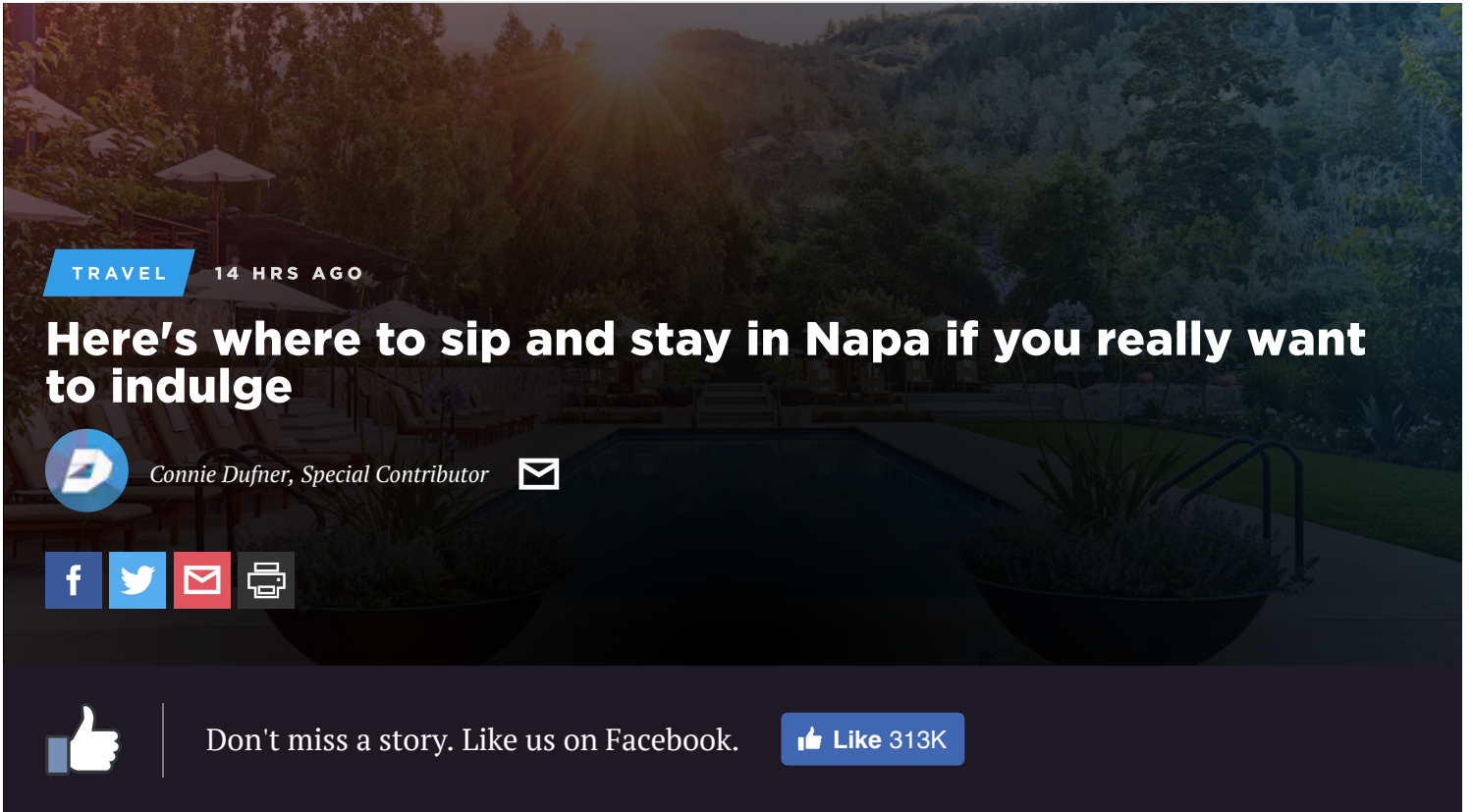




MIDWEEK *Date Night*


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**HALF OFF ALL BOTTLES OF WINE
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TRAVEL 14 HRS AGO

Here's where to sip and stay in Napa if you really want to indulge

 *Connie Dufner, Special Contributor* ✉

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MIDWEEK *Date Night*

WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY AT IVY KITCHEN:
**HALF OFF ALL BOTTLES OF WINE REGULARLY
 PRICED UNDER \$100, PLUS EXTRAORDINARY
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Whether you think of Napa Valley as an adult Disneyland, rediscovered Eden or excuse for bacchanalian abandon, the moniker doesn't matter; you simply never need an excuse for a visit. It's a land of superlatives: world-renowned food and wine, luxurious accommodations, pampering spas and nonstop hedonism.

As irresistible as you may find the byways of [Route 29](#) and [Silverado Trail](#), keep in mind when planning your getaway that you are not alone. So what's a little traffic, a few crowds and some difficult reservations in the pursuit of a most excellent vacation? Nothing that can't be managed.

That's why Napa-bound visitors love to go in the fall, when crowds are thinner and the region is steeped in the grape harvest.

Here are seven indulgent experiences to get you started, whether you are a first-time visitor or a regular. You may choose to blow the bank on an overnight stay or target exclusive wine or dining experiences to keep the budget in check. Keep in mind that however long you stay, it won't feel like nearly enough. You'll be back.

Photo Gallery

1/2





Alpha Omega Winery

The [To Kalon Vineyard](#) is the most exclusive, expensive vineyard in Napa Valley, and only a few vintners have access to its 89 acres in Oakville.

[Alpha Omega Winery](#) leases 10 acres of grapes owned by famous grower Andy Beckstoffer, and this fall is launching a private tasting of the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014 vintages.

"Wine is a mood," suggests winemaker Jean Hoefliger, and the chance to taste four from the historic vineyard will definitely put you in a good one.

Info: 1155 Mee Lane, St. Helena, Calif. aowinery.com.

Photo Gallery

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Auberge du Soleil

The luxury Auberge hotel brand has two properties in the valley and is scheduled to open a third in the Carneros region in 2018. You can't miss with either.

Auberge du Soleil is the much-acclaimed flagship, with expansive, airy rooms and suites full of amenities. In May, the resort unveiled newly redesigned modern rooms by San Francisco interior designer Suzanne Tucker.

You'll want to catch every minute of the day, so start at sunrise on the terrace, perfect for viewing hot-air balloon launches. When you must venture from the rooms, head to the Michelin-rated restaurant, sculpture garden, private resort spa and adults-only pool.

Info: 180 Rutherford Hill Road, Rutherford, aubergedusoleil.aubergeresorts.com.





Calistoga Ranch

Can't decide between an outdoor shower and your private hot tub? Here, you don't have to. The 12-year-old property offers elegant lodge accommodations stretching up a hillside. Not to worry; golf car shuttles are available 24/7.

Info: 580 Lommel Road, Calistoga, calistogaranch.aubergeresorts.com



Spa Solage

The town of Calistoga is renowned for its mineral springs, and mud treatments are a popular spa option. For a fun take on the mud bath, try the Mudslide treatment at [Spa Solage](#), great solo or for couples.

First, you'll either have mud slathered by an attendant or you'll apply it to a partner, then let it dry in a heated lounge. Next, you'll rinse off and then soak in a mineral bath, then you'll finish off with a 20-minute rest in sound chairs that send music and vibrations through the chair to inspire relaxation. As if you needed any help!

Before or after your treatment, savor lunch or refreshments in the newly remodeled Solbar, where pleasant weather makes outdoor dining a year-round destination.



COMING UP Cruise Offering 6 Mystery



Info: 755 Silverado Trail, Calistoga, solagecalistoga.com



Trefethen



Trefethen Family Vineyards

Trefethen, the family-run vineyards in the Oak Knoll district, is one of the Valley's oldest wineries. When the Trefethen family bought it in the late '60s, the site contained a 19th-century wooden winery, which the family restored to historic landmark status.

Tragedy struck in August 2014 when an earthquake damaged the building. Undaunted, the winery forged ahead with restoration and established a temporary visitors center in a tent.

The family also decided to revamp the visitor experience by opening the 1922 arts and crafts home of founders Katie and Gene Trefethen to the public. Villa Trefethen opened in June and welcomes visitors in plush living areas to sample the wines.

Restoration of the classic winery building is expected to be complete in 2017.

Info: 1160 Oak Knoll Ave., Napa. trefethen.com.



Meadowood



Meadowood Resort

The luxurious [Meadowood Resort](#), with its acclaimed restaurant and elegant lodge rooms, was a perfectly fine and sought-after destination before its new spa opened last fall. And now, it's a *must* must-see.

The bliss begins as you approach the spa and make your way around a heritage oak tree. The reception area features warm wooden floors and beams, linen and leather-upholstered furnishings and both local and international art.

Treatments are scheduled to include a half hour to get settled in one of the eight well-stocked, two-room suites, reminiscent of a treehouse or woodland retreat. You'll bundle into a cushioned bench seat and chat with a therapist about your goals for the visit. You'll transition into your choice of a pre-treatment aromatherapy shower, dry body brushing or foot bath. Then you'll have your treatment and finish with an organic elixir.

Before you go, visit one of two relaxation gardens, browse the boutique or have a meal by chef Victoria Acosta.

Info: 900 Meadowood Lane, St. Helena. meadowood.com



Craig and Kathryn Hall of Hall Wine. Ting Shen/Staff Photographer

Hall Wines

Craig and Kathryn Hall are no strangers to Dallas, winemaking and business. The real estate developer and the former U.S. ambassador to Austria arrived in Napa Valley in 1995, he with an entrepreneurial spirit and she with the passion of growing up on family vineyards in Mendocino.

They have two destination wineries: [Hall St. Helena](#) in a historic building with a tasting room and modern art collection, and [Hall Rutherford](#), the original winery adjacent to the family's home.

Last year, Hall Rutherford introduced the Appellation Exploration tasting of the winery's more limited production wines, as well as other private wine tours and workshops. The winery is appointment-only and visitors enjoy contemporary art and tour the wine cave.

You can learn more about the couple's approach to winemaking from their new book, *A Perfect Score*. The couple are on a book tour, with two remaining stops this fall in Dallas (Nov. 10 and 16).

Info: Hall St. Helena, 401 St. Helena Highway; Hall Rutherford (appointment only), 56 Auberge Road. hallwines.com.



ECONOMY

Dallas' Craig and Kathryn Hall pour love for winemaking into pages of new book

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