

The Hollywood Insider's Guide to Wining and Dining in Napa and Sonoma

6:35 AM 9/22/2018 by Kathryn Romeyn

What's new and notable in Northern California wine country.

The wildfires haven't kept California's wine country — Napa and Sonoma — down. It continues to gain in popularity as a destination, especially as both counties collect superluxe new hotels, even more world-class dining and VIP amenities.

Here are Hollywood's favorite wine-country hangouts today:



The French Laundry | Courtesy of Michael Grimm

Napa

The French Laundry - Screenwriter, producer and director Joe Carnahan takes industry friends to freshly renovated (to the tune of \$10 million) celebrity magnet The French Laundry for once-in-a-lifetime experiences: "It's impossible to beat," he says. "Thomas Keller and his crew do it like no other. In terms of pairings, food and wine, it's sublime."

St. Helena

The Estates at Meadowood Napa Valley, replete with grounds and restaurants, one with three Michelin stars — where Will Ferrell has dined — start at \$4,600 per night (meadowood.com). "They have croquet in the gardens, which was really fantastic, and it's very beautiful because you're in the forest with all the oak trees," says Lea Thompson of this longtime Hollywood favorite, calling it "swanktastic, with the most ridiculously glamorous rooms." Its swimming pools reopen in 2019, including a new Adult Pool ... "The perfect blend of luxury, homeyness, fun and privacy," says The Big Bang Theory's Kunal Nayyar of The Ink House's four-room \$700+/night property, with a butler for private tastings and a Bentley to transport guests. Nayyar adds: "They're attentive but not intrusive, make sure every detail has been attended to, [making it feel like] enjoying Napa Valley from the comforts of our own living room." ... Carnahan is a regular at **Alpha Omega winery**, Frank is a fan of Press restaurant, while Thompson loves Cook.