

## TRAVEL

# Napa and Sonoma Open Up

From the vineyards to the city streets, new tasting rooms, resorts and restaurants refresh wine country



**From the Jun 30, 2021, issue**

Wine lovers ready to get out and about have a lot to look forward to in the heartland of California wine country. Napa and Sonoma counties are mostly open for business as summer arrives, and several new tasting rooms, hotels and restaurant projects have just launched or are in the offing. All are eager to welcome visitors as the easing of pandemic protocols allows. The city of Napa continues to cement its status as a major wine tourism hub on its own, while Healdsburg, in northern Sonoma, beckons travelers with the region's largest luxury resort, the Montage. And one of the most-awaited developments in the northern Napa Valley, the new Four Seasons lodging and dining complex, is on the verge of opening its doors.

To help you more easily discover the best of what's new, the listings below are divided geographically into three sections: Napa Valley proper; the city of Napa; and Sonoma County. Each offers distinctive destinations and plenty of room to explore as the days grow longer and warmer.

## **Wit & Wisdom**

*1325 Broadway, Sonoma; (707) 931-3405; [witandwisdomsonoma.com](http://witandwisdomsonoma.com); open for dinner Tuesday to Sunday*

Star chef Michael Mina, whose restaurants are popular around the country, long had his eye on Northern California wine country but didn't find the right fit until Wit & Wisdom. Open since the end of 2020, it's a fresh addition to the village of Sonoma, which has a good but limited restaurant scene.

Located just outside the entrance of The Lodge at Sonoma, the restaurant was long known as Carneros. The Mina Group gave it a full facelift. The dining room has an open kitchen, with a long counter bar for guests, and lounge areas for casual drinks and nosh. The interior has a sleek, clubby tone, with light wood accents and a mural of historic local hero *Call of the Wild* author Jack London above the fireplace. There are also two outdoor dining areas with fire and water features.

The menu is upscale American tavern food prepared in the wood-fired oven or over charcoal or wood stoves. Pizza is a specialty and the lamb sausage is a knockout, plus there's local fish, crispy porchetta, burgers and steak frites. The wine list of more than 600 selections emphasizes Sonoma and Napa but also takes a wider view, with a rich collection of older bottlings. Harlan Estate Napa Valley 1999 is an investment at \$2,100 while Hanzell Chardonnay Sonoma Valley 2015 is just ready to drink at \$110.