

escapes
 WINE COUNTRY SAMPLING



The Carneros Inn's idyllic vineyard setting

*** The Carneros Inn, Napa, Calif.**

Among the newest additions to Wine Country, the Carneros Inn sits on an ideal spot – roughly at the entry point between Napa and Sonoma counties, if you're driving north from San Francisco. This means you're equally well-positioned for exploring either county – not that the Inn gives you much reason to travel beyond its grounds.

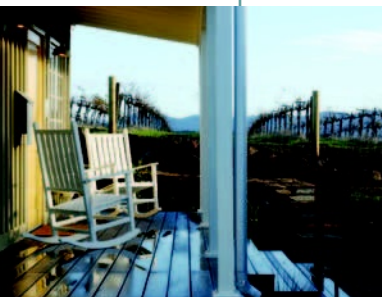
The 86 individual cottages each have a wood-burning fireplace, flat-screen TV, DVD player, outdoor and indoor showers, heated slate floors in the bathroom and some of the crispest white-cotton bed linens imaginable. If you can bring yourself to leave your room, you'll find a sparkling pool surrounded by quiet vineyards and rolling hills, as well the Hilltop Dining Room and the Boon Fly cafe and wine bar.

Everything at the Inn emphasizes the surroundings and local history, from the cottages' minimalist take on farmhouse architecture to dinner options (try the Chardonnay Poached Alaskan Halibut Filet, \$26, paired with a glass of the St. Supery Sauvignon Blanc, \$8) to the spa's treatments. Indulge in the Warm Goat Butter Massage (\$65 for 30 minutes) or the Orchard Olive Stone and Honeydew Exfoliation for the body (\$90 for 45 minutes); both are just as decadent as they sound.

From \$295 per night, double occupancy (707-299-4900, thecarnerosinn.com)

– Lorie A. Parch

Enjoy the sunset at the Carneros Inn (below), then head indoors to warm up (bottom).



The Lodge at Sonoma, Sonoma, Calif.

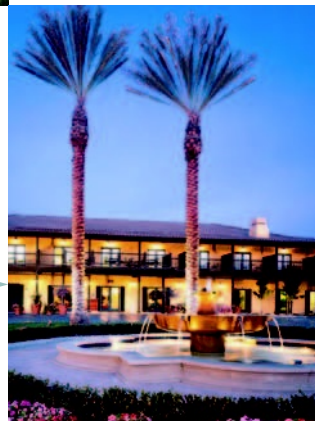
Nestled among the splendors of Sonoma Valley, the Lodge at Sonoma welcomes Wine Country connoisseurs with its lush natural surroundings and relaxed sense of luxury. Check into your choice of room with a balcony or patio – either offers prime viewing of spectacular sunsets – then go savor the on-site amenities.

For wine tasting within walking distance of your room, visit the Lodge's Cellar Door, serving on-the-house samples from six local artisan wineries (try the Mayo Family Winery's Russian River Valley Old Vine Zinfandel, \$25). At the Lodge's Carneros restaurant, you can feast on fresh organic fare for breakfast, lunch or dinner under a wood-beamed ceiling. Signature dinner entrees include the rotisserie of Petaluma chicken with crème fraîche potato purée, local baby vegetables and herb jus (\$18).

For fresh-air fun, take a bike ride along the wildflower-bordered back roads of Sonoma. The Goodtime Touring Company will deliver a bicycle to the Lodge's door for just \$25 per day, including helmet, lock and local maps (888-525-0453, goodtimetouring.com).

Back at the Lodge, book an appointment at Raindance Spa for some serious R & R. Hot mineral waters supply the spa's cedar saunas as well as its outdoor Watsu therapy pools, where an underwater massage incorporating shiatsu is performed to the accompaniment of lulling music (from \$145 for 60 minutes).

From \$239 per night, double occupancy (707-935-6600, thelodgeatsonoma.com) – Amy Allison



The Lodge at Sonoma boasts wine tasting within walking distance.