



Solage Courtesy of Solage

Winding Through Wine Country

With hundreds of wineries spread across its hillsides and valleys, Northern California is rightfully revered for its wine. But there's more to Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties than great grapes. You'll also find innovative farms, famed culinary institutes, and markets reviving old-school techniques with a modern twist. You can easily spend days learning about the local bounty while you bounce between serene spas and stunning vineyards.



1 Model Bakery

This 90-year-old bakery is known for its English muffins. Start your day with one slathered in jam and learn why Oprah has them flown in from St. Helena.

Distance to next stop: 1 mile

2 Culinary Institute of America

One of the country's top culinary academies, CIA counts Anthony Bourdain and Roy Choi among its alums. Tour the gorgeous campus in St. Helena or book a cooking demo (with wine, of course).

Next stop: 8 miles

3 Solage Napa Valley

This boutique resort exudes contemporary California luxury. Hit the sleek spa for a soothing treatment and brush up on the benefits of Calistoga's mineral-rich waters.

Next stop: 26 miles

4 Dry Creek General Store

Welcome to Sonoma, where this market/café offers hearty grab-and-go sandwiches alongside kitchenware. Stock up on local bounty for an afternoon picnic.

Next stop: 5 miles

5 Preston Farm & Winery

Take your picnic to this biodynamic winery and farm where you can taste organic Zinfandel, meet the sheep, and hear about how Preston cares for its most valuable resource: the land.

Next stop: 44 miles

6 Balo Vineyards

Hop on Highway 128 and head west to this low-key spot nestled on 14 acres in Anderson Valley. The Pinot Noir is excellent, the bocce courts beckon, and the unpretentious staff will answer all your budding oenophile questions.

Next stop: 20 miles

7 Navarro River Redwoods State Park

This petite Mendocino park traces its namesake river for 14 miles, winding through a tunnel of redwoods toward the coast. Pull off to take a dip or snap a photo among the arboreal giants.

Next stop: 24 miles



Watch for whales from Point Cabrillo Light Station.

8 Glass Beach

Follow Highway 1 north to these Fort Bragg coves, where you can glimpse California history in the form of sea-polished glass and explore tide pools teeming with aquatic life.

