

CAVIAR AFFAIR

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Meadowood All Stars

Meadowood offers cocooning serenity at a Napa resort hotel. by Melanie Lane

THE RESTAURANT AT MEADOWOOD, A LEGENDARY NAPA VALLEY RESORT, has earned top honors from the Michelin's 5th annual San Francisco Bay Area & Wine Country Restaurant 2011 Guide. Chef Christopher Kostow, restaurant director Nathaniel Dorn, and sommelier Rom Toulon earned three stars. This highest honor possible lets diners know that this is "exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey. One always eats extremely well here, sometimes superbly." It is one of only two U.S. restaurants outside New York to hold the distinction.

"One of the great things about cooking in the Napa Valley is that the bar is set at such a high level," says Kostow. "The local vintner community has maintained an unparalleled commitment to excellence in winemaking. The culinary community has followed suit, and Napa Valley is now one of the most exciting places in the world to visit if you love food as well as wine."

Nestled in a forested hillside, Meadowood cottages and suites provide serene and luxurious amenities and services, including spa treatments, golf, tennis, wine education, and croquet lessons. Next to the property is Napa Valley Reserve (thenapavalleyreserve.com), an uber-exclusive winery that offers members an opportunity to produce their own wine and peek into a working winery with limited-production tastings and educational wine and food pairings. meadowood.com



Clockwise from top: Charred bavette, morels, ramps, and foie gras butter; chef Christopher Kostow; a quiet treeline cottage room with a view of the land.

special side trips:

Far Niente: Founded in Oakville in 1885 and restored in 1979, Far Niente is a benchmark producer of Napa Valley Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon committed to social responsibility. farniente.com

Chappellet: Perched 1,200 feet up rocky eastern slopes above the valley, the family-run winery respects the balance of nature with sustainable farming. Areas surrounding the vineyard are an oasis for birds and insects. Flowering shrubs and plants in the garden and in the wilds provide nectar and pollen. The Cabernet Sauvignon expresses the unique characteristics of the fruit from Pritchard Hill. chappellet.com

Ma(i)sonry: Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley was built in 1904 as a private residence. The stone manor, with 16th-century furnishings, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The living gallery is a stylized backdrop to appreciate limited-production boutique wines. The collection of nearly 50 artists includes both global and local favorites. maisonry.com



Clockwise from right: The community table at Ma(i)sonry; vineyards at Chappellet; the cellar at Far Niente.

BOTTOM RIGHT: PETER SUKONIK; ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF COMPANIES