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AP Associated Press

## California wine country getaways for two

By MICHELLE LOCKE, For The Associated Press  
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(01-26) 09:37 PST Napa, Calif. (AP) --

You like chocolate. You like warm baths. But are you ready for a milk chocolate bath for two?

That's just one of the options available in California wine country, where escaping with

your honey can be as down-to-earth, or as decadent, as you make it.

Want to sip sparkling wine on a terrace with a view? Stage your own Cinderella story on the ramparts of a fairy tale castle? Or maybe you fancy taking a spin around the salsa floor.

With Valentine's Day around the corner, here's a rundown of seven things to do for two in the Napa Valley, with price tags ranging from OK-if-you're-broke to go-for-broke.

**TASTE THE GOOD LIFE:** There are a number of tasting rooms in downtown Napa including Back Room Wines, where the lineup changes frequently, and Vintners' Collective, which represents a number of wineries. The Vintner's Collective tasting room is housed in a renovated historic stone building that has served time as a brewery, saloon, brothel, laundry and meat company — but not all at the same time.

**SATURDAY (SALSA) NIGHT FEVER:** Bistro Sabor in downtown Napa offers reasonably priced Latin American street food like fire-roasted chile relleno, a Poblano chile stuffed with cheese, beans and rice. And from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on Saturday nights they fire up the salsa, merengue, and other music, no cover charge required.

**MAKE YOUR FEELINGS CRYSTAL CLEAR:** Sure, you may have seen a wine cellar or two. But have you seen a Crystal Cellar? With stainless steel walls, a mirrored bar and a collection of historic crystal decanters, not to mention a fabulous chandelier, from Baccarat? All this and more awaits at Raymond Vineyards, where your visit to the Cellar includes Earth & Air, a class about the importance of aerating wine. If you happen to be a member of the private Raymond Red Room club (\$500 a year for one person and up to three guests) you can drop in on a private lounge with wine, billiards, vintage pinball and a lot of red velvet.

**TAKE ROMANCE TO THE RAMPARTS:** You know that Napa Valley is Romance Central. But did you know it has its own official Castle of Love? Yes, the Castello di Amorosa is a faithful replica of a medieval Tuscan castle with more than 100 rooms, a chapel, which is in use, a Knight's Room decorated with frescoes and a torture chamber, which is not in use. Tours end with a wine tasting but if you really want to get

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into the Valentine's spirit, try a wine-and-chocolate pairing.

**SOAK IN THE SUN:** Cleopatra was said to have bathed in milk for its beautifying properties, but you can go her one better at Auberge du Soleil, where a milk chocolate bath is available in-suite, butler included, along with massage, candles, dessert and a cocktail. The hotel is offering a Valentine's Day "Heart and Soul Experience" that comes with dinner, a bottle of sparkling wine, and breakfast for \$1,465 for one night, \$2,290 for two nights. And if that doesn't quite fit your budget, you can always enjoy drinks and appetizers at the inn's Bistro & Bar where you can sit near a cozy fireplace or enjoy a stunning sunset on the terrace. Wine by the glass starts at \$9, small plates start at \$6.

**SPARKLE AND SHINE:** Maybe you're not ready to pop the question, but are you ready to pop the cork? Mumm Napa offers sit-down tastings on its patio or inside the tasting salon. Tastings are also available on the Oak Terrace, with a selection of vintage wines and an accompanying fruit and cheese plate. You can also take a guided tour of the winery or inspect the Fine Art Photography Gallery.

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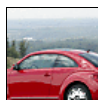
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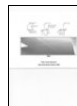
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