



40 years on: the class of '72  
The rise of Cabernet Franc  
The magic of old vines  
Napa Mavericks  
Bespoke wine travel

Clockwise from left: the Crystal Cellar at Ramond Vineyards; Meadowood resort; La Toque restaurant

## The Adventurer

### Raymond Vineyards

RAYMOND'S THOROUGHLY UNORTHODOX owner, Jean-Charles Boisset, invites guests to experience everything from a biodynamic gardening tour to an invitation-only experience in the velvet-clad Red Room lounge. Start in the Corridor of Senses, where a line-up of a dozen or so atomisers encourages visitors to inhale the varying aromas found in Napa Valley wines. Just down the hall is the Library Room for exclusive vertical tastings of Raymond wines, including some dating back to 1974. The Rutherford Room boasts dirt samples artfully displayed in glass apothecary jars (you're invited to sniff them all) and offers a comprehensive view of the Napa Valley appellations.

Learn to appreciate the effects of air on wine in the sleekly styled Crystal Cellar with its mirrored bar,

stainless steel walls, Baccarat chandeliers and collection of Baccarat decanters. Guests sample the range in Raymond's District Collection, which includes Cabernet Sauvignons from Oakville, St Helena and Rutherford.

In the Red Room, textural intensity is at its height with velvet-clad ceilings, leopard-skin rugs, Baccarat chandeliers, and diversions such as billiards and pinball. In utter contrast to the dimly lit, speakeasy Red Room atmosphere is the Theatre of Nature – a free ambling, self-guided homage to the power of biodynamic farming. Raymond is a sensually overwhelming experience guaranteed to dispel any fit of boredom.

**The Adventurer should dine at:** La Toque. This Michelin-rated, glossy and stylish modern restaurant specialises in bold wine and food pairings such as Grüner Veltliner with hamachi crudo, Asian pear, yuzu emulsion and dashi gel.

