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## Tours pair Napa wine with spectacular views

By Carey Sweet | October 24, 2016 | Updated: October 24, 2016 12:00pm



Perhaps your ideal Wine Country tour involves something more special than the typical sip-and-dash tour of tasting rooms. Here are a few ways to pair Napa varietals with spectacular views.

— *Carey Sweet*

### **Napa Valley Wine Train**

Don't confuse this new Private Reserve Dinner Series with the regular tourist train that chugs like a multicar convoy up and down the tracks. This is an exclusive, 36-seat, self-motored Pullman railcar done in retro-luxe style, and each outing is hosted by a prominent winemaker and includes a multicourse dinner from new chef Donald Young.

The inaugural voyage in August, for example, found notable husband-and-wife vintners Jean Charles Boisset and Gina Gallo on board, pouring copious amounts of their Raymond Vineyards and JCB Wines. After a reception with JCB French Sparkling No. 69 Crémant de Bourgogne, guests dined on a five-course meal including porcini-dusted fillet of beef paired with Raymond's 2013 Generations Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, and grilled duck sausage paired with a 2013 JCB No. 22 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir.

The price is fair for all this luxury, changing for each winemaker but starting at around \$265. And for anyone who's taken the regular train in the past, this is a much-improved experience, with food greatly elevated over what it used to be. The personal access to winemakers is priceless, too — over the 3½-hour-long inaugural trip, guests learned insider secrets, including Boisset's recipe for the perfect sparkling-wine bubble bath.