

## Premier cheese shops of Napa Valley

By Janet Fletcher Published 6:20 pm, Thursday, February 25, 2016

Come for the wine, stay for the cheese. Napa Valley's cheese counters may not be this wine region's main tourist bait, but they can enrich the itinerary of anyone planning a diet-be-damned getaway. Even over a long weekend, you can't experience *that* many of the valley's 400-plus wineries. (And please don't try. Three tasting rooms per day is enough.) But you can make a dent in the inventory of the leading cheese retailers, whose sophisticated selections equal or surpass those in other Bay Area shops. Whether you want to provision a Wine Country picnic or just upgrade your B&B's happy hour, these premier cheese shops have the goods you need:

•**Atelier by JCB:** A swank fine-foods emporium in Yountville from vintner Jean-Charles Boisset houses the valley's newest cheese counter. Boisset, scion of a prominent Burgundian wine family, had an unlimited budget and exceeded it, installing parquet flooring, gold-leafed shelving, Pierre Frey wallpaper and a swooping Baccarat chandelier. Do not come looking for Monterey Jack.

**Cheeses to try:** Cheese buyer James Ayers has filled his glass cases with gems worthy of the setting, like Swiss Hornbacher, Von Trapp Farmstead's Mad River Blue and the rare Sarró de Cabra, an aged Spanish goat wheel. Complete your glam picnic with high-end crackers (try the tozzetti made with water-buffalo butter), some hand-sliced jamón de bellota and a bottle of JCB sparkling wine. *Atelier by JCB, 6505 Washington St., Yountville; (707) 947-7106*