

Stopover: Napa Valley

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What's new

Recently opened wineries in the valley include Odette Estate, which has an 800sq m planted living roof and a brand new tasting room. (Appointment required.)

Raymond Vineyards isn't new, but it's had a big makeover. Check out the Crystal Cellar with its stainless-steel walls, mirrored bar and collection of Baccarat crystal decanters. The winery tasting room can be visited without an appointment but reservations are recommended and some tastings and tours require them.

A decade or so ago, Napa, at the southern end of the valley, was a place you drove through. Now it's a destination with dozens of restaurants, tasting rooms and revamped or new hotels.

Stroll along the riverfront - in the evening when the lights come on is the prettiest time - and check out shops and restaurants such as Morimoto Napa, which also boasts the valley's first sake lounge. Up the valley is Harvest Table, a new restaurant with a menu that focuses on local ingredients, including the wines.