

## A day to remember in Napa: Tours and tastings along iconic St. Helena Highway highlight whirlwind wine and culinary adventure



NAPA — The Chardonnay was clear, crisp and chilled.

“Have a Napa handshake,” Alyse Thomas said. “Welcome to Napa.”

A special day was off to a great start and would only get better.

Before the summer sun set, we visited two iconic Napa Valley wineries, ate lunch alfresco, glimpsed into Napa’s past and dined at a farm-to-fork hot spot.

Our day trip to Napa was one we won’t soon forget.

# The Record

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For lunch, we drove a half-mile south on St. Helena Highway to [Oakville Grocery](#), an institution that draws locals and tourists in droves. The gourmet deli and wine shop has been in business since 1874, making it one of California's oldest still-operating retail businesses. We ordered sandwiches — I had the Provencal Tuna Nicoise: tuna, caper aioli, hard-boiled farm egg, piquillo peppers, arugula, nicoise olives, red onion, extra virgin olive oil, balsamic glaze and basil on sesame-crustured artisan bread. With it, a glass of chilled rosé from Provence. We sat outside at a picnic table under an umbrella, watched a couple play cornhole on the lawn and gazed at the beauty all around us. Frenchman [Jean-Charles Boisset](#) recently purchased Oakville Grocery and transformed the adjacent Durrant & Booth house into the [Napa Wine History Museum](#). Inside, we learned several of the distinguishing characteristics and history of Napa's 16 regions. The house includes a tasting salon where flights of Boisset's [1881 Napa](#) wines are offered.