

## Calistoga



by Mallorie Deming   October 12, 2022   in Feature



### Napa's northernmost town is the perfect weekend getaway.

The sun is shining, it's hot, and the streets are buzzing with the eager-to-relax crowd of locals and visitors popping into tasting rooms and spas in the not-so-hidden gem of Calistoga. The subtle smell of sulfur fills the air and steam seems to hover above a pool in the distance—you're in the right place.

Before it was incorporated into a town in 1876, Calistoga was home to the Wappo tribe dating as far back as 500 years ago. American settlers arrived in the 1840s, captivated by the town's "healing waters," according to the City of Calistoga.

Napa's northernmost town was, and still is, a hub for healing and relaxing in the natural spring water, sourced from below its surface and pumped into pools at some of the most luxurious spas around. And of course, there's the wine. Calistoga has both historic and world-famous wineries as well as trendy and care-free tasting rooms that accommodate just about any personal preference.

Whether you're a frequent visitor or a first timer, there's always something to look forward to on a visit to Calistoga—a charming location in its balance between classic and current.

Here's a glimpse into a day spent in Calistoga—perfectly fit for this harvest season and beyond.

### Calistoga Depot Provisions

It's easy to work up a hunger and a thirst while navigating about Calistoga. A great way of satisfying the palate while enjoying a bit of the town's history is stopping by the new Calistoga Depot for provisions—a delicatessen, mercantile and wine shop selling local artisan products. Back in 1868, the train depot was established—the second oldest in California—and operated until 1969.

This past July, proprietor Jean-Charles Boisset unveiled the first phase of the depot, saying in a statement, "This is a historic moment for the Calistoga Depot and American wine history. We are honored to continue the story of this iconic destination by meticulously returning her to her former glory and showcasing all of the elements this grand estate has to offer."



*Calistoga Depot Provisions recently opened. Proprietor Jean-Charles Boisset hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in July. [Photo by Alexander Rubin]*

The depot serves as a convenient stop on a day through the town to get access to an incredible wine selection as well as gourmet foods perfectly suited for a picnic nearby or on their outdoor patio. Cheese, charcuterie, gourmet goods, pizza, sandwiches, hamburgers and breakfast goods, as well as coffee, are all part of the locally sourced and sustainably grown goods for guests. But it's really all about the good wine on the go. The depot's wine selection highlights rare finds and favorites from Calistoga and Napa, sold by both the glass and the bottle.

One fun feature of the depot is the old service rail cars, which are being renovated into businesses such as Earth & Sky Chocolates, a Champagne and oyster bar, a Mexican restaurant, a saloon and a retail boutique. There will be something for everyone at the depot, so be sure to keep an eye out for updates on this exciting project.

## **Old town, new adventures**

As Calistoga continues to charm visitors and locals through its historical landmarks, world-famous wineries and luxury spas, there are seemingly endless ways to make a big day in this tiny town. This harvest season, be sure to revisit and explore the wonders that Calistoga has to offer.