

# All the Reasons to Visit Napa and Sonoma Right Now

KATHRYN ROMEYN

During the course of the COVID pandemic, the California wine mecca counties of Napa and Sonoma seem to have taken a cue from the grapes they grow so beautifully: strain and adversity have produced a bold bounty of new ventures. As tourism ground to a halt in so many places, vintners, chefs, designers and hospitality gurus nourished their creativity and worked magic. Some in Hollywood found solace there, too, including Phoebe Bridgers who spent time in Sonoma writing new music, and Elizabeth Olsen, who **has said** that the Sonoma town of St. Helena in Napa Valley was “our breathing space” during the pandemic.

Here, all the new stays, eats, drinks and dos that make a pilgrimage north a must this spring.

## WHERE TO SIP

**Vida Valiente Winery:** Napa's new winery, **Vida Valiente**, bowed in November with a rising star winemaker, Sam Kaplan (the guy behind 100-point Memento Mori) and a strikingly philanthropic approach, pledging \$100 per \$250 bottle of 2019 The Movement Cabernet Sauvignon to support the professional success of low-income, first-generation American students.