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You Can Have A Perfect Napa Valley Visit Just In Yountville



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Travel

I cover singular, luxury travel and food experiences around the world

Given all of the time that you spend in traffic on route 29 during a stay in California's Napa Valley, there's an immediate appeal to basing in Yountville. The town, in the southern part of the valley just north of the city of Napa, is known for its restaurants and essentially laid out along a stretch of one street with all of those restaurants, shops, hotels and tasting rooms within an easy walk. Once you check in, your car stays in the parking lot and you can sample the region's wines without summoning Uber or hitting the road yourself.

Since tasting rooms are within city limits and not in the open vineyard stretches along 29 and the Silverado Trail, they are simply storefronts along the street. But given the city's ordinance that 25% of the space has to be turned over for retail, they're hardly typical environments. [Silver Trident Winery](#), located within a stone Tuscan inspired cottage, is furnished as an extremely tasteful home—living room, dining room and library—decorated with [Ralph Lauren Home](#) furniture and furnishings all available for sale. (It even has a friendly family dog named Keith Richards.) [Handwritten Wines](#), which specializes in cabernets, is also furnished as an intimate dining room.



A homey tasting room, outfitted by Ralph Lauren Home, at Silver Trident Winery. LAURIE WERNER

It's hard to know how to describe the [JCB Tasting Salon](#), a blizzard of both kitschy and high level products (Christofle, Baccarat, Bernardaud, etc.) curated by founder Jean-Charles Boisset and crammed into the neon bright main tasting room and the slightly more subtle private salon.



The elaborate, gold leaf filled tasting room at JCB Tasting Salon. LAURIE WERNER

Within that salon, is a private room in which tastings of robust wine such as their red blend Surrealist line in bottles encrusted in gems are held on a glass table slathered in gold leaf. I kept thinking that if Liberace had owned a vineyard, it would have looked something like this. Fortunately, after the potentially disorienting effect of that décor and their rich, vivid wines, it's beneficial to be in Yountville and merely a short walk home.