

650+ WINES REVIEWED PG 68

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WINE ENTHUSIAST

THE WORLD IN YOUR GLASS

MAY 2014

THE
NAPA
ISSUE

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WHITE WINES PG 50

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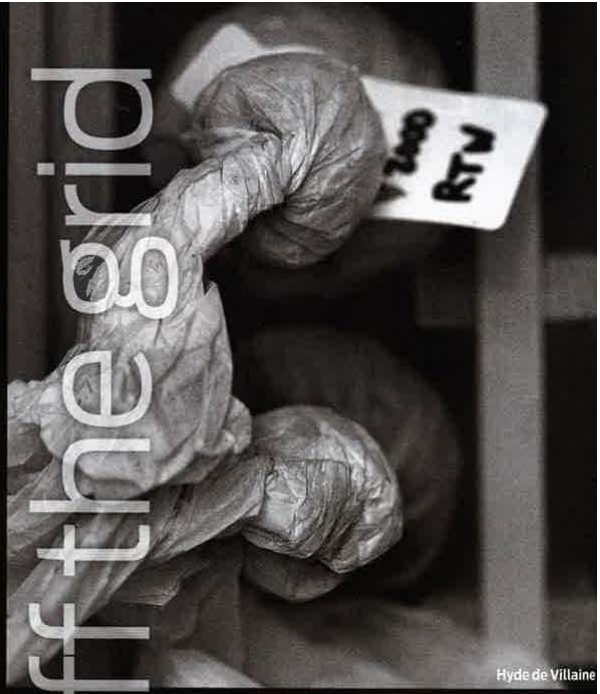
THE BEST
PLACES TO
EAT, DRINK
AND STAY IN
THE VALLEY

Winemag.com





Solbar



Hyde de Villaine



Milliken Creek Inn & Spa



Lucy

ARPA

Off the grid



An undiscovered world awaits wine lovers who venture off the valley's beaten path.

BY VIRGINIE BOONE
PHOTOS BY KATIE NEWBURN

First-time travelers to Napa Valley often appreciate the apparent simplicity of its infrastructure. Large, well-signed wineries line the backbone of Route 29, making each visit as easy as pulling into a driveway.

But for seasoned visitors, as well as those seeking more authentic experiences closer to Napa's rural roots, there are plenty of ways to get off the main drag.

For one, the "valley" is home to as many mountains as pockets of valley floor. Those mountains, and their twisting side roads, are littered with vinous gold.

At these small-scale wineries, a handful of people make the magic happen, but a polite phone call will often peel one of them away from their work. It's a chance to taste through their wines and discover their individual dreams and terroirs.

These experiences are worth savoring for their intimacy, proximity to one-of-a-kind vineyards and rare wine finds.

The same applies to restaurants and inns, equally hidden away, which offer a chance to discover where the locals—or regulars, anyway—hang out.

So turn on the GPS and turn off the highway. Here's your guide to the roads less traveled.



Farm Napa

Further off the grid is Farm Restaurant at The Carneros Inn outside of Napa, surrounded by Instagram-worthy swathes of vineyard and endless sky. Enjoy dinner near the fireplace or on the expansive patio—equally desirable destinations to take in a fresh cocktail or two or a glass of Carneros-made wine. It just feels like vacation.