



The Carneros Inn

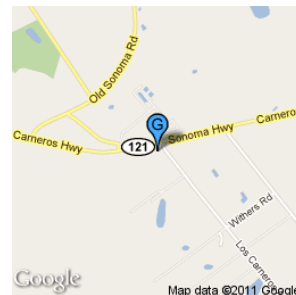
Location :

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Carneros, a region that includes land in southern Napa and Sonoma counties, has a distinct personality and appeal. Its rolling hills, long favored for cattle and horse ranches, blend into the wetlands the San Pablo Bay, and the marine influences cool the often much hotter temperatures of the valleys further north

The designers of the Carneros Inn, which opened in 2003, wanted to take cues from its rustic roots. The resulting resort introduced 86 cottages with tin roofs, rocking chairs on porches, outdoor showers set amidst a profusion of watering troughs, serving a planter boxes.. They also, however, had a standard of luxury not often found down on the farm: luxurious beds, flat-panel television, heated floors, gas fireplaces and concierge service.

The ambitious Carneros project also included private homes, restaurants, a spa, market and post office. A world unto itself on a hilltop, it quickly gained a name as one of the world's top romantic retreats and a favorite spot for weddings.

Its location is idea with easy access to the wineries and restaurants of both Napa and Sonoma. San Francisco is an hour drive away via the Golden Gate Bridge, and on clear days the views often include the city by the bay, as well as the vineyards of Carneros.

Privacy is key at Carneros. One restaurant, the Hilltop, is for guests only, and meals and spa treatments can be provided to the cottages, eight of which will convert to suites.

GRAPE SEED AND GUAVA BUTTER

The spa is indulgent with treatments derived from local ingredients like the grape seed scrubs followed by a guava butter massage, an exfoliating treatment made from crushed olive stones and Carneros olive oil or a goat butter body wrap.

Subject to availability, day spa packages, which include the use of a cottage, are offered.

The Carneros Inn's two other restaurants are popular with locals. The casual Boonfly Cafe has gained renown for its breakfasts, especially its

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★☆☆☆☆
Vistas : Yes

Owners : Plumpjack Resorts

Distance to local wine trail : 0

Number of Rooms (Total) : 96

Number of Suites : 10

Rooms with Balconies : 0

Rooms with Fireplaces : All

Room Service : Yes

Hours of Room Service :

Daily Rates : \$395 and up

Wi Fi Access : Yes

Flat Screen TV : Yes

HDTV : Yes

Jacuzzi Tubs :

Spa : Yes

Spa Hours :

Pool : Yes

Pool Hours :

Indoor or Outdoor :

Heated Pool : Yes

Restaurant at Property : Yes

Restaurant Dress Code : Casual

Credit cards accepted : All

Valet Parking : No

Parking Garage : No

Environment : Romantic

Service Rating :

Reward Program Participation : No

Reward Program :

Room Safety Escort Service for after hours : No

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warm doughnuts, but also serves farm-style lunches and dinners.

The more high-end restaurant, Farm, has an extensive bar and outdoor lounging area with fireplaces and idyllic views. Its menu is derived largely from local sources and designed to highlight wines of the region. The Carneros Inn is part of the Plumpjack Group, which also operates the Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn as well as Cade and Plumjack wineries in the Napa Valley.

Another aspect of the Carneros project is its Orchard at Carneros, which offers fractional ownership of 17 cottages. Owner benefits in the Orchards includes invitations to various winery events as well as membership in the Timbers Collection, which offers a reciprocity program with other resorts in locations like Tuscany, Arizona, Colorado, Mexico and Ireland.

The concierge staff is local and experienced and ready to arrange excursions from balloon rides to wine tastings throughout both valleys, but the delights are Carneros are right at visitors' doorsteps.

Just down the road from the Carneros Inn is the spectacular Domaine Carneros Winery, designed to resemble a French chateau by the French Champagne house Tattinger. Sitting on the elegant deck, sipping a glass of sparkling wine and looking out over the Carneros landscape at sunset is highly recommended.

ART AND WINERIES NEARBY

Across the highway from Domaine Carneros is the fascinating di Rosa, an art and nature preserve created by the late Rene and Veronica di Rosa — it's recognizable by the two dimensional metal sheep dotting its hillside entrance.

Rene di Rosa was one of the leading supporters and collectors of Northern California artists' work and his phenomenal collection of more than 2,000 often whimsical and witty art pieces fill are both indoors and outdoors on this 200-acre preserve. The Gatehouse Gallery at di Rosa is open Wednesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and tours of the property are by reservation. For more information, visit dirosaart.org.

Other nearby Carneros wineries worth visiting include Carneros Cuvaison, (1221 Duhig Road;www.cuvaison.com, check out the [WineryPatron Profile](#)) and Artesa, (1345 Henry Road;www.artesawinery.com), both of which have stunning hilltop locations.

A New York travel writer visiting the Carneros Inn described it as “‘The Grapes of Wrath’ meets wine country chic” but this novel combination proved to work.