

How to Plan a Perfect Food-Filled Day in Napa Valley

Where to get freshly roasted coffee, destination-worthy pastries, and a classic burger to pair with all that California wine

by [Lauren Saria](#) | Aug 23, 2022, 11:49am PDT



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For both Bay Area locals and first-time visitors to the California wine country, the allure of Napa Valley makes it hard to resist a trip to the veritable mecca for dining and drinking. And aren't we lucky that one of the best places in the country for wine and food rests just about an hour outside of the major metropolitan city of San Francisco?

Whether you're a seasoned wine country expert planning a quick jaunt to Napa Valley with out-of-towners or making the trip for the first time yourself, this guide aims to cover a little of everything. You'll hit both a well-established winery and one that's more avant-garde as you eat your way up Highway 29 with pitstops to see some of the valley's most recognizable sites — because even if you aren't dropping serious dollars to dine at Thomas Keller's French Laundry, you can still get a glimpse of the restaurant and the garden where the team grows much of what ends up on diners' plates, all for the affordable price of free.

5 p.m. burgers and shakes at **Gott's Roadside**

933 Main Street, CA-29, St. Helena



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Gott's Roadside

You may have had a Gott's burger at one of the mini-chain's eight locations around the Bay Area but this roadside outpost is the original and worth experiencing at least once. Pullover outside St. Helena for the full Americana diner experience. Nab a seat on the shaded front patio to enjoy a hefty Niman Ranch burger patty cloaked in melted American cheese, plus lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, and tangy sauce on a toasted egg bun. There are plenty of other options too — including fancier burgers, chicken sandwiches, salads, hot dogs, and Impossible-brand proteins for those avoiding meat. Round out the meal with an order of fries (the garlic variety is always a good choice) and a milkshake, which come in both classic flavors like chocolate and vanilla, as well seasonal ones like **strawberry shortcake** for summer. Afterward, there's plenty to do and see up and down St. Helena's quaint streets including dozens of boutiques, galleries, and other specialty shops. You can easily kill an hour or two meandering the area; if you need a gift to bring back to friends and family, pick up a bottle or two of infused olive oil or vinegar at upscale specialty grocery **Olivier Napa Valley**.