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TRAVEL USA

Napa Valley A Winemaker's Sanctuary

By Richard Carroll

The sins of progress have barely touched one of the world's most prestigious wine regions. Once a sleepy, laid-back hideaway where the residents of Napa, Yountville, St. Helena and Calistoga smugly enjoyed the fragrant air, tended their vines, and quietly celebrated one of the planet's most attractive setting, the valley today remains the home of farmers and winemakers working the land and vines hand-in-hand. Wineries are still mostly family-owned and operated, some appearing like grand estates plucked from the French countryside.

Sleeping Arrangements

R Inn Napa

New on the Napa sleeping scene is the stylish R Inn Napa, tucked away in the heart of downtown Napa. Sean Heffran and family, with great attention to detail, have created a distinctive boutique property modeled after small European hotels. Totally unique to Napa, the R Inn is a perfect fit for those wishing to explore the delights of downtown.



The intimate R Inn Napa patio. The inn is themed after small European inns, and is designed for adults only.
Photography: Halina Kubalski



LEFT: The Heffran family have created an intimate European style inn ideal for a honeymoon or an adult family gathering.

RIGHT: The Black Bird Inn steps from downtown was redesigned from a 1910 home by craftsman Scott Warren. He re-created the craftsmanship skills of the 1800's, transforming the building into a work of art.

Photography: Halina Kubalski.

The artistic Heffran family converted a historic hundred-year-old building into an urban oasis with five loft suites, ten stylish rooms, and a spacious two-bedroom bungalow with full kitchen, serene for a romantic rendezvous. Keypad door codes, baths with heated stone floors, open European showers, deep soaking tubs, heated Toto washlet bidet toilets, and adjustable beds, grace the sleeping rooms while a European style courtyard with a large vintage sign from a salon in the south of France sets the mood. An attractive ten-seat dining room is ideal to enjoy the creativity of Napa chef's. Complimentary breakfast is served on weekends with open access to the pantry 24-7.