

HALL ST. HELENA

Bunny Foo Foo—the local nickname for a 35-foot-tall stainless steel rabbit—towers over the entrance of Hall St. Helena. It's one of a series of eclectic modern art installations around and in this contemporary winery. But, says Kathryn Walt Hall, former U.S. ambassador to Austria and owner with her husband, Craig, "We aren't a museum. Art is just a context for wine here." That wine includes beautifully crafted Napa Cabs (and some Pinot Noirs from Anderson Valley) you sample in an upstairs tasting room with terrific views from valley-floor vineyards up into the Mayacamas Mountains. Back downstairs, you can take in food and wine workshops by local chefs in Hall's demonstration kitchen. \$30 *tasting*; 401 St. Helena Hwy. S.; hallwines.com.

WE RECOMMEND: Hall 2012 "Kathryn Hall" Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley; \$150).

SENZA

Craig and Kathryn Walt Hall of Hall St. Helena reworked an existing B&B into a luxurious boutique hotel and spa. At the property's core is the restored 1870s Parker Mansion, where rooms off-season can be a stealth deal (as low as \$219) if there's a late-breaking vacancy. From \$379 otherwise; senzahotel.com.

HARVEST TABLE

Celebrity chef Charlie Palmer makes his Napa Valley

debut with this new restaurant at Harvest Inn. Casual dark-wood tables in front of a massive stone fireplace provide an autumnal setting for the seasonal produce (much of it grown in Harvest's culinary gardens) and local meats Palmer employs in his version of wine-country cooking. We go for the roasted baby carrots in a buttermilk sauce seasoned with Indian *vadouvan* spices; the grilled octopus with fingerlings and charred lemon; and shrimp and grits. And don't shy away from what the menu calls "crispy pork head": The little fritters in tangy *gribiche* sauce are addictive. \$\$\$; 1 Main St.; harvesttablenapa.com.

ARCHETYPE AND GOOSE & GANDER

Restaurant Archetype was launched by winery architect Howard Backen, and its light-filled, rustic design matches the comfort of the menu. Lunch is a treat; it's tough to choose between the Reuben—with corned beef made from short ribs—or the baby-back-rib sandwich (boneless with hoisin on a steamed bun, pork-belly fried rice on the side). At dinnertime, go for the butter-rich eye-of-rib bone marrow, with sweet charred onions and grilled-bread salad. Then, for your nightcap, head to the basement bar at Goose & Gander and Scott Beattie's rosemary pear shrub. **Archetype:** \$\$\$; 1429 Main; archetypenapa.com. **Goose & Gander:** \$\$\$; 1245 Spring St.; goosegander.com.

ST. HELENA

Raymond Vineyards

ADD
TO YOUR
LIST

CLIF FAMILY WINERY

Velo Vino, the tasting room for Clif Family, has a twofold mission: to introduce you to their wines (some of the best of which are from Howell Mountain) and to get you on a bicycle. Have the staff customize your ride, then grab some snacks to go (these are the folks who brought us Clif Bars, after all). On your return, taste a little, buy a bottle, and head out to the wildly popular bruschetta truck. \$20 *tasting, bruschetta*; 709 Main; cliffamilywinery.com. **WE RECOMMEND:** Clif Family 2012 "Gary's Improv" Zinfandel (Howell Mountain; \$38).

CUE THE MUSIC

THERE MUST BE some affinity between wine and music, evidenced by how many winemakers play in a band on the side. Napa Valley has long been a setting for exciting acts, especially during its multiple summer concert series: This year, Lyle Lovett, The Wallflowers, and Melissa Etheridge played the 46-year-old Robert Mondavi series; Herb Alpert and Kevin Spacey performed at nine-year-old Festival del Sole; and Snoop Dogg and Imagine Dragons pulled in crowds at the newest festival, BottleRock.

But the town of Napa itself now has a corner on great tunes year-round, with an astonishing ratio of quality to population. Boz Scaggs appears this month in the cool 1937 art deco Uptown Theatre (uptownbeatrenapa.com), painstakingly restored with the help of Francis Ford Coppola and opened five years ago. At the tiny club Silo's (silosnapa.com), on Main Street's waterfront, you may find American songbook legend Wesla Whitfield riffing with her husband, arranger, and pianist, Mike Greensill.

A fair number of local restaurants add to the music-club scene as well. In Napa, local Italian favorite Uva hosts a regular schedule of live music most nights. Old-time hangout Downtown Joe's does too. Farther up the valley in St. Helena, you can catch performers at Goose & Gander (at left) on summer Sundays.

And for both well-known national acts and local talent, check the schedule at Yountville's Lincoln Theater (lincolntheater.com).