



NapaLife

For those who live in Napa Valley –
and those who wish they did...

An Insider's Look at Napa Valley

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Restaurant news

Wappo closed

Wappo Bistro, the eclectic restaurant in Calistoga, has closed. Chef/owner Michelle Mutrux told me some months ago that things were dicey, with her landlord raising the rent to an excessive level, and apparently that plus the present economic turmoil were the last straw.

Calistoga is hurting, with fewer visitors driving Upvalley as Napa and Yountville offer more and more attractions.

Pancake house closed

Pete's Pancake House has been closed all week and the main sign age on the building has been taken down. It was only open a few months, and the county only allowed it to serve at the few counter seats, not at tables.

Potgeter/Pometta's sold

Susan Potgeter has sold her business, Pometta Deli, last week to Mark Bozzini, one of the founders of Pete's Wicked Ale & Shaker's Vodka.

Neela shooting for March 17

St. Patrick's Day may be an odd day for an Indian restaurant to open, but that's the date Neela Paniz is shooting for to open her Neela Restaurant next to Azzurro Pizzeria and Enoteca.

Cuvée offers half off wine Thursday

To encourage people to come out for dinner on Thursday night – even in this recession - Cuvée Restaurant in Napa is taking half off the prices on its wine list every Thursday during February.

That's in addition to its happy hour Monday through Friday, when cocktails and draft beers are half-price and they offer a menu of \$5 starters and a \$5 wine of the day. It's good from 4 to 7 p.m.

Model Bakery serves breakfast

Model Bakery in the Oxbow Public Market not only makes great bread and pastries; it prepares foods to go – or to enjoy at the tables outside, in the Oxbow Market (or at Oxbow Wine Merchants), or at the Gustavo-Thrace tasting room across the street with wine.

Each day, it has slices of pizza, and also makes grilled panini, soup, salads and sandwiches to order.

In the morning, it serves breakfast sandwiches, both an improved version of the Egg McMuffin and a chipotle breakfast sandwich with avocado.

It also makes its own granola.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, it serves a wide assortment of breakfast/brunch dishes including classic Eggs Benedict on Model Bakery English Muffins, quiche and French toast.

Time to eat at the French Laundry?

Assuming you have the \$240 per person – plus wine – this is a great time to eat at the French Laundry. While you can't just walk in, if you go to its web site www.frenchlaundry.com (and eventually Open Table), you can actually find times available without going through the routine of calling exactly two months in advance at 10 a.m.

Not that there are *many* times, however...

Special deals at Press

For a limited time, Press Restaurant in St. Helena will be serving a four-course dinner served family-style Monday nights for \$55 per person. You can check the website Sunday to see the menu.

Here's tonight's meal:

First course

Mixed greens with roasted baby artichokes and shaved fennel, Champagne vinaigrette.

Second Course

"Surf and turf" prime dry-aged rib eye and garlic jumbo shrimp, mashed potatoes and broccoli

Third Course

Oregon smoked blue cheese served with minced apples, fresh berries and crostini

Fourth Course

Warm chocolate chip cookie with house-made vanilla ice cream

Also, on Wednesdays, Press waives corkage – and also takes 50 percent off the entire Napa Valley wine list until May 1.

And Sunday through Thursday, a Blue Plate Special will be served only at the bar for \$10. It changes daily; call 967-0550 to find out what it is.

Press is at 587 St. Helena Highway South. The web site is www.presssthenela.com.

New bar menu at Meadowood

The Restaurant at Meadowood is now featuring a new two-course fireside bar menu created by the restaurant's Michelin two-star Chef Christopher Kostow.

It has a strong emphasis on locality and sustainability. The \$35 prix fixe menu features warm broccoli soup with quail egg, toasted hazelnuts and guanciale; and the guest's choice of glazed American Kobe short rib with mustard seeds, melted onion and bitter greens or monkfish roasted in vadouvan, Fage yogurt, lobster and baby Romaine.

The Restaurant at Meadowood itself offers a four-course winter menu and an eight-course chef's tasting menu, with wine pairings available for each course, as well as a caviar tasting menu, artisan cheeses and desserts.

Enjoy a two-course fireside menu in the restaurant bar Monday through Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday until 9:30 p.m.

For reservations, call 967-1205.

More details on Brix' Sunday Suppers

We've given some news of this, but here's the scoop from the source:

Every Sunday evening, Brix restaurant will serve a weekly prix fixe Sunday Supper from 5 to 9 p.m. with a wine social before from 4 to 7 p.m.

The family-style Sunday Suppers will be offered for any number of guests. It and may include a winter green vegetable soup with chicken liver crostini; sherry-miso roast chicken served with turnip and rutabaga chips, and a spiced apple crisp with dried raisins, cherries and currants, vanilla ice cream and streusel topping. An a la carte menu will also be available. Sunday Suppers will include three courses for \$28 per person, plus beverages, taxes, and gratuities.

Each Sunday evening before dinner service, Brix will offer a Sunday Wine Social, a gathering of local wine enthusiasts, hospitality employees, neighbors and friends to share wines from their personal cellars. Guests can bring their own wine to enjoy in the restaurant or garden without a corkage charge. You can also buy wine in the Brix Wine Shop.

Brix recently appointed Anne Gingrass-Paik executive chef.

Brix is at 7737 St. Helena Highway, Yountville. Call 944-2749 or visit www.brix.com.

New brunch at Auberge

Auberge du Soleil will switch to a brunch menu on weekends starting March 1.

The three-course menu includes a glass of Auberge sparkling wine on arrival and will include some of Auberge's more traditional lunch items plus some special new brunch and breakfast specialties. It will cost \$65 and be served Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Good eats at barVino

A reader reports a great experience at BarVino in Calistoga with their \$19 three-course menu. "To be quite honest - it was amazing.

"The frisée salad was incredible followed by a delicious spare rib and a yummy dessert. Four of us had different items and everyone was raving. The new chef is knocking it out of the park."

No Bad Days suspending breakfast/lunch

Kelley's No Bad Days Café has stopped serving breakfast, brunch and lunch for now during the off-season. It may resume in the spring.

Best burgers in Napa?

Squeeze Inn Hamburgers has been voted Best Burger in the Napa-Sonoma area and will be featured on "Best of the Bay" television program on KRON-4 in March.

Owner Jay Bakker, a Napa High and Chico State graduate, opened Squeeze Inn Hamburgers in December 2006.

They have a happy hour with \$2 beers from 4 to 6 p.m. daily.

Squeeze Inn Hamburgers, known for its famous "Squeezeburger," is in the Redwood Plaza Shopping Center next to Vallergera's Market. Phone 257-6880 or visit www.squeezeinnhamburgers.com.

Agree they're the best? If not, send your candidates.

New diner in Carneros to replace Babe's

Caterer Chad Harris of Caridwyn & Sons, formerly Rising Sun Catering, is going to open a new restaurant in the Sonoma side of Carneros where Babe's, the funky old hamburger stand, used to be. He is going to call it The Fremont, the name of the road we all call Highway 12.

"It is going to be a nongreasy spoon diner with great food, great prices and a great retro barn-type look/feel," says a friend and reader.

His mother formerly owned La Bella Party Rentals.

492 tacos!

Last Tuesday, Compadres Rio Grill sold 492 tacos between 3 and 6 p.m. as part of its Taco Tuesday promotion.

That's a lot of tacos!

The promotion features \$1 crispy tacos and \$3 Big Boy Tecate beers.

Compadres is best known – and loved for its popular Gringo-style Mexican food, but it also serves dishes from Guanajuato in central Mexico, thanks to the four Torres brothers who have worked there for years.

Bank becoming hot spot – for women

An attractive female friend reports, "I had a drink at the Bank Bar of the Westin Verasa on Saturday and learned that it is actually the only 'fine' bar open after 10 p.m. in Napa. Lots of woman were there enjoying the place. Also they offer refined finger food."

Chef Ken Frank says, "We do have a good following of local women. I attribute that to a couple of factors that really matter to women: It is a classy bar, we offer complimentary valet parking, well lit and right at the front door, and of course we have really good bar food. I have long believed that catering to women is good for a bar; men will find them."

Open That Bottle Night is Feb. 28

Every year since 2000, on a special Saturday night in February, friends, couples and groups around the world get together to enjoy particular bottles of wine, champagne and spirits. The bottle to enjoy is one that you have been saving for some special event that, so far, has never quite happened.

Open That Bottle Night was created by influential wine columnists Dorothy "Dottie" J. Gaither and John Brecher of the *Wall St. Journal*.

News from Berryessa

Open That Bottle Night at Cucina Italiana

at Spanish Flat Village will observe its first annual Open That Bottle Night Saturday Feb. 28.

There are no fees nor pretense. Just bring your wines and your stories, and of course your friends.

They will honor the best story with a special bottle of wine and a gift certificate for dinner.

Chef Stefano will be cooking fresh Italian food as always and he has added some creative specials to the regular menu to accompany the wines.

Visit lakeberrinessanews.com/cucinaitaliana.html for more information, menus and maps.

Updated market opens at Berryessa Estates

Peter Kilkus' *Lake Berryessa News* tells us that the old Stagecoach Market in Berryessa Estates has been completely renovated into the Berryessa Estates Marketplace.

Napa Life is published 50 times a year, with an expanded listing of upcoming events in the last issue of each month. The subscription rate is \$50 per year for email delivery.

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They want to get high speed internet and set up an Internet cafe in the remote location.

Berryessa Estates is a small community of a few hundred homes near the north end of Pope Valley and off Butts Canyon Road.

It's probably the cheapest place to live in Napa County, but is very isolated and has serious issues with its sewage and water. It would probably never be permitted these days.

On one of my few visits there, deer were lounging in many yards; no one seemed to have flowers...

Lance Armstrong to ride by Lake Berryessa

Star bicyclist Lance Armstrong will be riding along the lake on Knoxville Road on Sunday Feb. 15 in the Amgen Tour of California.

The tour starts in Sacramento and will ride through Winters, Lake Berryessa, Pope Valley and Angwin on the way to Santa Rosa.

It would be a good excuse to visit the area and maybe grab a bite at one of the restaurants like Cucina Italiana or the Spanish Flats Deli. Come early since the roads will be closed.

Racers should pass by as early as The Corners - 1:17 p.m.; Turtle Rock - 1:27 p.m.; Pope Canyon Bridge - 1:55 p.m.; downtown (!) Pope Valley (at Pope Valley Repair) - 2:17 p.m.

The latest edition of the *Lake Berryessa News* is at www.LakeBerryessaNews.com.

Berryessa Corners to reopen

Peter Kilkus also reports the upcoming reopening of Berryessa Corners, the café, market and bar complex at Moskowite Corners (the corner of Highway 128 and Monticello Road (Highway 121)).

A year ago, the Corners closed and went into bankruptcy. Napa realtor Jim Keller bought it in foreclosure and is leasing it to Mike Schidknecht, who is refurbishing it.

He plans to open the store next week, then the restaurant and the bar. The bar is being gutted and redone. Mike wants to provide a modern sports bar with multiple TVs and a bright atmosphere.

The restaurant and bar will take some time to complete, reports Kilkus.

A lot will be happening at Lake Berryessa as new contractors update and reopen the closed "resorts" around the lake. The old trailers are mostly gone, in fact.

The area is likely to have some lean times ahead, but then should become a much more important destination for casual visitors rather than those with mobile homes and trailers there.

Water, water everywhere

While we're discussing the lake, you might wonder why we're facing water shortage and rationing when there's that big lake in Napa County – even if it's way down in level.

When it was created, destroying what everyone agrees was a beautiful agricultural valley and the town on Monticello, all the water was pledged to farmers in Yolo County.

Even though the water originates in Napa and Lake Counties (not that they need it with Clear Lake!), we don't get any of it.

Remodeling at new Kohl's

Good news downtown: Contractors have begun interior demolition work for the new Kohl's Department Store at the site of the former Mervyn's Department Store near Main Street between First Street and Pearl Street.

As a result, Napa has issued a permit to allow the contractor to use the 52-space surface parking lot north of the building until mid-May 2009.

Public parking remains available in the Pearl Street Garage and other surface lots in the area.

New Bay Area food & wine e-letter launched

A new, free, snob-busting Bay area food and wine e-letter, YUMMY, has been launched by the irrepressible GraceAnn Walden, long-time Scoop columnist at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Northside San Francisco* magazine editor Susan Dyer Reynolds.

It also includes Sip, a wine scoop column with Master Sommelier Catherine Fallis, a.k.a. the Grape Goddess.

Check it out at yummyletter.com.

Win \$1,000 at V Marketplace

From now until February 16 the shops at V Marketplace in Yountville are offering you a chance to win \$1,000 in cash and all you have to do is shop.

For every \$100 you spend at V Marketplace specialty shops you are entered in a lottery to win the cash prize and lunch at Michael Chiarello's new restaurant Bottega.

The more you spend, the better your odds.

V Marketplace retail complex features upscale specialty shops, galleries, restaurants, a wine cellar and tasting bar and a hot air balloon company.

V Marketplace is at 6525 Washington St. in Yountville.

It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For event information, call 944-2451 or visit www.vmarketplace.com.

Saturday classes at the CIA

Though it's stuck to professional food and wine education in the past, the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone has just introduced its first-ever weekend classes for food enthusiasts.

"Saturdays at the CIA" will offer a variety of cooking and wine classes for those with no professional training. The two-hour classes are taught by expert faculty members. The classes cost \$75 per person.

With class titles ranging from "Hot Latin Cooking" to "Street Foods of the Middle East," these hands-on cooking classes take students on a culinary journey while creating dishes inspired by global cuisine. Class sizes are small so that all participants can work closely with CIA chefs. During the class, students will work in teams to prepare a tasting for their fellow peers that will be enjoyed as part of the class.

Saturdays at the CIA wine classes introduce students to the world of viticulture in the Rudd Center for Professional Wine Studies. Instructors guide students in tasting grape varieties and explore the diversity of wine regions. Participants will also learn tips for tasting, buying and serving wine.

Students can make a full day by making a lunch or dinner reservation at The Wine Spectator Restaurant.

Guests who make a reservation before their class will receive a seat at a communal table with fellow classmates and enjoy a price fixe menu for \$19 for lunch or \$29 for dinner.

All students will also enjoy a 10 percent savings on purchases from the Spice Islands Marketplace.

Some classes will also be taught by chef John Ash on Sunday. These courses focus on how to pair food and wine, and cost \$95 per person.

A schedule of the new offerings can be found at www.ciachef.edu/saturdaysatgreystone.

Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 967-2320.

Vintners beat me to the punch

Last week, I suggested offering buses -- or even the train -- to take people to Upvalley charitable events. I forgot that last June, Auction Napa Valley provided buses from major hotel properties around the valley to Taste Napa Valley, the Friday festival.

The pilot program worked well and this year, Friday ticket holders are being asked what location they would like to take the shuttle from when they buy their tickets, opening it up to community attendees as well as out-of-town visitors.

That's a great idea, and I intend to use it. Of course, it would be even more fun to take the train.

By the way, the auction is June 4 to 7; the Friday festival will be at Robert Mondavi Winery this year.

If you'd like to volunteer, go to the Napa Valley Vintners' web site, www.napavintners.com/anv. It's great fun and serves a worthwhile cause, donating to local health, educational and other needs.



Floral art at I. Wolk Gallery

Flora, an exhibition of floral imagery as interpreted by four contemporary artists in sculpture, painting and photographs, will be featured at I. Wolk Gallery from Feb. 14 to March 14.

The tribute to early spring includes the work of Kazuko Matthews, Mirang Wonne, Patrick LoCicero and Brigitte Carnochan.

In the exhibition are contemporary ceramic sculptures and vases by Kazuko Matthews.

Artist Mirang Wonne offers interpretation of the flower and nature through graceful, dream-like mixed-media paintings on panels.

Brigitte Carnochan's hand-painted photographs portray each flower as an elegant jewel.

Patrick Locicero's collaged bouquets on oil paintings delight with humor and stylish technique.

I. Wolk Gallery is at 1354 Main St., St. Helena, and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Call 963-8800 or visit www.iwolkgallery.com.

Festival del Sole

The fourth season of the in Napa Valley is scheduled for July 18 through 26.

It will feature concerts, receptions and dinners throughout the valley at Lincoln Theater, the Napa Valley Opera House and wineries including Darioush, Dominus, Far Niente, Hall, Robert Mondavi, Quintessa and Signorello.

The schedule isn't yet posted to the web site (www.festivaldelsole.com) but you can call (888) FDS-NAPA or email info@fdsnapa.org for information.

Lodging news

Avia hotel opens model suites

LodgeWorks has just opened model suites and sales lounges for its Avia hotel to open early summer in downtown Napa. Model suites are open for tours by appointment.

It also named Kristine Youngberg general manager.

Before joining Avia Napa, Youngberg was director of special projects at Trefethen Family Vineyards in Napa where she was responsible for sales, marketing, advertising, public relations, promotions and special events. Prior to that, she was director of sales and marketing at Odyssey Marine Exploration's shipwreck attractions in New Orleans and Tampa.

She began her career in hospitality with Interstate Hotels and Resorts, first as catering sales manager at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel in Alaska and then sales manager at the company's resorts on Captiva and Sanibel Islands in Florida. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in management from Tulane University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Alaska.

Avia is a new boutique hotel collection from LodgeWorks, L.P. of Wichita, Kansas. Announced in September 2007, Avia infuses sophisticated, locally inspired designs and an imaginative service culture crafted to bring authentic moments of discovery to discerning travelers. Avia Savannah opened in January. In addition to the hotel in Napa, Avia hotels will open in Long Beach and The Woodlands in Houston in 2009.

For more information, visit www.aviahotels.com.

Marriott SpringHill Suites open at airport

Marriott's SpringHill Suites has opened at Napa Valley Gateway Business Park by the Napa County Airport.

The three-story hotel has 100 suites and conference facilities for up to 124 people. It should attract business travelers and as well as tourists; it has a pool.

It has a bar and serves free breakfasts, but doesn't have a restaurant.

Room rates are \$119 to \$239 per night.

Two hotels are in nearby American Canyon, Gaia Napa Valley and the Fairfield Inn and Suites and a third, the 100-room Holiday Inn Express and Suites, is expected to open next month. Two other hotels, a Hampton Inn and Suites and the Chardonnay Inn Resort, are also planned in the area.

Nothing seems to be happening with the contentious Montalcino Resort planned for nearby on Devlin Road.

Locals' special at Napa River Inn

For the month of February the Napa River Inn is offering a locals' special to thank the local community for all its support.

Have you ever wanted to stay in a nice hotel in Napa but didn't because it was too expensive and you already live here?

Why not treat yourself or someone you love to a night at the Old Mill? The Napa River Inn is offering a \$99 rate for locals from Monday-Thursday only. Rooms are available except Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day Holiday.

This offer is only available through the reservation department. It is not online. To book a special local's rate, call 251-8500.

And yes, locals can make reservations for visitors so they don't have to sleep on your sofa bed.

V. Sattui teams with Vineyard Country Inn

St. Helena's [V. Sattui Winery](#) has teamed with Vineyard Country Inn to offer visitors a vacation package for two for \$199.99. Its usual value is \$375. Guests receive an overnight stay in a luxurious one-bedroom fireplace suite at Vineyard Country Inn in St. Helena. Additionally, they will receive a complimentary premium tasting and picnic lunch at V. Sattui Winery.

The offer is good through April 30.

For more details and reservations, call Ortwin Krueger at [Vineyard Country Inn](#) 201 Main Street (Highway 29) St. Helena, or telephone 963-1000.

News for Napa's wine community

Vintners elect Paula Kornell president

Paula Kornell, general manager of Oakville Ranch Winery, has been elected president of the board of directors of the Napa Valley Vintners. The gavel was passed to Kornell from 2008 president, Pat Stotesbery, owner of Ladera Vineyards, at the association's annual general membership meeting.

Paula Kornell was born and raised in Napa Valley. Growing up in her family's winery, Hanns Kornell Cellars, Paula saw the local wine industry evolve from fewer than 25 wineries to more than 350 now.

Kornell will preside over the 65th anniversary of the group, and they are the first father-daughter pair.

Forty-five years ago, her father, Hanns Kornell, was president of group.

This year the Vintners organization is finally moving into a permanent home. It is renovating the old Jackse Winery in St. Helena, vacant since 1951, into an office building that maintains the historic nature of this early-20th-century wooden winery.

The trade group focuses on promoting Napa Valley and its wines. Kornell will also lead the group's ongoing efforts to protect the Napa Valley name, and preside over the board of directors of Auction Napa Valley, which raise money for local causes.

Gary Andrus Dies

Robert Gary Andrus, who founded Pine Ridge Winery in California and Archery Summit Estate in Oregon, died Friday of complications from pneumonia in Hillsboro, Ore. He was 63.

Andrus started making wine at Pine Ridge in Napa Valley in 1978 and at Archery Summit in Oregon's Dundee Hills in 1993, both in partnership with his then-wife, Nancy.

He sold his interests in both wineries in 2001 when they divorced, but reemerged in 2004 with Gypsy Dancer Estates, which he started in 2002 with his new wife, Christine.

By 2006, the New Zealand property was in receivership and was sold to the owner of Gibbston Valley Estate.

The Oregon winery's web site is currently down and the telephone disconnected.

Artesa names Mark Beringer winemaker

Artesa Vineyards & Winery has appointed Mark Beringer vice president, winemaking operations. He replaces Dave Dobson.

Beringer comes to Artesa after 14 years at Duckhorn Wine Company, first as an enologist, then director of winemaking. A graduate of California State University, Fresno, Beringer began his career at his cousins' Raymond Vineyards as a cellar worker. Beringer is a Napa native and a descendent of Beringer Vineyards founder, Jacob Beringer.

He is the third generation of his family to make wine in California.

He was named winemaker of the year in 2005 by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for his work at Duckhorn Vineyards.

Signorello hires Michael Updegraff

Signorello Vineyards has hired Michael Updegraff to oversee sales for Signorello Vineyards and Edge brands, in addition to his marketing duties as partner in the new FUSE Cabernet Sauvignon.

Through his management consulting firm, Updegraff Marketing, Updegraff will spend a substantial portion of his time advancing the distribution and image of the three distinct fine wine companies.

With nearly 30 years of wine business experience, Updegraff has worked at such wineries as Swanson, Cliff Lede and Turnbull.

Swain appointed president of St. Supéry

St. Supéry Vineyards & Winery has appointed Emma Swain president.

In this newly created position that reports to C.E.O. Michaela Rodeno, Swain will assume responsibility for vineyard and winery activities as well for SFWAmericas, the winery's import division focused on owner Robert Skalli family's wines from the South of France.

She brings a background in strategy, sales, marketing, finance, operations and export to her new position from 17 years of experience at Sebastiani Vineyards and Niebaum-Coppola.

She is a CPA and worked for Arthur Andersen after graduating in Agricultural Economics from U.C. Davis.

Best bets this week

Source Napa with snacks at Bank

Source Napa will be pouring and pairing at Bank Bar at La Toque at the Westin Versa for four nights today (Feb. 9) through Thursday, Feb. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m.

They'll be offering 2007 Source Napa Gamble Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc paired with ahi tuna and German butterball potato "Niçoise" and 2004 Source Napa Heritage Sites Red Bordeaux Blend paired with three steak tartare crostini. The pairings include a glass of Source Napa wine and the snack for \$15.

Bank Bar at La Toque is at the Westin Versa Napa, 1314 McKinstry St. Call 257-5157.

Locals' night at Oxbow Market

Tuesday, Feb. 10, come on down and welcome back vocalist Michelle Michaels and her trio, who are regulars on the Napa Valley music scene, bringing jazz and blues guitar.

Janet Fletcher signing books at Oxbow

Local author Janet Fletcher will sign her books *Cheese & Wine* and *The Cheese Course* on Tues. Feb. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Oxbow Cheese Merchant, with Steven Rothfeld of Kitchen Library,

They will also be hosting Redwood Hill Farms with samples of their delicious goat's milk cheese.

Come by and meet a local author and taste some great cheese. "I'd love for locals to come down and chat with me about cheese," says Janet.

Cameo Cinema presents *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Nimbus Arts and the Cameo Cinema continue their partnership with the Kenneth MacMillan production of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* by The Royal Ballet on Feb. 10 and 14.

All Tuesday presentations are at 8 p.m. Each is followed by a Saturday matinee at 11 a.m.

This fine arts series plays for prices averaging \$22v across Europe and Canada. Thanks to the support of Nimbus Arts, tickets here are only \$10.

In addition to this series, Nimbus Arts partners with the Cameo Cinema for its community programming, the Saturday matinee Family Film Series and the Wednesday evening Nimbus Art Film Series.

For more information, visit www.cameocinema.com. Buy tickets at 963-3946.

Mustards Pour-Off Pair-Off Thursday

Mustards Grill presents the Great Mustards Pour-Off Pair Off dinners Thursday with wines rarely poured by the taste or glass.

The menu Feb. 12 is:

- Clear Dungeness Crab and Ginger Soup with Ahnfelt 2005 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc
- Monkfish piccata, caperberries, preserved lemon with Sierra Madre Santa Maria Valley 2006 Chardonnay
- Short ribs, soft polenta, braised winter greens with Spottswoode 2005 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
- House-made chocolate profiteroles with Quinta do Noval 20 Year Tawny Port

Mustards Grill is at 7399 St. Helena Highway in Yountville. For reservations call 944-2424 or visit www.mustardsgrill.com.

Sidewalk sale in St. Helena this weekend

Like other business, the downtown businesses in St. Helena are reeling from the rotten economy, so they've scheduled a sidewalk sale for this weekend (Feb. 14-16).

They will also hold their traditional sidewalk sale in May.

Valentine's Day specials and events

Bellydance Superstars return to Opera House

Bellydance Superstars return to the Opera House this week with an all-new show, The Art of Bellydance on Friday, Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

The Superstars will also turn the Opera House's Café Theatre into a bazaar of Middle Eastern items.

Napa Valley Opera House is at 1030 Main St., Napa. Call 226-7372 or click www.nvoh.org.

Valentine's Weekend at Rings

Rings Restaurant in the Embassy Suites Hotel is celebrating Valentine's Day all weekend, Feb. 13 through 15, with a four-course dinner for two for \$80.

It includes appetizers, salads, main courses and desserts.

Rings also has live entertainment in its lounge Friday and Saturday nights from 7 to 10 p.m.

Call 320-9521 for more information or reservations.

The Embassy Suites Hotel is at California Boulevard and First Street in Napa.

American Idol finalist visits Opera House

American Idol finalist Chikezie visits Idol NV at the Napa Valley Opera House on Saturday, Feb. 14 as part of the Idol NV competition.

Contestants Talia Trozzo and Samantha Gafvert, the two winners from round one of Idol NV, are moving on to the finals on Feb. 28.

American Idol finalist Chikezie will make a special guest appearance on Saturday, Feb. 14 at Round four, so get your tickets for this hot event today.

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$12 for kids.

Napa Valley Opera House is at 1030 Main S, Napa.

Call 226-7372 or visit www.nvoh.org.

Valentine's Day treats from JoLe Restaurant

JoLe will be selling special treats for Valentine's Day.

They include heart-shaped frosted sugar cookies (assorted colors) \$2 each or \$20 per dozen.

Chocolate raspberry decadence for two (flourless chocolate raspberry cake, glazed in bittersweet chocolate) \$12.

To order, email chefs@jolerestaurant.com or call 942-5938. Allow 24 hours for pickup

JoLe at the Mount View Hotel is at 1457 Lincoln Ave., Calistoga. Call 942-5938.

Valentine's Day at Girard Winery

Girard Winery says, "Bring your sweetheart and let us tempt you with luscious wines and mouthwatering treats."

Its intimate tasting room is located in Yountville just up the street from some of the most romantic restaurants in the valley.

Enjoy two flights of wines paired with premium chocolate for just \$15 per couple Saturday, Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Girard Winery is at 6795 Washington St. in Yountville.

Valentine's Day at Cliff Lede Vineyards

Celebrate love with Cliff Lede Vineyards on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. It will pour some of Lede's most exclusive wines paired with specially selected bite-size canapés in the gallery. It will be previewing the 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon from the St. Helena appellation as well as special gift sets.

This special celebration is \$25 per person. (The valentines are theirs...)

- ♥ 3-pack of bubbly gift set, special price - \$59
- ♥ Includes one bottle of the 2001 Brut, 2001 Blanc de Noirs and 2003 Rosé.
- ♥ 3-pack gift set, special price - \$99
- ♥ Includes one bottle of the 2007 Sauvignon Blanc, 2003 Rosé and 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District.
- ♥ Appellation Collection 3-pack gift set, special price - \$190
- ♥ Includes one bottle of the 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District, 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain and 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena.

For details, email wineclub@cliffledevineyards.com or call 944-8642.

Valentine's Day at Judd's Hill's

Judd's Hill Winery will launch its 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon with a Valentine's Day extravaganza on Feb. 14 from 12 to 3 p.m.

This be the first opportunity to taste the winery's 2005 Cabernet, and it will also be offering grilled food from national champion BBQ competitor Pat Burke, live music from Larry Jones and his band, massages and other unique Valentine's Day treats including Pat Burke's Fudge of Mystery.

The Valentine's Day event will also launch the winery's new video blog, Judd's Enormous Wine Show, which is being co-created by Judd Finkelstein and Rudy McClain, the director/writer/producer of the new feature film *Merlove*.

This new show will first air at midnight on Feb. 13 and be available for viewing at the winery on Feb. 14. The blog will have new installments each week, and will include a wide range of wine-related content — from humorous scenarios and on-air interviews to updates on wines and winery activities.

The cost for the celebration is \$25.

Judd's Hill is open daily by appointment for tours and tasting. The winery is at 2332 Silverado Trail in Napa.

For more information, visit www.juddshill.com or call 255-2332.

Cabernet and chocolate at Summers Estate

Summers Estate Wines will be celebrating Valentine's Day this year with a special Cabernet and chocolate tasting at its tasting room just north of downtown Calistoga at 1171 Tubbs Lane.

It will pour its newly released 2007 Estate Charbono, 2006 Andriana's Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon, 2004 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and the 2005 Summers Petite Sirah Port with chocolate treats, desserts and

Summers' dark chocolate truffles made with its Cabernet Sauvignon by Anette's Chocolates in Napa. Ladies will each receive a rose upon arrival.

The cost for this special wine and chocolate event is \$12 per person, or \$20 per couple. Reservations can be made in advance by calling 942-5508 ext. 202.

Victorian Valentine's Day Tea

Keeping in the tradition of the Goodman Library and its original use, the Napa County Historical Society is hosting Valentine's Day Tea Time at the Goodman on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 12 to 1 p.m. at the Goodman Library, 1219 First St., Napa.

The Goodman Library opened in 1902 as a library, tea and rest room and billiards room.

On Feb. 14 guests, welcomed by their costumed Victorian maid, will experience a Victorian tea celebrating the holiday of love.

They will enjoy an assortment of teas, tea sandwiches and desserts while learning about the history of tea and Napa.

Traditional cucumber and cream cheese and delectable petit fours are part of the menu.

The Valentine's Day Tea Time at the Goodman is \$20 for members, \$25 for others.

The Society is also offering a special \$10 rate for kids and society volunteers.

Even more fun is when guests dress up. Victorian attire is encouraged.

RSVP to 224-1739 or director@napahistory.org by Feb. 10.

Couple's Valentine's Day Yoga at Ubuntu

Ubuntu will hold a workshop for couples for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 from 2 to 4 p.m.

It has an emphasis on physical connection, loving kindness and reconnecting.

It will include asana, partner yoga poses and gentle massage available to all levels and bodies.

Champagne Tribaut provided by Yannick Rousseau will be waiting for participants after the workshop.

The cost is \$85. RSVP to 251-5656.

Get more information at www.ubuntunapa.com.

Ubuntu is at 1140 Main St. in downtown Napa.

Valentine's dinner at Zinsvalley

Zinsvalley is serving a three-course price fixe menu on Valentine's day for \$49.

It has down-scaled from its usual four-course \$75 menu out of concern for customers, it says.

Visit its web site at www.zinsvalley.com or call 224-0695 for reservations.

Valentine's Day (and before) on the Train

Napa Valley Wine Train is offering two elegant Valentine's Day dinners in the setting of an antique train lingering over a gourmet meal prepared "à la minute" by its celebrated chef.

Where else can you enjoy an exquisite meal while it traveling through the world-famous Napa Valley vineyards as the cold winter night hugs the train? It is the perfect environment for holding warm hands and spinning stories.

Dinner boarding is 6 p.m. The cost is \$104 per person. Call (800) 427-4124 or visit winetrain.com.

Valentine's Day at Compadres Rio Grill

Compadres Rio Grill is serving a special shared tasting menu for two on Valentine's Day.

Coctel

Gran Centenario, Rose Angel Hibiscus-infused Margarita 007

Uno

Oyster shooters - a large fresh oyster topped with salsa fresco or

Grilled chile relleno, with fire-roasted fresh tomato salsa

Dos

Slightly wilted spinach salad, tossed tableside

Tres (pick two from the following)

Dragoncitos - a pork lover's delight from Vallé al pastor, chorizo and bacon sautéed with fresh pineapple, peppers, onions and Monterey jack cheese

Compadres specialty carnitas - a traditional favorite from Jalisco - slowly simmered shredded pork roast, served with tomato salsa, chopped sweet onions, fresh cilantro, and jalapeño-marinated vegetables

Seafood a la Diabla - -Seafood of the devil gets its name from the chilies in this sauté of fresh fish, Gulf prawns, peppers, onions and tomatoes

Steak a la Tampiqueña – sliced, choice, roasted tri tip, topped with a sauté of chilies, bacon and onions with Monterey Jack cheese

Avocado Relleno - a Hass avocado filled with fresh fish or portabello mushroom, topped with green chile, two cheeses, and salsa fresca served with traditional the lentils de Vallé and fiesta rice ranchera.

Postre

Strawberry fried cream - with fresh strawberry sauce

The cost is \$60 for two.

Compadres Rio Grill is at 505 Lincoln Ave., Napa.

Email them at compadresriogrille@yahoo.com or call 253-1111.

BarBersQ's Valentine's Day

BarBersQ is offering a number of specials for Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14: Roederer Brut Rosé NV \$13.50

Oysters Rockefeller (spinach, butter, cheese, Tabasco, Parmesan, Pernod) Four per order \$12.95
Seafood Tower for two with stone crab, Dungeness crab, wild pink shrimp, Drake's Bay oysters, mustard crema, mignonette and cocktail sauce, \$39.95

Florida Keys Stone Crab \$21 half pound, \$39 pound

Fulton Valley Farms whole roasted vinegar chicken for two with garlic, herbs, rice \$29.95

T-bone steak for two, cauliflower gratin, \$48

Banana split for two with vanilla and strawberry ice cream, nuts, hot fudge, caramel and brandied cherries \$9.95

Enjoy the specials or choose from the regular menu.

Visit www.barbersq.com or call 224-6600.

BarBersQ is at 3900 Bel Aire Plaza in Napa.

Cole's Chop House on Valentine's Day

Cole's will serve a number of special items in addition to its regular menu on Valentine's Day.

- Oysters on the half shell with Champagne mignonette
- Maine lobster salad with avocado, shaved red onion and tomatoes on young greens, citrus vinaigrette and drizzle of cilantro oil
- Steamed Maine lobster with drawn butter
- Beef Wellington: Angus beef filet mignon, pâté de foie gras and puff pastry with mushroom duxelles, truffle oil and wine sauce
- Tuile basket filled with fresh berries and angel food cake plus white chocolate-raspberry swirl gelato and raspberry coulis and warm chocolate sauce

Reservations are recommended from 224-6328 or at www.coleschophouse.com.

Valentine's Day at Martini House

The Martini House in St. Helena will serve a three-course prix fixe menu for \$58, a signature four-course mushroom and vegetable menu for \$65 and its regular à la carte menu.

The prix fixe menu features Maine lobster bisque; grilled beef tenderloin with "Wellington ravioli" containing wild mushroom duxelles, foie gras and truffles; and a chocolate ganache cake.

The web site is www.martinthouse.com.

Martini House is at 1245 Spring St. in St. Helena. Call 963-2233.

Valentine's Day at Bayleaf

Bayleaf Restaurant is offering an elegant five-course menu for this Valentine's Day on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Crab salad on Boston lettuce appetizer

Lobster bisque

Tomato Caprese

Main selection:

- Risotto verdure al fungi (\$60)
- Chicken cordon bleu (\$68)
- Rosemary lamb (\$73)
- Paella (\$78)
- Salmon en croute (\$64)
- Filet mignon and lobster tail (\$94)

Strawberry in chocolate with by chocolate mousse.

It also offers vegan and gluten-free options.

Call 257-9720 or visit www.bayleafnapa.com.

Bayleaf Restaurant is at 2025 Monticello Rd., Napa.

Valentine's Day at Allegria

Allegria will be serving a special Valentine's menu plus Lou Zanardi playing Italian love songs.

Make reservations at ristoranteallegria.com or call 254-8006.

Valentine's Day at a/k/a bistro

For Valentine's Day, a/k/a bistro in St. Helena will be serving a special meal Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13, 14 and 15:

Hog Island oysters on the half shell with a/k/a cocktail sauce

Bouquet of carrots and asparagus

Half local, cracked, steamed Dungeness crab with licorice and almond broth, shaved anise and finger potatoes

Choice of

Grilled filet of beef tenderloin with truffle potato purée, braised mushrooms and mustard-pepper corn sauce or

Sashimi-grade ahi tuna with baby arugula, avocado and micro cilantro

Dark chocolate and candied banana tart with caramel-vanilla jus

The cost is \$65 per person.

Valentine's Day at Fumé Bistro

Fumé Bistro will serve a special menu for Valentine's Day. Begin with creamy spinach stuffed mushrooms, Fanny Bay oysters or Dungeness crab cakes, select a main course of New Zealand rack of lamb, surf & turf (filet mignon and Pacific white prawns,)

Chateaubriand for two or jumbo Pacific white prawns "scampi style."

Finish with heart-shaped vanilla bean and brandied cherry crème brûlée, chocolate profiterole sundae or Meyer lemon tart.

The Valentine's Day special menu is available Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13 to 15. The regular menu will also be available. For reservations, call 257-1999.

Fumé Bistro is at 4050 Byway East, Napa.

Valentine's Day at Hog Island Oyster Bar

Hog Island Oyster Company welcomes special guest Eileen Crane, winemaker and president, Domaine Carneros winery, Saturday, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m. for a Valentine's Day dinner.

Often referred to as America's doyenne of sparkling wine, Eileen celebrates 30 years in the industry as the most experienced sparkling winemaker in the United States.

She will join guests at Hog Island Oyster Bar for an entertaining conversation on bivalves, bubbles and little-know facts on sparkling wines.

The dinner consists of

- Half-dozen oysters on the half shell: Three Sweetwaters with Meyer lemon and Domaine Carneros sparkling granite, and three Kumamotos with caviar and crème fraîche
- Little Gem salad with Chioggia beets, hazelnuts and fromage blanc
- Sustainably harvested seared day boat scallops with parsnip purée, sautéed orach and gremolata
- Gratte Paille with seasonal accompaniments: Soft, supple, triple-cream, cow's milk cheese from the Seine-et-Marne region of France
- Glass of Domaine Carneros Brut by Taittinger

The dinner is available Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14.

The price is \$47 per person.

Valentine's Day at Silo's

What better way to end your Valentine's Day out than listening to acclaimed Cabaret/Jazz vocalist singing the American Songbook Wesla Whitfield at Silo's club with swinging jazz pianist Mike Greensill. They'll play two shows on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14 – at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

Telephone 251-5833 for reservations. Silo's is in the Napa River Inn and the Historic Napa Mill at 530 Main St., Napa. Visit its website at www.silosjazzclub.com.

Valentine's Day at Gloria Ferrer

Celebrate Valentine's Day at Gloria Ferrer, Saturday, Feb. 14, with its popular annual concert. This year guitarist Eric Symmons will play Argentine Tango, Brazilian masterworks by Villa-Lobos, works by Barrios, Flamenco and original compositions.

The concert includes a dessert buffet and two glasses of sparkling wine.

The cost is \$35 per person.

The concert is at 8 p.m. and doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Free shuttle to symphony in Yountville

Receive free transportation to the Lincoln Theater for the Napa Valley Symphony's Valentine's Day romantic concert featuring Heart Strings of Borodin, Vivaldi, Mahler and Tchaikovsky on Feb. 15.

Ride to the theater and back after the concert from two stop in downtown Yountville: the Post Office and the Town Hall parking lot.

Prior to or after the concert, have a prix-fixe lunch or dinner at these restaurants:

- ad hoc
- Bistro Jeanty
- Bottega
- *étoile* at Domaine Chandon (walk from there!)
- Hurley's Restaurant & Bar
- Napa Valley Grille
- Redd

Reservations must be made in advance; say you're attending the concert.

For information or tickets to the performance, call 226-8742 or visit www.napavalley_symphony.org.

VinOlivo showcases Sonoma products

VinOlivo showcases Sonoma Valley's best wineries, restaurants and artisans.

This year's third annual VinOlivo festival highlights Sonoma Valley's leading products, wine and olive oil, unlike our celebration of a Midwestern seed crop and southern delicacy, mustard.

VinOlivo showcases Sonoma Valley's best wineries, restaurants and artisans Saturday, Feb. 14 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Lodge at Sonoma.

This annual event sponsored by the Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance is the finale of its month-long Olive Festival.

More than 60 Sonoma Valley wineries, restaurants and artisan purveyors will showcase their wines, culinary delights and olive products. VinOlivo tickets are \$65 from www.sonomavalleywine.com or call 935-0803. They're \$75 at the door if available.

Cause for Paws benefit at Calistoga Pet Clinic

Cause for Paws will hold a benefit at Calistoga Pet Clinic for all the strays who are given shelter and vet care Sunday, Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It will feature wine tasting of local wines, food from local chefs and music from local musicians.

The clinic estimates that it spent \$25,000 last year to keep and care for the animals it rescued.

Call 942-0404 to donate or buy tickets for \$25.

Calistoga Pet Clinic is at 2960 Foothill Blvd.

Passport to a Healthy Heart & Beyond

St. Helena Hospital presents Passport to a Healthy Heart & Beyond, an American Heart Month event focusing on fun, inexpensive travel and information about heart disease. The seminar is Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. at Tra Vigne, 1050 Charter Oak, in St. Helena.

Reservations are required; call 1-800-540-3611.

Future events

Academy Awards Party at the Cameo Theater

Stacey Bressler and Deborah Russell Broman host an Academy Awards Party at the Cameo Theater in St. Helena on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. Watch the award ceremony on the big screen at the Cameo.

The proceeds will benefit the St. Helena Unified School District, which needs it due to the current fiscal crisis in the state.

It will include a martini bar hosted by Domaine Charbay and many well-known wines provided by St. Helena wineries.

The cost is \$75, \$50 with an appetizer to share.

Reserve tickets by phoning The Cameo at 963-9779; Stacey at 963-2903; Deborah, 963-4032; or Cindy Walton, 967-4612.

Academy Awards Gala Celebration

The Unity League of Napa Valley presents the 21st annual Napa Valley Academy Awards Benefit on Sunday, Feb. 22, from 5 to 11 p.m. at Robert Mondavi Winery in Oakville.

The Red Carpet Gala combines the Napa Valley Academy Awards viewing Gala Dinner - and the ever-popular Black T-shirt extravaganza.

Funds raised benefit the Care Networks HIV/AIDS/cancer case management programs.

The dinner ticket includes a formal sit-down dinner produced by Jeff Mosher, formerly of Julia's Kitchen, and now executive chef at Robert Mondavi Winery.

Tickets are \$165 for the gala dinner, and \$45 in advance for the Black T-Shirt event. Tickets for the Black T-Shirt Event at the door are \$50. But tickets at www.napavalleyacademyawards.org.

20th anniversary of Stags Leap District AVA

The Stags Leap District Winegrowers Association will host its ninth annual Vineyard to Vintner open house, Celebrating 20 Years, on Saturday, April 25.

It features 15 winery open houses and a dinner, Soirée Cabernet, at Clos Du Val Winery.

The day begins with “Looking Back, Leaping Forward” at Shafer Vineyards, where three pioneers of the district, John Shafer, Dick Steltzner and Bernard Portet of Clos Du Val, share personal stories of the appellation’s beginnings along with a library tasting of their rarest wines and oldest vintages.

The morning session is followed by open houses entitled “On the Trail.” Visitors will enjoy personal access to the vintners and winemakers as they open their caves, barrels and cellars for special tours, tastings and food unavailable to the general public.

V2V ends with Soirée Cabernet at Clos Du Val Winery with a reception in the historic barrel room followed by dinner. The pre-dinner reception also provides guests with an opportunity to preview the District’s upcoming 2005 Appellation Collection, to be released this fall.

Tickets for the library tasting and seminar are \$60 per person, the open houses are \$135 per person, open houses and the reception and dinner are \$285.

The Stags Leap District Winegrowers Association is comprised of 16 wineries: Baldacci Family Vineyards, Chimney Rock Winery, Cliff Lede Vineyards, Clos Du Val, Hartwell Vineyards, Ilsley Vineyards, Malk

Family Vineyards, Pine Ridge Vineyards, Regusci Winery, Shafer Vineyards, Silverado Vineyards, Robert Sinskey Vineyards, Stags’ Leap Winery – but not Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars -- Steltzner Vineyards, Taylor Family Vineyards and Terlato Family Vineyards.

Tickets will be on sale starting Feb. 15 at www.stagsleapdistrict.com/v2v.

Late note:

More vineyards in Napa’s mountains?

Seeing double? Yes, if you look at the lead article in today’s *Napa Valley Register* (www.napaalleyregister.com/articles/2009/02/09/news/local/doc498fdo973e09a333248868.txt), it’s basically a shorter repeat of the one I wrote a month ago on Jan. 9 in the same paper (www.napaalleyregister.com/articles/2009/01/09/wine/doc4966c419c00eb905795943.txt).

It also appeared in *Wines & Vines* daily news Jan. 9 (www.winesandvines.com/template.cfm?section=news&content=61222&htitle=Major%20Vineyards%20Proposed%20in%20Napa).

The article was too long to include in *NapaLife*, but described the five large new vineyards proposed for the Vaca Mountains east of Napa Valley.

I recommend anyone interested in the wine business check Winesandvines.com late every afternoon – and WineBusiness.com each morning (or subscribe to its emailed link).

Give a gift of NapaLife or subscribe today

Subscribers to NapaLife can give their friends and colleagues half-price subscriptions. It’s a very welcome gift so they receive all the latest insider news of Napa Valley each Monday morning by e-mail. It’s only \$25 per year for 50 issues for gifts from subscribers, \$50 otherwise.

Good news: You now find a button for gifts on the web version of *NapaLife* (but not at www.NapaLife.com).

The easiest way to subscribe otherwise is at the website, www.NapaLife.com, where you can get full instructions or use a credit card or PayPal. A button is provided for renewing.

You can also send a check. Paul Franson paul@NapaLife.com.

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NapaLife's calendar for the next two weeks

All telephone numbers are in area 707 unless otherwise indicated. Often, children's and members' tickets are available as well as early discounts.

New entries are in red.

SPECIALS AT RESTAURANTS

Daily

Allegria \$8 Kobe beef burger 5-6:30 pm

barVino: \$19 3-course dinner

FlatIron Grill, 3-course prix fixe menus \$19 except on holidays.

Brannan's, 3-course prix fixe menus \$29 except on holidays..

Go Fish Three-course holiday lunch. Soup, entrée and sorbet. \$21.

Monday - Friday

Allegria \$3 well drinks or beer – but not wine! -- at bar 5-6:30 pm.

Brix Half-price cocktails and bar menu 4-6 pm. 944-2749. www.25degreesbrix.com.

Compadres Rio Grill, Napa, Progressive Margaritas 3-6 pm \$1 to \$5

Cuvée, Napa, Napa Cheesesteak fries and a pint of beer in bar for \$8.50, 11:30 am-5 pm.

Cuvée, Napa, Happy hour: 1/2-price cocktails and draft beers plus \$5 menu of starters and wine of the day 4-7 pm

Downtown Joe's Happy Hour. 4-6 pm. \$3 pints, \$4 well drinks.

Firewood Free fountain drink 11 am-3 pm with entrée.

Firewood Early evening special 3 -6 pm.: Any pizza or pasta, side Caesar or green salad and drink \$9.95

Fumé Bistro, Napa, Happy hour at the bar: \$3 well cocktails, \$3 draught beers and \$5 Ketel One cocktails. 4-6 pm.

Squeeze Inn 4-6 pm. - \$2 beers

Zinsvalley, Napa, Happy hour 5-6 pm

Sundays through Thursdays

Winter in Wine Country in the CIA Wine Spectator Greystone Restaurant. 2-course lunch for \$19, 3 for \$29. Plus 30 wines bottles for \$30. until March 31. 967-1010.

Monday-Thursday

Bounty Hunter 3-6 pm. 2 for 1 Bounty Hunter brands; 2 for 1 draft beer; 25 % off wine list for on-premises consumption (no "holy grails"; \$5 quarter slab ribs; \$10 BBQ taster.

Piccolino's, Napa, Happy hour: \$3 pints on draft. \$4 glass of wine. 5-7 pm. Free munchies at bar

Ubuntu Early Evening before 6 pm. Pre fixe three courses: Leaves and Things, Cauliflower in an iron pot, "Cheesecake" in a jar. \$30.

Sunday

Pacific Blues, Yountville. \$10 burger with fries or steak sandwich. \$10 for a bottle of table red. 944-4455.

Monday

Allegria No corkage.

Bayleaf, Napa, No corkage for Napa County residents

Compadres Rio Grill, Napa, Margarita madness--\$5 all day

Fumé Bistro, Napa, 5 Buck Chuck burger and 5 Buck No-Chuck veggie burger with fries at bar

Pacific Blues, Yountville. \$10 burger with fries or steak sandwich. \$10 for a bottle of table red. 944-4455.

Piccolino's, Napa, No corkage for locals and pork osso bucco

Silverado Main Lounge, Napa, Two for One Cosmopolitans

Zinsvalley fish & chip nights.

Tuesday

Local's Night at Oxbow Public Market. 5-8 pm, music 6-7:30 pm. www.oxbowpublicmarket.com

Silverado Grill, Napa, Sustainable Seafood

Ubuntu, Napa, No corkage

Compadres Rio Grill, Napa, Tacos \$1, big Tecate \$3 from 3-6 pm

Cuvée, Napa, Ketel Tuesdays-- \$5 Ketel One Cocktail in bar 9-11 pm.

Fumé Bistro, Napa, No corkage and free amuse bouche

Market, St. Helena, No corkage

Piccolino's, Napa, Two for one cocktails and penne with Calabrian sausage and Gorgonzola cream sauce.

Ristorante Allegria. \$7 Kobe burger 5-6:30 pm bar only.

Zinsvalley \$7 grass-fed chuck burger.

Wednesday

Bayleaf, Napa, No corkage for Napa County residents

Bounty Hunter after 5 pm. 1/2 lb. Kobe cheeseburger with side, \$13.

Cc Blue, St. Helena, No corkage for locals.

CIA Wine Spectator Greystone Restaurant. No corkage through March.

Cindy's Backstreet Kitchen , St. Helena, Cindy's Supper Club special four-course dinner for \$40.

Cuvée, Napa, No corkage

Cuvée, Napa, Three courses for \$33 with no corkage

Fumé Bistro, Napa, Comfort food including meat loaf

Piccolino's, Napa, Ravioli Festival. \$14.95. Steve Albini on accordion

Silverado Grill Lounge, Kobe Burgers \$10

Vercelli St. Helena. Free corkage all day.

Zinsvalley, Napa, Bistro meal: 3 courses plus a glass of wine, \$30.

Thursday

Mustards Pair-Off Pain-Off. Dinner with wines rarely poured by the glass. www.mustardsgrill.com.

Napa Valley Grill, Yountville, Slider Night: Kobe beef hamburger slider and a beer for \$5. All specialty cocktails \$5. 3 pm to close.

Piccolino's, Napa, Two for one pints and dinner (salad, choice of pasta entrée and spumoni) for \$14.95

Silverado Grill, Napa, International night

Zinsvalley, Napa, \$6 Martini Night.

Kelley's No Bad Days Café. No corkage.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Ubuntu Three-course pre fixe lunch: Leaves and Things, Cauliflower in a cast iron pot, "Cheesecake" in a Jar. 11:30 am-2:30 pm \$25.

Ristorante Allegria. \$3 well drinks at bar noon to 6 pm.

Friday

Charbay Distiller Bar. 2-5 pm. Tra Vigna bites. Cantinetta Tra Vigne.

Compadres Rio Grill, Napa, Aloha Friday: Mai Tais \$3, tri tip skewer \$3, potato chip nachos 3-6 pm

Saturday

Compadres Rio Grill, Napa, Brunch 8 am-2 pm \$3 Bloody Marys

Compadres Rio Grill, Napa, \$3 Bloody Marys for brunch

Sunday

BarBersQ, Napa, Fried chicken dinner for \$14.95

Compadres Rio Grill, Napa, Brunch 8 am-2 pm \$3 Bloody Marys

Silverado Grill, Napa, Free corkage Piccolino's, Napa, Pollo frito alla Fiorentina, No corkage for locals.

ON-GOING PROGRAMS

Wine Basics Class. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Goosecross Cellars. 944-1986. 1119 State Lane, Yountville.

Estate winegrowing Tour. 2:30-4 pm. \$20. Goosecross Cellars. 944-1986. 1119 State Lane, Yountville

First Tuesday of each month. Open forum at CIA. 1:30-3:30 pm. Free. 967-2320. www.ciachef.edu.

First Friday of every month. Art and wine party. 5-7:30 pm. Folio Winemakers Studio. 256-2731. www.foliowine.com.

Friday-Monday. Cooking demos at the Culinary Institute of America. 1:30 and 3:30 pm Fri. & Mon. plus 10:30 am Sat. & Sun. \$15. 2555 Main St., St. Helena. 967-2320. www.ciachef.edu.

Friday Vista Dome Car Napa Valley Vintners Luncheons. Napa Valley Wine Train. 253-2111. www.winetrain.com.

Sundays through March. Behind the Scenes Tour. St. Supéry Winery. 11 a.m.-noon. \$30. 8440 St. Helena Hwy. Rutherford. (800) 942-0809. www.stsupery.com.

CONTINUING ART EXHIBITS

Through March 1 "New Work" by Stephen De Staebler. Napa Valley Museum, Yountville. 944-0500 www.napavalleymuseum.org

Feb. 21 – June 13 (un)Natural. di Rosa Preserve: Art & Nature. 226-5991. www.dirosapreserve.org.

March 6 - April 12 Herstory. Celebrating Woman's History Month. Napa Valley Museum, Yountville. 944-0500. www.napavalleymuseum.org.

April 17 - June 7 Biennial juried plein air exhibition. Napa Valley Museum, Yountville. 944-0500. www.napavalleymuseum.org.

June 12 - September 6 Artifacts from the California Society of Pioneers. Napa Valley Museum, Yountville. 944-0500. www.napavalleymuseum.org.

June 27 – Sept. 19 Mike Henderson: New Work. di Rosa Preserve: Art & Nature. 226-5991. www.dirosapreserve.org.

Sept. 11 – Oct. 25 Body Transparent. Napa Valley Museum, Yountville. www.napavalleymuseum.org. 944-0500.

Oct. 31 through Jan. 30, 2010 Altered States: The Collection in Context. di Rosa Preserve. 226-5991. www.dirosapreserve.org.

Oct. 30 – Jan. 24 Art of Geology. Napa Valley Museum. Yountville. www.napavalleymuseum.org. 944-0500.

CONTINUING MUSIC

Every night. Live jazz, blues or Latin music on the patio. 6:30-9:30 pm. Calistoga Inn Restaurant & Brewery. Calistoga.

Monday and Wednesday night. Lou Zanardi on the Accordion. Allegria.

Monday-Friday Happy Hour. 4-6:30 pm. Pacifico Restaurante. Calistoga.

Tuesday Locals Night. Music 6-7:30 pm. Oxbow Public Market. www.oxbowpublicmarket.com.

Tuesday through Sunday. Live music. Downtown Joe's.

Wednesday Pandemonium steel band. 6:30-8:30 pm. Compadres Rio Grill.

Wednesday Philip Smith and The Gentlemen of Jazz - big band/jazz. 6:30-9:30 pm. Uva Trattoria. 1040 Clinton St., Napa. 255-6646. www.uvatrattoria.com.

Wednesday Mike Greensill jazz piano. Silo's in the Napa River Inn. \$10. www.silosjazzclub.com. 251-5833.

Thursday Mike Greensill jazz piano. Silo's. 7-10 pm. \$10. 251-5833. Napa Mill. silosjazzclub.com.

Thursday Alternating between Leo Cavanagh Trio and McShade - acoustic guitars and bass. 6:30-9:30 pm Uva Trattoria. 1040 Clinton St., Napa. 255-6646. www.uvatrattoria.com.

Thursday night live guitarist/vocalist Doug Houser, 8-11 pm. Compadres Rio Grille, Napa.

Thursday music in the courtyard. Cuvée.

Thursdays in October Hall 1.6-9 pm. www.myspace.com/hallonemusic. Patio at Go Fish Restaurant, St. Helena.

Friday and Saturday Wesla Whitfield with Mike Greensill on piano. Silo's. Napa River Inn. 8 pm. \$20. 251-5833. www.silosjazzclub.com.

Friday & Saturday Dancing in the Pub to blues, rhythm & blues and rock bands from 9-midnight.

Friday-Sunday featuring Herb Gibson on vibes. Brannan's. Calistoga.

Friday-Saturday. Live music from rock to blues to swing 9 pm-1 am. Hydro Bar & Grill. Calistoga.

Friday Pianist Don McCarroll – jazz. 5:15-8:15 pm. Uva Trattoria. 1040 Clinton St., Napa. 255-6646. www.uvatrattoria.com.

Friday Philip Smith and The Gentlemen of Jazz big band/jazz. 8:30-11:30 pm. Uva Trattoria. 1040 Clinton St., Napa. 255-6646. www.uvatrattoria.com.

Friday Live Mariachi music. Pacifico Restaurante. Calistoga.

Friday & Saturday evening Hall 1. Main Lounge at The Mansion, Silverado Resort. 9 pm- midnight. www.myspace.com/hallonemusic

Sunday Live On The River Music. 4 –7 pm. Compadres Rio Grille, Napa.

Sunday Mimi Fox jazz. 6:30-9 pm. Uva Trattoria. 1040 Clinton St. Napa. 255-6646. uvatrattoria.com.

Sunday Swing & Dixieland 7-10 pm. Uva Trattoria. 1040 Clinton St. Napa. 255-6646.

FEBRUARY

9-12 Source Napa wine and snacks.

Bank Bar at La Toque at the Westin Versa. 5 to 7 pm. 1314 McKinstry St. 257-5157.

10 Local's Night. Michelle Michaels and her trio. Oxbow Public Market.

10 Cheese with Janet Fletcher. Book signing and tasting. 5-7 pm. Oxbow Cheese Merchants. Napa.

10 The 7 Vital Keys to Hunger-Free Weight Loss. Dr. Michael Murray, ND. 12-1:30 pm. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

11 The Cancer Connection. Patty Trosclair, 12-2 pm. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

11 Cancer and Nutrition. China Rose Reid. 12:30-1 pm. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

12 Native American Basketry of Napa Valley. Ralph Shanks. 7-8:30 pm. \$4.50. Napa Valley Museum.

12 Great Mustards Pour-Off Pair Off dinners Thursday. Mustards Grill. Yountville. 944-2424. www.mustardsgrill.com.

12 Wine Flights 4-6 pm. \$15. Wineries of Napa Valley. 253-9450. 1285 Napa Town Center.

13 Pulse Tasting. Suzanne Phifer-Pavitt, Proprietor Date Night. Free. 5-7 pm. Acme Fine Wines, St. Helena. www.acmefinewines.com. 888 963.0440.

13 Fine Wine & Artisan Cheese. 4-6 pm. \$10. Wineries of Napa Valley. 253-9450. 1285 Napa Town Center.

13 Bellydance Superstars presents the Art of Bellydance. 8 p.m. \$35. Napa Valley Opera House. www.nvoh.org.

13-22 Heart to Heart. Dreamweavers Theatre. 1637 Imola Ave. West, Napa. 255-LIVE (5483) dreamweaverstheatre.org.

13 Healthy Heart Day. 11 am-3 pm. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

13 A Healthy Heart. Dr. Jennifer Deir, ND. 12-1 pm. Pharmaca

Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

14 Colds and Flus. Dr. Moses Goldberg, ND. 10-11 am. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

14 Valentine's Day. See main text.

14 Geology of Napa Valley with John Livingston. 10 am- 1 pm. \$4.50. Napa Valley Museum.

14 Le Nozze di Figaro. 8 pm. \$10. Cameo Cinema. 963-3946. www.cameocinema.com.

14-16 Sidewalk sale. St. Helena.

14 Valentine's Day Celebration - Romance in the Kitchen. Winery chef Ron Barber 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. \$35. St. Supéry Vineyards & Winery, 8440 St. Helena Hwy. Rutherford. (800) 942-0809. www.stsupery.com.

14 Idol NV 2009 Round 4. 8 p.m. Napa Valley Opera House. www.nvoh.org.

14 Valentine's Candlelight Tasting. 4-6 pm. \$10. Wineries of Napa Valley. 253-9450. 1285 Napa Town Center.

15 Valentine's Day romantic concert Napa Valley Symphony. Lincoln Theater. 226-8742. www.napavalleysymphony.org.

15 Cause for Paws. 11 am-4 pm. \$25. 942-0404. Calistoga Pet Clinic, 2960 Foothill Blvd.

15 Winter Wine Pairing. 3-5 pm. \$10. Wineries of Napa Valley. 253-9450. Napa Town Center.

17 St. Helena Hospital presents "Passport to a Healthy Heart & Beyond," 6 p.m. at Tra Vigne, 1050 Charter Oak, in St. Helena.

17 Passport to a Healthy Heart & Beyond from St. Helena Hospital. 6 pm. Tra Vigne, 1050 Charter Oak, St. Helena. 1-800-540-3611.

8 The Cancer Connection. Patty Trosclair. 12-2 pm. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

18 Healing Our Aging Hormones. Dr. Chanana, MD. 5:30-6:30 pm. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

19 Jeff Gaffner of Saxon Brown. Flight night at Oxbow Wine Merchants.

19 Philip Glass. 8 p.m. \$40/\$45. www.philipglass.com. Napa Valley Opera House. www.nvoh.org.

19 Wine Flights 4-6 pm. \$15. Wineries of Napa Valley. 253-9450. 1285 Napa Town Center.

20 Pulse Tasting. Chuck McMinn, Proprietor Vineyard 29 and Holly Anderson-National Sales. Free. 5-7 pm. Acme Fine Wines, St. Helena. www.acmefinewines.com. 888 963.0440.

20 Fine Wine & Artisan Cheese. 4-6 pm. \$10. Wineries of Napa Valley. 253-9450. 1285 Napa Town Center.

20 Idol NV 2009 Round 5. 8 p.m. Napa Valley Opera House. www.nvoh.org.

21 16th Annual Chamber of Commerce Taste of Yountville. Van de Leur Park.

21 Natural Hair Care. Daphne Raider and Tina Hoffmann, Stylists. 1-2 pm. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Bel Aire Plaza, Napa. 253-0970.

21 Cooking with wine series-- sautéing/pan sauces. Winery chef Ron Barber 2 pm. \$35. St. Supéry Vineyards & Winery, 8440 St. Helena Hwy. Rutherford. (800) 942-0809. www.stsupery.com.

21 Carnival Wine Tasting & Appetizers. 4-6 pm. \$10. Wineries of Napa Valley. 253-9450. 1285 Napa Town Center.

21 La Grand Diner a La Toque. 6 pm. \$350. www.mustardfestival.org.

21 Premiere Napa Valley. Napa Valley Vintners. CIA. St. Helena. www.napavalley.vintners.

21 Scholarship Foundation Gala. American Association of University Women, Napa County Branch. Napa Valley Country Club. 252-9095.

22 In The Mood. 5 pm. \$39, \$59. Lincoln Theater. 944-1300. www.lincolntheater.org.

22 Pacific Chamber Symphony Subscription Series. Beethoven visits the Opera House led by Maestro Lawrence Kohl. 2 pm., 2

- pm. Napa Valley Opera House. 226-7372. www.nvoh.org.
- 22 Academy Awards Party. Cameo Cinema. St. Helena. 5 pm. \$75. 963-9779.
- 22 21st Annual Napa Valley Academy Awards Benefit for the Unity League of Napa Valley. 5-11 pm. Robert Mondavi Winery. Dinner \$165. Black T-Shirt \$50. napavalleyacademyawards.org.
- 22 Carnival Wine Tasting & Appetizers. 3-5 pm. \$10.
- Wineries of Napa Valley. 253-9450. 1285 Napa Town Center.
- 22 Schubert & Stravinsky. Pacific Chamber Symphony. 2 p.m. Pre-show talk, 1 p.m. \$25/\$30. Napa Valley Opera House. www.nvoh.org.