



WHERE TO EAT,
DRINK AND STAY
IN SONOMA AND
NAPA THIS YEAR

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Napa's and Sonoma's offerings for wine lovers—particularly in restaurants and tasting rooms—come, go and evolve every year. The past few years have been particularly productive as the regions grappled with the pandemic, devastating wildfires and labor shortages. Since our last roundup on the food and wine culture of Northern California (“Live It Up in Napa Valley,” July 31, 2022), Napa and Sonoma have seen several updates on the hospitality front. With trends including plush outdoor seating, a lean toward the casual over the fancy, and more vegetarian and alcohol-free options, America’s leading wine country is securing its status as the ultimate place to relax, unwind and savor the moment.

NAPA



Kitchen Door chef and founder Todd Humphries

KITCHEN DOOR

1300 First St., Suite 272, Napa **Website** kitchendoornapa.com
Telephone (707) 226-1560 **Open** Monday to Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

During his nine-year run at St. Helena’s Martini House, chef Todd Humphries earned fans for his seasonal cuisine. After the restaurant shuttered, he opened Kitchen Door in Napa’s Oxbow Market in 2011. In 2022, Kitchen Door relocated farther down First Street to a larger space, featuring a private patio and generous bar seating.

The menu is pure Humphries: eclectic, casual and delicious. Kitchen Door is the perfect place to order shareable staples, from deviled eggs and chicken wings to pizzas and thick-cut chips with dip. The Napa restaurant also serves globally influenced items, such as Vietnamese lettuce cups, chicken pho ga, Korean ribs and shoyu duck ramen. Humphries is perhaps best known for his work with mushrooms, so don’t overlook the cream of mushroom soup or any entrée packing fungi flavor.

The wine list has several bottles for \$50 or less, including Skinner Vineyards Picpoul Blanc 2021 (\$45) and the Calder Family Charbono 2018 (\$48). The list also features Wines With a Purpose, with proceeds from the sales of these bottles donated to various charities and research efforts. —M.W.