



The Cheeky Girl's Guide to San Francisco

San Francisco is the hip cousin of Chicago. It's not quite in the immediate Chicago family, but she's definitely related. The city is neighborhood-centric, rich in culture and sports, employs ground-breaking politics and is home to an impressive culinary scene. After all, San Francisco has roots in the slow food movement (thank you, Alice Waters), is a stone's throw away from the Mecca that is Thomas Keller's French Laundry (Yountville in the Napa Valley) and the Mission houses some of the freshest Mexican food that I've ever had. *Te quiero Paplotes.*

From the *Sun-Times* to us Cheeky girls, it seems that everyone is abuzz with our West Coast friends. In the coming weeks, you'll hear from Erica Bethe Levin and Rachel Gillman as they cover their Napa wine country gallivanting. Fall is the best time of year to be in Northern California and I'm only sad to say that I didn't make it up to Russian River where they produce some of the most fabulous pinot noirs.

For all of you Chicagoans lusting for a three-day weekend getaway (leave on a Thursday after work and return on a Sunday night - you gain 3 hours, which is a beautiful thing), I've outlined a short and sweet Cheeky Girls guide to the city and beyond.

Where to Play:

CADE Winery



360 Howell Mountain Road South

Angwin, CA

Located off the hilly Howell Mountain Road in the Napa Valley, CADE is the area's first solar-powered, green certified building that is the only California winery on track to become Gold LEED certified. CADE (a name derived from a Shakespearean term meaning cask or barrel) is the brainchild of San Francisco Mayor, Gavin Newsom, and philanthropist, Gordon Getty, who wanted to create a winery that was respectful of the land and flowed with the natural landscape. The construction waste was recycled, buildings are insulated with old blue jeans and no heating or cooling is required in their underground caves. The green concept is impressive, and definitely on trend, but can the wines measure up? The answer is yes. CADE produces several organically-grown wines. A promising varietal is the 2006 Napa cuvee cabernet- a blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and a touch of petit verdot. This fall expect to taste the 2007 Estate cabernet sauvignon.