

# Wine Spectator

## Visiting On A Budget

From the best motel  
and tastiest burger  
to affordable wine  
tours By Tim Fish

**N**apa” and “budget” are words that do not often appear in the same sentence. Napa, after all, is a playground for the rich, where dinner can easily run \$100 per person before wine and tip, a tiny room in a bed and breakfast costs at least \$200, and a few sips in a winery tasting room can carry a \$25 price tag.

Yet a Napa vacation doesn't have to break the bank. All it takes is a slight change of mind-set: Think like a native. “All of us who live here don't want to spend a bundle,” says chef Cindy Pawlcyn, who owns three restaurants in the valley, including the perennially popular Mustards Grill.

For dinner, follow the locals to Taylor's Automatic Refresher, Pizzeria Tra Vigne, JoLē or Boon Fly Café, where entrées cost \$20 or less. Even at culinary institution Mustards there remains plenty of value on the menu, and the generous portions encourage sharing. Many customers these days, Pawlcyn says, are putting together a table-sized meal from a handful of appetizers.

Drinking wine economically is also possible. Restaurants are adding more bargains by the bottle and glass, and some are giving deals on corkage fees. There are also wineries, such as Heitz and Cade, that give free tastings or charge only \$5 to \$10.

The biggest challenge for budget travelers in Napa is finding a place to sleep. Rates at the most basic motels are typically upwards of \$100 a night, but if you reserve early, bargains can be had at places like the retro-classic El Bonita Motel or the newly opened River Terrace Inn.

In the following pages, we offer some ideas for restaurants, hotels, wineries to visit and other activities that will make your trip a memorable one without costing a small fortune. And whether you're a valley regular or a Napa novice, we have you covered, recommending classic destinations as well as the new places worth checking out.

## > Wineries to Visit

### Cade

360 Howell Mountain Road S., Angwin **Telephone** (707) 965-2746 **Web site** [www.cadewinery.com](http://www.cadewinery.com) **Open** By appointment **Cost** Tasting \$10; tour and food pairings \$30

Perhaps the most innovative and thoughtfully designed winery in Napa, Cade is the latest project from PlumpJack proprietors San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom and composer and financier Gordon Getty. This Howell Mountain eco-winery is one of the greenest in the country, down to details like insulation made from potash and shredded blue jeans. For \$10 you get to taste three or four current releases. If commitment to the environment is your passion, you may be tempted to upgrade to a \$30 experience that includes a more intensive tour, prepared local foods and a chance to marvel at the winery's design (don't miss the impressive scalloped ceilings in the caves, which are shaped like PlumpJack's signature shield).