

# Calistoga revels in its ruggedness

By **Jerry Shriver**, USA TODAY

## ■ CALISTOGA'S FINEST

Calistoga's funky, off kilter flavor shines through at a number of recently opened places, including:

### The newcomers:

These established wineries offer an extra dimension to the tasting-room experience:

**Castello di Amorosa.** Winery tasting fee: \$10-\$20; tour and tasting: \$25-\$40. 707-967-6272; castellodiamorosa.com

**Solage** resort spa. Off-season (Nov. 1-March 31) room rates: \$325-\$77; spa services: \$95-\$325. 866-942-7442; solagecalistoga.com

**Solbar** at Solage. Bistro menu featuring healthy or hearty dishes. Entrees: \$14-\$37. 866-942-7442; solagecalistoga.com

**Wine Garage.** Retail shop and soon-to-be wine bar specializing in \$25-and-under wines. 707-942-5332; winegarage.net

**BarVino.** Wine bar featuring small-plates menu. Entrees: \$9-\$35. 707-942-9900; bar-vino.com

**Calistoga Cellars.** Downtown tasting room serves wine at two bars and on a patio. Tasting fee: \$5. 707-942-7422; calistogacellars.com

### The standards:

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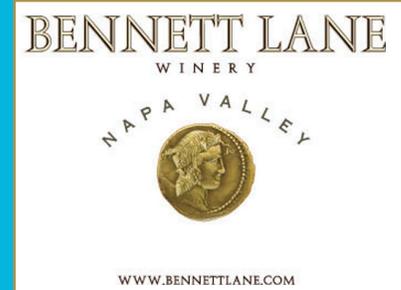
**Bennett Lane Winery.** Owner and NASCAR team owner Randy Lynch often has one of his racing cars on display. Tasting fee: \$10. 877-629-6272; bennettlane.com

**Frank Family Vineyards.** Rich Frank, entertainment exec and former president of the Television Academy, is one of the very few remaining owners in Napa Valley not to charge a tasting-room fee. 800-574-9463; frankfamilyvineyards.com

**Chateau Montelena.** A top winner at the famous 1976 Paris Tasting, which put California wines on the world map, is housed in a stone castle set into a mountain. Tasting fee: \$15-\$25. Tour and tasting: \$25. 707-942-5105; montelena.com

**Sterling Vineyards.** Only winery to feature an aerial tram that ascends to a mountain-top tasting room. Tour and tasting, including ride: \$15-\$45. 800-726-6136; sterlingvineyards.com

**Clos Pegase.** The Michael Graves-designed complex showcases owner Jan Shrem's art collection and 20,000 feet of caves. Tasting fee: \$10. Tour: Free. 707-942-4981; closepegase.com



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