

VISIT

TRI-VALLEY

INSPIRATION GUIDE 2017

PLEASANTON

LIVERMORE

DUBLIN

DANVILLE



LIVE MUSIC

WELCOME ABOARD!
TRAVEL

HAPPY HOUR

ROLLING HILLS

SPA

CULTURE GALLERIES

Sunshine
LET'S GO!

ICE CREAM
HOT RODS
HARVEST
discover

Events
Trails
RESTAURANTS

HIKING

CRAFTS
GOLF

WINE TROLLEY

Pleasanton

OUTLETS

SWIMMING
the centennial

PARKS

FESTIVALS
FUN!

TOURS
FAIRGROUNDS

DOG FRIENDLY

BREWERIES
GETAWAY

Scenery
LIVE IT UP

BEER TRAIL
CALIFORNIA
PLAY

LIVERMORE
BASEBALL
HISTORY
Family

Vineyards
RELAX

ADVENTURE
inviting

DANVILLE

DUBLIN
CHARMING

FARMERS MARKETS
SHOPPING

THEATER

BUSTLING STREETS

CLASSIC CARS

FRIENDLY

entertainment!

CELEBRATE!

ESCAPE & Leisure

MUSEUMS

GROWLER

ECLECTIC

ENJOY

wine garden

visit

TRI-VALLEY

INSPIRATION
GUIDE 2017

Discover Everything The Tri-Valley



Daytripping in Danville

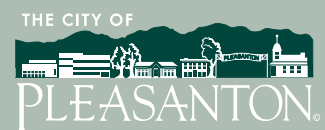
Discover Danville's charming historical downtown. Enjoy the variety of shops, boutiques, restaurants, cafés, spas, wine bars, museums, galleries, parks and trails. Start at Hartz and Prospect Avenue-the heart of downtown. You'll find plenty of free parking, and dogs are welcome, making Danville the perfect day trip destination. Visit our website to plan your upcoming adventure through Danville, and for the historic walking tour map of the area. Once you visit Danville we know you'll be back.

Visit ShopDanvilleFirst.com

Dublin—Have Fun in Our Backyard While You're Away From Yours

Explore our outstanding, family-friendly amenities, including our gorgeous parks (our new aquatic center, "The Wave," opens in late spring 2017) and hiking trails, quality shopping, wonderful international cuisine, an iMax theater, Dublin Ranch Robert Trent Jones Jr. golf course, bowling, laser tag, ice skating, and a trampoline park. Also, join us for our signature St. Patrick's Day Festival. It's all right here in our backyard.

Visit dublin.ca.gov



Has To Offer



Living It Up in Livermore

Livermore is well known for world-class innovation, rich western heritage, and a thriving wine industry.

We offer a wide variety of shopping and dining options—from our nationally acclaimed Downtown with many unique shops and restaurants to the more than 55 wineries to the San Francisco Premium Outlets with more than 170-luxury brand name stores.

We invite you to come and explore the diverse and unique attractions that make Livermore a premier destination.

Visit cityoflivermore.net

Pleasanton— An Extraordinary Experience

Enjoy 1,200 acres of parks and open space, 24 miles of trails and a round of golf at award-winning Callippe Preserve. Delight in a year-round farmers market, a full schedule of festivals, concerts, and performances at the elegant Firehouse Arts Center. Explore our history at the interpretive Alviso Adobe. Discover Stoneridge Shopping Center and visit downtown Pleasanton, for specialty shopping and outdoor dining with a small-town vibe. It's all here.

Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov, inpleasanton.com

1. Downtown Shopping, Danville. 2. Hacienda Crossings, Dublin. 3. Premium Outlets, Livermore. 4. 2016 Livermore Wine Country Downtown Street Fest, Livermore. 5. Festival, Dublin. 6. Hot Summer Nights Hot Rod & Classic Car Show, Danville. 7. Firehouse Arts Center, Pleasanton. 8. Alviso Adobe, Pleasanton.

Welcome



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FEATURES

16 BEST BITES

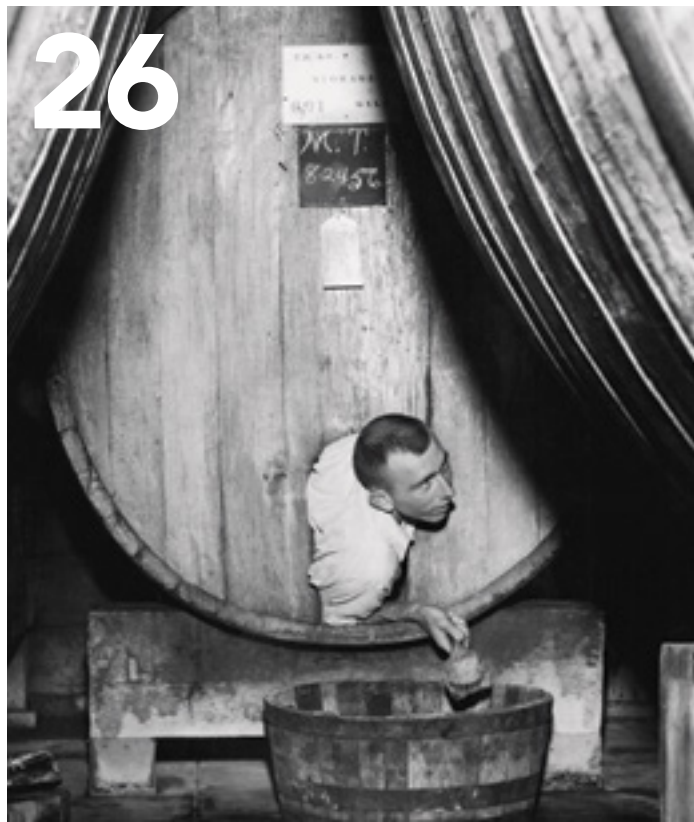
A meal-by-meal guide to some of the Tri-Valley's most tantalizing dining options—with suggestions for a variety of budgets, tastes and vibes.

26 LIQUID ASSETS

One of California's leading wine regions, the Tri-Valley is also making its mark with craft beers, unique distilleries, hip bars and trendy taprooms.

40 TIME OUT

Whether you're an outdoorsman, a culture lover or a consummate shopper, there's no shortage of appealing diversions in the Tri-Valley.



26

DEPARTMENTS

4 OBJECT LESSONS

Iconic images that illuminate the Tri-Valley's rich past and vibrant present.

8 THEN & NOW

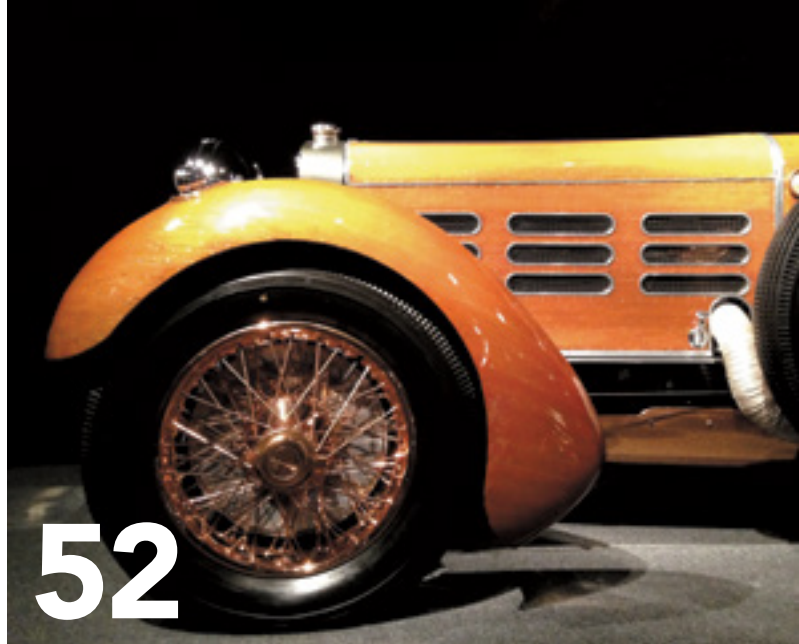
From the historic to the practical to the downright quirky (think tarantula dens!), the area has countless stories to tell.

52 BLISS

It's no surprise that the Tri-Valley has become a leading wedding destination, thanks to its idyllic landscapes, welcoming hotels and inns, and many activities for friends and family to enjoy.

58 WAYFINDING

Where to wine, dine and stay. Plus: how to get here—and get around once you've arrived.



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VISIT TRI-VALLEY

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8

Flip the pages to follow our furry friend Astro as he dreams about a ball, a bone and an ice cream cone in this special **Visit Tri-Valley flipbook!** Cover and flipbook animation design by Matthew Grier Creative

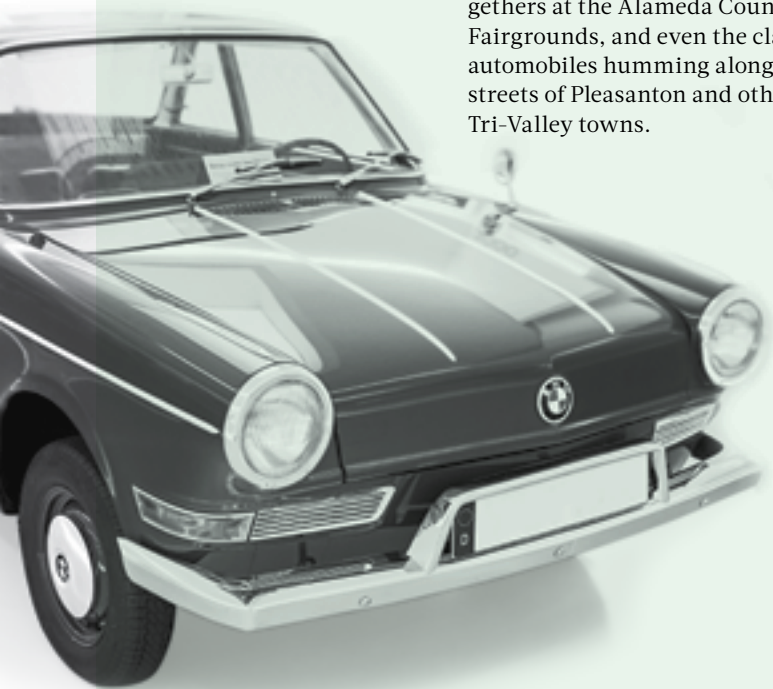


Object Lessons

The vivid history of the Tri-Valley region is reflected in its lively towns, bucolic landscapes, thriving vineyards—and in the iconic visual representations shown on these pages.

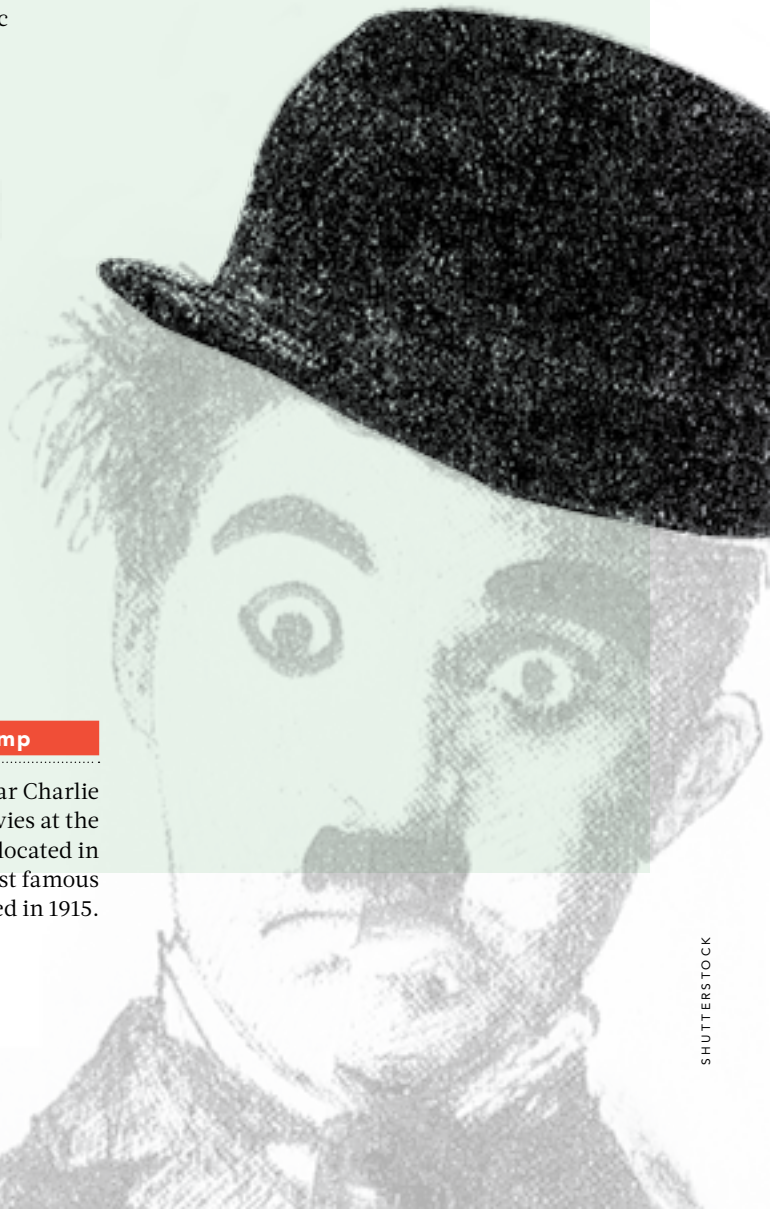
Motor Cities

Car culture is an integral part of the area—reflected in the vintage roadsters/works of art on display at the Blackhawk Automotive Museum, the hot rods roaring through the Goodguys Get-Togethers at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, and even the classic automobiles humming along the streets of Pleasanton and other Tri-Valley towns.



Home of the Tramp

Seminal silent movie star Charlie Chaplin filmed five movies at the Essanay Studio in Niles (located in Sunol), including his most famous work, *The Tramp*, released in 1915.



SHUTTERSTOCK



Shine On

Thomas Edison would be proud of the 60-watt bulb hanging inside Livermore Fire Station No. 6 on East Avenue, known locally as the Centennial Light. Why? It's been running since 1901! Manufactured by the Shelby Electric Company, the bulb's low wattage, vacuum-tight seal and constant power have likely contributed to its life span. During the past 116 years, the bulb has been turned off only four times, due to necessity. *The Guinness Book of World Records* and *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* recognize it as the planet's longest-burning lightbulb.



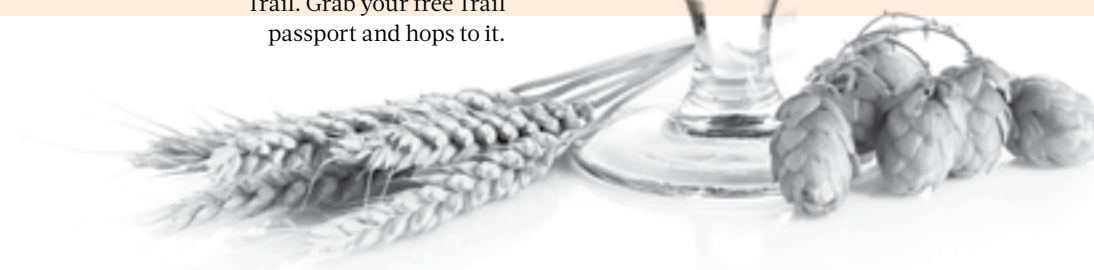
Happy Trails

Whether you are navigating the area on foot, pedaling a bike, or exploring the golden hills and plains on horseback, the Tri-Valley's trails and parks will bring you back to nature and revitalize your spirit.



Craft Brews

Yes, the area is famed for its wines, but it also has a place in beer-brewing history as the premier provider of hops to American and European brewers from the late-1800s up to World War I. Today, beer lovers will find craft breweries, taprooms and restaurants with stellar suds, all along the Tri-Valley Beer Trail. Grab your free Trail passport and hops to it.



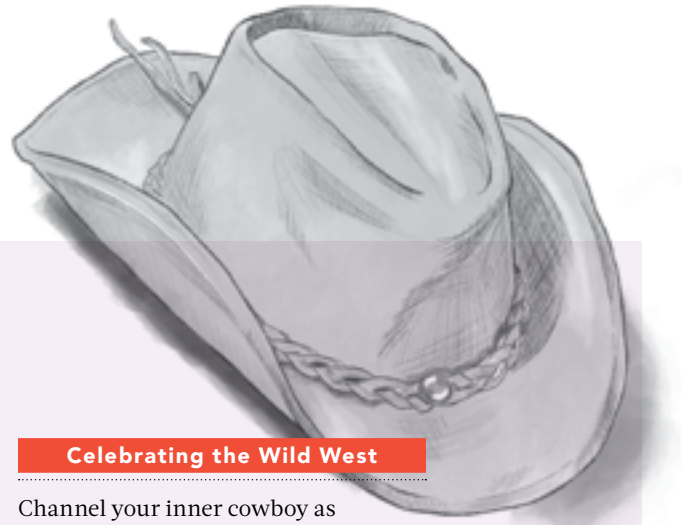
Grape Escapes

The region has been producing fine vintages for more than six decades and is now home to 50-plus wineries. Spend a day (or several) enjoying tastings at the acclaimed wineries of the Livermore Valley.



Celebrating the Wild West

Channel your inner cowboy as you explore the abundant and occasionally astonishing history of the region. Legendary bandito Joaquin Murrieta—who has been called the Mexican Robin Hood and the inspiration behind Zorro—and his band of outlaws often roamed the Livermore Valley in the 1850s.



Destination Wedding

Put a ring on it at one of the Tri-Valley's charming vineyard-set event spaces. Drink in the history, and the fine wines, of the area while celebrating your marriage in style with friends and family.



TOP RIGHT: ROXANNE PASIBE; SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

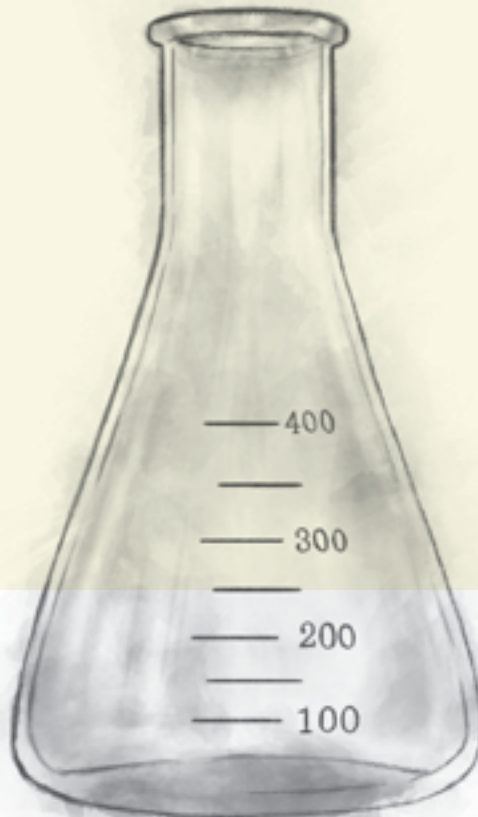


Shop 'Til You Drop

Find the perfect Prada pump at Livermore's San Francisco Premium Outlets or shop locally at a number of charming and fashion-forward boutiques in downtown Danville and Pleasanton. The Tri-Valley promises retail treasures for all tastes.

The Iceman Cometh in Danville

Noted playwright Eugene O'Neill penned some of his greatest works from his estate in the hills of Danville, including *Long Day's Journey*, *The Iceman Cometh* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. Visitors can tour his sprawling home, Tao House, now a national historic site.



Lab Works

Federal research facility Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was established by UC Berkeley in 1952. The lab created the radioactive element Livermorium in collaboration with Russia's Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in 2000. Located on the outskirts of Livermore, the laboratory is focused on science and technology innovations that support national security.



THEN & NOW

The Tri-Valley has a culture all its own, dating back centuries. Its history, filled with frontierspeople and immigrants, has fostered a unique spirit of local pride, collaboration and innovation that lives on to this day.



HISTORY COMES ALIVE

IN THE TRI-VALLEY, BUILDINGS, TRAILS AND EVEN WINERIES ARE DEEPLY CONNECTED TO THE PAST.

The Tri-Valley is teeming with historical sites, with every city and town offering insight into the area's frontier past.

In Dublin, for instance, the **Heritage Park and Museums** complex is made up of **Pioneer Cemetery**; **St. Raymond**, the region's oldest Catholic church (1859); the **Murray Schoolhouse**; and the **Kolb House**, a 1911 craftsman bungalow that now operates as a museum.

Other areas boast their own treasures: In Danville, an oak tree thought to be 350 years old stands on Diablo Road and also serves as the town's logo. Nearby, the historic **Railroad Depot** is a reminder of the town's earliest days.

In Pleasanton, history and art are both proudly displayed for all to see. Sign up for a historic walking tour through the city's **Museum on Main**, or check out its public artwork on a guided outing.

Even the wines here are historic. **Concannon Vineyard** started in 1883 and made one of the first Bordeaux-style wines in California. Clones of its California Cabernet provided the basis for the Cab frenzy of the past 40 years; today, it is estimated that 80 percent of California's Cabernet Sauvignon is derived from Concannon clones. Concannon also introduced the varietal Petite Sirah to America. Meanwhile, **Wente Vineyards** (also dating back to 1883) produced the first labeled Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon in the country. So raise a glass to history!



Concannon Vineyard, Livermore

COURTESY OF CONCANNON VINEYARD



Olivina owner Charles Crohare tours his orchard with Katie, his four-legged friend.

EVOO-LUTION

STEP ASIDE, WINE. THREE LOCAL PRODUCERS SHOW IT IS OLIVE OIL'S TIME TO SHINE.

After decades of taking a back seat to wine production, olive oil is having its moment in the Tri-Valley. Today, many olive oil outfits have sprung up across the Livermore Valley, marking the area as the heart of a NorCal olive oil revival.

OLIVINA

Situated across from Wente Vineyards, Olivina is the region's largest olive orchard and olive oil producer, and its bottles are sold throughout the Tri-Valley. It all began in 2000, when owner Charles Crohare decided to dedicate his retirement to cultivating the neglected century-old olive trees. Now you can check out Olivina's peppery, grassy Special Blend at The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards, where it is the olive oil of choice. Reportedly, the restaurant goes through 15 gallons of it per week. theolivina.com

VICTORINE VALLEY FARMS

Susan Hermanson's Victorine Valley Farms is a small, family-run organic orchard on the northeastern side of the valley that yields boutique olive oils. Victorine's products, which also include craft balsamic vinegars and bath soaps, can be sampled at its brick-and-mortar store in Livermore's historic Blacksmith Square. victorinevalley.com

HANDPRINTS OLIVE OIL

Handprints is grown and produced at the Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa, which features a lush orchard of Manzanilla olive trees. The fruit is harvested annually and pressed on-site; bottles are available for purchase at the resort. For a splash of relaxation, head to the spa for its Signature Aroma massage that combines olive oil with essential oils and natural extracts. purpleorchid.com

EAT LIKE A NEIGHBOVORE

A NEW EPICUREAN ADVENTURE FEATURES HYPER-LOCAL PICKS WITH A SIDE OF HISTORY.

Downtown Livermore boasts an array of eateries, cafes and tasting rooms—so many, in fact, that you'll want to return time and again to try them all. Thanks to a walking tour, you can get an appetizer course of some of Livermore's best culinary destinations. **Tastes of the Neighborhood** is a guided stroll through the local foodie scene. The three-hour walk stops at six restaurants to sample menu items and local wines and beer. Each excursion is a mix of ethnic eateries, sweet shops and award-winning restaurants. In addition, "chief tasting officer" Jill Keiken gives visitors the lowdown on the city's rich history of culinary delights. "Most places are family-owned and use third- and fourth-generation recipes," Keiken says. "They take such pride in their heritage." tastesoftheneighborhood.com





From wine tasting in
the Livermore Valley to street fairs
in Pleasanton, there are plenty of wonderful
things to enjoy in the Tri-Valley area.



Pleasanton Marriott
11950 Dublin Canyon Blvd.
(925) 847-6000



Courtyard-Livermore
2929 Constitution Dr.
(925) 243-1000

Courtyard-Pleasanton
5059 Hopyard Rd.
(925) 463-1414



Residence Inn-Livermore
1000 Airway Blvd.
(925) 373-1800

Residence Inn-Pleasanton
11920 Dublin Canyon Rd.
(925) 227-0500

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ALL ABOARD

For the ultimate in stylish travel, look no further than the historic and refurbished **Niles Canyon Railway**. The train runs each Sunday from April to August, from Sunol to the Niles area in Fremont. Each direction takes about 30 minutes, with a layover at the turnaround. If that isn't enough old-school elegance for you, try the wildly popular holiday **Train of Lights** ride, when the cars are lit up with a dazzling array of Christmas lights. Taking off at dusk, it is the only train ride offered by the railroad that goes through Niles Canyon at night. The holiday trains run each Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Thanksgiving through Christmas, but tickets sell out fast. Special caboose charters and full-train charters are available as well. ncry.org



TOUR THE TERROIR

EXPERIENCE THE TRI-VALLEY AT YOUR OWN SPEED. BUT WITH SO MUCH TO TAKE IN, BE SURE TO PACE YOURSELF!

2 MPH

All you really need for exploring the region is a pair of comfortable shoes and a game plan. Wine enthusiasts should check out Livermore's scenic Greenville Road, which boasts six vineyards within an easy, mile-long stroll, or Tesla Road, home to Wente, Concannon, Stony Ridge and other well-known wineries. For a glimpse into the region's history, the Museum

on Main in Pleasanton offers guided outings like the Bootleggers Bust Tour, an adults-only tour of the city's Prohibition-era past. museumonmain.org/learn

5 MPH

Head to the stables and get ready for an equestrian adventure. Western Trail Riding takes guests around the Sunol Regional Wilderness; some of the horse trails pass through a breathtaking part of the park dubbed "Little Yosemite." Tours range from beginner to experienced and from hourlong to overnight trips. \$30-\$250. westerntrailriding.com

10 MPH

The Livermore Touring Co. offers a fleet of Segways on which visitors can motor past hills peppered with vineyards. Each tour ends up at a local winery, where the tasting fee is waived. \$98 per person. livermoretours.com

40+ MPH

Black Tie Transportation offers town cars, luxury sedans, limousines and charters to give you a feel for the entire region without the hassle of driving. The company also gives custom tours of Tri-Valley wineries (and breweries), with recommendations from its in-house wine specialist. blacktietrans.com



LOCAL TIP

Drink and be driven: The **Livermore Wine Trolley** shuttles visitors between four wineries and ends in downtown Livermore—and it doesn't skimp on lunch either! The hop-on hop-off wine shuttle provides a more customizable option during the spring and summertime for the independent at heart. livermorewinetrolley.com



Big Stars, Small Venue, Great Night!

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— arts —
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Celebrating the Arts in the Tri-Valley.
DANCE • EXHIBITS • HERITAGE • MUSIC • SPEAKERS • SUMMER CONCERTS • THEATRE



SPIDERS!

Each fall, thousands upon thousands of giant, brown, hairy tarantulas crawl out of their dens in **Mount Diablo State Park** for the beginning of their mating season. While the proliferation of these critters on roads and trails might give some the heebie-jeebies, the more brave-hearted can take guided hikes with park rangers to get a closer look at the big spiders. (But don't worry: Although painful, a tarantula's bite is not dangerous.)



WHAT'S IN A NAME

FROM TYPOS TO HOMAGES, THE NAMES OF THE TRI-VALLEY'S CITIES TELL A STORY.

- > **Danville**—The California Gold Rush brought Daniel and Andrew Inman to the Danville area in 1854, where they bought 400 acres of Old Town Danville with their mining earnings. The name Inmanville was considered but ultimately rejected. Although the name chosen appears to reference Daniel, it was actually paying homage to Andrew's mother-in-law, who was born and raised near Danville, Kentucky.
- > **Dublin**—Over the past couple of centuries, Dublin has changed its name not once but twice. In 1854, it was dubbed Murray, after Irish immigrant Michael Murray who, along with fellow Irishman Jeremiah Fallon, had purchased 1,000 acres of land in the area in 1850. In the late 1800s, the city became known as Dougherty's Station because all mail was delivered to Dougherty's Station hotel. Soon after, it adopted its current moniker, Dublin. The true origin of the name is unknown, but most believe it to be a nod to the Irish ancestry of the initial European settlers.
- > **Livermore**—In 1839, Robert Livermore and Jose Noriega secured a land grant of what would become present-day Livermore. When the Gold Rush hit, their ranch became a popular rest stop for people on their way to Sacramento and the Sierras. Livermore became known as an excellent host, and in 1849, he used his profits to purchase a two-story home—believed to be the area's first wooden structure—for his family. He died in 1858, but his legacy lives on in the town's name.
- > **Pleasanton**—Originally known as Alisal, the town underwent a name change when settler John W. Kottinger decided to rename it after a distinguished Civil War general, Alfred Pleasanton. However, a recording error by a clerk in Washington, D.C. had far-reaching consequences and led to the current—and more fitting—spelling of the name.



SAVE THE DATES

Twelve months of can't-miss events in the Tri-Valley.

JANUARY

JANUARY 1-31

The Tri-Valley is participating in **California Restaurant Month**, with local restaurants offering special deals for adventurous eaters.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 16

Celebrate SF Beer Week and the debut of the Blue Brew Bus at the first annual **Livermore Downtown Brew Crawl**.

MARCH

MARCH 18-19

The annual **St. Patrick's Day Festival and Parade** in Dublin is a weekend full of traditional Irish jigs, fish and chips, and family-friendly games. **(below)**

MARCH 25-26

During **Barrels, Bottles & Brews** in Livermore wine country, participating wineries allow visitors to taste young wines straight from the barrel.



MARCH 25-26

U.S.-made hot rods are the stars of the show at the **Goodguys 35th All-American Get-Together** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

MARCH 26

Run the annual **Livermore Half Marathon** and earn the wine, beer and music at the finish line.

APRIL

APRIL 15

The **Dublin Eggstravaganza** features a petting zoo, carnival games, arts and crafts, and an Easter egg hunt.

APRIL 21-23

RoboGames—the “World’s Largest Robot Competition,” according to *Guinness World Records*—takes place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds with more than 50 different events.

MAY

MAY 4-SEPTEMBER 7

Downtown Pleasanton’s **1st Wednesday Street Parties** shut down Main Street for 200 vendor booths, a beer and wine garden, food trucks, and children’s activities.

MAY 6-7

Raise a glass at the **26th Annual Livermore Wine Country Downtown Street Festival**, the East Bay’s largest celebration of wine, beer, crafts, shopping and dining. **(left)**

JUNE

JUNE 3-4

The **Goodguys 24th Summer Get-Together** is another chance to check out a vibrant fleet of hot rods and muscle cars.

JUNE 10-11

The annual **Livermore Rodeo** is a weekend full of bull riding, barrel racing and cow milking.

JUNE 16-JULY 9

Ferris wheels, funnel cake and horse racing delight at the **Alameda County Fair** at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton. **(below)**

JUNE 17-18

Hit the streets during **Danville Summer-fest**, a celebration of art, live music and family-friendly fun.

JUNE 24

Tap into the **Red White and Brew Festival** within the Alameda County Fair for the ultimate brew experience.

JUNE 29-JULY 16 (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*); **JULY 13-30** (Edmond Rostand’s *Cyrano de Bergerac*)

Enjoy theater, wine and a gourmet picnic





under the stars at Wente Estate Vineyards with the **Livermore Shakespeare Festival**.

JULY

JULY 4

The **4th of July with Fireworks** in downtown Livermore is a family-friendly pyrotechnic spectacle.

JULY 4

Kick off Independence Day with the annual **Danville July 4th Parade**.

JULY 20-23

Do not miss Livermore Valley's premier food and wine affair, **Taste Our Terroir**, featuring four days of cooking classes, seminars and vineyard tours.

AUGUST

AUGUST 17

Wander through the streets of downtown Danville while enjoying local wine, art and live music at the **Art & Wine Stroll Danville**.

AUGUST 25-27

Check out more than 3,000 rods, customs, classics, muscle cars and trucks at **Goodguys West Coast Nationals**. (above)

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2-3

Celebrate Scottish culture, competition and entertainment at the 152nd consecutive **Scottish Highland Gathering and Games**.

SEPTEMBER 3

Revel in the exciting crush season with wine tasting, arts, crafts and music at 40 Livermore wineries during the **Harvest Wine Celebration**.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 1-30

Get your thrills at **Pirates of Emerson**, the yearly theme park at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, featuring haunted houses, mazes and other scary entertainment.

OCTOBER 4

Halloween-themed girl power prevails at Livermore's **Witches Night Out**, with shopping specials and martini tasting at 20 different locations.

OCTOBER 20, 21, 27 AND 28

Meet the ghosts of Pleasanton's past at **Museum on Main's annual Ghost Walk**, a two-hour guided tour of haunted sites along Main Street.

OCTOBER 28

Join downtown Pleasanton's **Halloween Brew Crawl** for adult trick-or-treating, with tastings at over 25 locations on and around Main Street. (below)



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 24

Kick off the holiday season at Danville's annual **Lighting of the Old Oak Tree**. (above)

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1-23

The **Lights of Livermore Holiday Tour** gives a wine and small bites reception, followed by a one-hour trolley tour of Livermore's best holiday light displays.

DECEMBER 2

Save your spot for downtown Pleasanton's **Hometown Holiday Parade**, a tradition featuring marching bands, floats and an appearance by Santa.

DECEMBER 2

Downtown Livermore's **Holiday Lights & Sounds Parade** has over 50 floats and ends with a tree lighting.

DECEMBER 2

Livermore Valley tasting rooms go holiday-themed with both cheery decor and festive offerings at **Holiday in the Vineyards**.



Best Bites



With restaurants, cafes and sweet shops galore, dining in the Tri-Valley is a culinary adventure. In the following pages, you'll find meal-by-meal suggestions—from upscale venues to down-home diners, from farm-to-table dishes to ethnic eats—that will have you wishing there were more chances to eat in the day.







PLAY AND STAY ON THE
SUNNY SIDE OF THE BAY



Take your morning meal to the next level at **The Press** in Pleasanton, **the perfect hipster hideout**, owned by husband and wife Marshall and Rebekah Culp. The cafe is sleek and homey, with tasty dishes such as an avocado and egg toastini served up on a wooden plank; be sure to note the display of antique coffee makers. Work on your Great American Novel over a mug of McLaughlin coffee, roasted in Emeryville.

BRUNCHING OUT

Follow the locals to Danville's **Sideboard**, a premier coffee bar that features deluxe brands such as Four Barrel, Sightglass, Temple and more. Indulge yourself with an order of beignets to go and a cup of authentic New Orleans iced coffee.

Open early on the weekends (take advantage to avoid the crowds), **Koi Palace** in Dublin creates a transporting experience with its inviting atmosphere and authentic dim sum menu that encourages experimentation (steamed chicken claws, anyone?). Or if you prefer Italian cuisine, catch the Sunday brunch buffet at Livermore's **Campo di Bocce**, which serves an all-you-can-eat selection of breakfast classics (including American favorites), plus bottomless cocktails. Cap your meal with a round of bocce on one of the restaurant's eight world-class courts.

If you're feeling adventurous, head over to Dublin's **Blossom Bee**, a hole-in-the-wall Thai fusion creperie that puts a twist on the beloved breakfast food. Branch out with bold, unique dishes like the Royal Chicken crepe with peanut sauce or the spicy red curry crepe, or stick with the classic sweet and savory options.

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO START YOUR DAY THAN WITH A DELICIOUS, ENERGIZING MEAL. COME SPEND YOUR MORNING AT ONE OF THESE TRI-VALLEY RESTAURANTS.

THE CLASSICS

Livermore's **Riata Diner & Tavern** reflects the area's pioneer past with Wild West-inspired decor and memorabilia—and offers hearty breakfast dishes to suit. If you think bigger is better, then check out **Dean's Cafe** in Pleasanton, which boasts “one of the largest omelet menus in existence” and portions to match.

For breakfast like mom used to make, look no further than **Denica's Real Food Kitchen** in Livermore and Dublin for decadent offerings of favorites like waffles and omelets. If you want a wholesome breakfast without the guilt, fill up at the popular **Chow Danville**, an upscale joint that emphasizes local, seasonal ingredients and welcomes diners of all ages. (The eatery was designated “Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant in the East Bay” by readers of *Diablo* magazine in 2015.)





FROM THE OWNERS OF
ESIN RESTAURANT AND BAR

An upscale, yet casual tavern.

331 Hartz Avenue, Danville | 925.208.1758
revelkitchenandbar.com



Local and sustainable dining right in your neighborhood

Husband and wife chef team and restaurateurs Esin and Curtis deCarion serve market-driven cuisine utilizing seasonally inspired local and sustainable ingredients at both restaurants, Esin Restaurant & Bar and Revel Kitchen & Bar. The same focus is used in creating hand-crafted cocktails. Both restaurants located in Danville are perfect places to meet, eat, and relax.

750 Camino Ramon, Danville
(925) 314-0974
www.esinrestaurant.com



For a culinary adventure south of the border, look no further than Livermore's family-owned **Posada**, which recently expanded due to popularity. **A contemporary take on Southwestern food**, the eatery is the perfect lunchtime stop before a day of wine tasting.



Looking for something more visually impressive? **Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard** in downtown Livermore dazzles with gourmet Chinese fare, a professional sommelier, and its dramatic orange and gold decor highlighted by traditional Chinese statues.

LUNCH BREAK

DON'T NEGLECT YOUR MIDDLE MEAL. THE TRI-VALLEY'S LARGE VARIETY OF LUNCHTIME SPOTS WILL HAVE YOU HUNGERING FOR THE SECOND DINING OPPORTUNITY OF THE DAY.

TAKE IT EASY

With its homey menu and refined decor, **Tri-Valley Bistro** on Pleasanton's Main Street is the perfect spot to unwind after a morning of sightseeing. Indulge in a glass of wine as you sample the delicious New American cuisine.

For a taste of something different, visit **The Banana Garden** in Dublin. The flavorful Malaysian menu—rooted in mainstay ingredients such as coconut and shrimp paste—includes boldly spiced items such as belachan string beans and tender chicken satay, while the saltwater aquarium and painted palm trees create a soothing, tropical ambience.

POWER LUNCH

Pleasanton's **Lokanta**, which means “neighborhood bistro” in Turkish, offers exquisite Mediterranean dishes in a cool, modern environment. A fusion of Greek and Turkish cuisine, the menu is ideal for lunch while enjoying the airy greenhouse dining area to the rear of the restaurant. Flaming halloumi cheese, anyone?

COMFORT FOOD

Dublin's **Sodam** might not look like your typical restaurant (it's also a food market), but don't let that fool you—the Korean cuisine on offer is top-notch. Sit down for a fresh meal, or grab something to go if you're in a hurry.

Since opening in July 2016, **Farmer's Almanac** in Danville has garnered a lot of buzz—and deservedly so. Embracing farm-to-table, chef Timothy Humphrey gives a Southern twang to casual Bay Area cuisine.

If you want to completely kick back and relax, **The Growler** in Danville is your spot. Drink in the rustic setting along with a craft beer (or two), and fill up on classic pub fare from Rachael Zavala, executive chef and recent winner of *Chopped* on the Food Network.



Sabio on Main, with its delicious small plates and large bar, has become a go-to spot in Pleasanton from midday to late night. **The global tapas menu is packed with delights, best shared.**



THE BIG MEAL

THE REGION'S DINING SCENE INCLUDES EXCITING NEW RESTAURANTS AND POPULAR STANDARDS—OFFERING COSMOPOLITAN CUISINE TO PAIR WITH THE LIVERMORE VALLEY'S MANY FINE WINES.

THE CLASSICS

The Tri-Valley has its share of trusted favorites—destination restaurants that have hosted special occasion dinners for decades. Danville's **Blackhawk Grille** and **Bridges Restaurant & Bar** are perfect examples; these paragons offer elegant settings and spacious patios, allowing diners to take advantage of the region's warm weather for most of the year. But classic status should not suggest stuffiness: Blackhawk offers artisan cocktails and flavors its menu of American standards with locally sourced ingredients. Bridges, which was featured as a location in the 1993 comedy *Mrs. Doubtfire*, has maintained its buzzworthy status by fine-tuning its fresh California cuisine with Asian influences.

The granddaddy of fine dining is **The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards**, the quintessential example of an eatery that stays fresh with the times. The famed restaurant, nestled in a spectacular wine country setting, features a half-acre organic production garden that provides fresh seasonal vegetables to complement hearty dishes influenced by Italian, French and California cuisine. An amazing wine selection adds to the sublime experience.

FUSION AND FUN

One of the brightest new stars in the regional dining galaxy is **Gan**, a sophisticated downtown Pleasanton restaurant that combines Korean and California cuisine. Chef Peter Chung dazzles with his inventive takes on beef and pork dishes, which pair nicely with local wines and Korean spirits.

For a truly entertaining experience, visit Dublin's **Little Sheep Mongolian Hot Pot**, the first Tri-Valley location in a chain of popular restaurants. Guests sit in front of a metal pot, adding meats, vegetables, seafood and noodles into a fiery broth, then watching their food simmer until it's ready to serve.

NIGHTLIFE HOT SPOTS

Another twist in the growing food scene is a string of restaurants with exciting menus, expansive bars and a nightlife vibe. Dublin's **Berevino Cucina & Wine Bar** offers old-world Italian cuisine and an expansive wine list; it's a great place to have a romantic dinner for two or to sip reds with a big group of friends.

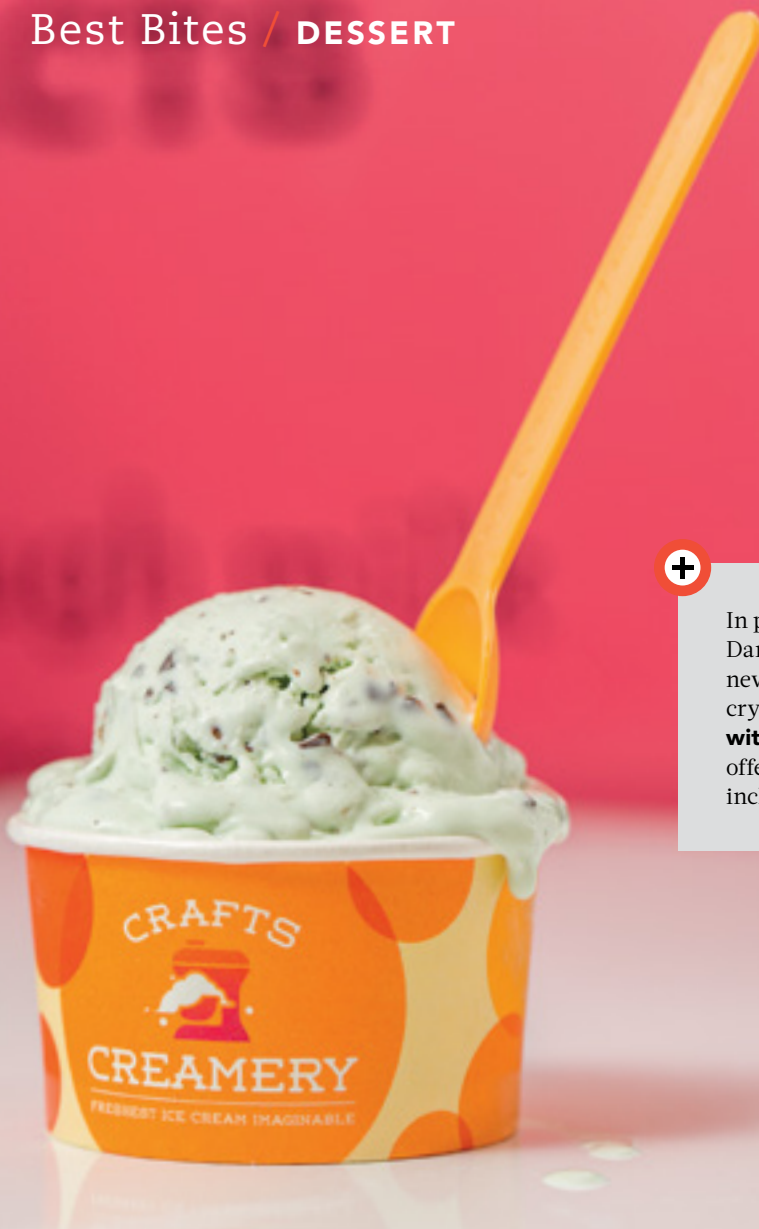
In Danville, **Revel Kitchen & Bar** has been a smash with city sophisticates. The second restaurant from chef-owners Esin and Curtis deCarion (whose nearby **Esin Restaurant and Bar** is another beloved spot), Revel is an upscale tavern that serves bar bites and small plates as well as heartier entrees until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Sauced BBQ & Spirits has filled a huge space in Livermore's dining and nightlife scene. Located next to the Bankhead Theater, Sauced serves up killer Southern barbecue with a deep shelf of beer, wine and spirits, and the restaurant always has a lively atmosphere with trivia nights during the week and live bands on weekend evenings.



Ultrafresh sushi and high-end Japanese fare can be found at **Amakara** in Dublin, where chef Eddie Imano takes as much pride in his colorful presentations as he does in his delicious rolls.





In pursuit of next-level frozen treats, the owners of Danville's **Crafts Creamery** searched the globe for a new way to make ice cream—and fell in love with, yes, cryogenics. They discovered that **freezing ice cream with liquid nitrogen makes it ultracreamy**, and Crafts offers a wide range of velvety, made-to-order options, including amaretto, burnt sugar and caramel latte.

milk shops. Hit the drive-thru for a cone of its signature soft serve ice cream (which can reach half a foot tall) along with fresh grocery staples such as milk, eggs, cheese and yogurt.

Donuts have become the go-to staple for creative confectioners (witness the popular cronut), so it was only a matter of time before innovators like **The Mix Creamery** in Dublin began stuffing them with ice cream. And not just any ice cream, either—from Harry Potter-themed butterbeer to candy corn, Mix Creamery's flavors are as out there as they are mouthwatering.

For more tasty treats, look no further than **Danville Chocolates**, the town's original chocolate shop. The store specializes in dipping, coating everything from Nutter Butters to Oreos in chocolaty goodness.

If you're heading to the San Francisco Premium Outlets in Livermore after dinner, stop at **Amorino Gelato Al Naturale** for something sweet to sample while you shop. The shop offers more than a dozen flavors of addictive Italian gelatos, such as lime basil, dulce de leche and salted caramel. Amorino also offers tantalizing gelato-inspired beverages, including frappes (milk mixed with gelato or sorbet), granitas (iced fruit drinks) and sorbet drinks (essentially, liquid sorbet).

CONFECTION CONNECTION

APPEASE YOUR SWEET TOOTH WITH DELECTABLE OFFERINGS FROM ANY OF THESE LOCAL FAVORITES.


THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Pleasanton's **Sugarie Bake Shop** began with baker Natalie Wong's French macarons, and although the goodies don't stop there, the carefully hand-crafted bite-size treats are still the shop's star. Made with traditional French meringue, flavors range from the classic rose to unexpected combinations like black sesame banana.

Diners rave about the ever-changing pastries and desserts at **La PanotiQ Bakery Café** in Livermore, which are baked on-site with butter imported from a specific region in France.

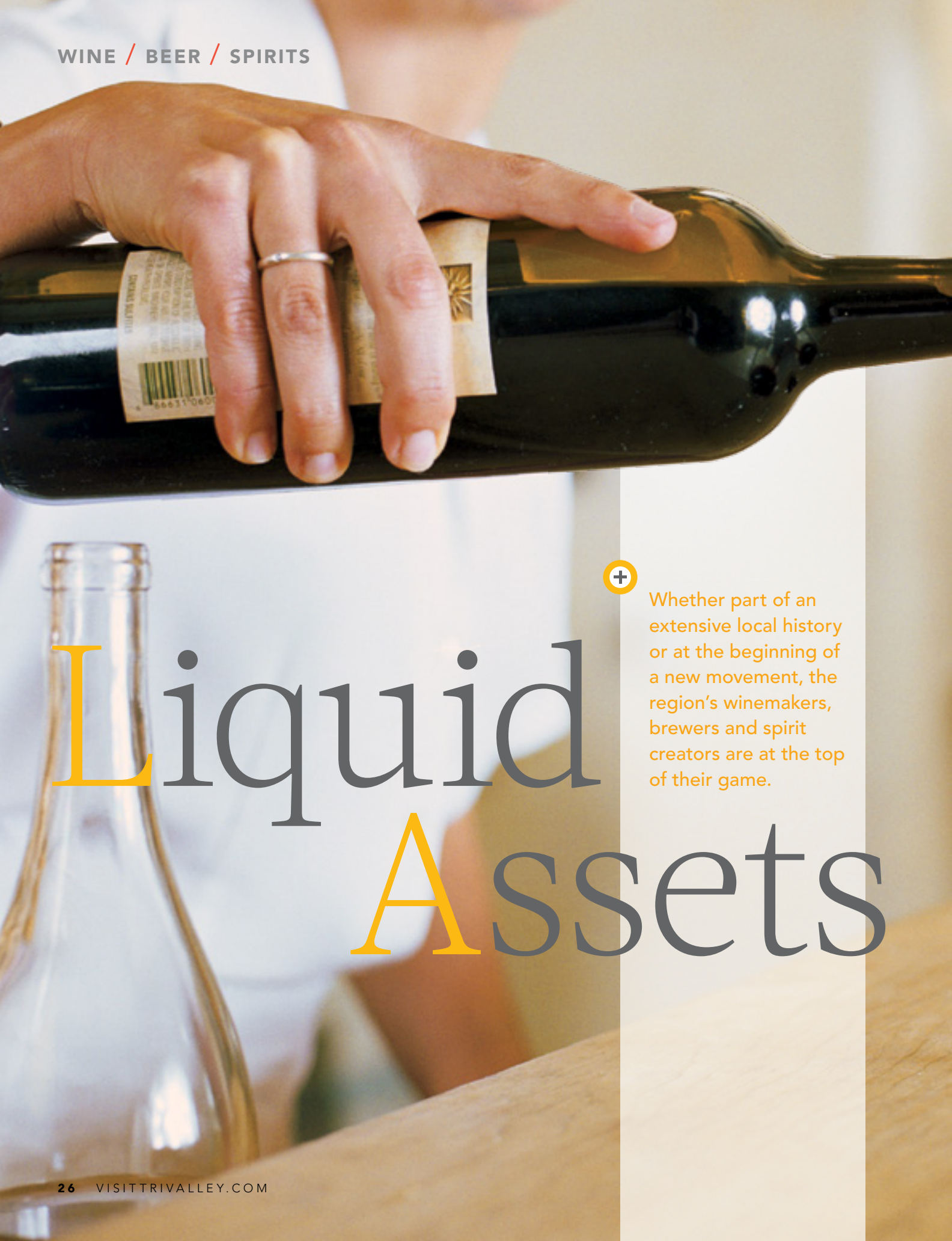
GRAB AND GO

Pleasanton's iconic **Meadowlark Dairy**—California's first certified dairy, founded in the early 1900s—is a nostalgic throwback to the days of local

A photograph of a Paris Baguette coffee cup and two pastries. The cup is white with a black sleeve featuring the Paris Baguette logo. It is filled with dark coffee. In the foreground, there are two pastries: one is a round, golden-brown donut-like pastry topped with a thick layer of red raspberry jam, a fresh raspberry, and a blueberry; the other is a rectangular, golden-brown pastry topped with sliced almonds. The background is a light-colored wooden surface.

Premier bakery and cafe **Paris Baguette** is known for its **signature dough, which is lighter and airier than standard fare**. The rapidly expanding franchise recently opened a location in Dublin; whether you're in the mood for sweet (try a fruit pastry bite) or savory (go for the apple cream cheese bread), this patisserie will not disappoint.





Liquid Assets



Whether part of an extensive local history or at the beginning of a new movement, the region's winemakers, brewers and spirit creators are at the top of their game.



GRAPE EXPECTATIONS

Decades of craft mean that the Tri-Valley has a rich winemaking history. Continuing that tradition, local wineries are constantly finding new ways to create impressive varietals and memorable experiences.



VINTNER FOR A DAY

WENTE'S WINEMAKERS STUDIO GIVES CORK DORKS THE LATEST IN DIY WINE.

Call it the ultimate wine geek experience. **Wente's Winemakers Studio** offers immersive tasting sessions, during which a "wine ambassador" leads patrons through four of the Tri-Valley winery's latest releases. The Livermore studio sets itself apart from a typical tasting room by hosting regular 60 to 90-minute classes on topics such as wine and cheese pairings and wine aroma. With the Blending Experience, aspiring vintners can use samples from Wente's various estate vineyard blocks to blend their own custom bottles. wentewinemakers.com

Livermore Valley

COURTESY OF VISIT TRI-VALLEY



Nick Liang / President & Wine Director,
Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard



Elaine Marshall / VP of Marketing,
Spirit of 21, Inc.



Reggie Narito / Master Sommelier & VP of
Fine Wine, Young's Market Company



Jorge Tinoco / Sommelier,
The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards

FOLLOWING THE EXPERTS

FOUR BAY AREA SOMMELIERS SPILL THEIR THOUGHTS ON LIVERMORE VALLEY WINE COUNTRY.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH LIVERMORE VALLEY?

EM: It was either enjoying the unique Trousseau Gris from Retzlaff or visiting with Lanny and Fran Replogle at Fenestra. Both experiences really let me discover Livermore wine country as a friendly, energetic place.

JT: A friend brought a magnum of 1979 Wente Bros. Petite Sirah to a gathering that I was attending. That was my first taste of Livermore Valley-style wine.

RN: I was introduced to Livermore in the late '80s with Wente's Johannisberg Riesling.

WHAT SETS LIVERMORE VALLEY APART FROM OTHER CALIFORNIA WINE REGIONS?

EM: Livermore has retained and attracted new talent. It's that constant movement forward.

NL: Livermore is a great Bordeaux country. Its gravel soil is up to 29 feet thick, even thicker than Bordeaux. Historically, Livermore has produced some of the greatest American wines.

RN: The diurnal shift [the temperature variation between the highest and lowest temperatures in a single day] is not quite as dramatic as other California wine regions. I think the climate and soil type is ideal for Mediterranean varieties.

WHAT SHOULD WINE ENTHUSIASTS KNOW ABOUT LIVERMORE VALLEY?

JT: I judged the Uncorked! competition in Livermore and awarded high marks to wines that expressed the Livermore Valley terroir.

NL: People need to recognize and support what Livermore Valley really can offer, which is Bordeaux varietals.

RN: Livermore is an up-and-coming wine region.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LIVERMORE WINE OR VARIETAL?

EM: I've always admired Rhonda Wood of Wood Family Vineyards, especially her Merlots and Zinfandels.

JT: Chardonnay. It displays fruit but also minerality.

RN: I think the Murrieta's Well Tempranillo is quite unique.

TOP FLIGHT

WINE SNOBS, LINE UP YOUR STEMWARE! THIS IS OUR DREAM TEAM OF SOME OF LIVERMORE VALLEY'S TOP TASTES.



**2012 NOTTINGHAM
CELLARS**
Supremacy
\$80/bottle



**2012 STEVEN
KENT WINERY**
Lineage
\$165/bottle



**2013 WENTE
VINEYARDS**
Nth Degree
\$120/bottle



THE COLLECTION

NOTTINGHAM
CELLARS

1846

VASCO URBANO
WINE COMPANY

AWARD WINNING WINES FROM THE LIVERMORE VALLEY



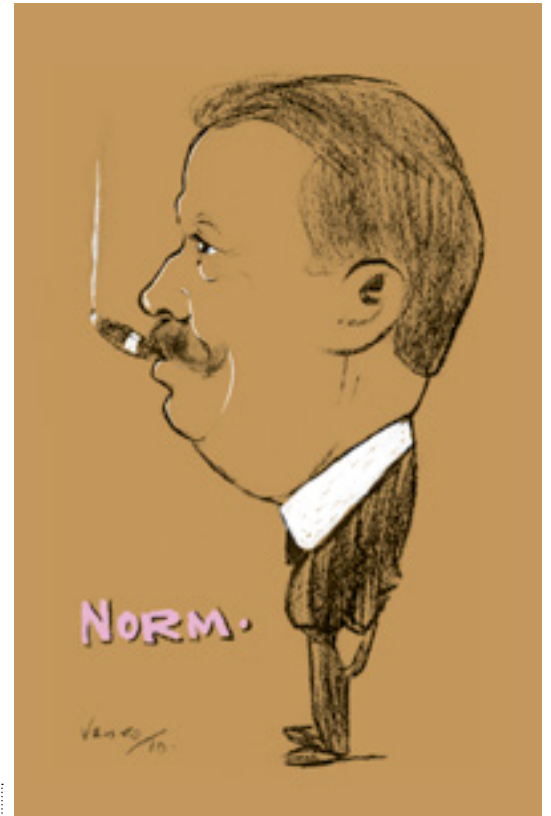
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NOTTINGHAMCELLARS.COM • THUR-SUN: 12 - 4:30PM • MON-WED: APPT

1



3



2



5

4

LABELS TO LOVE

GO AHEAD AND JUDGE THESE BOTTLES BY THEIR COVERS. THE ART OF WINE DOESN'T STOP AT WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOTTLE. IN LIVERMORE VALLEY, THE CRAFT ALSO SHINES THROUGH ON THE LABELS.

1. BIG WHITE HOUSE/JOHN EVAN CELLARS

For a departure from manicured lawns and uptight fonts, the walls and labels of Big White House and John Evan Cellars proudly display the work of the winemaker's sister, Laura Marion. bigwhitehouse.com

2. DARCIE KENT VINEYARDS

On top of being a fifth-generation vintner, Darcie Kent has been painting professionally for the past 25 years. Her single-vineyard wines showcase her original art on the labels, which exude the spirit of the vineyard from where the grapes were harvested. darciekentvineyards.com

3. RUBY HILL WINERY

Of all the cases of Peacock Patch Zinfandel produced at the Ruby Hill Winery every year, only 12 bottles feature a full-color image of a peacock. If you come across one, you will win a tour on Mello Cielo, the winery's one-of-a-kind vineyard experience. rubyhillwinery.net

4. VASCO URBANO WINE COMPANY

The labels on Nottingham Cellars' Rhone varietals take us back to 1910, when caricature artist Vasco Urbano Loureiro sketched local patrons.

Now, the drawings are an homage to area history—each label introduces wine drinkers to the story of Henry, The Sheriff, Norm and more. nottinghamcellars.com/vu

5. WENTE VINEYARDS

Wente Vineyards selects one artist per vintage to grace the face of its Small Lot Artist Series (reserved for its club members). For the 2014 Serenity red blend, local artist Nick Brown's painting captures the tranquil skies above the Livermore Valley vineyards. wentevineyards.com



CONCANNON[®]

VINEYARD



Surrounded by stunning vistas and the captivating beauty of the Livermore Wine Valley, visit Concannon Vineyard's landmark estate for wine tasting, tours and private experiences as well as our award-winning, contemporary restaurant, Underdog Wine Bar.

4590 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550 | Ph. 925.456.2505 | ConcannonVineyard.com
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SHIP WHAT YOU SIP—FOR FREE!

Thanks to a new program, **Wine Ships Free**, guests staying at partnering Livermore hotels get the wine they want without the extra costs of shipping and handling. Here are a couple of reasons why this deal is a no-brainer.

Save money! On average, shipping one bottle of wine will cost you about \$12; for a case, that price skyrockets to \$60. But with Wine Ships Free, you don't have to worry about the extra fees. Simply email your receipt and proof of your hotel stay to wineshipsfree@visittrivalley.com, and the costs will be reimbursed.

Take home some of the best wine in the world from 14 award-winning wineries, including Concannon, Wente, Nottingham Cellars and more. *To learn more, go to visittrivalley.com/wine-ships-free.*



James Concannon

FAMILY MATTERS

EVER SIPPED A CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY, CAB SAUV OR PETITE SIRAH? THANKS TO WINE PIONEERS WENTE AND CONCANNON, WE BET YOU HAVE.

Take a close look, and it's clear that the histories of the Concannon and Wente vineyards are as entwined as the vines in a block of old-growth Chardonnay.

Both were founded in 1883 and survived Prohibition to become among the oldest continuously operating wineries in the U.S. They have also been instrumental to the success of California's wine industry.

Wente got its start in 1912, when second-generation winemaker Ernest Wente convinced his father to import Chardonnay vine cuttings from France. In 1936, Wente became America's first winery to bottle and label what is now the world's most popular varietal. Those cuttings were eventually cultivated into the Wente clone of Chardonnay.

"Little did he know the impact he would make on today's wine industry," says current CEO Carolyn Wente of her great-grandfather.

Concannon tells a remarkably similar story. In the early 1970s, third-generation winemaker Jim Concannon collaborated with UC Davis to cultivate several Concannon Cabernet clones. Those same clones played a key role in achieving California Cabernet's world-renowned status. In addition, Concannon introduced Petite Sirah to America.

So wine drinkers the world over have already tasted a piece of the Tri-Valley. Still, says fourth-generation winemaker John Concannon, there's nothing like going straight to the source.

"I often tell people that if you want to understand a wine, the best thing is actually experiencing the terroir and vineyard it comes from to really see where the wine is born," he says.



A GUIDE TO HOPPINESS

From Danville to Livermore, Tri-Valley's microbreweries, taprooms and gastropubs offer the latest and greatest in beer. But with so many bars and taps to sample, how do you choose? Not to worry—here's a handy guide to help you get your drink on.



THINKSTOCK



The Growler, Danville

DINING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

HANKERING FOR A BURGER WITH YOUR BEER? THESE RESTAURANTS AND PUBS ARE SURE TO SATISFY.

- > **First Street Alehouse, Livermore.** First Street Alehouse in downtown Livermore is the locals' go-to spot for drinking and dining, with impressive American food and 24 rotating beers on tap. Bask in a wall of almost 6,000 vintage beer cans, the country's largest public collection. firststreetalehouse.com

- > **The Growler, Danville.** Featuring 20 rotating taps of local craft brews, this bar and restaurant specializes in mouthwatering burgers, with meat supplied by famed New York butcher Pat LaFrieda and the cooking by head chef Rachael Zavala, who recently took the top prize on Food Network's *Chopped*. growlerpubdanville.com

- > **Handles Gastropub, Pleasanton.** This pub is located in the historic Pleasanton Hotel and boasts seasonal, farm-to-table dishes; frequent live music; and 30 craft beers on tap. handlesgastropub.com

- > **The Hop Yard American Alehouse & Grill, Pleasanton.** With classic American grub, numerous flat-screen TVs and a huge variety of beers on tap, this bar and restaurant is the perfect place to catch the big game. Drop in for Brewery Nights every Tuesday, featuring local and national brewers showing off their craft. hopyard.com

- > **McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden, Pleasanton.** McKay's bar and kitchen offer scrumptious pub fare and local beer and wine. Feeling really hungry? Go big with the 10-ounce rib-eye steak. mckaysbeergarden.com

- > **Norm's Place, Danville.** A family-owned grill and bar, Norm's Place offers "fun, food and friends" to go with the 25 beers on tap. Prove your eating prowess at the Taco Eating Contest, held every Tuesday. normsgrill.com

- > **Sauced BBQ & Spirits, Livermore.** Just as the name suggests, Sauced serves up savory barbecue, which should be paired with one of the 19 craft beers on tap, including seven of its very own house beers. saucedbbqandspirits.com

TOP-SHELF SPIRITS

THE TRI-VALLEY ISN'T JUST INTERESTED IN WINE AND BEER. HERE ARE THREE DISTILLERIES THAT ARE DRAWING ACCLAIM FOR THEIR LIQUORS.

SUTHERLAND DISTILLERY CO.

When Barry and Ryan Sutherland and Eric Larimer discovered that there wasn't any craft liquor being made in the Tri-Valley, they decided to do something about it. In 2013, the trio bottled the first in a line of Diablo's Shadow rums, vodka, bourbon and rye whiskey, including the Devil's Eye Rye, named for the "Eye of Diablo" aerial navigation beacon that was affixed atop Mount Diablo in 1928. sutherlanddistilling.com

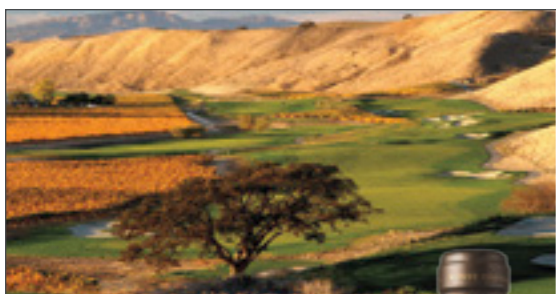
ECKERT ESTATE WINERY AND SPIRITS

Livermore-based owners Michael and Vickie Eckert started producing spirits in 2014, and right away their vodka won a gold medal at the Artisan Craft Spirits Competition. The Eckerts also produce small batches of brandy, raspberry eau de vie and absinthe. Their gin comes standard issue (84 proof) and "navy strength" (114 proof). artisanspiritsbrandyworks.com

TRIPLE 9 VODKA

This Danville company distills its ultrapremium vodka via a half-dozen passes through a glass-lined still—then another 27 distillations through diamond, lava rocks and activated charcoal, removing everything but the drink's delicious flavor. drinktriple9.com





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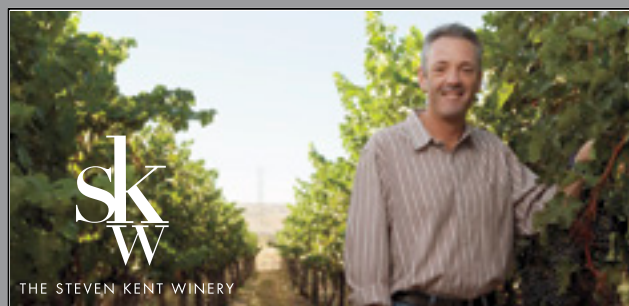
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925-449-9463 | LASPOSITASVINEYARDS.COM

HOURS: FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY 11:30AM - 4:30PM

Caschi Photography



From grapes planted on a seven-mile axis in the heart of the historic Livermore Valley appellation, The Steven Kent Winery handcrafts a small collection of wines that redefines world-class Cabernet Sauvignon.

The Steven Kent Winery

Open Daily 12-4:30pm

5443 Tesla Road | Livermore Valley

925.243.6442

www.StevenKentPortfolio.com





Caps & Taps Bottle Shop
& Taproom, Dublin

RAISING THE BAR

WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A DATE-NIGHT SPOT OR A PLACE TO UNWIND, YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH THE TRI-VALLEY'S MIX OF HIP BARS AND TRENDY TAPROOMS.

BEER BARON, LIVERMORE AND PLEASANTON

This bar's Livermore location has a cool speak-easy atmosphere that's perfect for a date night. Enjoy its rotation of 30 craft beers along with craft cocktails, or make it a dinner at the Pleasanton location. beerbaronbar.com

CAPS & TAPS BOTTLE SHOP & TAPROOM, DUBLIN

Quench your thirst at Caps & Taps, a family-owned taproom boasting 18 rotating drafts and a range of bottled craft beer, located in The Shops at Tralee Village. capsandtapsdublin.com

DUBLIN VINE, DUBLIN

Whole Foods is more than a grocery store—it's a full-fledged dining experience. The Dublin location goes the extra mile with its own taproom, featuring a dozen beers on tap. wholefoodsmarket.com/service/dublin-vine

HOP DEVINE, LIVERMORE

Both wine bar and taproom, Hop DeVine showcases the best of the local beverage scenes as well as not-so-local drinks. Snack from the small but yummy menu of paninis and salads. facebook.com/hopdevine

TAP 25, LIVERMORE

Located in Blacksmith Square, Tap 25 offers, well, a rotation of 25 craft beers on tap, plus live music on the weekends and a lovely outdoor setting. tap-25.com

THREE SHEETS CRAFT BEER BAR, DUBLIN

This bar has 30 rotating taps of craft beer and boasts a 200-inch projection screen and four flat screens to watch your favorite Bay Area team. Bring your own food from local restaurants or food trucks into the bar. threesheetscraftbeer.com





Garre Winery & Vineyard

7986 Tesla Road, Livermore
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Weddings/Corporate Events/Private Functions

Café Garre—Open Monday–Thursday 11am–2pm

Friday & Saturday 11am–8pm

Sunday 11am–6:30pm

Tasting Room—Open Thursday–Monday 11am–4:30pm

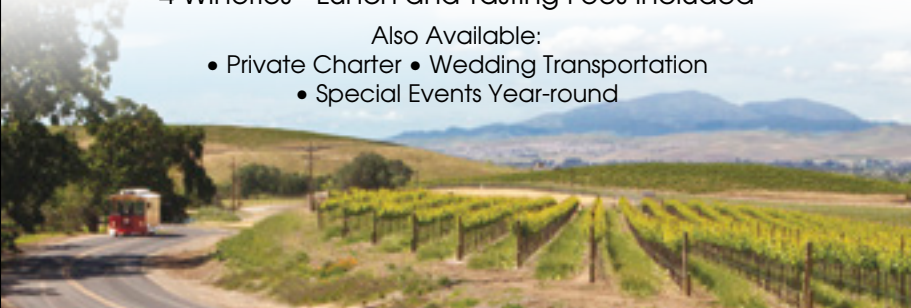


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VisitTriValley.com

Altamont Beer Works, Livermore



WHAT'S BREWING

TRI-VALLEY'S INNOVATIVE SMALL BREWERS ARE FUELING THE AREA'S CRAFT BEER CRAZE. DISCOVER EXCITING NEW BEERS AT THESE MICROBREWRIES.

- > **Altamont Beer Works, Livermore.** Livermore's long-standing microbrewery Altamont Beer Works jump-started the city's beer scene. Try the Hella Lite if you're new to craft beer, or go Hella Hoppy if you're a pro. altamontbeerworks.com
- > **Danville Brewing Co., Danville.** Part brewery, part restaurant, Danville Brewing Co. cooks up delicious pub eats to pair with five house beers and selections of bottled brews, craft cocktails and wines. danvillebrewing.com
- > **Eight Bridges Brewing Co., Livermore.** The family-owned, family-friendly microbrewery offers a range of brews that all beer lovers can enjoy. Bring the kids along to play with the stash of board games and look out for the brewery's dog Sadie, who hangs around the tasting room. eightbridgesbrewing.com
- > **Main Street Brewery, Pleasanton.** Grab a pint and bite at this local favorite, one of only two brewpubs in the Tri-Valley. It offers seven house beers along with a dozen rotating guest taps. mainstbrewery.com
- > **Shadow Puppet Brewing Company, Livermore.** A family-run craft brewery, Shadow Puppet combines traditional brewing techniques with uncommon ingredients, creating unique tasting experiences. shadowpuppetbrewing.com
- > **Working Man Brewing Co., Livermore.** Working Man's award-winning brewers and co-owners, Joel Pelote and Matt Stine, obsess over every beer they produce until it's just right. Find their beers in local restaurants, or go straight to the source Thursday through Sunday. workingmanbrewing.com





Given the Tri-Valley's wealth of recreation activities—with everything from golf to hang gliding—its variety of retail outlets and multitude of choices for culture (and car!) lovers, staying inside is not only silly, it's a crime against nature as well.

Time Out



IT'LL MOVE YOU

Look off to the west from the 3,849-foot summit of Mount Diablo, and you'll see what makes the Tri-Valley such an alluring draw for the Bay Area's outdoors enthusiasts. Lace up your hiking boots, book your tee time, or put on your bike helmet and get ready to soak in all of the natural wonders of the Tri-Valley.



3 WAYS TO DO THE TRI-VALLEY

1. THE COUCH POTATO (EASY)

It's hard to have a bad day at Livermore's Lake Del Valle—the focal point of **Del Valle Regional Park** and an angler's delight. Reel in rainbow trout or inland chinook salmon, or chill out and enjoy. You can rent a canoe or motorboat, or stay shoreside—just make sure to get a permit from the park before casting out. ebparks.org/parks/del_valle

2. THE WEEKEND WARRIOR (MODERATE)

The views from atop **Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park** are breathtaking—literally. Hiking from the Foothill Staging Area, located just off Highway 680, up to the Thermalito Trail and the Ridgeline Trail is a bit of a climb but worth the sweat. ebparks.org/parks/pleasanton

3. THE SUPERMAN (CHALLENGING)

Get some serious air by signing up for a lesson from **East Bay Hang Gliding** in Dublin. Start small with a launch off a 50-foot hill, and eventually move up to the 600-footer. eastbayhanggliding.com



SHUTTERSTOCK



FORE! FOR FOUR

LARRY O'LEARY AND JOHN DIVIESTI OF THE PLEASANTON GOLF CENTER WEIGH IN ON THE BEST GOLF SITES.

1. TOUGHEST COURSE

Previously a Nationwide Tour location, **The Course at Wente Vineyards** is 7,181 yards with a 75.8 rating and a 145 slope from the tips. The back nine at **Callippe Preserve Golf Course** in Pleasanton is a real risk/reward course as well. Hole 10 has a valley that cuts the fairway in half, and the greens are complex. One recommendation: It can get busy out there, so you'll want to play in the morning.

2. PRETTIEST COURSE

It's hard to beat **The Course at Wente Vineyards**. It's the only Greg Norman-designed course in Northern California, and it's got those stunning vineyards. Rees Jones designed the gorgeous **Poppy Ridge** in Livermore, and it's got three nine-hole courses (Chardonnay, Merlot and Zinfandel). Most of the courses in the Tri-Valley are built so that they have a lot of undulations—they're not very flat—and for many, that is visually appealing.

3. BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

The Tri-Valley also has some great nine-hole courses, like the **Pleasanton Golf Center** and **Las Positas Golf Course** (which also offers an 18-hole course). They're perfect for people who want to work on their short game.

4. SIGNATURE HOLE

For the 18th hole at **Crow Canyon Golf Course**, a private course in Danville, you've got to drive it right off the tee because of a water hazard to your left, and then hit up onto an elevated green. The wind's always in play as well.

BONUS: BEST 19TH HOLE

You can't beat **Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill at Las Positas**. It's a great sports bar, with three or four TVs playing all the different games and the local crowd just coming in after a round of golf.

WELL SPOKE'N: BIKING IN THE TRI-VALLEY

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE AREA'S RUSTIC BEAUTY IS ON TWO WHEELS.

IRON HORSE REGIONAL TRAIL

The 20-foot-wide paved trail is a flat, easy ride that goes through Danville, Dublin and Pleasanton. It now connects directly to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station—so you can get around via bike and train.

DEL VALLE REGIONAL PARK

For lakeside views and tracks of varying difficulty, hit Del Valle Regional Park. Try the out-and-back ride along the east side of the lake. As a bonus, cool down afterward with a dip in the lake.

MOUNT DIABLO STATE PARK

For off-road enthusiasts, Mount Diablo State Park has a handful of mountain biking trails featuring steep climbs; thrilling descents; and the Diablo sunflower, a rare plant indigenous to these parts.





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Left: Eugene O'Neill in 1927. **Below:** A ballet performance at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.



SHOWTIME!

The Tri-Valley is home to a vibrant and diverse performing arts scene that includes everything from live theater, to comedy, to music and dance. Explore these venues and the exciting shows they host.

> One of the area's leading venues is **Livermore's Bankhead Theater**, which offers some 100 musical, comedic and theatrical performances per year. Past lineups have included international dance troupes, Grammy-winning singer-songwriters, YouTube-famous comedians and virtually every talent in between. lupac.org/bankhead

> **The Village Theatre in Danville** shines a spotlight on a variety of performing arts, from community theater and concerts to lectures and films. Pleasanton, meanwhile, boasts a pair of fine venues in the 227-seat **Firehouse Arts Center** and **the Amador Theater**, which draw both top-flight productions and music performances. villagetheatreshows.com, firehousearts.org

> The play is always the thing at the **Livermore Shakespeare Festival**, but capping an evening of Shakespearean comedy with a glass of Chardonnay while strolling the lovely grounds of Wente Vineyards makes for a not-to-be-missed experience. Upcoming productions at the popular yearly festival include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, along with a non-Bard staging of *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand.

> **Eugene O'Neill**, the only American playwright to win the Nobel Prize, once lived in Danville, where he wrote some of his finest works, including *The Iceman Cometh* and *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. His estate, Tao House, was named a national historic site in 1976 and contains archives of photographs, playbills and manuscripts as well as O'Neill's personal

correspondence. In September of each year, the Eugene O'Neill Festival stages plays from the author and others at The Old Barn theater, a stone's throw from the house. eugeneoneill.org

> **Bonus movie theater:** Most places you go, dinner-and-a-movie is a two-step process. But not at Livermore's **Vine Cinema & Alehouse**, making it one of the best—and easiest—date-night spots in the Tri-Valley. The art house theater is furnished with tables and sofas for a leisurely experience, and local craft beer and wine is on tap to pair with food from neighbor restaurant Zephyr Grill & Bar, a perfect accompaniment to the classic films and newer indie flicks showing on-screen. The theater also screens NFL games, features audience sing-along movies like *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and hosts a yearly Oscars party. vinecinema.com





To Imagine... To Dream... To Inspire...



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With year-round sunshine, beautiful countryside roads and quaint downtowns, the Tri-Valley makes the ideal backdrop for celebrating classic rides with car shows, cruises and meets.

GOODGUYS AT THE ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Head to the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, where the Goodguys Rod & Custom Association presents four events each year. This year's Get-Together events—held in March, June and August—promise to be bigger than ever and will showcase more than 3,000 hot rods, custom cars and muscle trucks. good-guys.com

BLACKHAWK CARS & COFFEE

Cruise down to Blackhawk Automotive Museum in Danville every first Sunday of the month, when the museum turns into a gathering spot for car enthusiasts to show off their rides. Or join the annual Father's Day Car Show to celebrate hot rods and the dads who drive them. Afterward, grab some coffee and check out the museum's collection of one-of-a-kind jazz-era cars, plus unique classics like the red Ford Thunderbird built for the 1964 World's Fair, the only trio of Alfa Romeo BAT cars in existence and Chrysler's first fiberglass car. blackhawkmuseum.org

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS CAR SHOWS

The family-friendly Danville Hot Summer Nights Car Shows are hosted in July and again in August. More than 400 classic cars pull into town and line the streets. A portion of car registration proceeds provides money to spouses and children of firefighters and police officers who died in the line of duty. danvillehotsummernightscarshow.com



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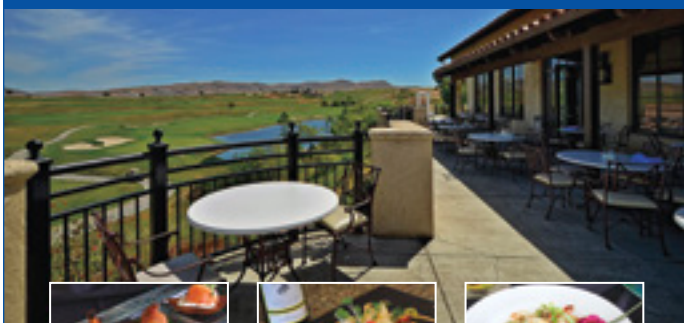
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Below: The San Francisco Premium Outlets feature more than 180 stores, including popular stops such as Bloomingdale's and Sak's Fifth Avenue Off 5th.



RETAIL THERAPY

The Tri-Valley is becoming renowned as one of the Bay Area's top shopping locations. From high-end outlets to malls to charming boutiques, there are plenty of opportunities to get your shop on!

Despite the name, the **San Francisco Premium Outlets** are located right in Tri-Valley's very own Livermore. With more than 180 stores, the outlets can seem overwhelming, but determined shoppers can find great deals at luxury stores. Gems like Kate Spade offer both color and sophistication in women's accessories and jewelry. Whether you're looking for a playful purse or a signature watch, this store provides plenty of delightfully quirky options.

Just a few steps away is Burberry. Coats to die for line the far walls, with an array of handbags featuring the iconic Burberry tartan design. Don't forget to snatch up one of their beloved scarves to match whatever bag you fall in love with. Burberry is hardly the only brand at the outlets with a distinct signature—see the bold red stripes and intertwined G's at Gucci. From ready-to-wear to accessories, it's hard to know where to start at Gucci, although the chic, slightly retro dresses are hard for any woman to resist.

If your taste tends toward expensive footwear, the outlets have you covered. Purchase a sweet (and sparkly, if that's your style) pair of Jimmy Choos, and stomp down the street like it's your personal runway. Or be daring and get some eye-catching heels in bold colors and designs at the Prada outlet store.





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WENTE

VASCO URBANO
WINE COMPANY



3

STEVES
WINERY



CUDA RIDGE
WINERY



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*FINE PRINT: Guests must provide proof of stay in a Visit Tri-Valley partner hotel, receipt for the wine sale, and proof of shipping within 30 days of purchase. Minimum eligible shipment quantity is one bottle. Maximum total shipment quantity is three 12-bottle cases. Limit three shipments, or wineries, per person, per six-month period. Standard shipping within the contiguous 48 states only where legally permitted. No overnight or expedited shipping. Wine purchase must be made within seven days of hotel stay.



GOING BEYOND THE MALL

THE OUTLETS AREN'T THE ONLY OPTION OUT THERE—FAR FROM IT! OTHER GREAT SHOPPING AREAS IN THE TRI-VALLEY INCLUDE:

- > **Hartz Avenue**, which cuts through historic downtown Danville, and provides a wealth of unique shopping opportunities for visitors and locals alike. Rakestraw Books is an independent bookstore that boasts author appearances and literature for all ages. Even if sugary treats aren't your thing, the colorful Sweet Street is worth a visit for the eye candy alone. Snickerdoodles' adorable name suits its cute, gently used baby's wear and gear. Treasure hunters will appreciate Consignit Couture, which sells high-end secondhand and vintage clothing for women. Fast footwear is everything at Forward Motion Sports; enjoy expert advice on running shoes, and maybe even join in on the Wednesday Night Run (now going on its 25th year).
- > **Main Street in Pleasanton**, which has the boutiques locals love. Take a stroll through downtown and check out Prim and neighboring Prim Pop, which specialize in boho-chic clothing for women and children. For more traditional tastes, Clover Creek is jam-packed with cheery gifts and home accents. Therapy stocks charming home goods and gifts, as well as ultracool accessories. Geek out at Heroes and Villains Comics, your one-stop shop for comics, cards, collectibles and games.
- > **Dublin's Hacienda Crossing**, which is centered around the giant Regal Cinemas and IMAX building. Hit the larger stores like T.J. Maxx and Barnes & Noble on the outskirts and move inward to the restaurants (try Johnny Garlic's or Kobe Pho & Grill) for dinner and a movie.

TRI-VALLEY TREASURES

THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES OFFER DISTINCTIVE PRODUCTS.

THE OLIVINA

The family-owned company continues a tradition of olive oil creation that dates back to the 19th century. Check out both the Livermore and Pleasanton farmers' markets for the Arbequina, which has sweet, buttery properties. theolivina.com

DANVILLE CHOCOLATES

Locals rave about the delights cooked up by Terri Vollmer, who opened the shop after 25 years in the confectionery industry. Indulge in the famed dipped goods or pick up housemade truffles. danvillechocolates.com

G'S BEES

Livermore's Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa offers revitalizing treatments—as well as honey made from hives on the property. Head beekeeper Ron Thomas and his wife, Carol, bottle the honey in their kitchen and sell it exclusively at the resort. purpleorchid.com



THE VOW FACTOR

Turn the big day into a big weekend with this guide that will inspire more than bliss. Whether you want to hit the San Francisco Premium Outlets for day-before prep, let loose at Barone's during a bachelorette blowout or recap good times over brunch, you and your guests will enjoy a visit that goes beyond the vows.



THINKSTOCK



Left: Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa in Livermore.

Below: Coffee at Danville's Sideboard.



GIRLS' GETAWAY

MARK THE HAPPY OCCASION WITH A DAY OF SHOPPING, SPA TREATMENTS AND A TASTE OF LIVERMORE VALLEY'S FINE WINES.

- > Skip Starbucks and head straight to **Sideboard** for a potent dose of artisanal coffee. Or perhaps a mimosa or spicy bloody mary is more your speed? Indulge in puffy beignets or a sour cream scone while planning your itinerary on the sunny patio or in the eclectic dining area—decorated with sideboards, of course. itsonthesideboard.com
- > Shopaholics can get their retail fix at the **San Francisco Premium Outlets** located in Livermore—the largest outlet center in California. For boutique bounties, head to Main Street in Pleasanton or Prospect Avenue in Danville, where local fashionista faves such as **Prim**, **Drift Co.** and **Flaunt** will help you make heads turn. premiumoutlets.com, iloveprim.com, catchthedrift.co, shopflaunt.com
- > After a session of serious shopping, it's time to say "Spahhhh!" Get revitalized with a Biodynamic Facial or Deluxe Stone Massage at the **Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa**. purpleorchid.com
- > Need time to "wine" down? Take in the scenery at one of the 50-plus wineries in Livermore Valley wine country, where tasting flights await. For a tour of the region, hop aboard the **Livermore Wine Trolley** and sip sans stress. livermorewinetrolley.com
- > Channel your inner Picasso at the Danville outpost of **Pinot's Palette**, where wine and paint join forces to release even the most suppressed creative spirits. Enjoy stroke-by-stroke instruction to re-create a masterpiece with a paintbrush in one hand and a glass of Sauv Blanc in the other. pinotspalette.com
- > Every Thursday evening during the summer, Sin City meets Pleasanton in the enormous outdoor backyard at **Barone's**, where stiff cocktails, live bands and questionable outfits are worth every penny of the \$10 cover. Tip: Reserve a cabana for a home base (and a place to hold court) after you let loose on the dance floor. baronespleasanton.com





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IN TUNE

HOW TO PAIR YOUR PLAYLIST WITH YOUR WEDDING VENUE.

CRESTA BLANCA EVENT CENTER & TERRACE LAWN AT WENTE VINEYARD

Wente Vineyards has been around for 130 years, so the music should be just as classic. Try retro standards such as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr. and Nina Simone.

PURPLE ORCHID WINE COUNTRY RESORT & SPA OR CONCANNON VINEYARD

Warm breezes, rolling hills—this is the setting for the end of your own rom-com. Whip out your favorite pop princesses: Taylor Swift (not the breakup songs, obviously), Kelly Clarkson (also, no breakup songs) and Katy Perry.

CASA REAL OR PALM EVENTS CENTER

The two properties operated by Beets Hospitality Group are just as stylish and on point as you. Stay in vogue with chart toppers from Beyoncé and Bruno Mars.

BELLA ROSE AT GARRÉ WINERY

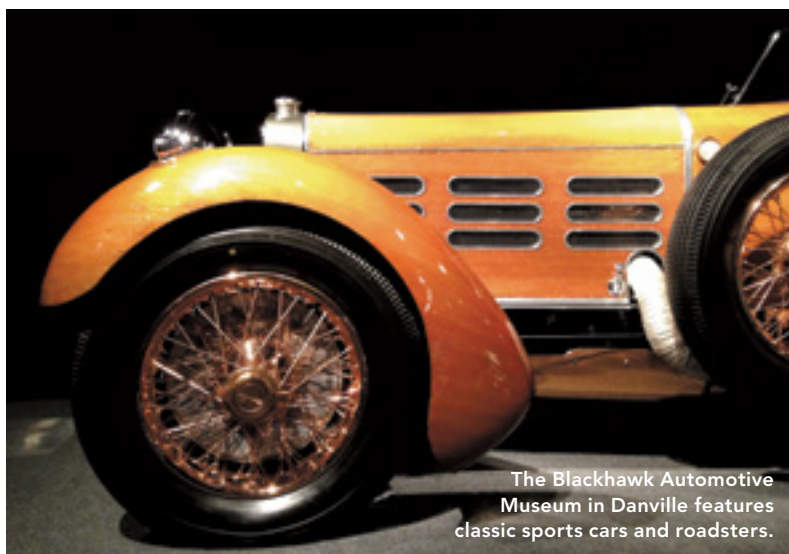
As one of the region's newest venues, the state-of-the-art facility beckons the Steve Aoki fan for an all-out EDM party. Think strobe lights, Diplo and Kandi bracelets as party favors.

RIOS-LOVELL, RETZLAFF OR CROOKED VINE WINERIES

Romantic music is the right choice for any vineyard wedding. Try a tune from the *Phantom of the Opera* or John Legend, and watch the tears fall.

MURRIETA'S WELL

No matter if you prefer newer cowboys like Brad Paisley or classics like Johnny Cash, this historic winery screams for Stetson hats and fun-loving country music.



The Blackhawk Automotive Museum in Danville features classic sports cars and roadsters.

GUY TIME

WHETHER YOU WANT AN AMPED-UP BACHELOR PARTY OR AN AFTERNOON ON THE LINKS, THERE'S MANLY FUN FOR EVERY TASTE.

- > Play a round at one of the Tri-Valley's 14 lovely golf courses. Wager a bet at **The Course at Wente**, or flex your mastery on the notorious par 5 number 18 at **Callippe Preserve** in Pleasanton. wentevineyards.com/course, playcallippe.com
- > For legit barbecue, head to **Sauced BBQ & Spirits** in Livermore. Go for Rednexican Nachos, a Runny Elvis burger or Burnt Ends before they're gone. The Hot Tin Roof sauce is a must for habanero heat lovers. Wash it all down with a \$5 whiskey of the day or a bloody mary from the Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar on weekends. saucedbbqandspirits.com
- > Auto enthusiasts will find a collection of treasures at the **Blackhawk Automotive Museum**. You don't have to be car crazy to Instagram the "rolling sculptures" for slam-dunk social media approval. blackhawkmuseum.org
- > If you agree with Homer Simpson that beer is "so much more than just a breakfast drink," gather up some buddies and hit the **Tri-Valley Beer Trail**. Check in at 10 of the 20 stops with your passport and earn free stuff. Keep the party going at **Altamont Beer Works** in Livermore, **Main Street Brewery** in Pleasanton, **Caps & Taps** in Dublin or **The Growler** in Danville. altamontbeerworks.com, mainstbrewery.com, capsandtapsdublin.com, growlerpubdanville.com
- > Work off your hangover while you pedal to the peak of **Mount Diablo State Park** to soak in views of the Sierra Nevada, Lassen Peak and Yosemite's Sentinel Dome. parks.ca.gov
- > Attention, carnivores: Pull over when you see the neon sign for **Hap's Original** in Pleasanton, a New York-style steakhouse that features dry-aged beef, seafood and handcrafted cocktails. If Chicago is more your vibe, reserve a booth at **McNamara's Steak & Chop House** in Dublin for mouthwatering eats in a moody dining room. hapsoriginal.com, mcmamarasteak.com





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Left: Pleasanton's Meadowlark Dairy.
Below: Campo di Bocce in Livermore.



FAMILY FUN

FROM BOCCE BALL TO NATURE HIKES, A TRI-VALLEY WEDDING WEEKEND CAN BE AN ENTERTAINING TRIP FOR ALL AGES.

- > Grab a seat at the original **Denica's Real Food Kitchen** in Dublin, where breakfast and lunch are as unfussy as the atmosphere. Here, toy bins and a train table make adult conversation possible. Order at the counter to indulge the tykes (and yourself) with super-size samples of the café's legendary fresh-baked cookies. denicascafe.com
- > Double-knot the kids' shoes and slather on plenty of SPF before hiking around **Del Valle Regional Park**, where oak-covered hills frame a shimmering lake ideal for swimming, boating and windsurfing. Pack a picnic for a full afternoon of "make-them-go-to-bed-early" adventure. ebparks.org
- > Step back in time at the **Meadowlark Dairy** in Pleasanton for a nostalgic drive-thru experience. The kids will get a kick out of ordering sky-high soft serve ice cream cones, but the real treat is never having to leave the car. meadowlarkdairy.com
- > Energy overload? Bounce it off on the trampolines at **Rockin' Jump** in Dublin, or release any pent up ya-yas at **Lost Worlds** in Livermore. Both family-friendly spots are sure to torch a sugar rush and prep appetites—and attitudes—for the upcoming festivities. dublin.rockinjump.com, lostworlds.rocks

> Reach beyond butter noodles at **Eddie Papa's American Hangout**. Parents will love that the iconic American dishes—ranging from Philly cheesesteaks to Hawaiian ahi—are made from scratch using local organic produce, all-natural proteins and sustainable seafood. But the mound of freshly spun cotton candy presented to every table at the meal's end will win kids over every time. eddiepapas.com

> After a full day of play, cocktail hour beckons you to **Campo di Bocce**. Book a semi-private room facing the vineyards, or nab a table outdoors to enjoy traditional Italian fare and eight world-class bocce courts. The kids can eat pizza and chicken tenders while grown-ups decompress with a glass of vino. campodibocce.com



WHERE TO EAT

DANVILLE

Blackhawk Grille

The Grille's huge exhibition kitchen dishes up trendy pizzas, classic salads, sandwiches—and fillet mignon. The short rib meatloaf captures the comfort food motif, and the plump, sauteed mussels are one of many appetizers built to share. If you're looking for an intimate experience, choose the retro booths or by the duck pond, where a warm-weather brunch is particularly lovely. 3540 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., 925.736.4295, blackhawkgrille.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. ☹️🍷🍷🍷

Blue Gingko at Blackhawk

Blue Gingko's waterside lounge reels in passersby to a piscine paradise. The sushi is always pristine, but lunch is the best value, with generous slabs of nigiri (ask for halibut fin, when available) and seaweed salad. Tasty small plates include crunchy soft-shell crabs and tempura prawn lettuce wraps. 3496 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., 925.648.7838, bluegingko.com. Lunch and dinner daily. ☹️🍷🍷

Blue Line Pizza

The signature deep-dish at this modern parlor is phenomenal, packing just-wilted spinach into a buttery cornmeal crust with feta and a garlicky

rough-cut tomato sauce that seals the deal. Spicy chicken wings don't get any better, and the salads are bold and beautiful. 550 Hartz Ave., 925.362.3295, bluelinepizza.com. Lunch and dinner daily. ☹️🍷🍷

**Bridges Restaurant & Bar**

Even after 25 years, Bridges remains remarkably fresh. The refined, Asian- and French-accented menu shows both creativity (watermelon salad with Manchego cheese and kimchi vinaigrette) and craftsmanship (New York steak served with edamame and bacon). Famous for its scene in *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Bridges' stunning atmosphere (including the garden patio) is timeless. 44 Church St., 925.820.7200, bridgesdanville.com. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. ☹️🍷🍷🍷

Cafe Meyers

Freshly baked goods, pancakes, Belgian waffles and three-egg omelets make Cafe Meyers a great place to start the day. At lunchtime, go for the soups, salads and sandwiches. (There's a cafe garden sandwich for vegetarians.) 3468 Camino Tassaja-

ra, 925.736.7772, cafemeyers.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. ☹️🍷

Chow

The airy, open Chow in Danville is more family-centric than Chow Lafayette and the food is simply inspired. Among our favorites was juicy wild salmon (the fish changes daily) with sauteed corn and poblano chilies. Winners also included the thin-crust pizza (ours was topped with wild mushrooms) and any of the salads. 445 Railroad Ave., 925.838.4510, chowfoodbar.com. Breakfast Mon.–Fri., lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. ☹️🍷🍷

Dana's

Come here for reliably good, often transcendent and always alluring California-American fare. Mussels are studded with Israeli couscous and suffused with lemon and garlic. A meaty rib-eye and the sole piccata are assertively flavored and uncommonly good. It's a cozy bistro with a contemporary lounge and plenty of patio seating. 416 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.838.7611, danasdining.com. Lunch Mon.–Sat., dinner Tues.–Sun., brunch Sun. ☹️🍷🍷🍷

Danville Brewing Co.

Buttery house-baked brioche buns are as buzzworthy as the beautiful hand-crafted beers at this sleek pub opened by

Bridges Restaurant owner Randy Negi. You can't go wrong with the double IPA and a grass-fed burger, but winning combos are endless, with choices that include boneless fried chicken, bison-and-beef chili, a coconut stout and craft cocktails. 200 Railroad Ave., 925.217.4172, danvillebrewing.com. Lunch and dinner daily. ☹️🍷🍷

Esin Restaurant & Bar

It has earned a reputation for fine dining, but Esin is really more of a classy neighborhood bistro, attracting friends and families with its affordable small plates and three-course dinner specials. House-made pastas, pot roast, and comforting cakes and pies add up to one of Contra Costa's most consistently excellent restaurants. Depending on your mood, choose seating on the casual patio or in the stately dining room. 750 Camino Ramon, 925.314.0974, esinrestaurant.com. Lunch and dinner daily. ☹️🍷🍷🍷

Farmer's Almanac

This country-chic, farm-to-table restaurant showcases elevated comfort food with a Southern twang. A mustardy, South Carolina-style barbecue pork loin, scallion hush puppies and My Mama's Breakfast Plate (at brunch) are seductive samples. With a vi-

Key to Symbols

☹️ Cheap (\$10 or less per dinner entree)

🍷 Inexpensive (\$11–\$17)

🍷🍷 Moderate (\$18–\$24)

🍷🍷🍷 Expensive (more than \$25)

🍷 Wine and beer

🍷 Full Bar

☉ Outdoor dining

🍷 Private room parties of 50 or more

🕒 Late-night dining (service after 10)

Restaurant listings are courtesy of Diablo magazine. Pick up a copy for a full East Bay list.

brant bar and lounge reserved for walk-ins, and a homey yet stylish dining room with a full-exhibition kitchen, Farmer's Almanac welcomes all comers. 500 Hartz Ave., 925.362.3665, almanacdanville.com. Dinner daily, lunch Mon.–Fri., brunch Sat.–Sun. ☹️🍷🍷

Forbes Mill Steakhouse

With its expansive lounge, Forbes feels like a Las Vegas-style steakhouse. Check out the white anchovy-dressed Caesar salad, the panko-crusted crab cakes and buttery Kobe steaks. The wine list boasts powerful Napa Valley reds. 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.552.0505, forbesmillsteakhouse.com. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily. ☹️🍷🍷🍷

Forge The crusts here have tang, and the toppings—made with pristine produce such as heirloom tomatoes, spinach or even cauliflower—change with the season. Forge is urban cool, with a stark dining room and a simple bar, where you can nurse a pint while watching your pie bubble in an 800-degree oven. 345 Railroad Ave., 925.855.1700, theforgepizza.com. Lunch and dinner daily. ☹️🍷🍷

The Growler For just \$10, create a flight from 20 beers on tap or opt for wine on tap. The menu tops out at \$16 for "The Growler Classic" or the deliciously spicy chipotle chicken sandwich. Our kale salad and pastrami sandwich were vibrant. Minimalist decor but

warm service. 515 San Ramon Valley Blvd., 925.984.2706, growlerpubdanville.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **☹️🍷\$-\$\$**

Locanda Ravello

With its convivial courtyard, Locanda is built for hospitality. Epicurean pizza toppings (porcinis, burrata, prosciutto di Parma) and plates served with gusto (such as Mamma Carmela's meatballs) represent just two aspects of an extensive menu with a wine list to match. 172 E. Prospect Ave., 925.984.2101, ravello-danville.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun., brunch Sat.-Sun. **☹️🍷P\$\$**



The Peasant & The Pear

Chef Rodney Worth serves smart salads and sandwiches such as the Tuscan: sliced chicken and sun-dried tomatoes on focaccia. If you go for dinner, don't miss the lamb shank and specialty martinis such as the signature Spiced Pear-tini. The heirloom tomato salad (seasonal) and crostini with house-made burrata also impressed. 267 Hartz Ave., 925.820.6611, rodneyworth.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. **☹️🍷P\$\$\$**

Pete's Brass Rail and Car Wash

It's all mythology and microbrews at Pete's, where there's nobody named Pete

and certainly no place to get your wheels washed. No, the headliners here are the burgers and the locals who fill the place with stunning regularity. There's no better place than Pete's patio in the summer with a cold beer from the impressive rotating selection. 201 Hartz Ave., 925.820.8281, petesbrassrail.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **☹️🍷\$**

Piatti Ristorante and Bar

Although Piatti is part of a chain, it's one of the best Californian-Italian restaurants in the Tri-Valley, with dishes such as Bellwether Farms ricotta gnocchi, Monterey Bay calamari and fried Prince Edward Island mussels. The filet mignon is thick and juicy, and the well-trained wait staff will help you choose a wine to match. 100 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.838.2082, piatti.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. **☹️🍷P\$\$\$**

Revel Kitchen & Bar

Revel is the hipster complement to Esin and Curtis deCarion's stately Danville restaurant, Esin. Entrees such as rabbit tagliatelle rocked our visit, but the menu's focus is bar snacks and small plates. We loved the garlicky hummus and shrimp and grits. Desserts, famously homey at Esin, also get an upscale twist. 331 Hartz Ave., 925.208.1758, revelkitchenandbar.com. Dinner daily. **☹️🍷\$\$\$**



Sideboard Order at the counter, select mismatched silverware and wait for consistently delicious dishes to be delivered in a rustic and quirky dining area. The cooking style here might best be described as "grandma gourmet." Our favorites include an airy goat cheese pudding and a moist chicken salad with Point Reyes blue cheese, smoky bacon and creamy avocado. Great coffee and desserts. 90 Railroad Ave., 925.984.2713, itsonthesideboard.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. **☹️🍷\$**

DUBLIN

Amakara Amid a setting of polished stone floors and big leather dining chairs, the food here is the genuine article. Starting with sweet-and-sticky rice and finishing with cleansing ginger, the sushi here is superior. We loved the red tuna and its upscale cousin, toro. 7222 Regional St., 925.803.8485, amakaraco.com. Lunch Mon.-Fri., dinner daily. **☹️\$**

The Banana

Garden This roomy and stylish Malaysian restaurant is a cross-cultural experience. Start with the roti pratha, a crispy bread with toasted curry-coconut sauce. The charred chicken satay is uncommonly plump and moist.

Clusters of slick noodles are just one of the intriguing textures in the fragrant seafood char koay kak. Finish appropriately with an irresistible fried banana dessert. 4100 Grafton St., 925.248.2854, thebananagarden.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun. **☹️P\$**

Casa Orozco With standard Mexican favorites and complex dishes like the barbacoa (long-simmered beef in a spicy ranchero sauce), this restaurant has expanded many times over the years and is always crowded. Accompany that margarita with camarones a la diablo (shrimp sautéed with spicy ranchero sauce). 7995 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin, 925.828.5464; 325 S. L St., Livermore, 925.449.3045, casaorozco.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **☹️P\$**

Coco Cabana As hip as it is friendly, Cabana's Latin fusion menu includes tasty small plates such as the excellent mussels, which are spiked with cumin. The shrimp al ajillo and ample herbed sirloin albondigas (meatballs) are both winners, as is a wonderfully tart shrimp ceviche. Do not skip the awesome fried dough dessert. 4500 Tassajara Rd., Ste. C, 925.556.9055, cococabanadublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **☹️🍷P\$**

Denica's Real

Food Kitchen Part pastry cafe, part taco lounge, Denica's serves up just about anything—and does it well. The breakfast menu runs from huevos rancheros to killer cinnamon rolls. (Ask to have yours warmed.) At lunch, we like the chicken pesto sandwich, fresh spring greens with walnuts and the chicken tacos. Order a snickerdoodle to go. 6058 Dougherty Rd., 925.829.6200, denicascafe.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. **☹️\$**

Gum Kuo This Oakland follow-up has a welcoming burnt umber decor and dishes ranging from comforting to daring. Comforting is the delicate tofu and snappy pumpkin hot pot. A whole crispy-skinned pompano requires dexterity but is remarkably moist. Gum's chow fun—slick with egg and slippery shrimp—is a sweet companion to bony yet beautifully bronzed duck. 3720 Fallon Rd., 925.999.8627, gumkuorestaurant.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **\$**

Halu Shabu

Shabu A DIY dining experience, the specialty of the house is shabu-shabu (meaning "swish-swish"). Swish thinly sliced beef, seafood, veggies, noodles and tofu at the table in a cauldron of boiling water—then dip them in tangy ponzu sauce or creamy sesame sauce. For high rollers, American Wagyu and Japanese Kobe beef

are available. 4288 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 110, 925.833.9833, halushabushabu.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **☹️\$\$\$**

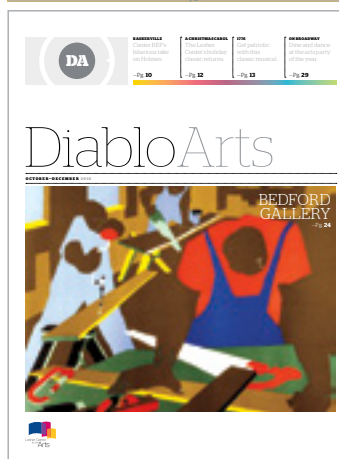
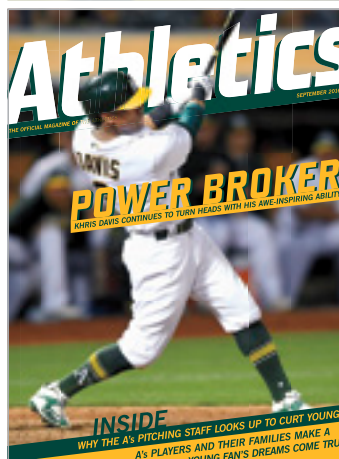
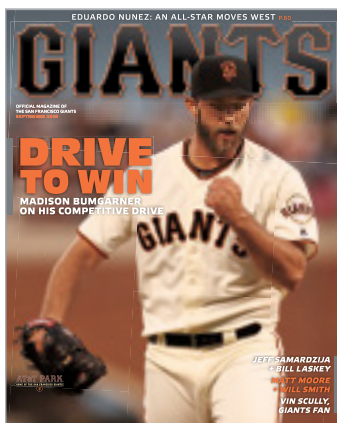
Koi Palace With its fresh orchids and lily pad motif, this dim sum house is easily one of the most elegant in the Tri-Valley. We loved the spinach dumplings bursting with steamed greens. Also wonderful: tender pork buns, chewy pot stickers, crackly phyllo with wild mushrooms and Chinese broccoli with oyster sauce. 4288 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 213, 925.833.9090, koipalace.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.-Sun. **☹️P\$**

Mayflower

Restaurant Whether it's stunning dim sum or dazzling shellfish pulled from the live seafood tank, Mayflower presents authentic Cantonese cuisine with style. The pork buns, seafood dumplings and juicy potstickers are best bets. Try at least one traditional Cantonese dish and, for familiar fare, go for the silky chow fun with slivers of barbecue pork and the fresh lettuce cups. 4086 Grafton St., 925.551.8088, mayflowerdublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **☹️P\$\$\$**



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McNamara's Steak & Chop House

The mahogany bar, low lighting and luxurious decor at McNamara's scream classic steakhouse. We loved the plump chilled prawns, charred filet mignon and rosemary-seasoned rack of lamb. At dessert, go for the fudge-smooth warm brownie, but skip the chewy chocolate crepes. 7400 San Ramon Rd., 925.241.4896, mcnamarasteak.com. Dinner daily. **Y P \$\$\$\$**

Pacific Catch

This small Bay Area chain offers a caliber of cuisine most neighborhood restaurants would envy. Pristine poke, expertly marked grilled swordfish, lightning-hot fish and chips, and a myriad of seafood salad and sandwich options are offered in a contemporary setting with an open kitchen and lively bar. And the price point is spot on. 5251 Martinelli Way, 925.999.8053, pacificcatch.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P \$ \$ \$**

Pamir Restaurant

Where to start? We say bulanees (squares of fried flatbread filled with potatoes or leeks). Right behind is buranee badenjan (sauteed eggplant) topped with tomato and yogurt. Then on to the classics: mantu (beef dumplings smothered in meat sauce) and aush (noodle soup with tasty beans). Finish with vanilla ice cream topped

with pistachios and cardamom. 4228 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 111, 925.999.8820, pamirindublin.com. Lunch and dinner Thurs.–Tues. **\$ \$**

Sri-Thai Before or after a flick at Dublin's Regal Cinemas, check out Sri-Thai's scrumptious offerings. The small, unassuming restaurant does traditional Thai entrees, such as pad Thai and curry chicken, with care. The light Thai roll with bean thread noodles and mushrooms gets a delicate radish rose. Bonus: Our soft drinks came with scallop-edged lemon slices and endless refills. 4930 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 620, 925.828.2281, srithaidublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P \$ \$**

Tandoori Pizza This Indian-Italian pizzeria is as tasty as it is unique. You can still get a puffy pepperoni pie (the all-meat combo is first-rate), but once you sub curry sauce in for tomato, you may never go back. Choose a pizza with a chile icon for the full experience. The vibe is ultra-casual. 4060 Grafton St., 925.248.2636, tandooripizzadublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **\$ \$**

Urban Plates Here, quick but elevated eats include a tender grilled steak served medium rare, a chicken sandwich with roasted tomatoes and orange-basil aioli, and a selection of natural sodas sweetened with organic cane sugar. 5111 Martinelli Way,

925.750.8011, urbanplates.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P \$ \$**

Yanagi Sushi & Grill

This spacious, contemporary dining room is divided into three sections: a sushi bar, a teppan area and regular booths. We were taken with zippy chicken yakitori skewers and the delicate tempura shrimp and veggies. The adventurous should try the Heart Attack roll appetizer, with fried jalapenos, cream cheese and spicy tuna. 6599 Dublin Blvd., Ste. K, 925.556.9575, yanagisushigrill.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P \$ \$**

LIVERMORE

Campo di Bocce On the outskirts of town, Campo di Bocce can evoke a Tuscan retreat, where daily seafood specials like grilled halibut grace romantic fireside nooks. But the cavernous indoor/outdoor space (seating 270) is family friendly: Reserve a bocce court (where bowling meets croquet), or order a plate of lamb lollipops or a pepperoni pizza. There's also a big bar with a great local wine list. 175 E. Vineyard Ave., 925.249.9800, campodibocce.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. **Y P \$ \$ \$**

Casbah Mediterranean Kitchen

Casbah is popular for its innovative home-style specialties and the classics, such as gyros, falafel and shish kebabs. We loved the Caspian salmon smothered

in cumin and tarragon and the fesenjan chicken, sauteed breast meat with pomegranate sauce and crushed walnuts. Weekend live entertainment often includes music and belly dancing. 1770 First St., 925.243.1477, casbahexotic.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P \$ \$**

De Afghanan

Kabob House Low prices. Good service. Huge portions. What's not to like? De Afghanan's chicken kebabs are glorious knobs of tender, spiced white meat. The chapli kebabs are light patties—flavorful, crisp and lean. Vegetarians should dig the simple borani: squash or eggplant roasted with garlic and dotted with mint. 1550 Railroad Ave., 925.371.1113, deafghanancuisine.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. **Y P \$ \$**

Demitri's Taverna

Meals in this warm remodeled space start with heated pita bread and a garlicky spread called skordalia. The tender dolmades come with a tangy avgolemono sauce, and the village salad uses kalamatas and briny feta for a salty counterpoint to the fresh veggies. A Mediterranean burger brings the flavors of Greece—oregano, feta, tomato and grilled red onion—into each juicy bite. 2235 First St., 925.373.0306, demitristaverna.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P \$ \$**

Double Barrel Wine Bar

Dish after delicious dish complement a California and international wine list at this Livermore hangout. The spicy atmosphere, along with the selection of seasonal Latin and French tapas, calls for crisp and lush wines. Plump paellas, chorizo-flecked quesadillas, bacon-wrapped dates and sweet potato fries are rich and satisfying. 2086 First St., 925.243.9463, doublebarrelwinebar.com. Lunch Sat.–Sun., dinner Tues.–Sun. **Y P \$ \$**

El Charro

The full bar and festive-yet-relaxed ambience has turned a family operation into a modern Livermore standout. The restaurant, triple the size of the First Street original, features smoked pork chops for carnivores, chile rellenos for vegetarians and killer enchiladas for anyone. The El Charro margarita, made with agave nectar, could very well be the best drink in town. 186 Maple St., 925.371.8297, elcharrolivermore.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. **Y P \$ \$**

First Street

Alehouse Share a giant basket of onion rings and a local pint or two on the sunny patio, and call it lunch. Or stay cool in the expansive brewpub, where you're bound to find a burger, salad or grilled chicken sandwich with your name on it. The food's not fancy, but you can't

match the Alehouse's indulgent, unpretentious vibe. Meals end with a Tootsie Pop. 2106 First St., 925.371.6588, firststreetalehouse.com. Breakfast Sat.–Sun., lunch and dinner daily. **Y P \$ \$**

La PanotiQ Bakery Café

This charming bakery and cafe serves stunning sweets and savories in classic French style. The croissants and pain au chocolat (ask for them warmed) are baked deliciously dark and flaky. Buttery jambon sandwiches come on your choice of a fresh baguette or as a panini. And the snappy nicoise salad is dressed with a vivid tarragon Dijon dressing. 2470 First St., Ste. 270, 925.292.1916, lapanotiq.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. **\$ \$**

The Last Word

Trade your Coke for a cocktail and get truffle instead of butter on your popcorn at this hip saloon behind Livermore Cinemas. Pair your Blood and Sand (a smoky Manhattan) or a Death in the Evening (licorice sparkling wine) with upscale sliders, spicy chicken and waffles, or a sophisticated arugula salad. 2470 First St., 925.493.7293, lastwordbar.com. Dinner Tues.–Sun. **Y P \$ \$**





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Mario's Links N

Hops Next door to his French dip destination, Mario's offers German frankfurters, Cajun hot links and chicken-apple sausages. Customize from a long list of unlimited toppings, or order "Mario's Way" with bacon and a fried egg. Choose a craft beer or a unique bottled soda, like Birch Beer or Cheerwine. 2175 First St., 925.292.7603. *Lunch and dinner daily.* 🍷🍷🍷

Patxi's This stylish pizzeria is twice as big as the Lafayette location, with a full bar and patio seating. We love the Chicago style, but unless you want a long cocktail hour, order it online, bring it home half-baked or have it delivered. Our "thin" crust was just okay, but the pan pizzas are great. Fresh salads make a healthful contrast to these irresistible "gut-bombs." 2470 First St., Livermore, 925.371.1000; 5130 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 925.248.2750; patxispizza.com. *Lunch and dinner daily.* 🍷🍷🍷

Posada Seriously good Southwestern food and a vibrant Santa Fe decor create a cozy outpost that outshines its competition. Blocks of tender short ribs are draped with a vibrant blackberry mole, while shredded barbecue duck is piled high on fragrant corn cakes. Piping hot churros served with Mexican hot chocolate are a steal. Posada's menu is as expansive as its Livermore wine

list. 988 Murrieta Blvd., 925.606.1004, posadarestaurant.com. *Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun., brunch Sun.* 🍷🍷

The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards

A commitment to a seasonal menu that emphasizes local ingredients keeps things happening at this restaurant in wine country. Standout dishes include heirloom tomato soup with charred balsamic, grilled local calamari with fingerling potatoes, tomato confit and black olive tapenade. The lemony-garlicky Caesar salad features hearts of romaine served with a judicious sprinkle of smoked paprika. Meanwhile, Wente's famous smoked pork chop never fails to satisfy. An ever-evolving list of more than 500 wines includes some excellent Livermore selections. 5050 Arroyo Rd., 925.456.2450, wentevineyards.com. *Lunch Mon.–Sat., dinner daily, brunch Sun.* 🍷🍷🍷

Rock House Sports Pub & Grill

Killer burgers here come on an irresistible milk bun (which the cooks brand like cattle). The atmosphere is retro-cool with a 1928 Model T, local brews on tap and some 40 TVs. We loved the Rock House burger, topped with Gorgonzola and onion marmalade, and the spicy Alamo burger, with a side of sweet potato fries and curried ketchup. 1840 Portola Ave., 925.443.3240. *Lunch*

and dinner daily, breakfast Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

Roya Afghan Cuisine

Roya offers a great value. The veal "kebab" arrives as an enormous T-bone; the challaw badenjan brings an eggplant stew. Six juicy hunks of meat come skewered in the lamb kebab; wedges of sweet pumpkin are smothered in yogurt in the challaw kadu. 2020 First St., 925.447.0576, royaafghancuisine.com. *Lunch Tues.–Sat., dinner Tues.–Sun.* 🍷🍷🍷

Sanctuary Ultra Lounge

This lounge is more about drinks than sit-down meals. Still, we dined on tuna tartare, Thai salmon and lemon ricotta ravioli. Music and events dominate the weekends, but stop by after a week-night dinner or movie for a game of darts or eight ball—or take a shot at the dessert menu. 2369 First St., 925.373.0521, sanctuaryultralounge.com. *Lunch and dinner daily.* 🍷🍷🍷

Sauced BBQ & Spirits

Stacks of wood, banks of TVs and the alluring smell of smoke create a warm feeling at this family-owned barbecue joint. The ribs, smoked half chicken and burgers are all tasty. From the lengthy choice of sides, we liked the baked beans and cornbread best. 2300 First St., Ste. 120, 925.961.1300, saucedbbqandspirits.com. *Lunch and dinner daily.* 🍷🍷🍷

Simply Fondue

There's nothing simple about Simply Fondue. The average table time is two hours, and the experience is as much spectacle as it is a meal. The four-course dinner starts with a light salad prechilled and straight from the fridge, followed by generous samplings of cheese and meat fondue. Wrap it up with a personalized (get Grand Marnier) chocolate fondue. 2300 First St., Ste. 110, 925.443.6638, simplyfondue.livermore.com. *Dinner daily, brunch Sun.* 🍷🍷🍷

Star Anise

The modern Thai–South-east Asian food here lives up to its sleek atmosphere. Island finger lumpia are served with a mild and balanced carrot-plum sauce. The Panang beef is amazingly tender and absolutely delicious. Pumpkin-salmon curry showcases squash and seafood in a provocative red peanut curry. Aromatic roasted duck comes off the grill flavorful and meaty. 2470 First St., Ste. 108, 925.454.9888, staranisehai.eat24hour.com. *Lunch and dinner daily.* 🍷🍷

Terra Mia

A roaring brick fireplace, gleaming open kitchen and warm, professional service impart an intimate feel to the cavernous dining room. The Calabrian owners have built on this soulful aesthetic with made-from-scratch bread, pastas and thin-crust pizzas. They get all the basics right: The

fish is fresh and the meats are clean—seasoned well and served with simple sides. 4040 East Ave., 925.456.3333, terramialivermore.com. *Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily.* 🍷🍷🍷

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard

With classy decor and an extensive wine list, Uncle Yu's has an enticing and leisurely vibe. So enjoy a lovely Alsatian white with spinach dumplings—soft noodlelike wrappers exploding with fresh spinach, shrimp and chicken. Or try the crisp-roasted free-range chicken with red chile-flecked sweet sauce. 39 S. Livermore Ave., Ste. 125, 925.449.7000, uncleyusvineyard.com. *Lunch and dinner daily.* 🍷🍷🍷

Underdog Wine Bar

Tucked inside Concannon's Livermore winery, Underdog vibrates with urban sophistication. Some of our favorite small plates include a California cheese board, artisanal cured meat plate and pulled pork tacos. The patio overlooking the winery's expansive front lawn offers a chic oasis for wine tasting. 4590 Tesla Rd., 925.583.1581, underdogwinebar.com. *Lunch and dinner daily.* 🍷🍷🍷

Zephyr Grill & Bar

Zephyr's all-day menu lists some 26 main courses—40 when you include salads and sandwiches. Some hidden deals include inch-thick slabs of seared tuna and a lemon cheesecake

that, while huge, says finesse not factory. Tall, window-side booths are sleek, but dine at the bar if you want to sense the scene, which features a fantastic selection of Livermore Valley wines. 1736 First St., 925.961.1000, zephyrgrill.com. *Lunch and dinner daily.* 🍷🍷🍷

PLEASANTON**Alberto's**

Cantina Families and sports fans flock to this downtown Mexican restaurant and tequila bar for generously portioned entrees that hit the spot—such as Dana's mini burrito, which is anything but small (and topped off with enchilada sauce, guac and sour cream). Try the red snapper Diablo-style with tomatoes, garlic and chile de arbol. 435 Main St., 925.462.2316, albertoscantina.pleasanton.com. *Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun.* 🍷🍷🍷

Ascona Pizza Company

Family-owned Ascona's pizza is a step above your average pie, with garlic butter-brushed crust and fresh, gourmet toppings. Carnivores will dig the four-sausage Otto's Favorite, while the pesto-laden The Alps is a treat for vegetarians.





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Barone's Around the corner from the hustle of Main Street, Barone's makes one long for an old-fashioned shrimp cocktail or veal parmigiana. Barone's menu pays homage to souped-up American and Italian fare. Start with scoozi (flatbread stuffed with Gorgonzola), smoked salmon or the prosciutto salad, followed up with house-made ravioli, swordfish or pepper steak. 475 St. John St., 925.426.0987, baronespleasanton.com. Dinner daily. **Y P S \$ \$ \$**

Blossom Vegan An immediate hit, this vegan paradise has a distinctive Vietnamese edge. Everything is so fresh. We love the green papaya salad and curried eggplant. Do not miss the mushu-mushu, wrapped in Indian pancakes. A tropical mural sets a nurturing tone in the relaxed yet bustling dining room. 4000 Pimlico Dr., Ste. 112, 925.399.5232, blossomvegans.com. Lunch and dinner Wed.-Mon. **P S**

Blue Agave Club

This "club" provides genuine Mexican delicacies such as earthy cuitlacoche "truffles" on plump, succulent shrimp and chicken enjococado in sour cream sauce. A gorgeously grilled skirt steak stars in a platter that includes chicken mole, chile relleno, grilled green onion and guaca-

mole. The outdoor patio is heaven, and there are more tequilas than you can count. 625 Main St., 925.417.1224, blueagaveclub.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P S \$ \$**



China Lounge Allen Shi's \$1.2 million baby is a must visit. A theatrical open kitchen, pulsing bar and impressively refined dining room complement moist ribbons of bang bang chicken; sublime crispy pork belly soup; and bold kung pao chicken made with tongue-numbing peppercorns, bright lemongrass and a thin but darkly caramelized sauce. 4220 Rosewood Dr., 925.227.1312. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P S \$ \$ \$ \$**

Dean's Cafe When Dean's opened its door in the mid-1950s, Pleasanton was a small, country town. Today, Dean's is still serving breakfast all day. The vast omelet menu includes fillings from Polish sausage to clams. At lunch, Dean's offers appealing oldies like the stacked clubhouse or a French burger (named for its toasted French roll). For a walk down memory lane, order an old-fashioned root beer float. 620 Main St., 925.846.4222. Breakfast and lunch daily. **Y S**

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

This affordable American hangout has a family-friendly menu spiked with historical tidbits and a full page of classic cocktails. Enjoy jambalaya, a Reuben or boneless Southern fried chicken (complete with lumpy mashed potatoes) in a spacious, skylit dining room. 4889 Hopyard Rd., 925.469.6266, eddiepapas.com. Brunch, lunch and dinner daily. **Y P S \$ \$**

Frontier Spice

This attractive spot is known for its tandoori dishes. Alongside meaty kabobs, you'll find lime-scented salmon and pimento sea bass, both flash-roasted in the tandoor. Get the tandoori mix grill: chicken tikka seasoned three ways and served sizzling (and supersucculent). The curries are good, but trust the tandoor—and double up on the garlic naan. 411 Main St., 925.846.3077, frontierspice.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P S \$ \$**

Gan Peter Jee-Oh Chung showcases his wholly original and upscale cuisine through a Korean lens. Glossy beef cheeks, kimchi croquettes and a refined riff on bibimbap are served with intricate garnishes on stylish plates. Finish with the sublime perilla ice cream—its color echoes the walls' green hue. 221 Division St., 925.523.3630, ganrestaurant.com.

Dinner Tues.-Sat., brunch Sat.-Sun. **Y P S \$ \$ \$ \$**

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

Always hopping with birthday parties and post-soccer-game festivities, this pizzeria and pasta house is the quintessential family restaurant. The secret of the signature pizzas is the crust: The house-made sourdough is aged and stored cold for five to seven days before cooking. The oldest pizza parlor in the Tri-Valley, the mainstay's atmosphere remains cozy. 288 Main St., 925.846.2520, gayninetiespizza.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P S \$ \$**



Handles Gastropub Handles is an ode to the restaurant's 30 beers on tap. More pub than gastronomic, the gutsy menu showcases burgers, barbecue wings, chicken pot pie and chili. Still, the iceberg wedge salad uses Point Reyes Original Blue, and the fish and chips are made with fresh, moist seasonal fish. 855 Main St., 925.399.6690, handlesgastropub.com. Lunch Tues.-Sun., dinner daily, brunch Sun. **Y P S \$ \$**

Hap's Original

Hap's has been around since the 1950s and has evolved into an upscale steak house. Complimentary

crudites and Hap's namesake salad topped with walnuts, Gorgonzola and honey-chile vinaigrette made for refreshing starters, and the filet mignon with brandy peppercorn sauce (one of five sauce choices for all steaks) was even better with a seasonal side dish of grilled artichokes. 122 W. Neal St., 925.600.9200, hapsoriginal.com. Dinner daily. **Y P S \$ \$ \$ \$**

Lokanta

A Turkish word meaning "neighborhood bistro," Lokanta is both exotic and familiar. A clean open kitchen dishes up bean and barley salads, along with vodka-spiked salmon and skewered hanger steak. The skylit back dining room makes for some of the best summer dining in the East Bay. Grab a pillow, and enjoy heavenly lamb shish kebab and a glass of Turkish wine. 443 Main St., 925.223.8074, eatlokanta.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.-Sun. **Y P C S \$ \$ \$**

McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden

You'll feel right at home in the buzzing beer garden at McKay's. Try the jammin' burger slathered with bacon jam or a Cubano sandwich, properly pressed with the mandatory pickles. Soft fresh-baked pretzels and crunchy house-made chips had the right salty goodness for pairing with an array of all-local craft beers. 252 Main St., 925.425.0217. Lunch Tues.-Sun., dinner daily. **Y P C S \$ \$ \$**

Nonni's Bistro Born in Iceland, owner Jon Magnusson borrows freely from Italian, French and American traditions, specializing in comfort foods with just a touch of California's froufrou style. Check out warm goat cheese crepes, capery bistro steak salad and, of course, anything with Magnusson's magnificent smoky lox, made with sustainable Loch Duart salmon from Scotland. 425 Main St., 925.600.0411, nonnibistro.net. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.-Sun. **Y P S \$ \$ \$**

Oasis Grille and Wine Lounge

At this stylish Mediterranean spot, check out the pumpkin borani appetizer—its dense orange flesh is sautéed in olive oil, and its sweetness is set off by a garlic-yogurt sauce. The tender, juicy lamb chop kebab has just the right brush with the grill. The chicken breast curry with peppers is a deeply satisfying mix of vivid flavors served over basmati rice. 780 Main St., Ste. 101, 925.417.8438. Lunch and dinner daily. **Y P S \$ \$ \$**

The Press Artisan Café

At this tiny but hip cafe tucked in the back of Mission Plaza, breakfast brings Acme levain toastini topped with



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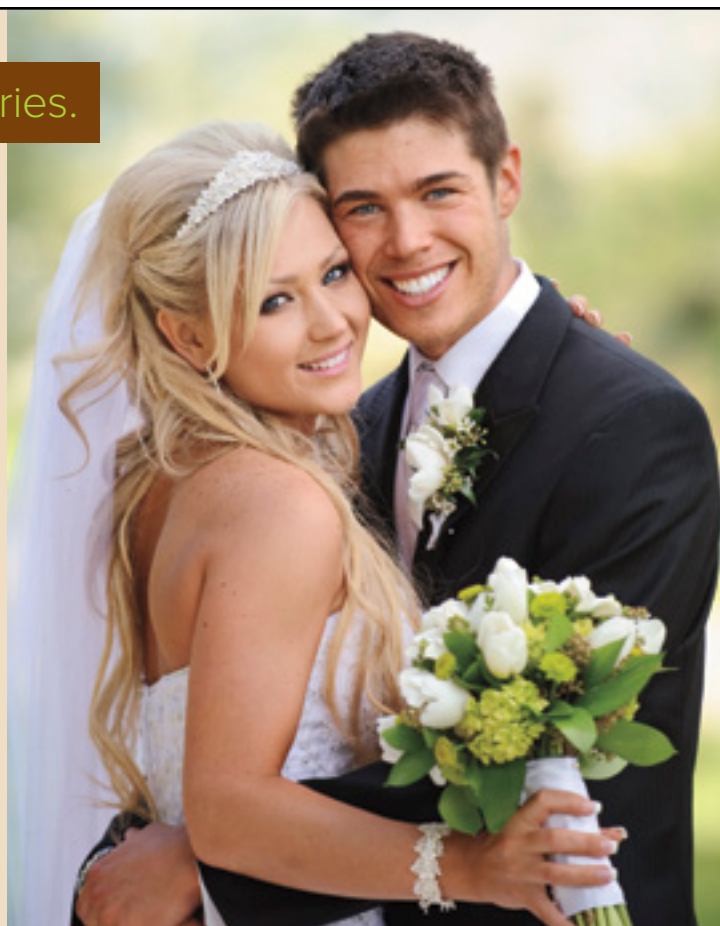
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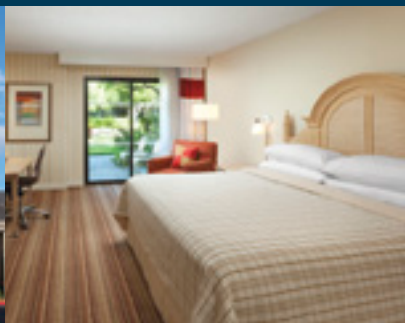
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WHERE TO SLEEP

avocado and egg or ricotta and fruit. For lunch, try a creative panini such as smoked turkey and pesto, or ham and apple with Brie. Get a large house-made toasted marshmallow while you wait. 1987 Santa Rita Rd., Ste. H, 925.846.9900, thepressartisancafe.com. Breakfast and lunch Mon.–Sat. 🍷🍷🍷

Sabio on Main

This sophisticated restaurant features an international tapas menu. Dishes range from tangy Peruvian ceviche to sweet Moroccan meatballs to intense Asian lettuce wraps. But Spain is the biggest player, evidenced by the house-made charcuterie and hot-and-creamy salt cod croquettes. 501 Main St., 925.800.3090, sabiopleasanton.com. Dinner daily, lunch Tues.–Fri., brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

Sozo Sushi Sozo means “creative” in Japanese, and this neighborhood sushi bar in Pleasanton lives up to the name. Options range from the Marilyn Mon-roll—with shrimp tempura, crab and avocado—to the Monterey—a mix of shrimp and jalapeños. 2835 Hopyard Rd., 925.484.5588, sozosushi.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Taste of Sing-Ma

Sing-Ma stands for “Singapore-Malaysia”—evocative of Thai, Chinese and Indian cuisines. While the atmosphere is plain, presentations are delightful. Fried

rice arrives in a half pineapple, stir-fry is in scooped-out mangoes, and chilled juice is in a whole young coconut. Crepe-like roti is buttery, with a rich curry sauce to boot. Don’t miss the basil eggplant. 824 Main St., 925.249.9448, tasteofsingma.com. Lunch and dinner Wed.–Mon. 🍷🍷🍷

Tri Valley Bistro

Tri Valley Bistro offers a measure of old-fashioned romance. Start with wine and an arrangement of prosciutto, dried figs and delicately crusted warm goat cheese. Follow with succulent scallops nestled in black rice rich with sherry cream. 519 Main St., 925.523.3815, trivalleybistro.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Vic’s All Star Kitchen

Local sports fans are not the only ones who line up for Coach Field’s ham-and-cheese omelets. Other favorites include the Falcon burger with bacon and cheese, Coach Mahar’s New York steak sandwich with sauteed onions and mushrooms, as well as the piping-hot beer-battered onion rings. The all-day buttermilk pancakes are renowned throughout the Tri-Valley. 201 Main St., Ste. A, 925.484.0789, vicsallstar.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷🍷

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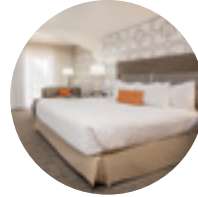
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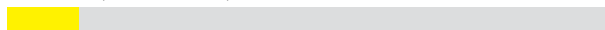
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DISTANCE CHART (FROM THE TRI-VALLEY)

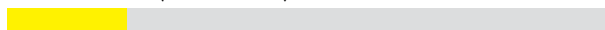
San Jose (28mi/30min)



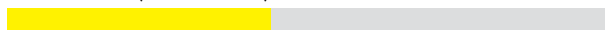
Oakland (28mi/30min)



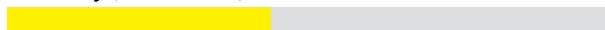
San Francisco (40mi/45min)



Sacramento (95mi/90min)



Monterey (95mi/90min)



Yosemite National Park (155mi/3hr, 10min)



Lake Tahoe (210mi/3hr, 40min)



TRI-TRAVEL

Whether you take a train, plane or automobile, tripping around the Tri-Valley is both easy and accessible.

GETTING HERE

The Tri-Valley is located east of San Francisco and is easily accessible by plane, train, automobile, BART and bus. The closest airport is Oakland International Airport, which is served by AirBART, shuttles, limousines, taxis and public transportation. Pick up visitor information in Terminals 1 and 2 of the airport.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- > **Altamont Corridor Express (ACE).** Makes stops in Livermore and Pleasanton. 800.411.RAIL, acerail.com
- > **Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART).** Includes stops at West Dublin/Pleasanton and Dublin/Pleasanton. 510.464.7134, bart.gov
- > **County Connection.** Bus service throughout Contra Costa County, including Danville. 925.676.7500, cccta.org
- > **Wheels bus.** Operated by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, Wheels offers connections to Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) and County Connection. 925.455.7555, wheelsbus.com

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- > **4GQ Limousine Services:** 925.550.9989
- > **Black Tie Transportation:** 800.445.0444
- > **Blue Bird Cab:** 925.734.0205
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- > **East Bay Shuttle:** 925.800.4500
- > **Yellow Checker Cab Co.:** 925.447.4444
- > **Uber or Lyft:** Download the apps

FLY IN

The Tri-Valley is accessible via three Bay Area commercial airports and one municipal airport.

- > **Livermore Municipal Airport,** 925.373.5280, cityoflivermore.net
- > **Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC),** 28 miles from the Tri-Valley, 408.277.4SKY (4759), flysanjose.com
- > **Oakland International Airport (OAK),** 28 miles from the Tri-Valley, 510.563.3300, oaklandairport.com
- > **San Francisco International Airport (SFO),** 40 miles from the Tri-Valley, 650.821.8211, flysfo.com



AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Spring

Summer

HIGH > 71° / LOW > 45° HIGH > 87° / LOW > 54°

Fall

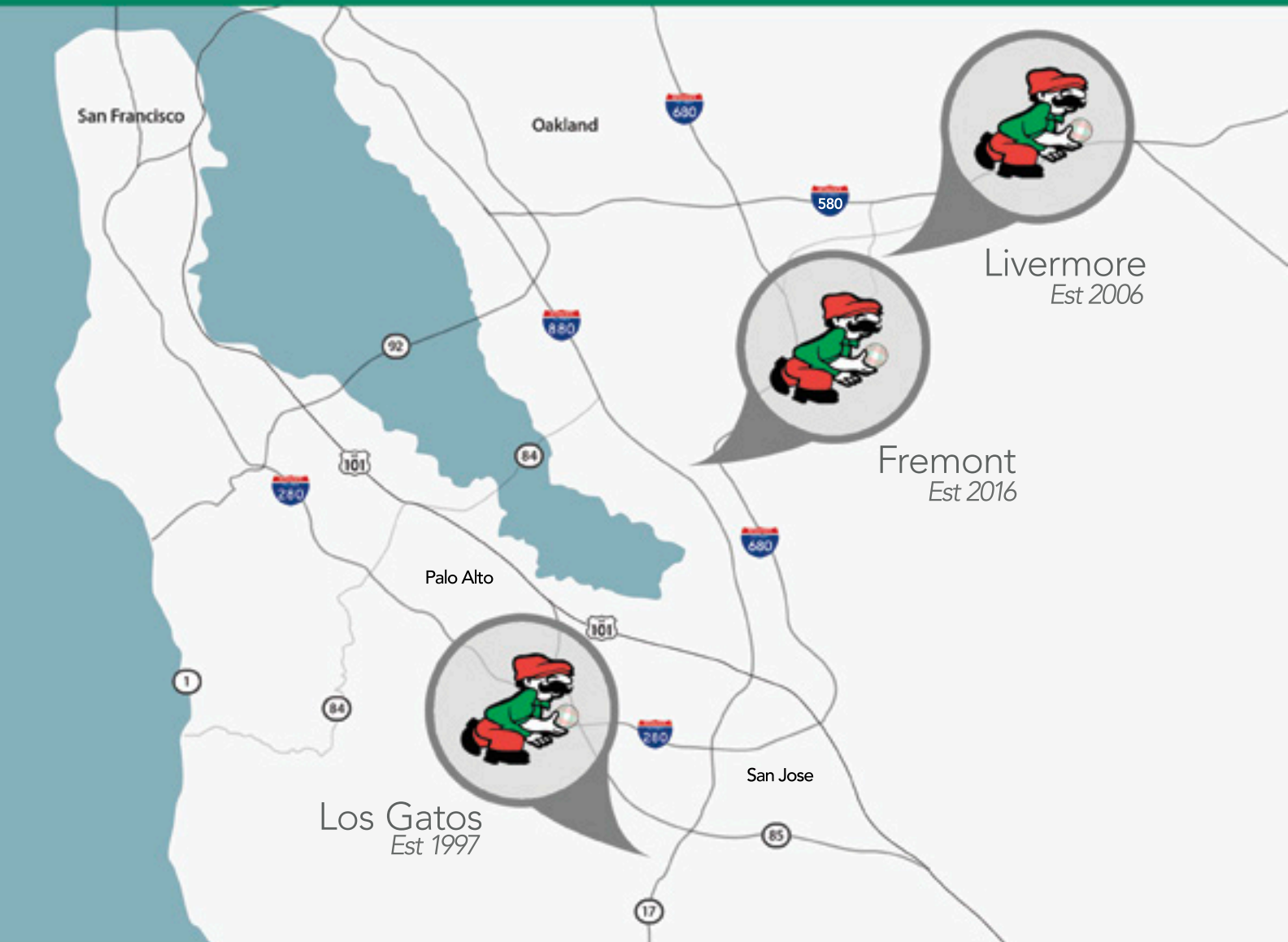
Winter

HIGH > 76° / LOW > 48° HIGH > 59° / LOW > 38°



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