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## FLIP2MEDIA

# Welcome



The Visit Tri-Valley team, from left: Todd Dibs, Robin Fahr, Amber Haley, Tracy Farhad, Susan Bolt and Justin Bower.

Hello Visitor to the Tri-Valley! We are all smiles here in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville-welcoming your first visit or return with open arms and safety on everyone's mind. There are more reasons than ever to spend the night in the Tri-Valley this year. From 40 affordable lodging choices and top-notch international culinary experiences to our wide-open spaces and free parking-what's not to love?!

We've always done "small-scale with quality" well in the Tri-Valley. Discover for yourself lesser-known cultural arts and heritage sites (like Dublin's Heritage Square or Pleasanton's Museum on Main), the San Francisco Premium Outlets and quaint downtown boutique shopping (including Hartz Avenue in Danville or First Street in Livermore), local festivals and events (they're back!), and our great outdoors (see page 44 for trails galore), all sure to satiate the soul. Pause to soak in the tactile and immersive abundance of the Tri-Valley scene through traditional favorites and life-changing innovation (not to brag, but our national labs have earned us the reputation for hosting the "Smartest Square Mile on Earth"). I know my family's love for art, music and live theater has sparked a creative renewal inspired by the talent blossoming here. Where will your inspiration take you?

Our local ambassadors and Visit Tri-Valley team are poised to assist you in every way possible. Share your travel experiences with us (#VisitTriValley) and see how living like a local will bring you closer, together. We can't wait to meet you!

Cheers,

TRACY FARHAD
PRESIDENT & CEO, VISIT TRI-VALLEY



### WELCOME! JUST A FEW REQUESTS

The Tri-Valley champions open-mindedness and celebrates diversity. We respect visitors and locals and their health and safety. We respect the environment, local culture and different kinds of people who visit our area and live here. Respect is the key to keeping each other safe and the Tri-Valley's precious and fragile beauty protected, today and tomorrow.

Feel free to traipse, travel and follow your joy in the Tri-Valley. We just ask you to keep a few considerations in mind while doing so.

Roam Responsibly.

Educate Yourself.

Safety First.

Preserve the Tri-Valley.

Embrace Community.

Celebrate Culture.

Teach Others.

Information courtesy of Visit California.





### **FEATURES**

### 1 S 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.

### 2 LIQUID ASSETS

Livermore Valley is well known as one of California's leading wine regions, but the Tri-Valley is also making its mark with craft beers, hip bars and trendy taprooms.

42 TIME OUT
Whether yo

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



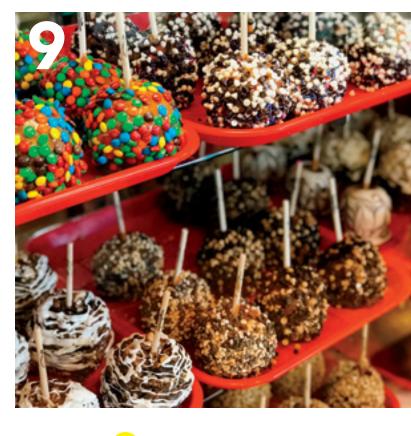
### **GETTING ORIENTED**

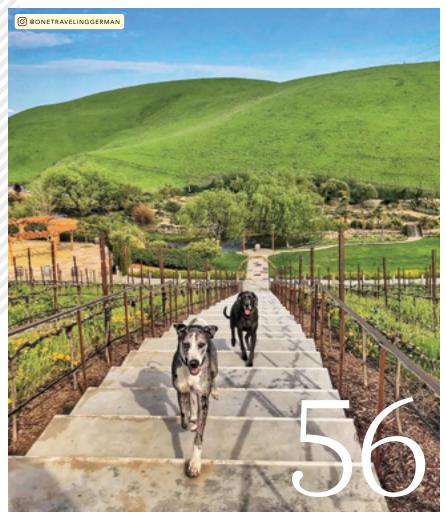
Check out our quick overview of the Tri-Valley's four distinct and vibrant cities.

THEN & NOW
From the historic to the practical to the downright quirky, the area has countless stories to tell.

**GATHER** It's no surprise that the Tri-Valley has become a leading event destination thanks to its idyllic venues and landscapes, welcoming hotels and inns, and many activities to enjoy.

WAYFINDING Where to wine, dine and stay. Plus: How to get here-and get around once you've arrived.









### VISIT TRI-VALLEY

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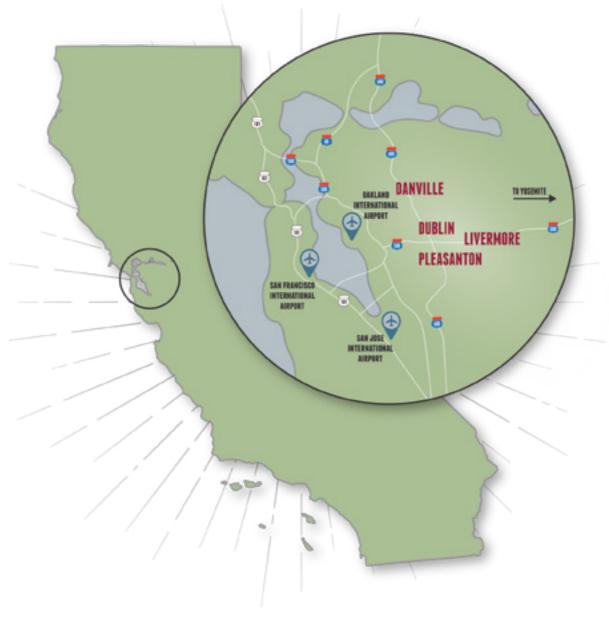




Look for this icon to see photographs submitted by visitors like you! Mention us @VisitTriValley or use #VisitTriValley for a chance to be featured!

### WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

A quick primer on our extraordinarily well-located towns.



### **DELIGHT IN DANVILLE**

If you are looking for small-town charm mixed with a polished yet relaxed vibe, you can't go wrong in Danville. The vibrant downtown features specialty shops, regional theater productions and art shows, wine bars, and topnotch restaurants. Venture away from the hub, and you'll find that Danville is also home to Tao House (the one-time residence of playwright Eugene O'Neill, where his plays live on during the annual Eugene O'Neill Festival in September), along with numerous hiking trails, parks and open spaces.

### **DIVE INTO DUBLIN**

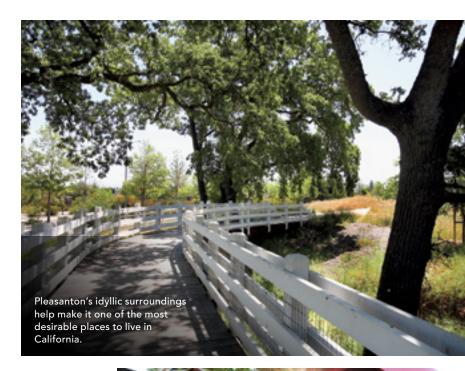
One of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, Dublin is bursting with restaurants, shops, nightlife and activities. It has an impressively diverse culinary scene and a wealth of recreational opportunities for fun-seekers of all ages, including golf, bowling, ice-skating, go-kart racing, and even a water park and trampoline park. There's history here, too: Witness Dublin's annual St. Patrick's Day Festival, which celebrates the Irish heritage of the city's founders. Look for shamrocks adorning city street signs in honor of those early immigrants from the Emerald Isle.

### LIVE IT UP IN LIVERMORE

Forget Napa and Sonoma. California's oldest wine-growing region, Livermore is a worldclass destination with dozens of wineries-most of which have been family owned and operated for generations. Livermore is not just for wine aficionados, though. There is a wide selection of craft breweries and trendy restaurants, along with plenty of kid-friendly attractions including mini golf, super slides and laser tag. Shoppers flock to the San Francisco Premium Outlets and specialty boutiques in downtown. Sample Livermore's rich cultural offerings by catching a show at the Bankhead Theater.

### **PLAY IN PLEASANTON**

Once a Wild West hideout, contemporary Pleasanton offers a plethora of dining, retail options and outdoor recreation. Shopaholics can browse Stoneridge Shopping Center and Pleasanton's Main Street boutiques, while food lovers have their pick of restaurants featuring cosmopolitan fare from around the globe. Consistently ranked one of the most desirable places to live in the state, Pleasanton has a happening city center, along with 1,200 acres of parks, open space and trails. Culture lovers can enjoy engaging performances at the Firehouse Arts Center year-round.







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## THEN & NOW

The distinctive culture of the Tri-Valley area dates 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, EVERYTHING IS DEEPLY CONNECTED TO THE PAST.

Historical insights can be gleaned in every town throughout the Tri-Valley. For instance, Dublin's Heritage Park and Museums are made up of Pioneer Cemetery; the region's oldest Catholic church, St. Raymond (1859); the Murray Schoolhouse; and the Kolb House, a 1911 Craftsman bungalow that now operates as a museum. Dublin Camp Parks Military History Center preserves the old military base, which was known as Fleet City during World War II.

In Danville, an oak tree thought to be more than 350 years old stands on Diablo Road, and its likeness serves as the town's logo. The historic **Railroad Depot** nearby houses the culturally rich **Museum of the San Ramon Valley**.

In Pleasanton, sign up for a historical walking tour with the **Museum on Main**. Don't miss **Alviso Adobe**, a community park that offers a rich interpretive history of the Amador Valley, from its Native American roots to the present day.

Even the wines here are steeped in tradition. Wente Vineyards, which started in 1883, produced the first labeled chardonnay, sauvignon blanc and semillon in the country. Today, most of the chardonnay grapes in California descend from Wente clones. Concannon Vineyard, founded the same year, 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.

In addition, the area boasts numerous historic homes, such as Pleasanton's **Century House**—which is more than 150 years old—and **Ravenswood** in Livermore (available for weddings and events).





### MADE IN THE TRI-VALLEY

### TAKE HOME UNIQUE PRODUCTS FROM THESE LOCAL PURVEYORS.

The Tri-Valley has been a hotbed of innovation and creativity for decades, being celebrated as the home of some of California's very first viticultural pioneers, world-renowned scientific research and even a Nobel Prize winner. Today it continues to attract a variety of quality artists, farmers, chefs, winemakers, brewers and makers who cultivate, curate and craft their locally made goods. When visiting the Tri-Valley, stop by some of the following makers, and take a piece of this unique region home with you.

- > Artisanal honey is the perfect addition to your favorite snack, warm beverage or charcuterie board. Gerard'z Honeybees not only produces its raw honey naturally from native wildflowers, it also provides valuable cross-pollination to regional food growers. Get a behind-the-scenes peek at introductory or advanced beekeeping workshops, often hosted at a Livermore Valley winery. The honey is available for purchase at a variety of wineries, breweries and boutiques or online. gerardzhoneybees.com
- > Sutherland Distilling Company attributes its award-winning spirits to its focus on sustainability and passion for sourcing local ingredients. Sutherland's 90-proof Apricot Brandy uses 18 pounds of apricots per bottle and took home a Double Gold medal at the San Francisco World Spirit Competition in 2017. sutherlanddistilling.com

- > Those who can't resist a sweet treat should head to Danville Chocolates. Loved by locals for their confectionery excellence, the talented chocolatiers at this downtown Danville shop serve up an assortment of delicious delicacies, including caramel apples, truffles, chocolate barks, dipped fruits and more, danvillechocolates.com
- > Latina-owned and operated **Sweet Hope** Soap Co. specializes in all-natural handcrafted soaps, shampoo bars, face masks and other body products made with sustainable ingredients. Find its small-batch products at makers fairs, area boutiques and online with local pickup or shipping options. sweethopesoapco.com
- > If you are looking for more natural beauty products, stop at Pleasanton's Good Common Sense Naturals for organic, nontoxic items made with ingredients grown and roasted in-house. With a keen focus on sustainability, this local maker has cut out parabens, detergents and fragrances; all goods are packaged in BPA-free recyclable containers. goodcommonsense.com
- Olivina Ranch-established in 1881 in what's now Livermore Valley Wine Country-makes extra-virgin olive oil from olives grown, harvested, milled and bottled on the historic estate. Olivina Olive Oil is used by several area restaurants and sold at a variety of retailers throughout the Tri-Valley. theolivina.com



### **GET** Transported

### **BREW BUS**

With over 20 breweries, taprooms and alehouses, the Tri-Valley is making a name for itself in craft beer. Hop aboard the Blue Brew Bus to ensure a safe tasting experience. The tour offers stops at three breweries (with tasting fees covered), one facility tour, a souvenir beer koozie and a drink on the bus. bluebrewbus.com

### WINE WHEELS

The Livermore Wine Trolley tour takes visitors to three wineries for a full wine tasting flight paired with small bites. In the summer, sign up for a sunset wine cruise, or try the Lights of Livermore holiday tour in December. The trolley is also available for private charter. livermorewinetrolley.com

### **GOLDEN AGE**

The Golden State Trolley has set its sights on blending "yesterday's nostalgia with today's modern luxury" ever since it began traversing Bay Area roads in January 2019. The Golden State Trolley can be rented as a private charter; shuttle; or transportation for weddings, corporate outings or other events. goldenstatetrolley.com





**2 MPH** 

All you really need for exploring the region is a pair of comfortable shoes and a game plan. Check out Livermore's scenic **Greenville Road**, which boasts six vineyards within an easy, milelong stroll, or **Tesla Road**, home to **Wente**, **Concannon**, **Steven Kent** and other well-known wineries. Take a 2.5-hour stroll through downtown and sample the city's dining scene with **Livermore Foodie Tours**. For a dark glimpse into the region's history, the **Museum on Main** in Pleasanton offers spooky **Ghost Walk** guided tours of downtown Pleasanton's most haunted sites in October for Halloween. *livermorefoodtours.com*, *museumonmain.org* 

### **12 MPH**

Zip along the grapevines on electric bikes from Livermore's **Pedego Electric Bikes**. Livermore's Jim Buck recommends this ride from the storefront: "Head east on Patterson Pass, alongside the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. On Greenville Road, turn right and head up the gradual hill. As you peak, you can see the Livermore Valley Wine Country as it opens up to you. At the crossroads of Tesla and Greenville, head straight across Tesla toward McGrail, Charles R, Bent Creek, Big White House, Caddis and 3 Steves tasting rooms." Check out *VisitTriValley.com* for three more self-guided bike routes. *pedegoelectricbikes.com* 

### 40+ MPH

**Black Tie Transportation** offers luxury sedans and SUVs, limovans, and executive coaches to give you a feel for the region without the hassle of driving. Custom tours of Tri-Valley wineries (and breweries) come with recommendations from its in-house wine specialist. *blacktietrans.com* 



### **BRIGHT IDEA**

The planet's longest-burning light bulb, according to *Guinness World Records*, is a humble bulb inside Livermore Fire Station No. 6 on East Avenue. Turned on in 1901, the bulb—nicknamed the **Centennial Light**—has been switched off only four times since then. Originally a 60-watt light, it's dimmed but still hanging on at 4 watts. Visitors are welcome, depending on the availability of firefighters to let them inside; the bulb is also visible through one of the station's windows. *centennialbulb.org* 

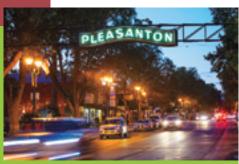
# PLEASANTON

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With 1,200 acres of parks and open space and 24 miles of trails to explore, Pleasanton is the ideal place for active individuals and families. Enjoy a round of golf at the award-winning Callippe Preserve or experience outstanding local produce at the year-round Farmers' Market. Soak up the small town vibe in downtown Pleasanton with specialty shops and outdoor dining or sit back and be entertained with a full schedule of events, concerts, and performances at the Firehouse Arts Center. Come and experience an extraordinary day in Pleasanton!

www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

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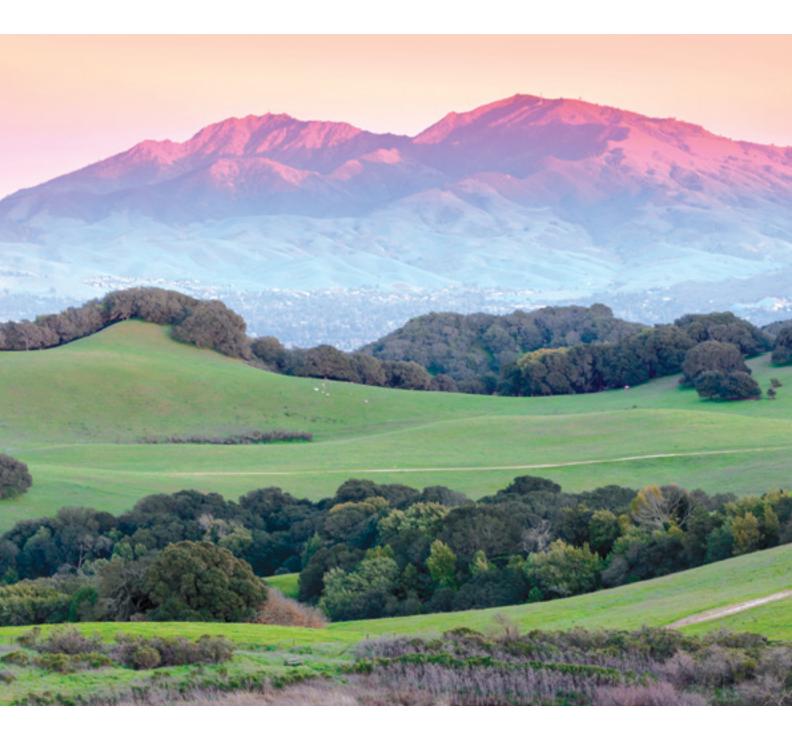


linktr.ee/inPleasanton

Discover where to shop, dine, stay, and play in Pleasanton!







### THE LONELY MOUNTAIN

It's hard to miss Mount Diablo, rising over the Tri-Valley to 3,849 feet. Hikers, bikers or plain old drivers can explore the mountain on the trails and roads in Mount Diablo State Park. You can get up the mountain via the South Gate in Danville, which takes you all the way up to the summit. Don't miss the view from the summit: On clear, cloudless days, you can see not only the three valleys that come together to create the Tri-Valley but also the Sierra and sometimes even Half Dome in Yosemite! parks.ca.gov













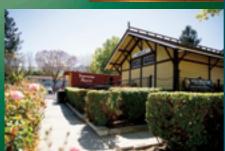


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### SAVE THE DATES

A year's worth of can't-miss events in the Tri-Valley.

### **FEBRUARY**

Celebrate the local beer scene (and give back to the community) with the annual Livermore Brew Crawl & Food Drive.

Area restaurants show off their most diverse offerings, including deals for wine lovers and foodies, during **Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week**, February 18–27.

### MARCH

U.S.-made hot rods, classics and more steal the show at the **Goodguys All American Get-Together** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

During Livermore's **Barrel Tasting Weekend**, participating wineries allow visitors to taste straight from the barrel.

Support the runners at the **Livermore Valley Half Marathon** and enjoy drinks and live music at the finish.

The annual **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** in Dublin is a weekend full of traditional



Irish jigs, beverages and entertainment, with a 5K fun run/walk and a parade.

See the Tri-Valley's showcase of STEM at the **Tri-Valley Innovation Fair** presented by Quest Science Center.

### **APRIL**

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

Dublin's **Spring Eggstravaganza** typically features a bounce house, carnival games and an Easter egg hunt.

Livermore's **Wine & Wags** celebrates dog-friendly wineries and local animal rescues. Adoptions available.

### MAY

Raise a glass at the **Livermore Downtown Street Fest** and enjoy a wine and beer pop-up experience, crafts, shopping and dining. (Into September)

Enjoy unlimited pours, food and live music at the Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival.

### JUNE

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

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

Enjoy live theater, wine and a picnic at Livermore's Darcie Kent Vineyards during **Shakespeare in the Vineyard**. (Into August)

### **JULY**

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

The **Fourth of July Family Fun Fireworks Celebration** is a pyrotechnic spectacle in downtown Livermore.



### Calendar /

Livermore Valley's premier food and wine affair, **Taste Our Terroir**, features cooking classes, seminars and vineyard tours.

### **AUGUST**

Summer revs up with Danville's **Hot Summer Sundays Car Show**. Then check out more than 3,000 hot rods, customs, classics, muscle cars and trucks at **Goodguys West Coast Nationals**.

### SEPTEMBER

Honor one of Danville's most famous residents at the **Eugene O'Neill Festival**. See performances of the playwright's works.

Celebrate Scottish culture, competition and entertainment at the Alameda County Fairgrounds during the **Scottish Highland Gathering and Games**.

Commemorate the end of summer at the Dublin **Splatter Festival**, where art, music and wine are colorfully combined.

### **OCTOBER**

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

Bring the family to some ol' fashioned fall fun at Dublin's **Harvest Fair**.

Experience innovative arts and technologies at **Ignite!** in Pleasanton. The free family event features activities, entertainment and food.



Hop on your bike and discover delicious new beers during **Livermore Bikes and Brews**.

Get your thrills at **Pirates of Emerson**, the yearly theme park at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Halloween-themed girl power prevails at Livermore's **Witches Night Out**, with shopping specials and cocktails.

### **NOVEMBER**

Kick off the holiday season with Danville's annual **Lighting of the Old Oak Tree**.

Ride through Niles Canyon at night during the holiday season with the **Train of Lights** on certain Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. (Into December)

### **DECEMBER**

Livermore Valley tasting rooms go holiday-themed with cheery decor

and festive offerings at **Holidays in the Vineyards**.

Downtown Livermore's **Holiday Sights** & **Sounds Parade** highlights a variety of floats and ends with a tree lighting.

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

The **Lights of Livermore Holiday Tour** offers a wine reception followed by a trolley tour of Livermore's best holiday light displays.

Go to VisitTriValley.com/events for the most up-to-date information on these and other events.



Scan this code for a complete list of Tri-Valley events.





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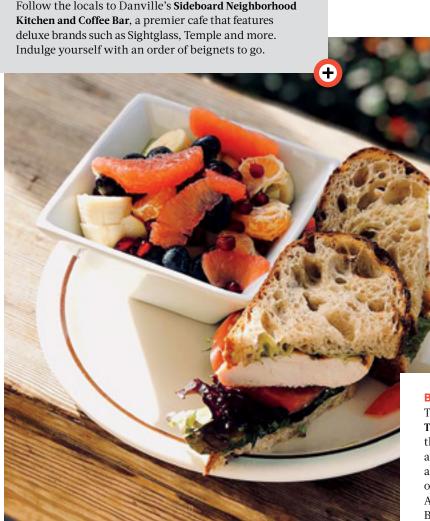


# BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER / DESSERT Range Life









### **BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS**

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

### THE CLASSICS

@MAKENNA\_KALANI

The Riata Diner & Tavern in Livermore reflects the area's pioneer past with Wild West-inspired decor and memorabilia—and offers hearty breakfast dishes. For more quirky furnishings and no-frills food to start your day, check out Jim's Country Style Restaurant in Pleasanton. The popular diner (there can be a line at the door on weekends) features wood-paneled walls, street signs as art and mouthwatering all-day breakfast items.

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 breakfast straight out of the French countryside, fill up at Danville's **Basque Boulangerie Cafe**. The eatery mixes melt-in-your-mouth baked goods with local, seasonal fruit and healthy, savory items.

### **BRUNCHING OUT**

Take your morning meal to the next level at **The Press** cafe in Pleasanton and Livermore, the perfect hipster hideout. Tasty dishes such as an avocado and egg toastini are served on a wooden plank; be sure to note the display of antique coffee makers. Work on your Great American Novel over a mug of Big House Beans coffee, roasted in Antioch.

Open early on the weekends (take advantage to avoid the crowds), Mayflower Restaurant in Dublin creates a transporting experience with its inviting atmosphere and authentic dim sum menu. Monica's Livermore, located in a historic building, offers generously portioned, handcrafted breakfasts. Enjoy a satisfying brunch on the outdoor patio.

Baci Bistro & Bar, in downtown Pleasanton, specializes in steak, seafood and Italian cuisine, but the weekend brunch menu is something really special. Try the fried egg avocado toast or steak tostadas, and don't miss the \$12 bottomless mimosas.

If you're feeling adventurous, head over to Dublin's **Blossom Bee**, a Thai fusion creperie that puts a twist on the beloved breakfast food with dishes like the Dublin Rancheros crepe with grilled chicken and scrambled eggs.

Enjoy the sweet air of Tri-Valley mornings at **Nonni's Bistro**, an open-air, European-style eatery in Pleasanton. Both breakfast and brunch are served on weekends, giving plentiful takes on the morning meal.

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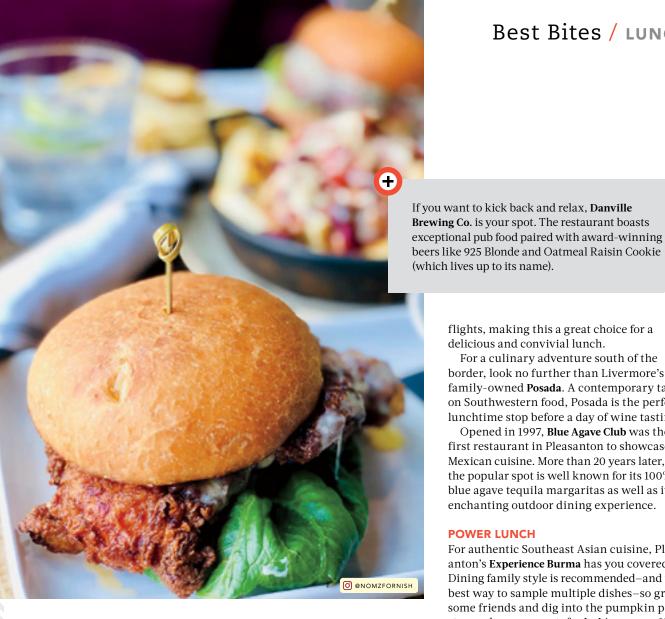
MICHELIN



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### Best Bites / LUNCH



**LUNCH BREAK** 

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. 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 includes boldly spiced items like belachan string beans and tender chicken satay, while the saltwater aquarium and painted palm trees create a soothing tropical ambiance. Also in Dublin is Burma! Burma!, where dishes like the tea leaf salad, curry chicken and garlic noodles are highlights of the robust Burmese menu.

Like to pair your food with wine-and enjoy it with good friends? **Pairings** in Pleasanton is a contemporary wine bar with Italian American food and the appealing motto of "sip, savor, social." The menu includes plenty of shareable plates as well as assorted cheese and charcuterie

flights, making this a great choice for a

delicious and convivial lunch.

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

Opened in 1997, Blue Agave Club was the first restaurant in Pleasanton to showcase Mexican cuisine. More than 20 years later, the popular spot is well known for its 100% blue agave tequila margaritas as well as its enchanting outdoor dining experience.

### **POWER LUNCH**

For authentic Southeast Asian cuisine, Pleasanton's Experience Burma has you covered. Dining family style is recommended-and the best way to sample multiple dishes-so grab some friends and dig into the pumpkin pork stew or lemon grass tofu. In Livermore, Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard's remarkable wine list is spotlighted by the multicourse tasting menu, which pairs Szechuan staples and vino.

If you prefer some action with your meal, try Da Boccery in Livermore. In addition to its menu featuring pizzas, sandwiches and salads, the eatery offers bocce courts, shuffleboard and axe throwing, among other games.

### **COMFORT FOOD**

Since opening in 2016, **Danville Harvest** has earned a lot of buzz-and deservedly so. Embracing the farm-to-table concept, the charming restaurant serves a delicious menu centered on seasonal ingredients.

Danville's Locanda Ravello embraces the Amalfi Coast with bright dishware and hearty pizzas and pastas. Superior service makes it even easier to savor the luxurious Italian fare.

### THE BIG MEAL

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

### THE CLASSICS

The Tri-Valley has its share of trusted favorites. Danville's **Faz** and **Bridges Restaurant & Bar** are perfect examples; these paragons provide elegant settings and spacious patios. But classic doesn't mean stuffy: Faz offers a Mediterranean medley of house-made pastas, smoked and spit-roasted meats, and fresh seafood. Bridges, which was featured as a location in the 1993 comedy *Mrs. Doubtfire*, has maintained its buzz-worthy status by fine-tuning its fresh California cuisine with Asian influences.

Pleasanton's 1950s steakhouse **Hap's Original** allows for dining in style and comfort. While steak is most definitely the focus here, with the finest dry-aged cuts of beef, the house-made sauces and dressings help elevate already scrumptious dishes.



### **WORLDLY WONDERS**

Authenticity can be tasted in every bite at 11th Tiger Thai Street Café in Danville. Offering a blend of street food from various parts of Thailand, the restaurant serves up an extensive yet enticing menu of noodles, curries, small bites, soups and more in an intimate space.

Get a taste of Jordan at Livermore's **Petra**. This family-owned eatery is excellent for those dipping their toes into Middle Eastern cuisine for the first time as well as more experienced eaters. The mansaf gets a special recommendation, and complimentary cardamom tea and pita shouldn't be skimped on either.

The family behind Pleasanton's **Korean Village** wants you to feel at home in their little village. With congenial service and lovingly cooked, authentic Korean meals like fish cake ramen and soft tofu soup, you'll likely find they've achieved their goal.

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

Cocina Hermanas' spacious patio on Danville's bustling Hartz Avenue is an ideal spot to sip a margarita while enjoying Mexican fare spiced with Northern California influences. Using traditional culinary techniques, Cocina Hermanas serves popular street food—think tacos, flautas and grilled corn on the cob—and family-style dishes made from local, sustainable ingredients.

Michelin-rated **Range Life** serves up its fare at a restored 1800s carriage house in Livermore that mixes urban and rustic sensibility in both food and atmosphere. The seasonally changing menu draws influences from diverse cuisines, and playful craft cocktails are an excellent way to round off an evening on the town.



### **HOT SPOTS**

Dublin's **Berevino Cucina & Wine Bar** specializes in old-world Italian cuisine and an extensive 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, Albatross serves meticulously crafted global cuisine. The food is complemented by the curated wine list and chic setting.

Tempting small plates, artisan cheese and charcuterie boards, and a variety of flatbreads (served on delicious bread from Salt Craft) complement the cocktails and an expansive rotating wine list at **Cellar Door** in Pleasanton.

Sabio on Main, with its delectable small plates and large bar, has become a go-to spot in Pleasanton. The global tapas menu is packed with delights, best when shared. For special occasions, the chef's menu and wine pairing make for an unforgettable experience.

### **MAKE WAY** FOR DUMPLINGS

There's nothing like a dumplingwhich can be found in countless shapes, sizes and styles–to satisfy one's craving for comfort food with an international twist. And the Tri-Valley offers numerous delicious versions of this fan favorite.

Start your journey at Pacific Pearl, which opened in 2018 on Pleasanton's Stoneridge Drive. King Wah Seafood Restaurant features a variety of dumplings on its dim sum menu, including a spinach trio. Dalian Club House also provides an intimate experience for savoring fresh, boiled dumplings, while Fiery Shanghai serves up memorable Shanghai style and chili oil flavors.

In Dublin, Mayflower Restaurant offers a considerable dim sum menu, and the pan-fried and steamed dumpling options-including shrimp, scallops and even sea bassare must-haves. Koi Palace at Ulferts Center was Dublin's original dim sum restaurant and serves a variety of dumpling types from northern China, including those with spinach, squid ink, beet and turmeric skins. 88 BaoBao shifted focus to noodles and steamed dumplings in 2018 and offers steamed leek, pork and shrimp dumplings, as well as pan-fried chicken and pork options. Golden Sand Harbor has a robust selection that includes everything from steamed har gow for shrimp lovers to dumplings filled with abalone and sea cucumber or scallop and tobiko.

Finish your dumpling adventure at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard in Livermore, and enjoy the signature steamed dim sum tray featuring dumplings as diverse as shumai, pea sprout and pumpkin (with sea scallops and wild shrimp).

## **CULINARY**EXCELLENCE

## THE TRI-VALLEY IS AN AWARD-WINNING DINING DESTINATION.

The region's exceptional restaurant scene has earned recognition at the national and even global level. Recent accolades include California Michelin Guide ratings for Sabio on Main in Pleasanton, Danville's Thai House Restaurant and Range Life in Livermore (the latter two received Bib Gourmand Distinctions).

Sabio on Main also received a *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence in 2021, as did Livermore's Posada and Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard.





### **MAIN MAN**

FRANCIS HOGAN, EXECUTIVE CHEF OF SABIO ON MAIN IN PLEASANTON, CREATES INNOVATIVE CUISINE BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF SUSTAINABLE, SEASONAL INGREDIENTS.

Chef Francis Hogan brings 25 years of culinary experience to his position as executive chef and partner of **Sabio on Main** in Pleasanton.

His career in the culinary arts began at the age of 15, when he convinced the owner of a neighborhood Italian restaurant to take a chance on an inexperienced teenager. Now a certified member of the Butcher's Guild, cheese specialist and Level 1-certified sommelier from the Court of Master Sommeliers, Hogan has traveled throughout Europe to hone his skills. Most recently, he studied in Valladolid, Spain, at the Escuela Cocina Fernando Perez, learning under the top Michelin-starred chefs of Castile and Leon. His food draws inspiration from seasonal ingredients and the bounty of farm-fresh provisions in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"The relationships I have with my farmers, ranchers and fishermen are the foundation of everything we do at Sabio," says Hogan. "Without their tireless dedication, we couldn't accomplish our goal of serving the best-quality, sustainable, seasonal ingredients in an innovative yet familiar style."

Prior to joining Sabio, Hogan helmed the kitchen of San Francisco's high-profile Bluestem Brasserie. While there, he was invited to create a dinner at the prestigious James Beard House in New York City. Additional credits include Farallon, Hawthorne Lane and Soluna Café & Lounge in San Francisco. Hogan was also the designer and proprietor of Zanzibar Blue and 1601 in his hometown of Philadelphia. Sabio currently holds a top rating (six links in the food chain) from Good Food 100 in recognition of its sustainable practices, making it one of the best-rated restaurants in the United States.

### THE ULTIMATE ICE CREAM TRAIL

### SAMPLE THE TREATS ON THE TRI-VALLEY'S SWEETEST TRAIL.

- > Start your tour at Danville's **Smallcakes**. While the worldwide cupcake chain is generally known for its, well, cupcakes, stores also make 10 flavors of small-batch ice cream daily. The scoops are often inspired by Smallcakes' famous *gateau* recipes, which means pairing cake and ice cream is more than possible—it's encouraged.
- > Head to Pleasanton and take soft serve to the next level at Somisomi Soft Serve and Taiyaki. The chain's signature offering is an Instagrammable Korean dessert known as ah-boong, a goldfish-shaped waffle cone stuffed with soft serve flavors such as horchata, banana and sesame; the cone comes topped with options that include taro, custard and red beans. Or try the taiyaki, a warm, fish-shaped waffle treat packed with the toppings listed above. For simplicity lovers, soft serve also comes by the cup.
- > The Pacific Pearl retail center in Pleasanton houses **Snowflake Dessert House**, whose specialties include rolled ice cream (flavors range from matcha supreme to roasted black sesame to strawberry sunshine) and meltingly good shaved ice. You'll also find sweet and savory crepes and a wide selection of tea and coffee beverages.
- > If you're in the mood for gelato, Café Crèmerie—located at the San Francisco Premium Outlets in Livermore—scoops up a variety of addictive flavors, including ube, nutella, green tea, pistachio, and toasted almond and fig. The cafe also offers tantalizing coffee drinks and baked treats such as brightly colored macarons.



## **TREAT**YOURSELF RIGHT



To satisfy a different kind of sweet tooth, make a detour to Livermore's Wingen Bakery and pick up a brown butter chocolate chip cookie or an apple cake. Savory fans might also want to try a bacon scone. For more decadent delicacies, look no further than Old Towne Danville Bakery, established in 1952. This long-standing spot does everything from cakes to cookies; around the holidays, keep an eye out for its special menus. Or head to premier Dublin bakery **Tous les Jours**, which serves up slices of cake that are so aesthetically pleasing that it's difficult to eat them. But not too difficult, because they taste even better than they look.

Take a drive to Pleasanton's iconic **Meadowlark Dairy**, California's first certified dairy. Founded in the early 1900s, the store is a nostalgic throwback to the days of local milk shops. Hit the drive-thru for a cone of their signature soft serve ice cream (which can reach half a foot tall).

# LIQUID ASSETS

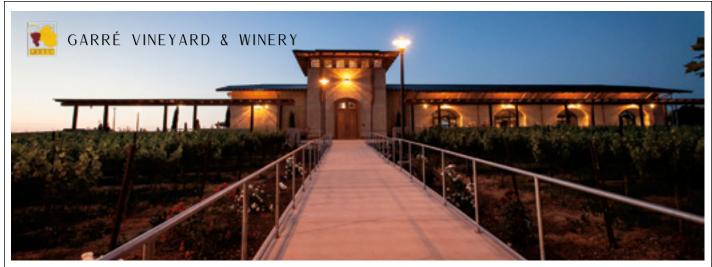
Whether part of an extensive local history or at the beginning of a new movement, the region's winemakers, brewers and spirit creators are at the top of their game.



## **GRAPE EXPECTATIONS**

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







Experience Garré Café Mediterranean inspired California cuisine will delight your senses and palate.

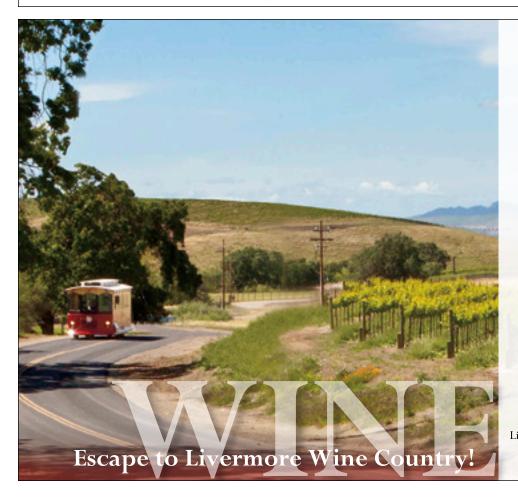


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### Liquid Assets / wine

### WINEMAKING EXPERIENCES

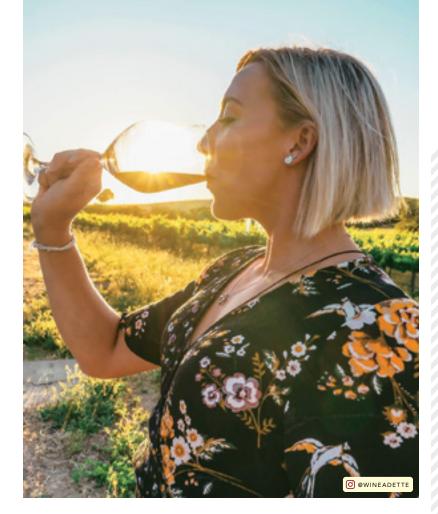
## TAKE A DEEPER DIVE INTO THE ART OF VINO CREATION.

Three Livermore wineries offer one-of-a-kind experiences for visitors that go well beyond a simple tasting.

Sip a selection of pours and savor a charcuterie or vegetarian plate during a seated premium wine tasting at Retzlaff Vineyards. The winery also offers samples of five exceptional wines during Cellar Master Wine Tastings. retzlaffvineyards.com

Las Positas Vineyards, in the southwest corner of the Livermore Valley, offers a vine and facility walk during its Sunday Estate Tour and Tasting Experience, led by a winery ambassador. laspositasvineyards.com

Concannon Vineyard hosts private tastings, including the Reserve Tasting Experience with a selection of six wines, and the Barrel Room Tasting Experience, featuring six wines from the Reserve and Heritage tier, along with a tour of the landmark estate and artisanal bites for purchase. concannonvineyard.com



### WINNER'S CIRCLE

### SOME OF THE MANY AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS EARNED BY LIVERMORE VALLEY WINES.

The wines of Livermore Valley have a long history of making their mark, starting with Cresta Blanca Winery taking the Grand Prix crown at the Paris Exposition in 1889. This was the first time a California wine bested French offerings at the competition—and Livermore wines have been earning accolades ever since.

The Livermore Valley brought home 153 awards from the 2021 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the largest competition of North American wines in the world. Local favorites Las Positas, Darcie Kent, Fenestra, Retzlaff and Wood Family all brought home Best of Class awards, and Livermore Valley AVA members earned multiple Double Gold awards as well.

### AMONG THE OTHER HONORS RECEIVED BY THE LIVERMORE VALLEY AVA:

- > Garré Vineyard and Winery earned a Best in Class Sweepstakes in the Sunset International Wine Competition for its cabernet franc.
- > Nella Terra Cellars was named a *Wine Enthusiast* Editors' Choice for its pinot noir.
- > Las Positas Vineyards received 92 points from *Forbes* for its cabernet sauvignon.
- > And then there is noted wine critic Steve Heimoff (*Wine Spectator*) singing the praises of **Steven Kent Winery** in 2020, awarding 100 points to The Premier cabernet sauvignon and Lineage wines.



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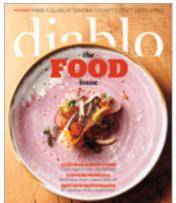
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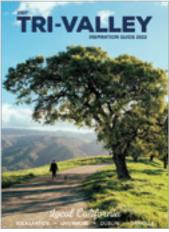
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# **LABEL OF LOVE**

# LONGEVITY WINES' PHIL LONG IS A VOICE FOR DIVERSITY IN THE WINE INDUSTRY.

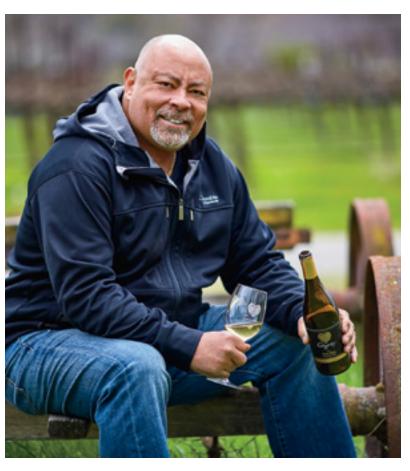
Livermore Valley winemaker **Phil Long** is the president of the Association of African American Vintners (AAAV) and the founder of Longevity Wines, a brand based on his love affair with his late wife, Debra.

The husband-and-wife team was focused on offering inclusive wine experiences until Debra lost her battle with pancreatic cancer in 2019. Phil personally designed the delicate heart logo on the Longevity Wines bottles, then had it tattooed on his forearm before she died so that she will always be with him.

Like many people of color in the wine industry today, Long had no idea that winemaking could be a career option when he was younger. Born in Washington, D.C., Long grew up in Southern California and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in architecture. He built a successful career in packaging and store display design before becoming a winemaker.

Starting with the first syrah he created with Debra in their garage in 2002, Long has continually challenged himself to make the best wines possible. He passed that diligence on to his son, Phil Long Jr., who now serves as Longevity's assistant winemaker.

Longevity was named Livermore Valley's Winery of the Year just a few days before Debra died and is now one of the largest brands in Livermore Valley thanks to a partnership with Bronco Wine Company. As president of the AAAV (aaavintners.org), Long is devoted to elevating awareness of African Americans in the wine industry and paving paths to wine careers for all minorities.



# SHIP WHAT YOU SIP-FOR FREE!



Thanks to the program Wine Ships Free, guests staying at participating Tri-Valley hotels get the wine they want shipped directly from participating wineries—without the extra costs of shipping and handling. Here's why this deal is a no-brainer.

You'll save money! With Wine Ships Free, you don't have to worry about the extra shipping fees. Simply email your receipt and proof of your hotel stay to wineshipsfree@visit trivalley.com, and the costs will be reimbursed.

Take home some of the best wine in the world from our award-winning wineries, including Concannon, Wente, Nottingham Cellars and more. VisitTriValley. com/wine-ships-free

# A GUIDE TO HOPPINESS

From Danville to Livermore, the 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.









## **DINING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

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

- > Beer Baron Bar & Kitchen / The Pleasanton location offers delicious lunch and dinner (plus brunch on the weekends), while the Livermore spot has a cool speakeasy vibe that's perfect for date night. Enjoy its rotation of 20-plus craft beers along with cocktails, and pair with a selection of mac and cheese dishes (options include Hot Cheeto buffalo chicken). beerbaronbar.com
- > BottleTaps / BottleTaps is more than just a craft-brew taproom; it's a beer education center. Run by Eric Wall, the only certified beer judge in Pleasanton, this upscale joint offers a variety of to-go beers in its retail coolers, from the well-known to the more obscure but still delicious, that will pair nicely with tasty tapas. bottletaps.com

\_\_\_\_\_

- > First Street Alehouse / This Livermore alehouse is the locals' go-to spot for drinking and dining, with a tempting array of sandwiches and burgers and 28 rotating beers on tap. Admire the wall of 6,000 rare beer cans, the country's largest public collection. firststreetalehouse.com
- > The Growler / Featuring 20 rotating taps of local craft brews, this Danville bar and restaurant specializes in mouthwatering burgers, with meat supplied by famed butcher Pat LaFrieda. For beer on the go, browse the impressive on-site bottle shop for great picks. growlerpubdanville.com

- > Hop DeVine Craft Beer & Wine / With some 20 beers on tap and a menu of delicious crowd-pleasers (think juicy burgers, hearty sandwiches, and fish and chips), Livermore's Hop DeVine is the perfect place for a casual bite in a friendly atmosphere. hopdevine.net
- > The Hop Yard American Alehouse & Grill / 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 in Pleasanton. hopyard.com
- > World of Beer / Check out Dublin's World of Beer for a rotating list of domestic beers, along with brews from around the globe. Pair your drink with wings, nachos or international dishes such as bibimbap or a giant Bavarian pretzel. worldofbeer.com

## **BEER PIONEER**

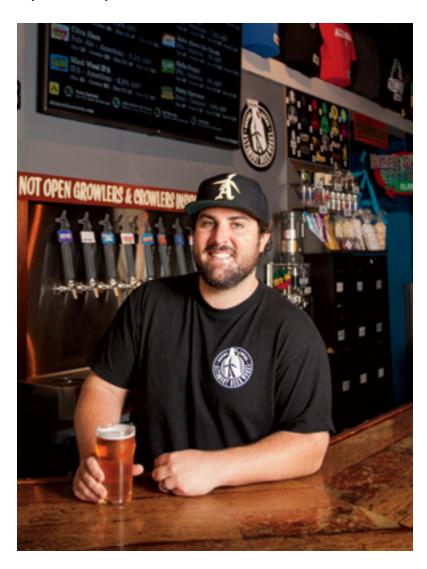
#### HOW STEVE SARTORI BROUGHT CRAFT BEER BACK TO THE TRI-VALLEY.

Steve Sartori, brewer and founder of Altamont Beer Works, says that his journey to creating Altamont started when the economy tanked. Prior to the financial troubles that affected the U.S. in 2008, Sartori had been the manager of a wakeboard shop in Tahoe, but when the recession hit, he headed home to Livermore to work for the decades-old family trucking business.

"When I came back," Sartori explains, "I said, 'We have all these wineries; why don't we have a brewery?"

Sartori certainly fixed that in 2012, bringing Livermore its first brewery since Prohibition and paving the way for a local craft beer renaissance. It wasn't easy-90% of Altamont was hand-built by the Altamont team, with no outside contracting. "It was really a labor of love," says Sartori.

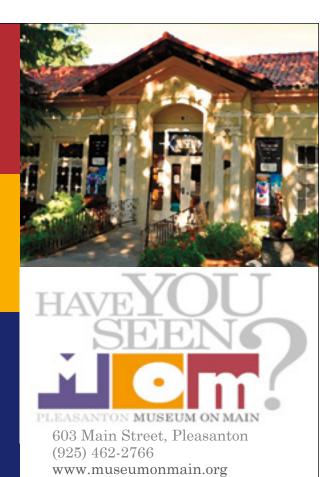
With its laid-back vibe and clean, flavorful beers, Altamont made a strong first impression on Tri-Valley natives and visitors new to the beer scene. In fact, the impression was so strong that the brewery expanded into the space beside its original taproom in 2018. The hashtag accompanying the Instagram announcement post seems nearly prophetic: #ifyoubuildittheywillcome.



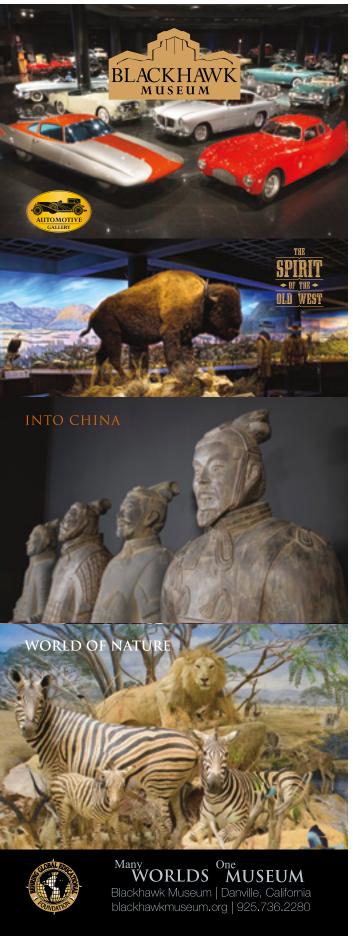
## WHAT'S BREWING

#### **DISCOVER EXCITING BEERS AT** THESE MICROBREWERIES.

- > Altamont Beer Works / Livermore's long-standing microbrewery jump-started the city's beer scene. Try the light How We Feeling IPA, or go extreme with Hella Hoppy. altamontbeerworks.com
- > Danville Brewing Co. / Danville Brewing Co. cooks up delicious pub eats to pair with house beers, canned brews, craft cocktails and wines. danvillebrewing.com
- > Homegrown Hops / Located among the valley's famed wineries, this Livermore original includes bocce courts, cornhole and picnic tables. homegrownhopsbeer.com
- > INC 82 Brewing / This Dublin hot spot pays homage to local history in its decor and moniker (the city was incorporated in 1982), as well as serving craft beers and pub grub. inc82.com
- > Main Street Brewery / Grab a pint at this Pleasanton favorite that promises multiple house beers along with a dozen rotating guest taps. facebook.com/mainstbrewery
- > Pennyweight Craft Brewing / This popular Livermore gastropub offers exciting house brews along with a rotating guest selection. pennyweightbrew.com
- > Rivers End Brewing Company / Freshness is the name of the game at this brewery in Livermore that crafts small-batch suds. riversendbrewing.beer
- > Shadow Puppet Brewing Company / This Livermore brewery creates unique tastes using traditional techniques and uncommon ingredients. shadowpuppetbrewing.com







# Hit the Trails

# WIN AWESOME PRIZES



## TRI-VALLEY CAFFEINE TRAIL



RISE AND GRIND, CAFFEINE LOVERS! The Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail is a unique collection of cafes, coffee-houses and tearooms, each with its own special set of peps and perks. Sip on craft coffee creations, sweet

boba tea and steamy artisanal

teas as you explore the most creative caffeine connoisseurs of the Tri-Valley. Visit five participating coffee shops on the Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail and we'll send you a Tri-Valley mug to use at home!





# TRI-VALLEY ICE CREAM TRAIL



HERE'S THE SCOOP! Taste your way through the Tri-Valley with your choice of soft serve, sundaes, gelato, ice cream sandwiches and more from our

collection of local ice creameries. Visit five participating stops on the trail to win your very own ice cream scooper to use at home. Here on the sunny side of the bay, the Tri-Valley Ice Cream Trail is one of the tastiest ways to satisfy your sweet tooth.





## TRI-VALLEY BEER TRAIL



#### DRINK LOCAL BEER AND SCORE SOME SWAG!

The Tri-Valley Beer Trail is a curated collection of exclusive deals and discounts from the best breweries, alehouses and taprooms in the Tri-Valley. Our mobile-friendly passport is available on any device

with no purchase required. Check in at 10 participating stops to win beer swag or go the extra mile and visit every stop on the trail to win a 64-ounce growler!





# WAKE-UP CALL

#### **ENERGIZE YOUR DAY WITH A JAUNT ALONG THE TRI-VALLEY CAFFEINE TRAIL.**

If your ideal way to start the morning-or finish up the afternoon-is with a strong cup of coffee, the Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail is for you. Check out the list of participating coffee shops and upload photos from five stops at VisitTriValley.com to earn a Tri-Valley mug-in addition to enjoying delicious snacks, savory teas or the perfect cup of joe along the trail. Here are five not-to-be-missed cafes.

- > Basque Boulangerie Cafe / Danville's Basque Boulangerie serves up breakfast, lunch and dinner in an old-world French bakery atmosphere. An outpost of the Basque Boulangerie in Sonoma, this cafe-located in the historic Danville Hotel-is known for artisanal breads, pastries and more.
- **> Boba Bliss /** Dublin's Boba Bliss uses high-quality Stumptown coffee beans and organic tea to create its beverages. With ingredients such as honey boba and lychee jelly, its drinks are palate-pleasers. While in Dublin, check out Tea Heart's delicious bubble teas, which contain tea, milk, sugar (optional) and toppings such as tapioca balls, popping boba and fruit jelly.
- > Rosetta Roasting / "Great coffee runs in our blood," claim the proprietors of Livermore-based Rosetta Roasting, and their handcrafted, high-quality coffee drinks prove it's true. Not only does the cafe offer flavor-packed beverages made with time-tested techniques, but it's also the place to find creative "latte art" gracing your cup.
- > The Press / At the ever-popular Press (with locations in Livermore and Pleasanton), you'll find meticulously crafted paninis, salads and more, all made with fresh, seasonal and organic ingredients. The extensive drinks menu offers a wide variety of excellent coffees, teas and lemonades.

# Liquid Assets / CAFFEINE

## HIT THE TRAIL

#### MORE WAYS TO EXPLORE THE TRI-VALLEY'S CAFFEINATED CULTURE.

#### **DANVILLE**

- > Medleno Coffee
- > Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen and Coffee Bar
- > Starbucks Reserve

#### **DUBLIN**

- > AJ's Coffee
- > Amazing Basil & A Cup Of
- > Cafe Tapioca

#### **LIVERMORE**

- > Panama Bay Coffee Co.
- > The Steam House Coffee & Kava Bar
- > Story Coffee

#### **PLEASANTON**

- > Honey Tea
- > Inklings Coffee & Tea





Scan this code to see more about the Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail.

# TIME

# O U T

The Tri-Valley's wealth of recreational activities (with everything from golf to mountain biking), plus its variety of retail outlets and multitude of choices for culture (and car) lovers, make staying inside not only silly, but a crime against nature.



# **GET A MOVE ON**

The Tri-Valley promises exceptional landscapes and recreational opportunities for every skill level. Whether you travel by bike, golf cart or your own two feet, head to the great outdoors to explore the region's natural wonders.



## **TRI-VALLEY: 3 WAYS**

#### 1. THE COUCH POTATO (EASY)

At Livermore's Lake Del Valle—the focal point of **Del Valle Regional Park** and an angler's delight—you can reel in trout, striped bass and catfish, or just contemplate the water, sky and hills. Rent a canoe or motorboat for fishing, or cast from shore—just make sure to get a fishing permit from the park. <code>ebparks.org/parks/del\_valle</code>

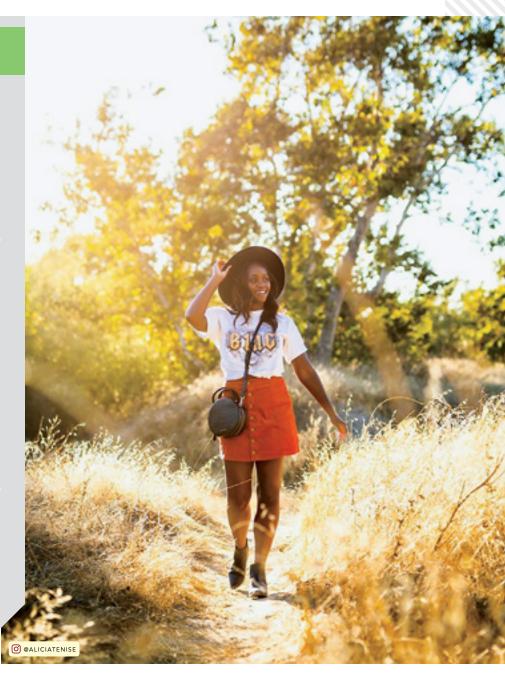
# 2. THE WEEKEND WARRIOR (MODERATE)

The views from atop **Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park** are breathtaking—literally. The hike 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. The Castleridge trailhead allows for exploration of the northern ridgeline of the park—after a steep climb, of course. *ebparks.org/parks/Pleasanton* 

For those who prefer aquatic activities, you can skim over **Lake Del Valle** on a rented stand-up paddleboard (from \$20). outbackadventures.com

#### 3. THE SUPERMAN (CHALLENGING)

Hike to the scenic summit of **Mount Diablo** for a pulse-quickening workout.
Start at Curry Point in Blackhawk and take the Curry Canyon Trail for a strenuous 5.4-mile hike that provides magnificent views of the Tri-Valley the whole way. parks.ca.gov/mountdiablo







# **GREAT GREENS**

#### GET YOUR GAME ON AT DISTINCTIVE TRI-VALLEY GOLF COURSES.

If you are looking for a round with a view, it's hard to beat **The Course at Wente Vineyards** in Livermore. Grapevines and oak-dotted hills flank the Greg Norman–designed course, where golfers encounter plenty of challenges and thrills. Overlooking the tricky 18th hole, The Grill offers a casual menu and full bar. *wentevineyards.com/course* 

For more great risk/reward play, head to the back nine at Pleasanton's **Callippe Preserve Golf Course**. The greens are complex, so be sure to reward yourself with a visit to the Vista Restaurant, which offers sandwiches, burgers and a view of the surrounding nature preserve. *playcallippe.com* 

Rees Jones designed the gorgeous **Poppy Ridge** on 3,000 acres in Livermore, with three nine-hole courses that demand the best from players. Afterward, take in the scenery over lunch at The Grill. *poppyridgegolf.com* 

The nine-hole course at **Pleasanton Golf Course**, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, is suited to all abilities and budgets. Perfect your swing at the facility's nearby driving range and recharge at the clubhouse, which serves salads, sandwiches and beverages. *pleasantongolfcenter.com* 

With nine- and 18-hole options, **Las Positas Golf Course** in Livermore offers both challenge and fun. Its signature hole nine is a dogleg left par 4 measuring 427 yards. Raise a glass after the game at the course's lively and family-oriented Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill. *laspositasgolfcourse.com* 

With lots of par 3s, **Dublin Ranch Golf Course** is a shorter course that is long on interest, offering a few surprises as well as great wraparound views. At the course's snack bar, order burgers, sandwiches, nibbles and a selection of beverages. *dublinranchgolf.com* 

# LIFE CYCLE

# ENJOY THE AREA'S RUSTIC BEAUTY 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. Great for a leisurely trip, the route connects directly to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

#### **DEL VALLE REGIONAL PARK**

For spectacular lakeside vistas and trails of varying difficulty, head to Del Valle Regional Park. Try the outand-back ride along the east side of the lake for a route with challenging climbs and exhilarating dips.

#### MOUNT DIABLO STATE PARK

For off-road enthusiasts, Mount Diablo State Park offers a handful of mountain biking trails, featuring steep hills, thrilling descents and the Diablo sunflower—a rare indigenous plant. Make sure to visit Rock City and the wind caves!

Check out VisitTriValley.com for self-guided bike routes and information on bike rentals.



# LIVE AND LEARN

These museums and education centers will spark a sense of wonder about the past, present and future.

#### **BLACKHAWK MUSEUM**

The main event at this Danville establishment is a rotating fleet of iconic cars, including a 1963 Ford Thunderbird concept car, 1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III Sedanca DeVille and 1932 Duesenberg Model J Dual Cowl Phaeton. Other sections spotlight the spirit of the Old West, China's rich history and African art. The latest addition, World of Nature, focuses on the planet's diverse species and ecosystems. *blackhawkmuseum.org* 

#### **MUSEUM ON MAIN**

Delve into Pleasanton's history with artifacts and images of the Ohlone people, Spanish and Anglo settlers, World War II's expanding population, and today's dwellers. Rotating exhibitions add layers of historical depth, while a kids' corner provides hands-on activities. *museumonmain.org* 

#### **EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

Eugene O'Neill, the only American playwright to win a Nobel Prize, reached the peak of his powers at Danville's Tao House, which he built on

158 bucolic acres in 1937, and where he lived through 1944. Here, he wrote Long Day's Journey into Night and The Iceman Cometh, among other masterworks. Combining elements of Asian and Spanish design, Tao House is now a museum where you can view O'Neill's desk, manuscripts and photos; in September, the Eugene O'Neill Festival showcases live performances. nps.gov/euon, eugeneoneill.org

#### **MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY**

Visitors to this restored 1891 Danville train depot can explore the lives of early Native Americans, Gold Rush settlers and their successors. *museumsrv.org* 





Above: Danville resident Eugene O'Neill with his dog, Blemie, in 1931. Right: Learn about local history at the Museum on Main in Pleasanton.



#### LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY DISCOVERY CENTER

The Discovery Center introduces kids and adults to the inner workings of the famed Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The new Virtual Discovery Center offers remote tours of the lab's National Ignition Facility and National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center. llnl.gov/community/discovery-center

#### **DUBLIN CAMP PARKS MILITARY HISTORY CENTER**

This museum-quality history center offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the Camp Parks military base-established during World War IIwhich helped transform Dublin from a rural community into the dynamic city it is today. dublin.ca.gov/1916

#### **DUBLIN HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUMS**

Clustered on 10 acres, a Craftsman house, a simple white church, a schoolhouse and a cemetery tell the story of the Tri-Valley in the 1800s and early 1900s. In the school, interactive exhibits reflect the region's history, and a playhouse allows for make-believe. Self-guided tours of the house provide insights into Dublin's agricultural history. dublin.ca.gov/269

# **CAR TALK**

#### CELEBRATING CLASSIC RIDES IN THE TRI-VALLEY.

#### **GOODGUYS ROD & CUSTOM ASSOCIATION**

At Pleasanton's Alameda County Fairgrounds, the Goodguys Custom & Rod Association presents three Get-Togethers and the West Coast Nationals during the year. More than 3.000 hot rods, custom cars and muscle cars are on hand, along with lowrider displays, award contests and a kids' zone. good-guys.com

#### **CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE**

A parade of vintage cars rolls into Danville in September for the Concours d'Elegance, a gathering that raises funds for Parkinson's disease research and patient care. Spectators can goggle at the over-the-top vehicles, including race cars, sports cars, antique vehicles, and even a handful of boats, motorcycles and vintage trailers. danville-delegance.org

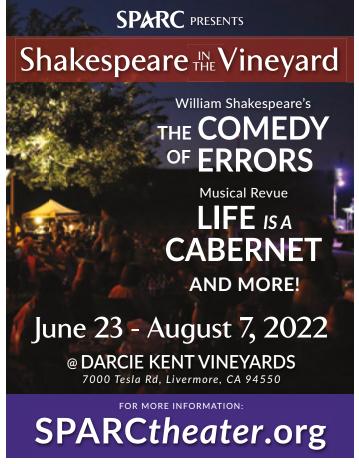
#### **HOT SUMMER SUNDAYS HOT ROD AND CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

On one Sunday in both July and August, Danville welcomes the Hot Summer Sundays car show. Hundreds of classic cars and cool hot rods pull into town for this fun community event. dhsscs.com











The Bankhead Theater hosts a wealth of cultural acts, including singer and actress Vanessa Williams.

The stage is set in the Tri-Valley, with a rich performing arts scene that includes theater, comedy, music, dance and more.

#### **ONSTAGE AND ON VIEW**

The **Bankhead Theater for Performing Arts** brings some 40 to 60 touring artists to Livermore each year. The lineup includes dance troupes, Grammy-winning singers, comedians and other performers. The **Bothwell Arts Center** also showcases free, themed art exhibitions. *livermorearts.org* 

The **Village Theatre** in Danville presents classic plays with contemporary overtones (think Arthur Miller and George Orwell), as well as music and children's theater. *danville.ca.gov/226/Village-Theatre* 

\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Pleasanton, the intimate **Firehouse Arts Center** spotlights musicals and comedy, as well as jazz, folk and other music genres, from both big names and local stars. The Firehouse hosts Museum on Main's popular speaker series. Visitors shouldn't miss the **Harrington Gallery**, which typically features seven group exhibitions per year from local and regional artists. *firehousearts.org* 

#### **AT THE WINERIES**

The play's always the thing at the summertime Shakespeare in the Vineyard program from the **Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company**; capping an evening of Shakespearean comedy with a glass of chardonnay at Darcie Kent Vineyards is a not-to-be-missed experience. Be sure to check out what's happening at **Wood Family Vineyards**, which presents regular musical events such as Acoustic Wednesdays and Fun Fridays. *sparctheater.org*, *woodfamilyvineyards.com*. Find out about more events at *VisitTriValley.com*.

Its comedy program puts the "laff" in Retzlaff Vineyards. Fans can picnic and watch the Livermore winery's **Comedy Uncorked** summer shows; musical buffs come for a concert calendar that extends through the fall. comedyuncorked.com, retzlaffvineyards.com

#### AT THE MOVIES

Dinner and a movie is usually a two-step process. But Livermore's **Vine Cinema & Alehouse** combines the outings, making it one of the best date-night spots in the Tri-Valley. The theater screens first-run, classic and indie films, while moviegoers pair local craft beers and wine with pizza, chicken strips and other nibbles. *vinecinema.com* 

#### AT THE PARK

Enjoy the free summer concert series on Thursday evenings at Dublin's beautiful **Emerald Glen Park**. Bonus: You can pick up dinner and other seasonal treats at the Dublin Farmers' Market. *dublin.ca.gov/*1917

# **SHOP TALK**

From high-end outlets to malls to charming boutiques, the area offers many opportunities for retail therapy.

ith 180 stores, **San Francisco Premium Outlets**, located in Livermore, takes some time to navigate. But when exploring, savvy shoppers can find great deals on luxury lines. Options run from the trendy (Rag & Bone) to traditional (Brooks Brothers), upscale (Armani) to basic (Gap Factory). And though the majority of shops lean high end, popular bargain spots rub elbows with the grander brands.

Gems like Kate Spade supply color and sophistication in women's accessories and jewelry: From playful purses to signature watches, the store provides a multitude of quirky options. Just a few steps away is Burberry, where beautifully tailored coats line the walls and an array of handbags shows off the brand's iconic tartan. At Gucci, the glam factor is evident in everything from ready-to-wear apparel to accessories.

Do your tastes tend toward expensive footwear? Then walk this way. Purchase a sweet pair of Jimmy Choos and strut down the street like it's your personal runway. Or go for the eye-catching designs in bold colors at the Prada outlet.

If shopping whets your appetite, the outlets host 16 food-providing shops, from Johnny Rockets and Chipotle to Chicken Now and Green Leaf's. But for a more exotic break, head across the street to the Pacific Pearl shopping center. This area boasts 21 restaurants, many with an Asian-cuisine focus. Notable are Japanese chain Kura, which serves dozens of different sushi rolls on a revolving belt, and Fiery Shanghai, which promises to light up your taste buds with Szechuan and Shanghai cuisine. premiumoutlets.com/outlet/san-francisco

Check out VisitTriValley.com for our shopping trail at the outlets!





## **GETTING THE GOODS**

# STROLL THE STREETS FOR ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS OR BIG-NAME BRANDS.

- > Hartz Avenue cuts through historic downtown Danville with a wealth of charming shops. Even if you don't have much of a sweet tooth, Sweet Street is worth a visit for the eye candy alone. Whim House spotlights a charming selection of contemporary home goods. And after getting expert advice on running shoes at Forward Motion Sports, you'll be inspired to join the locally famous Wednesday Night Run.
- > Main Street in downtown Pleasanton is a treasure trove of singular boutiques. Check out Primm and neighboring Primm Pop, which specialize in boho-chic clothing for women and children. Therapy stocks funky, stylish home goods and gifts, as well as ultracool accessories. Stop by the resident locally owned general bookstore, Towne Center Books, for literary needs.
- > Dublin's Hacienda Crossings is anchored by a giant Regal Cinemas building with multiple screens, including an IMAX. Hit the larger stores like Old Navy and Barnes & Noble, then head to a restaurant (such as Kobe Pho & Grill) before capping off your outing at the movies.
- > First Street in Livermore is all about local boutiques, stocked with items locals love. Don't miss the Olive Oil Pantry and Tasting Room, which is a great place to sample top-quality infused olive oils and balsamic vinegars in a wide variety of flavors. Pop into First Street Wine Company to taste and purchase vino from the Livermore Valley wine region.

# **FIVE REASONS**

WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT THE STONERIDGE SHOPPING CENTER IN PLEASANTON.

# 1. YOU LOVE CULT BEAUTY BRANDS

Sustainability-minded Canadian cosmetics maker Lush expanded its space in the mall.

# 2. SHOPPING MAKES YOU HUNGRY

Staples like the Cheesecake Factory, California Pizza Kitchen and P.F. Chang's are always good choices for a meal in between serious shopping, but check out Go Fish Poke Bar as well for elevated poke bowls and vegan and gluten-free options. If you happen to be shopping on a Friday, head out to the parking lot to choose from some of the Bay Area's best food trucks.

# 3. THE KIDS WOULD RATHER BE PLAYING

You'll find Lego Store, Game Stop and Build-A-Bear.

# 4. YOU'RE ALL ABOUT INTERNATIONAL FASHION

Zara, one of the globe's largest fashion companies, is a big draw at Stoneridge.

#### 5. YOU'RE INTO APPLE, LULULEMON AND MACY'S

Check, check and check.



# IN GOOD COMPANY

From blissful weddings to family reunions to business conferences, the Tri-Valley is the ideal location for special events. Keep that convivial vibe going with spa experiences, wine and beer tastings, golf outings and other recreational adventures that can turn a one-day happening into a fun-filled trip that inspires memories that last a lifetime.





## TAKE A BREATHER

# RELAX AND REJUVENATE WITH A WEEKEND OF SHOPPING, SPA TREATMENTS AND A SAMPLE OF LIVERMORE VALLEY'S FINE WINES.

- > Skip Starbucks and head straight to **Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen** and **Coffee Bar** in Danville for a potent cup of joe. Coffee not your speed? Don't worry: They've got mimosas, bellinis and spicy bloody marys, too. Indulge in puffy beignets or maple whipped cream-topped French toast while planning your itinerary on the sunny patio or in the eclectic dining area—complete with a sideboard, of course. *itsonthesideboard.com*
- > Dive into the world of retail at the **San Francisco Premium Outlets** located in Livermore—the largest outlet center in California. For small-shop style, head to Main Street in Pleasanton or Prospect Avenue in Danville, where local fashionista faves such as **Primm Boutique** and **Flaunt Boutique** will help you keep on trend. *premiumoutlets.com/outlet/san-francisco*, iloveprim.com, shopflaunt.com
- > Say goodbye to stress and hello to the calming wonders of **The Purple**Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa in Livermore. Get revitalized
  with a bliss-inspiring relaxation massage or the spa's Ashiatsu Deep
  Feet Bar Therapy treatment, a luxurious 50-minute experience that
  combines Swedish oil massage with deep pressure from the therapist's
  feet. purpleorchid.com

- > Need to "wine" down? Take in the scenery at one of the numerous beautiful wineries in Livermore Valley Wine Country, where tasting flights await. For a tour of the region, reserve a spot on 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 strokeby-stroke instruction, with a paintbrush in one hand and a glass of sauv blanc in the other. pinotspalette.com/danville
- > If your relaxing day has left you craving a little night music, head to the enormous outdoor backyard at Barone's Restaurant & Garden in Pleasanton for live bands most Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Stiff cocktails; a festive, light-strung patio; and a variety of musical stylings await. baronespleasanton.com



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## SEE THE SITES

# PLAN YOUR SPECIAL EVENT AT THESE TOP VENUES.

# CRESTA BLANCA EVENT CENTER & TERRACE LAWN AT WENTE VINEYARDS

Wente's Spanish-style Cresta Blanca building offers a dramatic setting while the Terrace Lawn makes for an enchanting outdoor location.

# THE PURPLE ORCHID WINE COUNTRY RESORT & SPA

Say your vows with the olive orchard and California sunset behind you, then adjourn to the banquet hall for dancing and dining after dark.

# CASA REAL AT RUBY HILL WINERY OR PALM EVENT CENTER IN THE VINEYARD

With outdoor and indoor options of all sizes, these two properties operated by Beets Hospitality Group have the perfect location for any party or corporate happening.

#### **BELLA ROSA AT GARRÉ WINERY**

The state-of-the-art facility still manages an old-world charm, and the grounds are just as impressive as the chandelier-decked interior.

# RIOS-LOVELL, RETZLAFF OR CROOKED VINE WINERIES

These family-owned wineries provide unique event spaces, including Rios-Lovell's White Wedding Gazebo, Retzlaff's tree-lined walk and Crooked Vine's Barrel Room.

#### **MURRIETA'S WELL**

This is one of the state's original wine estates. The stellar food and service will make your gathering perfect.

#### **REINSTEIN RANCH**

Give your festive occasion a real Western vibe. The antiquated barn adds intimacy to wedding ceremonies, and the grassy fields are a lovely setting for pictures.



# **GROUP DYNAMICS**

WHETHER YOU WANT A NIGHT OUT WITH FRIENDS OR A TEAM-BUILDING OUTING, THE TRI-VALLEY IS READY TO PROVIDE.

- > Play a round at one of the Tri-Valley's 14 lovely golf courses. Wager a bet at **The Course at Wente Vineyards**—designed by Greg Norman—or flex your mastery on the notorious par-5 No. 18 at **Callippe Preserve Golf Course** in Pleasanton. wentevineyards.com/course, playcallippe.com
- > Fuel up for your adventures with legit barbecue at **Sauced BBQ & Spirits** in Livermore. Go for the nachos, a Hyphy Heifer 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 the whiskey of the day or a mango jalapeno mule. *saucedbbgandspirits.com*
- > Auto enthusiasts will find a collection of treasures at the **Blackhawk Museum**. You don't have to be car crazy to Instagram the "rolling sculptures" for instant social media approval. *blackhawkmuseum.org*
- > Grab some buddies and hit the Tri-Valley Beer Trail. Check in at 10 of the 19 stops with your passport and earn free stuff. Keep the party going at Altamont Beer Works in Livermore, Main Street Brewery in Pleasanton, Three Sheets in Dublin or The Growler in Danville. altamontbeerworks.com, mainstbrewery.com, threesheetscraftbeer.com, growlerpubdanville.com
- > Work off some energy by pedaling to the top of **Mount Diablo State Park** to soak in views of the Sierra Nevada, Lassen Peak and, on a clear day, Yosemite's Half 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 beer and bites
  are more your vibe, pull up a stool at **World of Beer** in Dublin for
  a deeply satisfying lunch, dinner or "beerunch" (or, beer brunch).
  hapsoriginal.com, worldofbeer.com



# **DOG** DAYS

#### **EXPLORE THE TRI-VALLEY WITH YOUR FURRY FRIEND AT** THESE WELCOMING DESTINATIONS.

#### **WINERIES**

LIVERMORE 3 Steves Winery Bent Creek Winery BoaVentura de Caires Winery **Bodegas Aguirre** Winery & Vineyards Caddis Wines Cedar Mountain Winery Charles R Vineyards Concannon Vineyard Crooked Vine & Stony Ridge Winery Cuda Ridge Wines Da Boccery Dante Robere Vineyards Darcie Kent Vinevards Eagle Ridge Vineyard El Sol Winery Fenestra Winery First Street Wine Company Garré Vineyard & Winery Las Positas Vineyards Longevity Wines McGrail Vineyards Mia Nipote Wines Mitchell Katz Winery Murrieta's Well Estate Vineyard Nottingham Cellars Occasio Winery Omega Road Winery

Rosa Fierro Cellars San Francisco **Bay Winery** The Singing Winemaker The Steven Kent Winery Tenuta Vineyards Wente Vineyards Wood Family Vineyards

#### **PLEASANTON**

The Cellar Door Rubino Estates Ruby Hill Winery

#### **BREWERIES/PUBS**

#### DANVILLE

Danville Brewing Co. The Growler

#### DUBLIN

INC 82 Brewing Three Sheets Craft Beer Bar

#### LIVERMORE

Altamont Beer Works First Street Alehouse Homegrown Hops Brewing Company Hop DeVine Craft Beer & Wine Pennyweight Craft Brewing Company Rivers End Brewing Sauced BBQ & Spirits

#### **PLEASANTON**

Beer Baron Bar & Kitchen **BottleTaps** The Hop Yard American Alehouse & Grill Main Street Brewery McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden



#### **RESTAURANTS**

Amici's East Coast

#### DANVILLE

Pizzeria

Blue Gingko Blue Line Pizza Esin Restaurant & Bar Faz Forbes Mill Steakhouse Garlex Pizzeria & Pub The Great Impasta Incontro Ristorante Locanda Ravello Los Panchos Restaurant Mangia Mi Gourmet Italian Kitchen & Bar Norm's Place The Peasant & The Pear

#### **DUBLIN**

Piatti

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria Armadillo Willy's BBQ Berevino Cucina & Wine Bar Coco Cabana Denica's Real Food Kitchen

Primo's Pizzeria & Pub

#### LIVERMORE

Bar Tatami at Parkwest Casino 580 Beeb's Sports Bar and Grill Casa Orozco Da Boccery Demitri's Taverna Garré Café Patxi's Pizza Posada The Riata Diner & Tavern Sansar Indian Restaurant Sauced BBQ & Spirits Simply Fondue Strings Italian Café Terra Mia Italian Restaurant Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard Zephyr Grill & Bar

#### **PLEASANTON**

Barone's Restaurant & Garden **Gay Nineties** Pizza Co. Gotta Eatta Pita Fresh Mediterranean Porky's Pizza Palace

The Press Sabio on Main SideTrack Bar + Grill Strizzi's Restaurant Vic's All Star Kitchen

#### HOTELS

#### DANVILLE

Best Western Danville Sycamore Inn

#### DUBLIN

Aloft Dublin-Pleasanton Extended Stay America Dublin-Hacienda Drive Holiday Inn **Dublin-Pleasanton** 

Residence Inn Livermore SenS Suites Livermore Springtown Inn Studio Inn

#### **PLEASANTON**

Best Western Plus Pleasanton Inn DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pleasanton at the Club Extended Stay America Pleasanton-Chabot Drive Hyatt House Pleasanton Larkspur Landing Pleasanton



Hyatt Place Dublin/Pleasanton La Quinta Inn & Suites

#### LIVERMORE

Extended Stay America Livermore Holiday Inn Express & Suites Livermore Home2 Suites by Hilton Livermore Homewood Suites by Hilton Livermore La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Livermore Motel 6 Livermore

Motel 6 Pleasanton Pleasanton Marriott Residence Inn Pleasanton Tri Valley Inn & Suites



Scan this code to see more info about dog-friendly sites.



For a full list of dog-friendly locations, go to VisitTriValley. com/dog-friendly-locations.

Page Mill Winery

Retzlaff Vineyards

Rios-Lovell Estate

Winery

# WHERE TO EAT

#### DANVILLE

Albatross The plate presentations at Albatross are highly refined; the flavors, worldly; the decor, sophisticated. Yet the vibe is relaxed and convivial. Grilled octopus arrives with baby potatoes. Kampachi is lightly cured and served ceviche-style with winter citrus. And lamb ragù lands in Persia with a crispy saffron rice cake and preserved peppers. Even our dessert was extraordinary: a perfectly poached pear served with silky caramelized white chocolate. 312 Railroad Ave., 925.718.5445, albatrossdanville.com. Brunch Sat.-Sun., dinner Tues.-Sun. **▼® \$\$\$\$** 

Basque Boulangerie Café This cafe shines particularly bright at breakfast, when rich, bakedfrom-scratch French toast and bread pudding demand an extra shot of espresso in your latte or a second cup of coffee from the array of self-serve choices. A modest beer and wine list add intrigue at night. 411 Hartz Ave., Ste.



Scan this code for a complete list of Tri-Valley restaurants. A-1, 925.208.1631, basqueboulangerie. com. Breakfast and lunch Wed.–Sun.

**Blue Gingko** 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. Winning small plates include crunchy soft-shell crabs and tempura prawn lettuce wraps. 3496 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., 925.648.7838, bluegingko.bluedeltarestaurantgroup. com. Dinner Tues.-Sun. 🝸 🕸 P 🤏 💲

Blue Line Pizza The signature deep-dish at this modern pizza parlor is phenomenal, packing spinach into a buttery cornmeal crust with feta and a garlicky roughcut 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 and Bar After more than 30 years, Bridges remains remarkably fresh. The refined, Asianand French-accented menu shows both creativity (comice pear and baby spinach salad and kimchi vinaigrette) and craftsmanship (New

York steak served with edamame and bacon). Famous for its scene in Mrs. Doubtfire, Bridges has a stunning atmosphere (including the garden patio) that is timeless. 44 Church St., 925.820.7200, bridgesdanville.com. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun.

Cielito Cocina

Mexicana With its made-to-order griddled tortillas and Western theme, Cielito has soul. It also boasts natural light and whimsical furnishings. The menu is not cheap, but the upscale tacos are a great value, and the meats rock—especially the carne asada and the carnitas (try the hash at brunch). Skip the chewy ceviche and start with a drink instead; the Diablo margarita is a winner. 445 Railroad Ave., 925.725.4732, cielitodanville.com. Dinner nightly, lunch

Affordable gourmet tacos are reason enough to hit the wraparound patio at Cocina Hermanas, but this hacienda's cool bar and inventive platillos principales are equally seductive. Flautascrispy tortillas stuffed with creamy shrimp and crab—and dense, mole-like enchiladas are winners. The grilled corn on the cob

Mon.-Fri., brunch

Sat.–Sun. **▼** \$\$\$

Cocina Hermanas

slathered in chipotle crema, lime, cotija cheese and cilantro tastes like a true tribute to summer. 501 Hartz Ave., 925.725.4161, cocinahermanas.com. Lunch and dinner Tues—Sun.

Crumbs This umbrella-festooned eatery offers hearty American breakfast and lunch standards every day. 428
Railroad Ave., Ste.
B, 925.838.8824, crumbsdanville.com.
Breakfast and lunch daily.

#### **Danville Harvest**

The 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 vibrant bar and lounge, and a homey yet stylish dining room with a full-exhibition kitchen, Danville Harvest welcomes all comers. 500 Hartz Ave., 925.362.3665, danvilleharvest.com. Brunch Sat.-Sun., lunch and dinner daily. 🝸 🕸 \$\$\$

Esin Restaurant and Bar It has 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

## 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
- P Private room parties of 50 or more
- U Late-night dining (service after 10 p.m.)
- Dog friendly
- Dog friendly (when seasonal patio is open)

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

specials. Housemade pastas, pot roast, and comforting cakes and pies, along with weighty flatware, crisp service and a serious wine list 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. 🝸 🕸 👺 \$\$\$

Faz Faz's warm wood interior with surrounding redwoods and a twinkle of tiny white lights creates an enticing mood. The menu features a Mediterranean medley of house-made pastas, smoked and spit-roasted

meats, and fresh seafood. Have the grilled rack of lamb with mint chutney, and finish with tiramisu. 600 Hartz Ave., 925.838.1320, fazrestaurants.com. Dinner Wed.—Sat.

**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 crabcakes and buttery Kobe steaks. The wine list boasts powerful Napa Valley reds that can stand up to the meat. 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.552.0505, forbesmillsteakhouse. com. Dinner Fri.-Wed. T® 👺 \$\$\$\$

# Wayfinding / EAT

The Grille at **Blackhawk** Expect sterling service, Cal-American fare. and a fun and festive vibe highlighted by one of the best outdoor patios in the area. The tavern-style burger satisfies, while the mac and cheese's creamy bechamel-spiked three-cheese sauce and panko-parmesan breadcrumbs lend decadent adult appeal to kid-friendly Kraft-style noodles. The tender bacon-wrapped meatloaf is another comforting treat. 3540 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., 925.736.4295, thegrilleatblackhawk. com. Lunch and dinner daily. T® \$\$\$

#### Incontro Ristoran-

te A gorgeous patio and a stately dining room are the backdrop to Incontro's soulful Italian menu. We began with a simply amazing fritto misto and moved on to a Gorgonzola, pear and candied walnut salad drizzled with honey which doubled as dessert. 455 Hartz Ave., 925.820.2349, incontrodanville. com. Lunch Sat.-Sun., dinner Tues.-Sun. ¥\$ \$\$\$

#### Locanda Ravello

With its convivial courtyard and cottage-cum-bar, Locanda Ravello is built for hospitality.



Scan this code for a complete list of Tri-Valley restaurants.



Epicurean pizza toppings (porcinis, burrata, prosciutto di San Daniele) 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 Fri.-Sun., dinner daily. 🝸 🕲 P 👺 \$\$

#### Norm's Place

This automobilethemed casual eatery recently underwent a major remodel, doubling its seating and patio space. The updated menu changes regularly, but staples include traditional comfort food items, including wings, burgers, ahi tacos and a spicy chicken wrap. Salads and sandwiches are fresh and reasonably priced, 356 Hartz Ave., 925.552.6676, normsgrill.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun. 🝸 🕸 P 👺 \$\$

# The Peasant and

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. 111 West Prospect Ave., 925.820.6611, rodneyworth.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y 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. In summer, there's no better place than Pete's patio—with a cold beer from the impressive rotating selection. 201 Hartz Ave., 925.820.8281, petesbrassrail.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Thurs.

**▼◎ 👺 \$\$** 

**Piatti Ristorante** and Bar Although part of a chain. Piatti is 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 iuicy, and the welltrained waitstaff will help you choose a wine to match. 100 Sycamore Valley Rd., 925.838.2082, piatti.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🝸 🕸 P 👺 \$\$\$

Player's Pub & Pianos The American pub fare strikes just the right note: a melty grilled cheese on garlic sourdough, a fried chicken sandwich and burgers galore. The dueling pianos—Friday and Saturday nights only—are a riot. 148 E. Prospect Ave., 925.743.8466, playerspubpianos.com. Dinner Tues.—Sun. ¥

#### **Revel Kitchen and**

Bar Revel is the hipster complement to Curtis deCarion's statelier Danville restaurant, Esin. Entrees such as rabbit tagliatelle rock, but the menu's thrust is bar snacks and small plates. We loved the garlicky hummus, and shrimp and grits. Desserts, famously homey at Esin, get an upscale twist. 331 Hartz Ave., 925.208.1758, revelkitchenandbar.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍸 🕸 🐈 💲

#### Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen and Coffee Bar

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." Favorites include an airy goat cheese pudding, and chicken salad with Pt. Reyes Blue Cheese, bacon and avocado. Great coffee and desserts. 90 Railroad Ave., 925.984.2713, sideboardkitchen. com. Breakfast. lunch and dinner daily. 📍 🏶 👺 💲

Restaurant Bright and cozy Thai House is noted for its inventive, flavorful dishes that include pumpkin curry and lobster. In fact, the consistently outstanding menu earned the restaurant a Bib Gourmand Michelin distinction. Green papaya salad is pleasantly spicy and tangy, with the crunchy and chewy textures of ground peanuts and dried shrimp. Duck curry is cooked in a rich hot sauce enlivened with pineapple and grapes. Desserts include sweet sticky rice with Thai custard. 254 Rose Ave., 925.820.0635, thethaihousedanville. com. Lunch Mon.-Fri., dinner daily. \$\infty\$\$

Thai House

#### Valley Medlyn's

A hole-in-the-wall brunch spot popular with locals for its hearty dishes and delightfully decadent desserts. 330 Hartz Ave., 925.552.6449. Breakfast and lunch Tues-Sun. \$\infty\$\$\$\$\$\$

#### Zalla Kabob House

In true Afghan style, Zalla's cuisine is brightly spiced and satisfying. The kebabs will fill you up, but it's worth starting with appetizers of dolma and hummus. We also loved the rich, complex lamb shanks at this darling order-atthe-counter cafe. (All meats are kosher.) 202 Sycamore Valley Rd., 925.208.1403, zallakabobhouse. com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🥮 \$

#### **DUBLIN**

**Amakara** The longtime neighborhood sushi favorite raised its profile with a swanky new location on Dublin's main drag, bringing space for 60 more diners, extended hours, and a showy kitchen and decor. The food is as good as ever. Creative takes on sushi include the architectural (and Instagrammable) spicy sesame seared-tuna roll: Tempura asparagus spears shoot in various directions, some wrapped with avocado and cucumber inside the fish- and jalapeno-topped roll. For entrees, ask for the fish of the day, or stick to salmon teriyaki—pan-fried crispy on the outside, ridiculously soft inside. 7568 Dublin Blvd., 925.803.8485, eatamakara.com. Lunch and dinner Mon.-Sat. T P \$\$

#### sian restaurant is a cross-cultural experience. Start with the roti pratha, a crispy bread with toasted-curry coconut sauce. The mango chicken 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, the-

Lunch and dinner

daily.  $boxed{r}$  P \$\$

bananagarden.com.

The Banana

**Garden** This roomy

and stylish Malay-

Bangkok 101 Thai Cuisine The space is small but chic, and the kitchen serves authentic yet original dishes prepared in a simple, clean fashion. We love the fried chicken wings, ground chicken sauteed with lemon grass and fried glass noodles with jumbo shrimp. The som tam (papaya salad) is one of many vegetarian dishes on the menu. 7375 Amador Valley Blvd., Ste. 100, 925.828.2133, bangkok101dublin. com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷 \$

#### Burma! Burma!

Tucked into an unassuming strip mall is a culinary journey to Myanmar. Start with a traditional tea leaf salad, move on to minted jalapeno chicken with extra heat from sambal chili sauce, and wash it all down with a Myanmar Lager. Black sticky rice makes a sweet finish, with brown sugar, coconut milk, condensed milk and a scoop of ice cream. 7294 San Ramon Rd., 925.556.6188, burmaburma.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🕇 💲

#### Chaat Bhavan Restaurant

Do you want fresh and authentic vegetarian Indian cuisine? Look no further than family-run Chaat Bhavan. The flavorful stir-fried Hakka noodles are a popular choice, as is the Tandoori Sizzler, made with cheese and vegetables. And make sure to order the homemade samosas, as well as naan, roti or paratha. 4112 Grafton St., 925.829.1700, chaatbhavan.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🏶 \$

Coco Cabana Hip and friendly, Cabana has a Latin-fusion menu that includes tasty small plates: The excellent mussels are spiked with cumin. The shrimp al ajillo and ample, herbed sirloin albondigas (meatballs) were both winners, as was a wonderfully tart shrimp ceviche. Entrees are more hit or miss, but cocktails are well executed. Do not skip the awesome fried dough dessert. 4500 Tassajara Rd., Ste. C, 925.556.9055, cococabanadublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍸 🕸 🏲 👺 \$\$\$

Denica's Real Food Kitchen Denica's is the place to go if you have multiple personalities. 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 liked the chicken pesto sandwich, fresh spring salad with walnuts and the chicken tacos. Order a snickerdoodle to go. 6058 Dougherty Rd., 925.829.-6200, denicascafe.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🏶 👺 💲

# Frankie, Johnnie and Luigi Too! Started in the '50s, this small Bay Area chain is family friendly and offers standard Italian fare. There's a multitude of pasta courses, with reduced prices at lunchtime, and

specialized pizzas.

(Carnivores should

Much, with salami,

sample Tina's Too Too

pepperoni, sausage and linguica.) For groups of four to six, try Frankie's family dinner night. 11891 Dublin Blvd., 925.828.9380, frankiejohnnieluigidublin. com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y®P\$\$

Gum Kuo Restaurant This Oakland follow-up has a welcoming burntumber decor and dishes ranging from



comforting to daring. Comforting is the delicate tofu and snappy pumpkin hot pot. A whole crispyskinned pompano requires dexterity but is remarkably moist. Gum's chow fun-slick with egg and slippery shrimp—is a sweet companion to beautifully bronzed duck. 3720 Fallon Rd., 925.999.8627, gumkuorestaurant. com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🕇 \$

Hot Crab It's no ordinary shrimp boil at this Louisiana Cajun seafood restaurant: vour customized catch comes bathed in a garlicky chili-infused oil whose heat runs from "mild" to "volcano." Easy-to-slurp clams and meaty head-on shrimp are rewarding, but serious crackers can opt for a heap of crawfish or pricey king crab. 4288 Dublin Blvd., 925.999.9580, hotcrabus.com. Lunch and dinner Wed.-Mon. \$\$\$

Koi Palace With its lush green carpeting, 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 ovster sauce. And that's just for starters, 4288 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 213. 925.833.9090, koipalace.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍸

KoJa Kitchen You'll find inventive Asian fusion dishes at KoJa—short for Korean-Japanese. Think sandwiches on garlic rice buns and rice bowls featuring tender proteins such as braised pork, short ribs or chicken. Don't miss the kamikaze waffle fries topped with minced Korean barbecue beef, kimchi, Japanese mayo and green onions. 5252 Dublin Blvd., 925.587.1503, kojakitchen.com. Lunch and dinner daily. \$

#### Lee's Sandwiches

This San Jose food truck turned chain focuses mainly on Asian and European sandwiches. The Vietnamese banh mi is the star, with pickled vegetables and house-made baguettes, available in a dozen varieties, from grilled chicken to sardine to lemon grass tofu. Or get it in a bowl, with noodles, greens and dressing. Don't miss the surf-andturf spring rolls or the cannoli stuffed with ricotta and chocolate. 4101 Dublin Blvd., Ste. B, 925.828.8888, leesandwichesdublin. com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. \$

Mayflower Restau-

rant Whether it's

stunning pork buns or dazzling shellfish pulled from the live seafood tank, Mayflower presents authentic Cantonese cuisine with style. The pork buns, seafood dumplings and juicy pot stickers 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 ultrafresh lettuce cups. 4086 Grafton St., 925.551.8088, mayflowerdublin. com. Lunch and dinner daily. **TP \$\$\$** 

#### Pamir Restaurant Where to start? We

say bulanes, 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 saffron, 4288 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 111, 925.999.8820, pamircuisine.com. Lunch Thurs.-Tues., dinner Thurs.-Mon. \$\$

Yanagi Sushi and Grill This spacious, contemporary dining room is divided into three sections—a sushi bar, a teppan area and regular booths. We were taken with chicken yakitori skewers and 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., 925.556.9575, yanagisushigrill.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🕇 \$

#### LIVERMORE

Bar Quiote Try

Livermore's newest

#### cocktail destination, where veteran mixologist Christian Schaal and husband-andwife team Lauren Heanes-Longwell

and husband-andwife team Lauren Heanes-Longwell and Waine Longwell focus on the artisanal spirits of Mexico. The lime-washed walls. Oaxacan ceramics and a custom hickory bar evoke a contemporary spin on the type of border-town watering holes found in a Sergio Leone spaghetti Western, while the menu includes a variety of hot dogs and bar snacks. 112 Maple St., barquiote.com. Lunch Fri.-Sun., dinner Wed.-Sun. ▼♥�\$

Bar Tatami This attractive Asian restaurant inside Casino 580 is surprisingly good. We indulged in dazzling chicken wings, beef sliders, fish tacos and a decadent all-American burger stuffed with rich goodies. If you gamble, the food can be brought to your betting table—where a diverse \$5 casino menu is also available. Check out the bountiful 580 break-

# Wayfinding / EAT

fast. 962 N. Canyons Pkwy., 925.800.0076, parkwestcasino580. com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y 🕓 \$\$

Casa Orozco The family-owned Casa Orozco restaurants in the Tri-Valley are about comfort food in a loud, festive atmosphere. The menu includes all the Mexican standards tacos, burritos, fajitas-which are fresh, filling and a cut above. Casa Orozco is pretty inside and out: Opt for the patio on a warm afternoon with an appetizer of house-made guacamole. 325 S. L St., 925.449.3045, casaorozco.com. Lunch and dinner daily. T P\$\$

#### Cinco TacoBar

The humble taco is elevated here, with tortillas pressed and cooked to order.
Grab a carne asada or al pastor taco, a burrito bowl or a Dutch crunch torta, and don't miss the Instagram-ready wall art. 4526 Las Positas Rd., 925.583.5300, cincotacobar.com. Lunch and dinner daily.

Da Boccery Clever, clever ... but how often does bocce ball lead to debauchery? Still, fun is fun, whatever the angle, and there's plenty on offer at the former Campo di



Scan this code for a complete list of Tri-Valley restaurants.



Bocce: elevated pub fare, craft cocktails, bocce, shuffleboard, cornhole, axe throwing ... wait, what? Maybe there is some debauchery going on. 175
East Vineyard Ave., 925.201.3353, daboccery.com.
Lunch and dinner daily. Y \$\$\$\$

#### **Demitri's Taverna**

Meals in this warm remodeled space start with heated pita bread and a garlicky spread called skordalia. The tender dolmathes 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 Greeceoregano, feta, tomato and grilled red onion—into each juicy bite. 2235 First St., 925.373.0306, demitristavernalivermore.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun. ₹₿\$\$

#### El Charro Mexican Food and Cantina

The full bar and festive-yet-relaxed ambience have 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, chili rellenos for vegetarians and killer enchiladas for anyone. Still skeptical? 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.

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 isn't fancy, but you can't match First Street Alehouse's indulgent, unpretentious vibe. Meals end with a Tootsie Pop. 2106 First St., 925.371.6588, firststreetalehouse.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 📍 🕸 P 💲

#### **Hops and Sessions**

This pour-your-own beer pub is a wideopen communal space with picnic-size blonde-wood tables, a wall of 28 rotating taps, and a "starting line" where you scan your driver's license and credit card in exchange for a wristband. The beer selection is well rounded with many local brews. The pub food is above average, with sausages, a crispy chicken sandwich and a killer wedge salad on offer. 2339 First St., 925.495.4118, hopsandsessions. com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun. 

# **The Last Word**Trade your Coke for a cocktail, and get truffle salt instead

of butter on your popcorn, at this hip saloon behind Livermore Cinemas. Pair a Blood and Sand (a smoky Manhattan) or a Death in the Evening (licorice sparkling wine) with upscale sliders, spicy chicken and waffles. 2470 First St., 925.493.7293, lastwordbar.com. Dinner Wed.-Sat. ₹**®** P 🕔 \$\$

Locanda Wine Bar Owner Enzo Rosano has created a fun, whimsical, drinking-centric space that evokes an Italian osteria. For the food, that means an emphasis on light eats such as an antipasti plate for two, beautifully composed salads, and several tartare and carpaccio dishes. For drinks it means an expansive wine list heavy on Italian, Napa and Livermore labels. And for the ambience it means a lively setting with a bright, colorful front patio. 2293 First St., 925.583.5016, locandawinebar.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun. T® \$\$\$

#### Monica's Livermore

Housed in a soulful brick building with a fantastic shaded patio, Monica's specializes in big, homey plates of traditional breakfast and lunch fare and simple, from-scratch pastries. While our Reuben sandwich and shrimp omelet were so-so, a hearty huevos rancheros and two grilled chicken salads were standouts. Pickles, jam and most everything else are made in-house. 2074 Second St.,

925.292.5568, monicaslivermore. com. Breakfast and lunch daily, dinner Thurs.–Sat. T® P\$\$\$

#### Petra Middle Eastern Cuisine

This small family-run

restaurant offers Jordanian dishes as authentic as you'll find anywhere in the Bay Area. Solicitous service and plenty of freebies—including cardamom tea and creamy lentil soup—make it a homey gold mine. The classics—falafel, hummus, baba ghanoush and tabbouleh—are all extraordinary. 4524 Las Positas Rd., 925.371.0412, petra-livermore.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun. \$\$

Posada After a

six-month remodel. Posada has twice the seating, a wine cellar and an expanded menu—the offerings are particularly wonderful at brunch, when diners can nosh on sublime huevos rancheros, meaty enchiladas with fried eggs and grilled oysters Posada. Happily, the Southwestern restaurant's spicy mahi-mahi tacos, crispy lamb flautas and lush short ribs with blackberry mole are as good as ever. 988 Murrieta Blvd., 925.606.1004, posadarestaurant. com. Lunch and dinner Wed.-Sun. **₹\$\$**\$\$

The Press With a walk-up counter that flows into minimalist yet spacious decor, the Press serves fresh, creative and affordable toastinis and paninis,

attracting crowds of all ages. The triple cheese jalapeno panini is as lush as a sandwich can be while the BLET with egg (and Hobbs' Applewood Smoked Meats bacon) and side salad was a steal at \$10. 2470 First St., Ste. 110, 925.292.1916, thepressartisancafe. com. Breakfast and lunch Mon.-Sat. 

Range Life Four New York and San Francisco restaurant veterans (Tartine Manufactory!) relocated to Livermore and transformed a former carriage house into an urban-hip eatery serving seasonal fare such as summer squash curry and steak frites paired with craft cocktails. 2160 Railroad Ave., 925.583.5370, rangelifelivermore. com. Dinner Thurs.-Mon. **Y** \$\$\$\$

Roya Afghan Cuisine Roya offers something for everyone and offers evervone a great value. The veal "kebab" arrives as an enormous T-bone: the challaw badenjan brings a lush eggplant stew. Six iuicy hunks of meat come skewered in the lamb kebab; wedges of sweet pumpkin are smothered in yogurt in the challaw kadu. Owner Friedoon Yawary ensures a smooth ride in a cozy dining room. 2020 First St., 925.447.0576, royaafghancuisine. com. Lunch Tues.-Fri., dinner Tues.-Sun.

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Sauced BBQ and 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. Start with a green salad so you can finish with fried Oreos. 2300 First St., Ste. 120, 925,961,1300, saucedbbgandspirits.com. Lunch and dinner daily. T 🌣 🏲 🕓

#### **Simply Fondue**

There's nothing simple about Simply Fondue. The average table time is two hours, and the experience is as much spectacle as meal. The four-course dinner starts with a salad, followed by generous samplings of cheese and meat fondue. Wrap it up with a personalized chocolate fondue (get the Grand Marnier). 2300 First St., 925. 443.6638, simplyfonduelivermore.com. Dinner daily, brunch Sun. **TP** () \$\$\$\$



Star Anise The modern Thai-Southeast 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, staranisethailivermore.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🕇 P 💲

Strizzi's Restaurant Enjoy a taste of old-world Italy at this homey eatery that specializes in fish and pasta, made from family recipes with the freshest ingredients. Try the wood-grilled chicken, steak or salmon, along with specialties such as rigatoni Bolognese or spaghetti and meatballs. The kids' menu has plenty to offer for the little diners. 2205 First St., 925,456,2200. strizzis.com. Lunch and dinner daily. **\$\$\$** 

Terra Mia Italian Restaurant A soaring 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 cleanseasoned well and served with simple sides. 4040 East Ave., 925.456.3333, terramialivermore. com. Lunch Mon.-Fri., dinner daily. 🏋 🧶 P 👺 \$\$

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard With a classy decor and

wine list. Uncle Yu's has an enticing and leisurely vibe. So enjoy a lovely Alsatian white with spinach dumplingssoft noodlelike wrappers exploding with fresh spinach, shrimp and chicken. Or try the crisp-roasted free-range chicken with red chili-flecked sweet sauce. Desserts, like the wines, are above average. 39 S. Livermore Ave.. 925.449.7000, uncleyusvineyard. com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍸 🔎 🏲 **\*** \$\$

Zephyr Grill and Bar Zephyr's all-day menu lists some 26 main courses—40 when you include salads and sandwiches. Some hidden deals include inchthick slabs of seared tuna, and a lemon cheesecake. Tall, window-side booths are sleek, but dine at the bar if you want to sense the scene. A fantastic selection of Livermore Valley wines. 1736 First St., 925.961.1000, zephyrgrill.com. Lunch and dinner Wed.-Sun. T P 🕓 **\*** \$\$\$

#### **PLEASANTON**

#### Barone's Restaurant and Gardens

Around the corner from the hustle of Main Street, Barone's makes one long for an old-fashioned shrimp cocktail. Barone's menu pays homage to soupedup American and Italian fare. Start with scoozi (a Gorgonzola-stuffed flatbread), the seafood platter or

the prosciutto salad, followed up with house-made ravioli. sea bass or pepper steak. 475 St. John St., 925.426.0987, baronespleasanton. com. Dinner Tues.-Sat. Y 🛡 P 🤏 \$\$\$\$

Blossom Vegan Restaurant 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 mu shu-mu shu, 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. Lunch and dinner Wed.-Sun. P \$\$

#### 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, chili relleno, grilled green onion and quacamole. The outdoor patio is heaven, and there are more tequilas than you can count. 625 Main St., 925,417,1224, blueagaveclub.com. Lunch Wed.-Sun., dinner Wed.-Sat.

# BottleTaps This 30-tap-strong Cali-focused ale-

🜱 🏵 P \$\$\$

house with openhearted service and a ferment-friendly food menu takes beer seriously—with no pretension. The

greaseless Cubano sandwich, garlicky house pickles, and smorgasbord of meats and cheeses prove that hearty needn't be heavy. The spacious, brick-accented dining room warmly belies its strip mall locale. 3020 Bernal Ave., Ste. 160, 925. 201.1755, bottletaps. com. Lunch and dinner daily.  $\P$  P \$\$

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 lemon grass and a thin but darkly caramelized sauce. 4220 Rosewood Dr., 925.227.1312, chinaloungeus.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 📍 🕸 P \$\$\$\$

De La Torre's De La Torre's offers reasonably priced family favorites—from spaghetti and meatballs to veal scaloppine. We especially love the not-too-sweet marsala sauce. Dinner specials include petrale sole and stuffed pork chops. You can even join a "call list" for seasonal cioppino and crab lasagna. 6025 W. Las Positas Blvd., 925.484.3878, delatorres.net.

**Eddie Papa's** American Hangout This affordable American hangout has a family-friendly

Dinner Mon.-Sat.

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menu as long as a cross-country road trip, but—spiked with historical tidbits and a full page of classic cocktails it's worth the ride. 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 Sun., lunch and dinner daily.

#### **Experience Burma** Restaurant and

Bar Burmese cuisine echoes the affordable, flavorful and shareable qualities of Indian and Thai food yet is wholly distinctive. The tea leaf salad—tossed at the table—bursts with crunchy nuts, seeds and jalapeno. Wok-fried lemon grass pork is tender and aromatic, while glistening mango shrimp balances sweet sauce with chilies. Warm wood and contemporary lighting are offset by colorful marionette dolls. 221 Division St., 925.398.8219, theexperienceburma.com. Lunch and dinner daily. T 🏶 💲

#### Frontier Spice

This attractive spot is known for its tandoori dishes. Alongside meaty kebabs, 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 super succulent). The curries are good, but trust

# Wayfinding / EAT

the tandoor—and double up on the garlic naan. 411 Main St., 925.846.3077, thefrontierspice.com. Lunch and dinner daily. T

**Gay Nineties Pizza** 

Co. Always hopping with birthday parties and post-soccergame 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 cold stored 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. 📍 🐡 👺 💲

Hap's Original

Hap's has been around since the 1950s and has evolved into an upscale steakhouse. Complimentary crudités and Hap's namesake salad topped with walnuts, Gorgonzola and honey-chili vinaigrette are refreshing starters. The filet mignon with brandy peppercorn sauce (one of five sauce choices for all steaks) is even better with a side dish of grilled artichokes. 122 W. Neal St.,



Scan this code for a complete list of Tri-Valley restaurants. 925.600.9200, hapsoriginal.com. Dinner daily. YP\$\$\$\$

Jim's Country Style Restaurant

Sure, we try to look out for our arteries, but sometimes Kashi cereal with fruit just won't cut it. Jim's has the stuff: ranch-style omelets with biscuits and gravy, hearty pancakes, and sugar-sprinkled French toast—all served until 4 p.m. At lunch, try the mouth-defying triple-decker barnyard club. When all is lost, order the heaping platter of chicken-fried steak. 5400 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 1, 925.426.7019. Breakfast and lunch daily. \$\$

Locanda Amalfi

Master pizzauioli Francesco Esposito hails from Naples, Italy, and Locanda's menu heavily features his blistered. thin-crust creations. (Gluten-free is available.) A classic margherita does not disappoint, but make sure to try the surprisingly light and delicious Meat Lover, topped with pepperoni, pancetta and salsiccia. Another winner: the peppery, garden-fresh Costiera with cherry tomatoes, arugula and wild salmon. A Brussels sprouts appetizer was too toasty for our taste, but the char was tempered by the salty sweetness of the bacon and balsamic glaze. Mamma Carmela's Meatballs are classic comfort, covered in cheesy, tangy marinara accompanied by crostini for dipping.

Finish it all off with tiramisu—or better yet, a limoncello cake that matches the restaurant's hand-painted Italian pottery. 349 Main St., 925.249.5484, locanda-amalfi-pleasanton. com. Lunch and dinner Tues.—Sun.

Lokanta Mediterranean Grill and

Bar A Turkish word meaning neighborhood bistro, Lokanta is at once exotic and familiar. A clean open kitchen dishes up a Greek salad along with branzino and paella. 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.

¶ **®** P **○ ☆** \$\$\$

McKay's Taphouse and Beer Garden

You'll feel right at home in the buzzing beer garden at Mc-Kay's. Try the Jammin' Burger slathered with bacon jam or a Cubano sandwich, properly pressed with the mandatory pickles. Soft freshbaked pretzels and crunchy chips had the right salty goodness for pairing with an array of all-local craft beers. 252 Main St., 925.425.0217, mckaysbeergarden. com. Lunch Wed.-Sun., dinner Tues.-Sun. T @ P 🕔 👺 \$\$

**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 froufrou. 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, nonnisbistro.net. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.-Sun. 🕇 🏶 P 👺 \$\$\$

Oasis Grille and Wine Lounge At this stylish Mediterranean spot, check out the pumpkin borani appetizer—its dense orange flesh sauteed in olive oil, its sweetness set off by a garlic-yogurt sauce. The tender, juicy lamb chop kebab has had 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., 925.417.8438, oasiswinelounge. com. Lunch and dinner daily. T 🌣 \$\$\$

Oyo Like its colorful logo, Oyo made a bright and bold entrance on the downtown dinina scene when it launched in 2019. The menu explores the flavors of the ancestral homelands of the Guyanese people, such as jerk chicken from the Caribbean, curry goat from East Asia, pepper pot from West Africa and South American paella. A tropical banana bread pudding with coconut ice cream and pineapple glaze makes a sweet

finish. 680 Main St., 925.249.5936, oyopleasanton.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y® \$\$\$

Sabio on Main This is a sophisticated restaurant that just wants to have fun. Dishes range from tangy Peruvian ceviche to sweet Moroccan meatballs to intense Asian lettuce wraps. But Spain is the biggest player, evidenced by the hot coppa and manchego. 501 Main St., 925.800.3090, sabiopleasanton. com. Dinner daily, brunch Sat.-Sun.

🜱 🏶 P 👺 \$\$ SideTrack Bar and Grill Whether you're after a classic Reuben or Cubano sandwich, or any number of drool-inducing wagyu burgers in artisanal buns, this is your spot. The dining room is a sea of tables flanked by a slick sports bar, but the craft beers, wines and cocktails are a cut above Non-meat eaters can enjoy a myriad of vegan options, and seafood-goers will appreciate the appetizers, including a tower of avocado

and ahi poke, crab-

cakes and shellfish

St., 925.399.6789,

sidetrackeats.com.

Lunch and dinner

ceviche. 30 W. Angela

Sozo Sushi Sozo means creative in Japanese, and this neighborhood sushi bar in Pleasanton lives up to the name. Sure, you could order the classics here: unagi (barbecued eel) or spicy tuna hand rolls. But why, when the menu boasts 30 "creative maki" rolls? The options range from the Marilyn Monroll—with shrimp tempura, crab and avocado—to the Monterey—a mix of shrimp and jalapenos. 2835 Hopyard Rd., 925.484.5588, sozosushi.com. Lunch and dinner daily.

Tri Valley Bistro

With its warm earth tones and unobtrusive service, Tri Valley Bistro offers a measure of old-fashioned romance. Start with wine and a lush arrangement of prosciutto, dried figs and delicately crusted warm goat cheese. Follow with succulent scallops nestled in black rice rich with sherry cream. The focus here is less farm-to-table than luxury. 519 Main St., 925.523.3815, trivalleybistro.com. Breakfast Sat.-Sun., lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun. \*\* P \$\$\$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza Bring on the deep-dish pizza. The Bay Area favorite stuffs its pies with cheesy goodness, zesty sauce and a variety of ingredients that will satisfy every taste. The thin-crust options are also delicious. 337 Main St., 925.600.0089, zacharys.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🖣 🍥 \$\$\$



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#### DANVILLE

#### **Best Western Danville** Sycamore Inn

803 Camino Ramon 925.855.8888 **\*** 📚 🖒

#### **DUBLIN**

#### Aloft **Dublin-Pleasanton**

4075 Grafton St. 925.248.8500 **\***≥‡#

**Extended Stay** America Dublin— **Hacienda Drive** 

4500 Dublin Blvd. 925.875.9556

#### Holiday Inn **Dublin-Pleasanton**

6680 Regional St. 925.828.7750

**\*** 🚅 🗓 💝

**Hyatt Place Dublin/Pleasanton** 4950 Hacienda Dr.

925.828.9006 **\***≈‡#Ď

## La Quinta Inn & Suites

6275 Dublin Blvd. 925.828.9393 **\***≈‡#Ď

#### **LIVERMORE**

#### **Americas Best** Value Inn

1421 First St. 925.447.3865 愁

#### **Best Western Plus** Vineyard Inn

7600 Southfront Rd. 925.456.5422 📽 🗓

#### Courtyard by Marriott

2929 Constitution Dr. 925.243.1000

# El Dorado Inn

3979 First St. 925.447.2348 愁

#### **Extended Stay America** Livermore

2380 Nissen Dr. 925.373.1700 👺 👭

**Premier Suites** 720 Las Flores Rd. 925.443.4950 🕿 🗓

## **Hampton Inn**

2850 Constitution Dr. 925.606.6400 **≥**‡₩°

#### **Hawthorn Suites** by Wyndham

1700 N. Livermore Ave. 925.606.6060 **≥**Î₩Ď

# Hilton Garden Inn

2801 Constitution Dr. 925,292,2000

#### **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites**

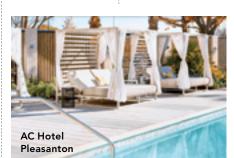
3000 Constitution Dr. 925.961.9600 **\***≈‡#Ď

#### **Home2 Suites by** Hilton Livermore

2625 Constitution Dr. 925.960.1242 **\***≈**!**₩Ď

# **Homewood Suites**

by Hilton Livermore 5400 Wolf House Dr. 925.606.1984 **\*** \* ‡ 🖒



#### La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Livermore

7700 Southfront St. 925.373.9600 **\***\*!}#

#### Motel 6

4673 Lassen Rd. 925.443.5300 📽 ≊

#### The Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa

4549 Cross Rd. 925.606.8855

#### Quality Inn & Suites

5959 Preston Ave. 925.606.7171

#### Residence Inn Livermore

5200 Wolf House Dr. 925.606.1980 **\***≈IN⇔∸

## **Sands Motel**

3787 First St. 925.447.6500 🙈

#### **SenS Suites** Livermore

1000 Airway Blvd. 925.373.1800 **\***≈IN⇔∸

## Springtown Inn

933 Bluebell Dr. 925.449.2211

#### Studio Inn

1321 Portola Ave. 925.447.1515

# Wayfinding / SLEEP

### Key to Symbols

👺 Dog friendly

**≫** Pool

Fitness Center

| Kitchen

**Meeting Space** 

Comp Breakfast



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#### **PLEASANTON**

#### **AC Hotel Pleasanton**

5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd. 925.475.4828 🗪 🗓 💝

#### **Best Western Plus** Pleasanton Inn

5375 Owens Ct. 925.463.1300 👺 🕿 📛

# Courtyard

**Pleasanton** 5059 Hopyard Rd. 925.463.1414 💒 🗓 💝

#### DoubleTree by Hilton Pleasanton at the Club

7050 Johnson Dr. 925.463.8000 😂 🗓 💝

#### **Extended Stay** America Pleasanton—Chabot Dr.

4555 Chabot Dr. 925.730.0000 **\*** \* ‡ #

#### **Four Points** by Sheraton

5115 Hopyard Rd. 925.460.8800 **\***≥\$‡#

## **Hyatt House**

4545 Chabot Dr. 925.730.0070 **\*** ~ I # 🖒

#### Larkspur **Landing Hotel**

5535 Johnson Dr. 925.463.1212 **☆**‡₩₩

#### Motel 6

5102 Hopyard Rd. 925.463.2626 👺 愁

# **Pleasanton**

Marriott 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd. 925.847.6000

#### Residence Inn Pleasanton

11920 Dublin Canyon Rd. 925.227.0500 **\***≈**!**¶₩°

The Rose Hotel 807 Main St. 925.846.8802 **Î**₩"

#### Tri Valley Inn & Suites

2025 Santa Rita Rd. 925.846.2742

👺 🕿 🖒

# Wayfinding / TRAVEL



#### **DISTANCE CHART (FROM THE TRI-VALLEY)**

Oakland (17mi/30min)

San Jose (31mi/40min)

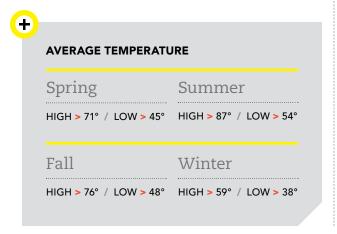
San Francisco (30mi/50min)

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 with new Saturday service. 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. 925.676.7500, countyconnection.com
- > 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. 925.455.7500, wheelsbus.com

#### SHUTTLE/LIMOUSINE/TAXI SERVICES

- > 4GQ Limousine Services: 800.640.LIMO
- > Black Tie Transportation: 855.643.9388
- > Blue Bird Cab Co.: 925.500.0001
- > Charity Cab: 925.353.5357
- > DeSoto Cab Co.: 925.777.7777
- > East Bay Shuttle: 925.800.4500
- > Extraordinary Tour Services: 925.788.5666
- > Uber or Lyft: Download the apps

#### FLY IN

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

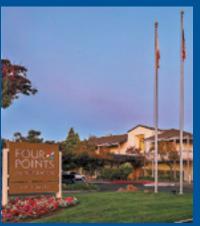
- > Livermore Municipal Airport (LVK), 925.960.8220, cityoflivermore.net
- > Oakland International Airport (OAK), 19 miles from the Tri-Valley, 510.563.3300, oaklandairport.com
- Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC), 31 miles from the Tri-Valley, 408.392.3600, flysanjose.com
- > San Francisco International Airport (SFO), 37 miles from the Tri-Valley, 650.821.8211, flysfo.com

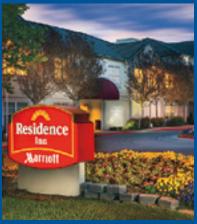
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Residence Inn-Pleasanton 11920 Dublin Canyon Rd. (925) 227-0500



AC Hotel Pleasanton 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road (925) 475-4828

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