

## Fine Living During the Napa Harvest

BY BECKY SUE EPSTEIN



casual Boon Fly Café at the Carneros Inn.



the luxurious interiors of Carneros Inn's simple cottages.



deceptively farmlike exteriors at the Carneros Inn.

Then, down at the lower tip of the Valley, where the roads to Napa and Sonoma diverge, I found the most fun hotel of all: the new Carneros Inn. From the outside it looks like a collection of tin-roofed tool sheds, and it's been the butt of jokes in the community since construction began. People looked at me skeptically when I mentioned I was going to stay there. And when I got out of my car in front of the reception area, all I heard were chickens clucking. Was this some sort of elaborate soundtrack? No, there was a real chicken coop at a farm down the hill from the driveway.

Closer to the little compound of cottages, the tool shed and barnyard motifs gave way to a seaside feeling. Each wood-sided cottage had its own neat, wood-railed front porch with a rocking chair and a mailbox by the door. Inside it's a completely different story: gleaming Brazilian wooden floors, luxurious linens and bath fittings, private outdoor shower and lounging deck with a heater for cool evenings; in short, everything you could want. There are more amenities on the property such as the private Hilltop restaurant, a pool and a spa, and the Boon Fly Café which has homemade donuts every morning. Something about the contradictions of the place intrigued me: luxury and donuts; tin roofs and designer interiors, a cool hotel basically in the middle of nowhere.