

Sherman's

# TRAVEL

Smart/Luxury Values

A New Magazine  
FROM THE TRAVEL EXPERTS AT  
SHERMANSTRAVEL.CO

101 GUIDE

WINE COUNTRY SPECIAL

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

OUR FAVORITE HOTELS, RESTAURANTS,  
SPAS, AND UNDISCOVERED RETREATS

PLUS 5 SMART SPLURGES

OFF THE PATH

## ECUADOR

AN ALL-IN-ONE SOUTH  
AMERICAN ADVENTURE

SPOTLIGHT

## DUBLIN & BELFAST

A TALE OF TWO  
REMARKABLE CITIES

THE LUXE LIST

## SPRING DEALS

15 INDULGENT GETAWAYS

Spring 2008

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Sherman's Travel  
Spring 2008

## Best Boutique Wineries

Daniel Dawson was sommelier at the French Laundry for over a year before opening **Back Room Wines** ([backroomwines.com](http://backroomwines.com)) in the city of Napa, where he specializes in small-production gems. Here, his insider picks.

**MENDOCINO Londer Vineyards** ([londervineyards.com](http://londervineyards.com)) Larry and Shirlee Londer produce superpremium, bigger-style chardonnays and pinot noirs, along with dry Gewurztraminer. They host informal tastings in the area by appointment. **Claudia Springs Winery** ([claudiasprings.com](http://claudiasprings.com)) This nearly 20-year-old winery makes some of California's better value premium wines. Sample the especially good pinot noir at the winery's tasting room near Philo.

**SONOMA Sojourn Cellars** ([sojourncellars.com](http://sojourncellars.com)) Already known for their pinot noir and cabernet sauvignon, Craig

Haserot and Erich Bradley launched **Sojourn wines** (tastings available by appointment) just five years ago. **Mauritson Wines** ([mauritsონwines.com](http://mauritsონwines.com)) Clay Mauritson started his winery on land near Healdsburg that had been farmed by his family for more than a hundred years. Try his bold, delicious zinfandel, petite sirah, and sauvignon blanc at the tasting room.

**NAPA Barlow Vineyards** ([barlowvineyards.com](http://barlowvineyards.com)) This family winery near Calistoga makes wonderfully big cabernets, merlots, and zinfandels from their own vineyard (tastings by appointment). **Neal Family Vineyards** ([nealvineyards.com](http://nealvineyards.com)) At this open-by-appointment winery near Calistoga, owner and second-generation vineyard manager Mark Neal crafts hearty cabernet sauvignons with grapes from all over the Napa Valley.

*Off the Path*

# Carneros

SERENE, ACCESSIBLE BEAUTY

South of Napa and Sonoma, with a toe nearly in San Pablo Bay, the cool, windy area of Carneros is often overlooked as travelers make their way directly to the more famous regions. But this is perfect pinot noir country, filled with water fowl and wetlands. Catch the spectacular views from **Artesa**, a winery built into a hillside with exterior walls made of native grasses ([artesa-winery.com](http://artesa-winery.com)). Don't miss the **diRosa Preserve**, an impressive collection of works by Northern California artists, all quite zany housed in and around the buildings of a former winery (707/226-5991). Splurge on the **Carneros Inn**, where at first glance cottages resemble farmworker dorms, but turn out to be modern realms with cherry-wood floors, fireplaces, and private patios with outdoor showers. Locals love the inn's restaurant, with its local-produce-driven menu, fire pit, and bocce court (*from \$430; [thecarnerosinn.com](http://thecarnerosinn.com)*).

Bucolic scene near the Carneros Inn

