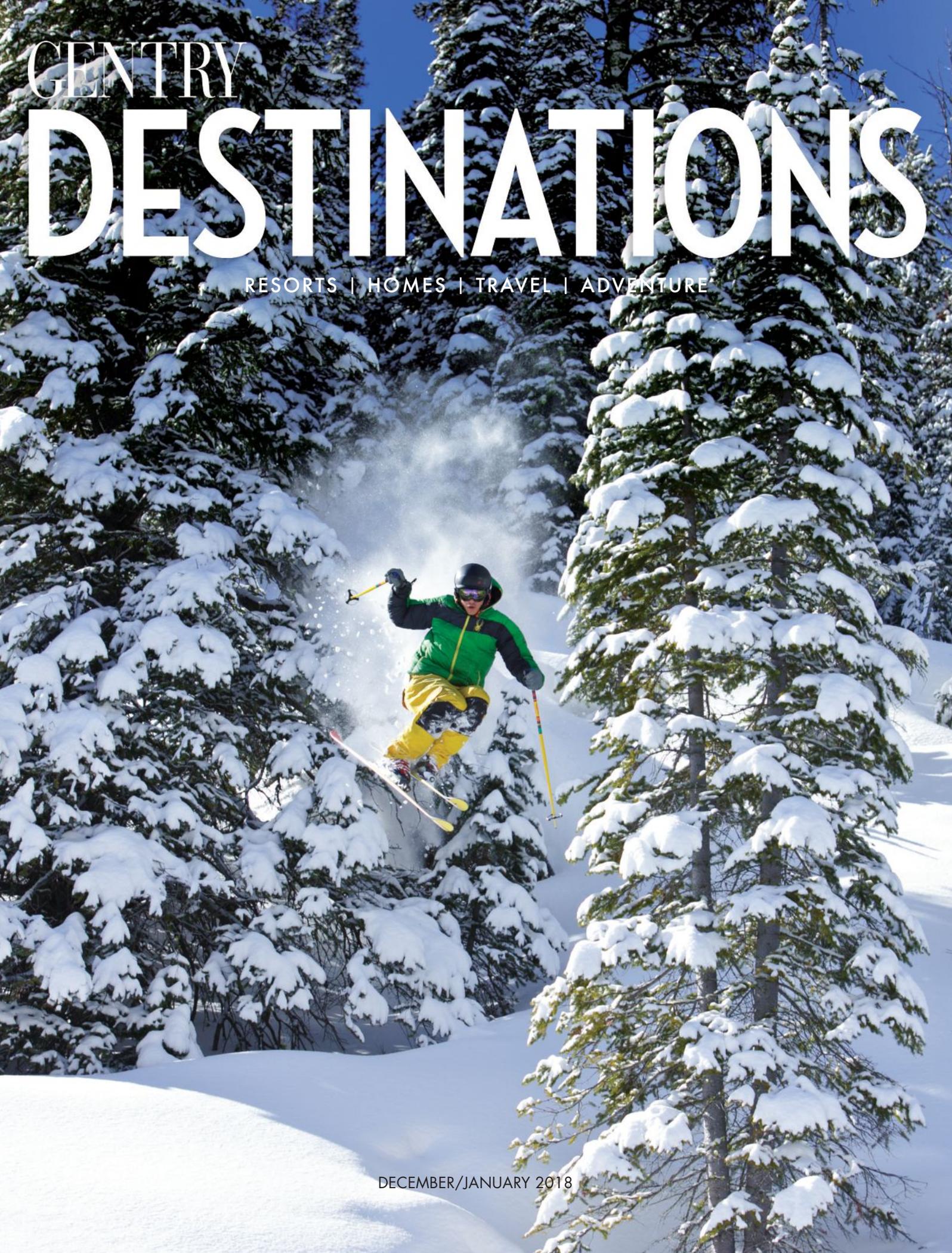


GENTRY

DESTINATIONS

RESORTS | HOMES | TRAVEL | ADVENTURE



DECEMBER/JANUARY 2018



This holiday season, the restaurants are cooking, the tasting rooms are pouring, and the hotels are ready to cater to your every need.

Emerging stronger than ever this holiday season after a series of devastating fires, Napa County has just one request—drink up! There simply is no better way to promote recovery than by enjoying Napa’s wines, dining in its restaurants, and exploring that legendary valley. Fans of the area are urged to visit in support of Napa County’s wineries, breweries, cheese makers, farmers, and local artisans. Purchases of items that were bottled in, made in, grown in, brewed in, or otherwise came from the Napa Valley help local families recover economically.

Speaking to Clay Gregory, president and CEO of Visit Napa Valley, it is clear that Napa has come together with resilience and hope. “We are humbled by the dedication we have seen from the emergency service response teams who worked hard to keep everyone safe,” he relates. “The outpouring of support from the Bay Area and around the world has been heartwarming to all in our community, and the drive to rebuild and reopen is remarkable.”

It all started with a spark on October 8, 2017. Powerful and destructive fires scorched Northern California. California’s governor declared a state of emergency for Napa, Sonoma, and Yuba counties due to the effects of multiple conflagrations, including the Tubbs and Atlas fires, which rapidly damaged critical infrastructure,

threatened thousands of homes, and forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of residents in eight counties.

Our televisions and smartphones were flooded with images of Armageddon-like damage as vicious red fire devoured parts of our beloved wine country. Outside, the Bay Area sky became transformed by a bright red sun and thick black smoke. The smell of fire was in the air and it was tough to breathe, prompting countless event cancellations and unprecedented air pollution.

Quickly, Napa’s community resolve went on full display with neighbors helping neighbors, volunteers making difficult times a little less difficult, and firefighters, first responders, and law enforcement putting the needs of others first as they worked around the clock to protect lives and property.

As of press time, more than 70,000 acres have burned in Napa and Sonoma counties. Authorities say wildfires destroyed more than 1,100 homes, businesses, and other structures. Tragically, 20 lives have been lost. The fast-moving Tubbs Fire is now designated the sixth-deadliest massive blaze in California’s history—killing 13 people in Sonoma County and 7 in Napa.

While the gut-wrenching images associated with the fires may have left a lasting impression that much has been destroyed, →

we now know that the physical effect on Napa County is limited. The fires burned predominantly in the forested hillsides. The well-known Napa Valley floor, located between Highway 29 and the Silverado Trail, saw little to no impact. Many of the hotels, restaurants, tour companies, and other businesses throughout the valley remained open or have since reopened to visitors.

Much of the news has focused on how the fires will impact Napa Valley's wine industry. According to the Napa Valley Vintners Association, the wine industry and related businesses create more than 46,000 local jobs and contribute more than \$13 billion to the local economy annually. Since the October fires, the Napa Valley Vintners (NVV) has heard from nearly 400 of its member wineries, of which 47 reported direct damage, with less than a handful having experienced significant property loss. Damage to the region's wine industry, wineries, and vineyards was not wide-

spread, and the quality of 2017 vintage is expected to be "excellent."

Though area residents continue to mourn the lives lost and personal property destroyed, in the face of tragedy Napa has come together to heal and get back to work. Winemaking is Napa's heart and soul and its biggest economic driver, and the majority of the more than 400 local wineries are open and anxious for guests. Many businesses in Napa Valley are offering specials and donating a percentage of tasting fees, hotel booking fees, and other profits to support those affected by the fires.

The holidays are a magical time of year in the Napa Valley and fall at the height of Cabernet Season (November through April), the perfect occasion to enjoy the region's famous red wines. As the season of giving continues and the New Year brings new hope, let's continue to consider Napa in our hearts, minds, and wallets. Visitors to Napa Valley are welcome; in fact, they're vital.

HOLIDAY HEAVEN IN NAPA VALLEY

Allow the region to delight you with world-class hospitality, awe-inspiring views, and experiences unlike any other this holiday season.

GETAWAY FOR GOOD

The spirit and warmth of the Wine Country awaits as the **Meritage Resort & Spa** continues to assist its friends and neighbors. The "Support Napa Valley" offer includes reduced nightly rates and a 10% donation to the Napa Valley Community Foundation. Valid through March 31, 2018.

www.meritagecollection.com/meritageresort

Auberge du Soleil, **Calistoga Ranch**, and **Solage** are dedicated to helping the community recover. They are welcoming visitors with special offers that will support the region's relief efforts. From complimentary nights that encourage guests to linger longer, to resort credit that can be used for a soothing spa treatment or at an award-winning restaurant, every stay helps heal the valley.

<https://aubegeresorts.com/hotels-resorts>

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Starting December 1

Yountville kicks off its holiday activities, including carriage rides through town, holiday movies, photos with Santa, wreath-making classes, a Santa's Workshop, gourmet food and wine tours, holiday cooking classes, performances, ugly sweater parties, and more.

www.yountville.com/events

Starting December 1

St. Helena celebrates Cabernet Season with the **Little Book of Big Experiences**, now on sale. Stop by the St. Helena Community



Center or go online to purchase this delightful collection of 24 quintessential St. Helena experiences, including wine and food pairings, guided tours, meals, and lodging specials.

www.experiencesthelenacom

December 1 - 17

The Napa Valley **Wine Trolley Holiday Light Tours** return to downtown Napa for three weekends in December. Hop aboard the Holiday Wine Trolley and take a joyful tour through historic Downtown Napa and its Victorian neighborhoods. Proceeds from each tour will be donated to the Foster Children of Napa Valley.

www.napavalleywinetrolley.com

December 2

Robert Mondavi Holiday Tree Lighting and Celebration features an afternoon of buggy rides in the vineyard, carolers, cheese and charcuterie appetizers, hot cider, holiday cookies, and wine. Admission is \$25 per person and complimentary for wine →



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAM CELLARS

club members, or with a donation to the Napa Valley Food Bank.
www.robertmondaviwinery.com

December 8 - 23

Chef Christopher Kostow, Director Nathaniel Dorn, and **The Restaurant at Meadowood** team return this December to host the ninth season of **The Twelve Days of Christmas**. The 12-day charitable celebration, December 8 - 23, 2017, invites influential chefs from around the world to cook in collaboration with Chef Kostow, utilizing the products and inspiration of the Napa Valley. This year's celebration will benefit Saint Helena Preschool for All, Inc.

www.therestaurantatmeadowood.com

December 9

JaM Cellars in downtown Napa hosts its second annual **Ugly Christmas Sweater Celebration and Contest**. Skip the sequin dress and fancy slacks, toss away the holiday blues, throw on your dorkiest, most hilarious Christmas sweater, and come party with the crew at JaM Cellars. There will be ugly Christmas sweater prizes, along with special holiday offers to celebrate the evening.
www.jamcellars.com

December 9

Bundle up the family to experience the magic of **Petaluma's Lighted Boat Parade**. The decorated boats make a spectacular arrival at the Petaluma River Turning Basin in the heart of historic downtown, arriving about 6:15PM. Keep the festive mood flowing

... stay in town for the evening and enjoy delightful fare at one of Petaluma's many downtown bistros.

www.visitpetaluma.com

December 9

Celebrate the season at **Sonoma's Artisan Craft Faire and Holiday Festival** with old-fashioned fun and lots of hand-made arts and crafts by over 60 local Sonoma County artisans. There will be live entertainment all day, delicious, comforting, and nutritious foods, a silent auction featuring work of the vendors in attendance, a raffle of great Sonoma County prizes, activities for children of all ages, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and much more.

www.sonomacounty.com



PHOTO: BOB McCLENAHAN

December 9 - 12

The Napa Lighted Art Festival is an illuminating art walk during the season of lights. This festival creates stunning artwork as light displays are projected onto a variety of buildings throughout downtown Napa and the Oxbow district. Ten to 15 original art works will light up the night sky for one week in this unique display.

www.donapa.com

December 10

Rutherford Hill Winery's Holiday on the Hill is a delightful annual open house featuring November club selections paired with festive bites and seasonal sounds across the property and in their holiday decorated cave. RSVP required.

www.rutherfordhill.com



PHOTO: NAPA VALLEY VINTNERS

December 10

Sip current vintages and library wines and enjoy beef brisket sliders, an extravagant latke bar, and traditional jelly donuts at the **Judd's Hill Hanukkah Hootenanny**. Guests are encouraged to bring unwrapped new toys and canned (non-perishable) food items for donation to local Napa charities.

www.juddshill.com

December 12

Don't miss the holiday pre-sale for passes to **BottleRock Napa Valley 2018** (May 25 – 27, 2018). Now in its sixth year, BottleRock Napa Valley pairs the very best of Napa's wine, food, and craft brews with today's biggest names in music. Holiday pre-sale passes make great gifts for music and wine lovers! The full lineup of artists performing at BottleRock Napa Valley will be announced on January 8, 2018, and passes will go on sale on January 9, 2018.

www.bottlerocknapavalley.com

December 16 – 17

The Napa Regional Dance Company presents the annual production of **The Nutcracker**. Enjoy the magic of this holiday tradition for audiences of all ages at the Lincoln Theater in Yountville.

www.lincoltheater.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE

JaM Cellars' New Year's Eve Brunch will be rocking downtown Napa before the sun sets on 2017. Don't miss the Bottomless Toastmosas (Mimosas made with JaM Cellars Toast Sparkling wine), raffles and prizes, including JaM Cellars gift certificates, tastings, and holiday gift packs. 11AM – 3PM, December 31.

www.jamcellars.com

Goose & Gander in St. Helena welcomes all flappers for their **New Year's Eve Speakeasy** with cocktails and music provided by Bob Ringwald. There are two dinner seatings—6:30PM and 9:30PM—and dancing with DJ Rotten Robbie at the after-party.

www.goosegander.com

Blue Note Napa welcomes Jazz/Funk superstar and Napa favorite **Brian Culbertson** for very special New Year's Eve performances.

www.bluenotenapa.com

The Westin Verasa presents the **New Year's Eve Gala Dinner** and **Red Tie Affair Party** at the lobby of **BANK Café & Bar**. The event begins with a Champagne reception and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a six-course dinner with pairings at **La Toque**.

www.westinnapa.com

Ring in the New Year with **Castello di Amorosa**. Don your best Great Gatsby-themed attire and eat, drink, and dance the night away. Enjoy a red-carpet reception followed by a three-course meal in the Grand Barrel Room and dancing in the Great Hall.

www.castellodiamorosa.com

Celebrate New Year's Eve at **The Meritage Resort and Spa** to welcome in 2018. The resort offers multiple dining options, including dinners in the Estate Cave with Trinitas Cellars and a "Taste of the World" dinner and buffet in the Meritage Ballroom.

www.meritageresorts.com

NEW YEAR'S DAY

On January 1, 2018, load up on luck for the New Year with some Hoppin' John at Farmstead at **Long Meadow Ranch's New Year's Day brunch**. Guests can also indulge in LMR classics, including LMR grass-fed beef and smoked pork hash with onions, 18 Biscuits, "life everlasting" sausage gravy with a farm egg, and more.

www.longmeadowranch.com

Kick the New Year off with roses, football, and a mouthwatering **New Year's Day Sparkling Brunch** at **Siena Restaurant** located at the Meritage Resort and Spa. All guests will be greeted with a welcome mimosa or glass of orange juice before indulging in chef-prepared omelets, waffles, and pancakes, beef tenderloin, seafood, and other brunch favorites.

www.meritageresorts.com

Ring in the New Year with Yountville's annual **New Year's Day 5k or 10k run**. The action begins at **Napa's Community Center** and meanders through the town of Yountville along a portion of the Vine Trail and beyond. Open to all ages and running abilities, proceeds from the Napa Valley Resolution Run benefit the Napa Valley Vine Trail.

www.napavalleyresolutionrun.com

For additional details on visiting the Napa Valley, or to plan your holiday experience, please join "The Napa Valley" on Facebook, follow @VisitNapaValley on Twitter, or explore www.visitnapavalley.com.