

FOOD & WINE

#HOWIHOLIDAY

+
**AWESOME
GIFTS
TO GIVE
(AND
GET!)**

ULTIMATE HOLIDAY HANDBOOK

53 RECIPES YOU'LL
WANT TO SHARE

GO BIG
Nothing says
party like
an epic roast
(p. 79).



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**BUBBLIES TO
DRINK NOW**



Russian River Idyll

FROM FIVE-COURSE LUNCHES TO FISHERMAN'S STEW, WITH LOTS OF WINE IN BETWEEN, WE'VE MAPPED OUT THE IDEAL WEEKEND GETAWAY IN SONOMA COUNTY'S MOST FAMOUS REGION.

BY RAY ISLE PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE MORRISONS

HERE'S AN INSIDER tip for visiting California's Russian River Valley, where many of the state's best Pinot Noirs, Chardonnays and old-vine Zinfandels are produced: Go in the late fall or early winter. The weather is crisp and beautiful, and tasting rooms are far less crowded than during the summer or harvest.

Sonoma County is chockablock with wineries, but don't overpack your schedule. Plan on four or five visits a day, both

boutique producers and bigger names. After all, a day of wine tasting should be a relaxing ramble, not a grueling march.

You'll also want to reserve time to explore the chic town of Healdsburg (stay at the luxe Hotel Healdsburg or the eco-friendly H2 Hotel down the street) and boho Sebastopol, both of which have fantastic food scenes. And end your trip with a night at the landmark (and now extensively renovated) Timber Cove resort, which offers dramatic views of the rugged Sonoma coastline and the Pacific. Read on for a road map to the best wine weekend ever.

6:45 PM



6:45 P.M. PINOT & THE PACIFIC

For a scenic end to your dreamy weekend, drive out to the coast and stay at the gorgeously remodeled Timber Cove Resort near Jenner. The resort's tasting-room bar, The Hirsch Room (a partnership with Hirsch Vineyards, one of California's benchmark Pinot Noir producers), is a great opportunity to do a reserve tasting while listening to the waves crash on the rocks. Then extend your trip for a week, because after waking to a spectacular view over the coast at dawn, why would you ever want to go home? Doubles from \$250; timbercoveresort.com.

