

**VISIT**

# **TRI-VALLEY**

**INSPIRATION GUIDE 2018**

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## FEATURES

**16 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.

**26 LIQUID ASSETS** One of California's leading wine regions, the Tri-Valley is also making its mark with craft beers, unique distilleries, hip bars and trendy taprooms.

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



## DEPARTMENTS

### 5 GETTING ORIENTED

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

### 8 THEN & NOW

From the historic, to the practical, to the downright quirky (think tarantula dens!), the area has countless stories to tell.

### 54 BLISS

It's no surprise that the Tri-Valley has become a leading wedding destination thanks to its idyllic landscapes, welcoming hotels and inns, and many activities for friends and family to enjoy.

### 60 WAYFINDING

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



42



54

TOP: DANIELLE POFF; BOTTOM: DANIELLE POFF



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# Getting Oriented / WELCOME

## WELCOME TO THE TRI-VALLEY, THE EMBODIMENT OF "LOCAL CALIFORNIA!"

Why "Local California"? Because here, you can enjoy a classic Main Street experience, browsing shops, dining alfresco and saying hi to those you pass. As you enter the Tri-Valley from any of our four communities—whether it's Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin or Danville—you'll find yourself slowing down just a notch, relaxing a little bit and taking some time to stroll.

Or you can go five minutes outside of any of our towns and immediately be in the countryside: wine country, Mount Diablo, Pleasanton Ridge, Lake Del Valle and Shadow Cliffs, all with plenty of country trails. Take time to explore and enjoy those perfect California days.

Sunshine you can count on: That's what we put on the sunglasses we give away to our clients. It's another way of being Local California, and so is our newest trail: the Tri-Valley Ice Cream Trail. We are still proud of the

Tri-Valley Beer Trail, which ties our four cities together and links us to our hop-growing past, but we are having a lot of fun with the Ice Cream Trail that spreads its sweetness throughout the Tri-Valley!

Whether you are into wine (we've got almost 60 wineries) or beer (we've got 22 stops on the beer trail), or ice cream, or just fresh food at one of our farm-to-fork restaurants, bring your dog, your bike, your friends and your family, and experience Local California in the Tri-Valley.

See you around!



**BARBARA STEINFELD**  
PRESIDENT & CEO, VISIT TRI-VALLEY

P.S. My favorite ice cream is lavender or anything chocolate!



The Visit Tri-Valley team, from left: Todd Dibs, Barbara Steinfeld, Leigh Cranor, Nicole Henninger, Robin Fahr and Susan Bolt. Front row: Astro, the wonder dog.



# WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

A quick primer on our extraordinarily well-located towns.



## DANVILLE DELIGHTS

With its specialty shops, art galleries, wine bars and booming restaurant scene, Danville's charming downtown combines nostalgia with modern sensibilities. Venture away from the hub, and you'll find that Danville is also home to Tao House (the onetime 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.

## DISTINCTIVE DUBLIN

The third-fastest-growing city in California, Dublin is bursting with appealing restaurants, shops, nightlife and activities. It has the only IMAX movie theater in the Tri-Valley and a wealth of other recreational opportunities, including golf, bowling, laser tag, 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.

## LIVE IT UP IN LIVERMORE

California's oldest wine-growing region, Livermore remains a world-class destination with dozens of wineries—most of which are family owned and

operated for generations. Livermore is not just for wine aficionados, though: the San Francisco Premium Outlets (with more than 180 name-brand stores) and a lively downtown make the city an attraction for avid shoppers as well. Sample Livermore's rich cultural scene by catching a show at the Bankhead Theater.

## THE PLEASURES OF PLEASANTON

With 1,200 acres of parks, open space and trails, Pleasanton invites visitors and locals alike to head outdoors and take in the sights of the Tri-Valley—though there's no shortage of indoor activities to enjoy as well. Shopaholics can browse Stoneridge Shopping Center and Pleasanton's downtown boutiques, while food lovers have their choice of 220 different restaurants, cafes, dessert bars and more. Performances at the Firehouse Arts Center entertain year-round.

# Discover Everything The Tri-Valley



## Live Locally for the Day in Danville

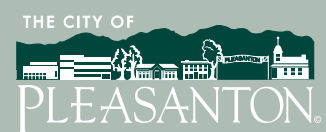
Discover Danville's charming historical downtown. Enjoy the variety of shops, boutiques, restaurants, cafés, spas, wine bars, museums, galleries, parks and trails. Start at Hartz and Prospect Avenue—the heart of downtown. You'll find plenty of free parking, and dogs are welcome, making Danville the perfect day trip destination. Visit our website and download our Live Locally Guide to help you plan your upcoming adventure through Danville. Once you visit Danville we know you'll be back.

Visit [danville.ca.gov](http://danville.ca.gov)

## Dublin—Have Fun in Our Backyard While You're Away From Yours

Dublin has something for everyone! Enjoy our outstanding family-friendly amenities including The Wave, our new state-of-the-art recreation and aquatic complex. Plus, the Dublin Ranch Robert Trent Jones Jr. golf course, go-karts, bowling, laser tag, ice skating, trampoline park, and iMax theater. Explore our gorgeous parks and hiking trails, quality shopping, and wonderful international cuisine. It's all right here in our backyard.

Visit [dublin.ca.gov](http://dublin.ca.gov)



# Has To Offer



## Living It Up in Livermore

Livermore is well known for world-class innovation, rich western heritage, and a thriving wine industry.

We offer a wide variety of shopping and dining options—from our nationally acclaimed Downtown with many unique shops and restaurants to the more than 55 wineries to the San Francisco Premium Outlets with more than 170-luxury brand name stores.

We invite you to come and explore the diverse and unique attractions that make Livermore a premier destination.

Visit [cityoflivermore.net](http://cityoflivermore.net)

## Pleasanton— An Extraordinary Experience

Enjoy 1,200 acres of parks and open space, 24 miles of trails and a round of golf at award-winning Callippe Preserve. Delight in a year-round farmers market, a full schedule of festivals, concerts, and performances at the elegant Firehouse Arts Center. Explore our history at the interpretive Alviso Adobe. Discover Stoneridge Shopping Center and visit downtown Pleasanton, for specialty shopping and outdoor dining with a small-town vibe. It's all here.

Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov), [inpleasanton.com](http://inpleasanton.com)

1. Downtown Shopping, Danville. 2. St. Patrick's Day Festival, Dublin. 3. Premium Outlets, Livermore. 4. 2016 Livermore Wine Country Downtown Street Fest, Livermore. 5. Emerald Glen Recreation and Aquatic Complex (The Wave), Dublin. 6. Hot Summer Nights Hot Rod & Classic Car Show, Danville. 7. Firehouse Arts Center, Pleasanton. 8. Alviso Adobe, Pleasanton.

# 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, BUILDINGS, TRAILS AND EVEN WINERIES ARE 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**; **St. Raymond**, the region's oldest Catholic church (1859); the **Murray School-house**; and the **Kolb House**, a 1911 Craftsman bungalow that now operates as a museum. **Dublin Camp Parks Military History Center** preserves the history of the old military base known as Fleet City during World War II.

Other areas boast their own treasures: In Danville, an oak tree thought to be 350 years old stands on Diablo Road, and a likeness of the tree serves as the town's logo. Nearby, the historic **Railroad Depot**, a reminder of the town's earliest days, houses the culturally rich **Museum of the San Ramon Valley**.

In Pleasanton, sign up for a historic walking tour with the **Museum on Main**, or check out the public artwork on a guided outing. 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 Chardonnay clones. **Concannon Vineyard**, also dating back to 1883, 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.



Concannon Vineyard, Livermore

COURTESY OF CONCANNON VINEYARD



Olivina owner Charles Crohare tours his orchard with Katie, his four-legged friend.

## EVOO-LUTION

### STEP ASIDE, WINE. THESE LOCAL PRODUCERS SHOW IT IS OLIVE OIL'S TIME TO SHINE.

After decades of taking a backseat to wine production, olive oil is having its moment in the Tri-Valley sun. Olive oil outfits have sprung up across Livermore Valley, the heart of the NorCal olive oil revival.

#### OLIVINA

Situated across from Wente Vineyards, Olivina is the region's largest olive orchard and olive oil producer, with bottles for sale throughout the Tri-Valley. The orchard's first trees were planted in the 1880s; decades later, the Crohare family bought the land, and in 2000, Charles Crohare decided to dedicate his retirement to cultivating the neglected trees. Monthly tours introduce visitors to the orchard and mill. The oil is sold at the tasting room, local shops, and the farmers markets in Livermore and Pleasanton. [theolivina.com](http://theolivina.com)

#### WOODY ESTATES OLIVE OIL

The Wood clan, which owns Wood Family Vineyards, has the good fortune of living on a road lined with long rows of olive trees whose yearly harvest gets divided among a handful of neighbors. The Woods press their allotment and share the results with the rest of us—an olive oil redolent with citrus notes, which can be bought online or at the tasting room. [woodfamilyvineyards.com/olive-oil](http://woodfamilyvineyards.com/olive-oil)

#### HANDPRINTS OLIVE OIL

Handprints is grown and produced at The Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa, which features a lush orchard of Manzanilla olive trees. The fruit, pressed and bottled locally, is available for purchase at the resort. For a splash of relaxation, book the spa's Signature Aroma massage, which combines the olive oil with essential oils and natural extracts. [purpleorchid.com](http://purpleorchid.com)

## PLEASANTON'S URBAN LEGENDS

### EXAMINING THE TRUTH BEHIND SOME OF THE TOWN'S TALL TALES.

#### BANDITS HIT THE STREETS

Dubbed the "most desperate town in the West" when it was called Alisal, the area (later renamed Pleasanton) was a refuge for desperados in the 1850s and 1860s. But according to Ken MacLennan, curator of the Museum on Main, "The degree to which bandits would come and drink with the ladies is questionable." Conclusion: The lawbreakers laid low.

#### IT'S A GHOST TOWN!

Locals have long told of strange happenings in the historic buildings on Main Street. "People report hearing strange noises," says MacLennan, "and there are stories of hauntings at the Pleasanton Hotel." (Those include a 19th-century murdered prostitute.) Decide for yourself on the museum's annual Ghost Walks.

#### A NETWORK OF TUNNELS LIES BENEATH THE STREETS

"It's not very likely that they ever existed," says MacLennan. While there are basements with excavations (including in Gay Nineties Pizza, which was once the stagecoach station), a city engineer investigated in the 1970s and found no tunnels downtown. Conclusion: False.



Marc Cohn and Blind Boys of Alabama 1/19



# LIVERMORE — arts —

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Vicki Lawrence and Mauna 1/26



Lisa Loeb 4/6



Body Traffic 5/19

photo: Robert Suguitan



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### LOCAL TIP

Drink and be driven: The **Livermore Wine Trolley** tour takes visitors to three wineries, with a stop for lunch. And during spring and summer, the trolley's hop-on, hop-off wine shuttle provides a customizable option, hopping among multiple wineries for the independent at heart. [livermorewinetrolley.com](http://livermorewinetrolley.com)

## ALL ABOARD!

Ride the rails in style on the vintage **Niles Canyon Railway**, rolling between Sunol and the Niles district of Fremont on Sundays and occasional Saturdays. Special trips through the canyon include wine-tasting rides and a bedazzled nighttime **Train of Lights** that travels Wednesdays, Fridays and weekends during Christmas season. [ncry.org](http://ncry.org)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF VISIT TRI-VALLEY; SHUTTERSTOCK; GERALD DEWITT

## TOUR THE TERROIR

EXPERIENCE THE TRI-VALLEY AT YOUR OWN SPEED.



### 2 MPH

All you really need for exploring the region is a pair of comfortable shoes and a game plan. Wine enthusiasts should check out Livermore's scenic **Greenville Road**, which boasts six vineyards within an easy, mile-long stroll; or **Tesla Road**, home to **Wente**, **Concannon**, **Stony Ridge** and other well-known wineries. For a glimpse into the region's history, the **Museum on Main** in Pleasanton offers guided outings like the **Bootleggers Bust Tour**, an adults-only tour of the city's Prohibition-era past. [museumonmain.org/adult-programs](http://museumonmain.org/adult-programs)

### 12 MPH

Zip along the grapevines on a bike. Steve Howard, owner of **Livermore Cyclery**, suggests this route from the shop's front door: "Ride toward south Livermore, and connect with the bike path, which parallels Tesla Road. At Mines Road, the path heads northeast through vineyards. Follow the path to Vasco Road, and you'll hit a handful of breweries and wine-tasting rooms. You'll pass **Concannon Winery** and, if you go a bit farther, **Wente**. Limit what you drink, or drink and walk the bike!" [livermorecyclery.com](http://livermorecyclery.com). Additionally, check out [visittrivalley.com](http://visittrivalley.com) for three self-guided bike routes.

### 40+ MPH

**Black Tie Transportation** offers town cars, luxury sedans and charters to give you a feel for the region without the hassle of driving. The company also offers custom tours of Tri-Valley wineries (and breweries), with recommendations from its in-house wine specialist. [blacktietrans.com](http://blacktietrans.com)



### EPICUREAN ADVENTURES IN LIVERMORE

Downtown Livermore boasts an array of eateries, cafes and tasting rooms—so many, in fact, that you'll want to return time and again to try them all. Thanks to **Livermore Food Tours**, you can get an appetizer course at some of the area's best culinary destinations. The three-hour walk stops at restaurants to sample menu items and local wines and beers. Each excursion is a mix of ethnic eateries, sweet shops and award-winning restaurants. Says Keven Hempel, the tour company's owner and guide, "This is a city that allows a visitor to taste flavors from all around the world within a 1-mile radius." [livermorefoodtours.com](http://livermorefoodtours.com)



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## MARCH OF THE TARANTULAS

Each fall, thousands of tarantulas crawl out of their dens in **Mount Diablo State Park** for mating season. While the proliferation of these critters on trails may give some the heebie-jeebies, the bravehearted or curious can take guided hikes with rangers for a closer look at the big spiders. (Don't worry: A tarantula's bite is not dangerous.) [mdia.org](http://mdia.org)



### BRIGHT IDEA

The planet's longest-burning light-bulb, according to *The Guinness Book of 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](http://centennialbulb.org)



## THE NAME GAME

**FROM HISTORICAL NODS TO HOMAGES, THE NAMES OF THE TRI-VALLEY'S CITIES TELL A STORY.**

- > **Danville**—The California Gold Rush brought Daniel and Andrew Inman to the Danville area in 1854, where they used their mining earnings to buy 400 acres of what's now Old Town Danville. The name Inmanville was considered but ultimately rejected. Although the name chosen appears to reference Daniel, it was actually an homage to Andrew's mother-in-law, who was born and raised near Danville, Kentucky.

---

- > **Dublin**—Over the past couple of centuries, Dublin has changed its name not once but twice. In 1854, it was dubbed Murray, after Irish immigrant Michael Murray, who, along with fellow Irishman Jeremiah Fallon, had purchased 1,000 acres of land in the area in 1850. In the late 1800s, the city became known as Dougherty's Station because all mail was delivered to Dougherty Station Hotel. Soon after, it adopted its current moniker, Dublin. The origin of the name is unknown, but most believe it to be a nod to the Irish ancestry of the initial European settlers.

---

- > **Livermore**—In 1839, Robert Livermore and Jose Noriega secured a land grant of what would become present-day Livermore. When the Gold Rush hit, their ranch became a popular rest stop for people on their way to Sacramento and the Sierra. Livermore became known as an excellent host, and in 1849, he used his profits to purchase a two-story home—believed to be the area's first wooden structure—for his family. He died in 1858, but his legacy lives on in the town's name.

---

- > **Pleasanton**—Originally known as Alisal, the town underwent a name change when settler John W. Kottinger decided to rename it after a distinguished Civil War general, Alfred Pleasanton, in the late 1860s. Allegedly, a recording error by a clerk in Washington, D.C. had far-reaching consequences and led to the current—and more fitting—spelling of the name.

# SAVE THE DATES

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

## FEBRUARY

Celebrate SF Beer Week and the return of the Blue Brew Bus at the **2nd Annual Livermore Downtown Brew Crawl**.

**Spoonful**, the newest downtown Pleasanton culinary event, features restaurants offering their best spoonful of warm and delicious. Grab your commemorative spoon at Museum on Main.

## MARCH

The annual **St. Patrick's Day Festival and Parade** in Dublin is a weekend full of traditional Irish jigs, fish and chips, and family-friendly games.

During **Barrel Tasting Weekend** in Livermore wine country, participating wineries allow visitors to taste young wines straight from the barrel.

U.S.-made hot rods are the stars of the show at the **Goodguys 36th All-American Get-Together** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.



Scottish Highland Gathering and Games

Run the annual **Livermore Half Marathon**, and earn wine, beer and music at the finish line.

The **Dublin Eggstravaganza** features a petting zoo, carnival games, arts and crafts, and an Easter egg hunt.

## APRIL

**RoboGames**—the “World’s Largest Robot Competition,” according to *The Guinness Book of World Records*—takes place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds with more than 50 different events.

## MAY

Raise a glass at the **27th Annual Livermore Wine Country Downtown Street Fest**, the East Bay’s largest celebration of wine, beer, crafts, shopping and dining.

Celebrate the **4th Annual Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival** with unlimited pours, awesome food, giant beer pong and live music.

## JUNE

The **Goodguys 25th Summer Get-Together** is another chance to check out a vibrant fleet of hot rods and muscle cars.

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

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

Tap into the **Red, White and Brew Fest** within the Alameda County Fair for the ultimate brew experience.

Enjoy theater, wine and a gourmet picnic under the stars at Wente Estate Vineyards



Alameda County Fair

with the **Livermore Shakespeare Festival**, featuring *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Winter's Tale*. (Into July.)

## JULY

The **Fourth of July With Fireworks** is a family-friendly pyrotechnic spectacle in downtown Livermore.

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

Don't miss Livermore Valley's premier food and wine affair, **Taste Our Terroir**, with four days of cooking classes, seminars and vineyard tours.

## AUGUST

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

Check out more than 3,000 rods, customs, classics, muscle cars and trucks at **Goodguys West Coast Nationals**.

## SEPTEMBER

Celebrate Scottish culture, competition and entertainment at the 153rd consecutive **Scottish Highland Gathering and Games**.

Revel in the exciting crush season with wine tasting, arts, crafts and music during the **Harvest Wine Celebration**, featuring 40 Livermore wineries.



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

## OCTOBER

Get your thrills at **Pirates of Emerson**, the yearly theme park at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, featuring haunted houses, mazes and other scary entertainment.

Halloween-themed girl power prevails at Livermore's **Witches Night Out**, with shopping specials and martini tasting at 20 different locations.

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

Join downtown Pleasanton's **Halloween Brew Crawl** for adult trick-or-treating, with tastings at over 25 locations on and around Main Street.

## NOVEMBER

Check out the **Goodguys 29th Autumn Get-Together Car Show and Demolition Derby** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

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

## DECEMBER

The **Lights of Livermore Holiday Tour** offers a wine and small bites reception followed by a one-hour trolley tour of Livermore's best holiday light displays.

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

Downtown **Livermore's Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade** has over 50 floats and ends with a tree lighting.

Livermore Valley tasting rooms go holiday-themed with both cheery decor and festive offerings at **Holiday in the Vineyards**.

For a full listing of events, visit [VisitTriValley.com](http://VisitTriValley.com).





Posada in Livermore



# BEST BITES

With restaurants, cafes and sweet shops galore, dining in the Tri-Valley is a culinary adventure. In the following pages, you'll find meal-by-meal suggestions—from upscale venues to down-home diners, from farm-to-table dishes to ethnic eats—that will have you wishing there were more chances to eat in the day.



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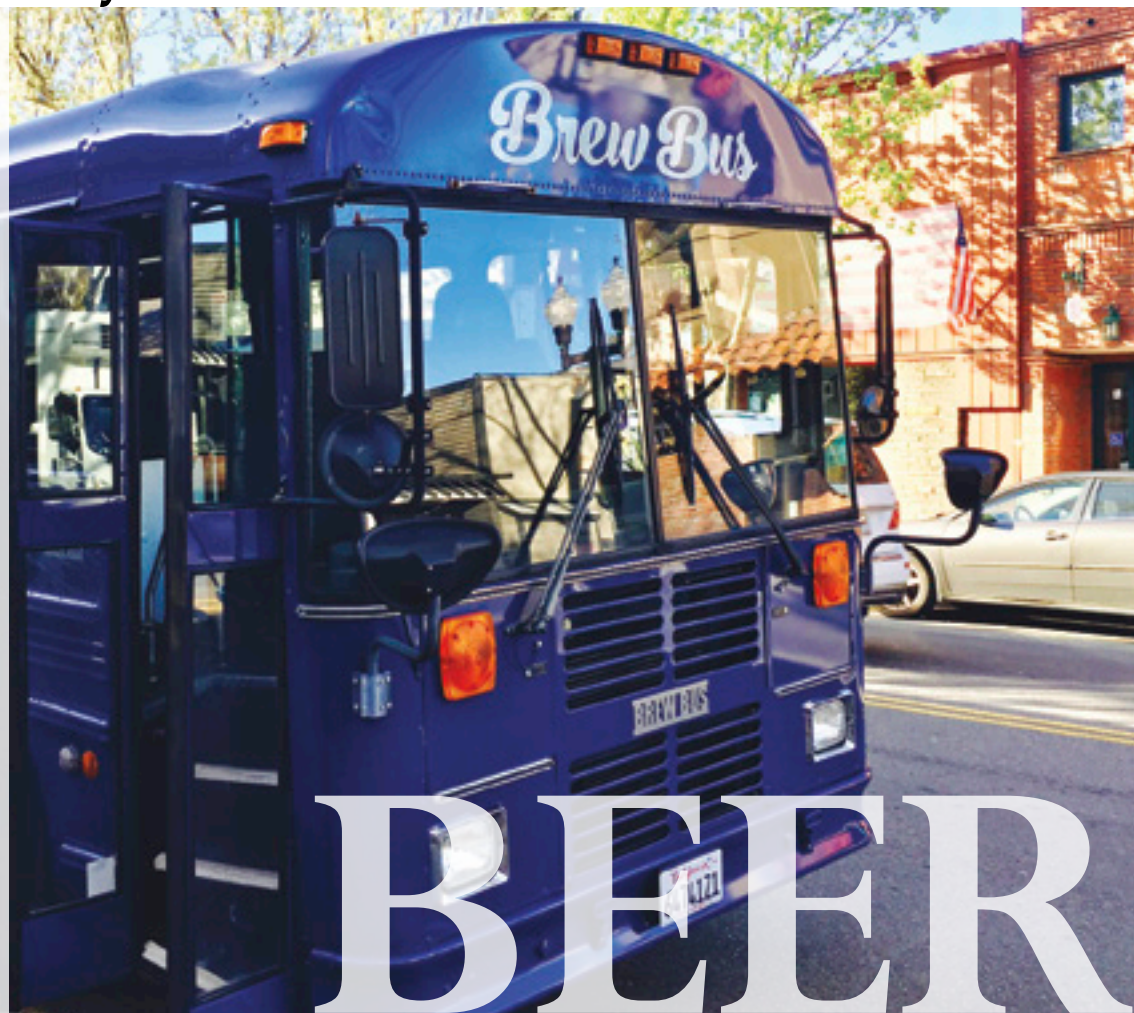
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# BEER

Take your morning meal to the next level at **The Press** in Pleasanton, the perfect hipster hideout. Tasty dishes such as an avocado and egg toastini are served up 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.



## 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

Livermore's **Riata Diner & Tavern** reflects the area's pioneer past with Wild West-inspired decor and memorabilia—and offers hearty breakfast dishes. If you think bigger is better, then check out **Dean's Cafe** in Pleasanton, which boasts “one of the largest omelet menus in existence” and portions to match.

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 wholesome breakfast without the guilt, fill up at the popular **Chow Danville**, an upscale joint that emphasizes local, seasonal ingredients and welcomes diners of all ages. (The eatery was designated “Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant in the East Bay” by readers of *Diablo* magazine in 2015.)

### BRUNCHING OUT

Follow the locals to Danville's **Sideboard**, a premier coffee bar that features deluxe brands such as Four Barrel, Sightglass, Temple and more. Indulge yourself with an order of beignets to go.

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. Or if you prefer Italian cuisine, catch the Sunday brunch buffet at Livermore's **Campo di Bocce**, which serves an all-you-can-eat selection of breakfast classics (including American favorites), plus bottomless cocktails. Cap your meal with a round of bocce on one of the restaurant's eight world-class courts.

If you're feeling adventurous, head over to Dublin's **Blossom Bee**, a hole-in-the-wall Thai fusion creperie that puts a twist on the beloved breakfast food with bold, unique dishes like the Royal Chicken crepe with peanut sauce.

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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For a culinary adventure south of the border, look no further than Livermore's family-owned **Posada**, which expanded in 2016 due to popularity. A contemporary take on Southwestern food, the eatery 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 high-end Mexican cuisine. Twenty years later, the popular spot is well-known for its 100 percent blue agave tequila margaritas as well as its enchanting outdoor dining experience.

#### POWER LUNCH

For authentic Chinese cuisine, **Andy & Yu's** is making its mark in Pleasanton with fresh takes on old favorites and plentiful gluten-free options. In Livermore, **Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard**'s remarkable wine list is spotlighted by the multicourse tasting menu, which perfectly pairs Szechuan staples and vino.

Italian meets Indian at Dublin's **Curry Pizza House**. Colorful creations like the Aloo Chaat—complete with marinated potatoes—are served on paper with a traditional white and red (or green) pattern.

#### COMFORT FOOD

Since opening in July 2016, **Danville Harvest** has garnered a lot of buzz—and deservedly so. Embracing the farm-to-table concept, chef Timothy Humphrey gives a Southern twang to casual Bay Area cuisine.

If you want to completely kick back and relax, **The Growler** in Danville is your spot. Drink in the rustic setting along with a craft beer (or two), and fill up on classic pub fare from Rachael Zavala, executive chef and the winner of *Chopped* on the Food Network in 2016.

Danville's **Locanda Ravello** embraces the Amalfi Coast with bright dishware, cheerful patterns, and hearty pizzas and pastas. Superior service makes it even easier to relax and savor the luxurious Italian cuisine.

## 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—rooted in mainstay ingredients such as coconut and shrimp paste—includes boldly spiced items such as belachan string beans and tender chicken satay, while the saltwater aquarium and painted palm trees create a soothing tropical ambience.

Like to pair your food with wine—and enjoy it with good friends? **Pairings Cellars** in Pleasanton is a contemporary Italian-American restaurant with 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.

## 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 **Blackhawk Grille** and **Bridges Restaurant & Bar** are perfect examples; these paragons offer elegant settings and spacious patios. But classic status should not suggest stuffiness: Blackhawk offers artisanal cocktails and flavors its menu of American standards with locally sourced ingredients. 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.

The granddaddy of fine dining is **The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards**. The famed restaurant, nestled in a spectacular wine country setting, features a half-acre organic production garden that provides fresh seasonal vegetables to complement hearty dishes influenced by Italian, French and California cuisine. An amazing wine selection adds to the sublime experience.

### WORLDLY WONDERS

In Pleasanton, the flavors of Malaysia come to life at local star **Taste of Sing-Ma**. Drawing on culinary influences from Europe, China and India, the dishes are as diverse as they are dynamic. With so many options, it can be difficult to choose, but it's hard to go wrong with crab in chili garlic tomato sauce and pineapple fried rice.

### NIGHTLIFE HOT SPOTS

Another twist in the growing food scene is a string of restaurants with exciting menus, expansive bars and a nightlife vibe. Dublin's **Berevino Cucina & Wine Bar** offers old-world Italian cuisine and an expansive 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, **Revel Kitchen & Bar** has been a smash with city sophisticates. The second restaurant from chef-owners of nearby Esin Restaurant & Bar, Revel is an upscale tavern that serves bar bites and small plates, as well as heartier entrees until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Located next to the Bankhead Theater, **Sauced BBQ & Spirits** serves up killer Southern barbecue with a deep shelf of beer, wine and spirits, and the restaurant always has a lively atmosphere, with trivia nights during the week and live bands on weekend evenings.

Chef Matt Greco aims to elevate the affordable everyday meal at **Salt Craft** in Pleasanton. The restaurant's plentiful a la carte options include whole-grain pastas, and sandwiches with house-made bread and house-cured meats.



**Sabio on Main**, with its delicious small plates and large bar, has become a go-to spot in Pleasanton from midday to late night. The global tapas menu is packed with delights, best when shared. For special occasions, the chef's menu and wine pairing, served in the Castile Room, makes for an unforgettable experience.

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.



Refreshing Italian ice is the star of the show at **Rita's** in Pleasanton. Made fresh daily, this snow cone-meets-real fruit pairing will change the way you view frozen desserts. If you really fall in love, go for the quart size.



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## THE ULTIMATE ICE CREAM TRAIL

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

- > Start your tour at Danville's **BlooGrape Organic Sworls**, which serves rolled ice cream made with locally sourced ingredients. Choose your base (yogurt, coconut milk or ice cream); your flavor (including cheese-cake, horchata and pineapple); toppings (such as crystallized ginger, rose petals or dried blueberries); and a finishing drizzle (coconut nectar or honey, anyone?).

---

- > Head south to Dublin to enjoy a different sort of ice cream—the kind stuffed into a doughnut. With confectioners going wild making creative goodies such as the cronut, it was only a matter of time before innovators like **The Mix Creamery** realized that doughnut plus ice cream equals dessert gold. But not just any ice cream—from Harry Potter-themed butterbeer to candy corn, Mix Creamery's flavors are as unusual as they are mouthwatering.

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- > Take a 10 minute-plus 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 the signature soft-serve ice cream (which can reach half

a foot tall) so you don't lose momentum before your final stop.

- > If you're in the mood for something a bit different, **Amorino Gelato Al Naturale**—located at the San Francisco Premium Outlets in Livermore—scoops up more than a dozen flavors of addictive Italian gelato, such as lime basil, dulce de leche and salted caramel. Amorino also offers tantalizing gelato-inspired beverages, including frappes (milk mixed with gelato or sorbet), granitas (iced fruit drinks) and sorbet drinks (think liquid sorbet).



#### TREAT YOURSELF RIGHT

To satisfy a different kind of sweet tooth, make a detour to Pleasanton's **Sugarie Bake Shop**, and sample baker Natalie Wong's French macarons. Made with traditional French meringue, the confections come in flavors ranging from traditional rose to black sesame banana. For more decadent delicacies, look no further than **Danville Chocolates**, the town's original chocolate shop. The store specializes in dipping, coating everything from Nutter Butters to Oreos in chocolate goodness. Or head to premier Dublin bakery **Paris Baguette**, known for its light and airy signature dough. Whether you're in the mood for sweet (try a fruit pastry bite) or savory (go for the apple cream cheese bread), this patisserie will not disappoint.



Rita's in Pleasanton.



# 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 wine-making history. Continuing that tradition, local wineries are constantly finding new ways to create impressive varietals and memorable experiences.



Livermore Valley



## TALE OF THE TERROIR

### WINE MAKING HAS A ROBUST HISTORY IN THE TRI-VALLEY.

Tri-Valley wine culture has aged well over the centuries since Spanish missionaries began growing wine grapes in Livermore Valley in the 1760s. Robert Livermore realized the area's potential value, planting the first commercial vines in the 1840s. The quality of the regional wines was confirmed at the 1889 International Paris Exposition, when judges awarded the Grand Prix to a white from Cresta Blanca Winery (the site of Wente today)—a first for an American wine.

The Tri-Valley's distinct terroir makes it a prime wine location. Surrounded by coastal range mountains and foothills, the area has a unique gravel-based soil, which increases flavor concentration in the grapes. Coastal fog and marine breezes come in from the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay every afternoon, cooling the warm air in the valley. This mix of sunny days and chilly nights creates ideal conditions for fully ripened and balanced fruit.

As a testament to this optimal setting, early wineries Wente Vineyards and Concannon Vineyard have thrived since they were both founded in 1883. The Livermore Valley AVA was formed in 1982, and in the ensuing years, more growers and winemakers have flocked to the area. In 1993, only 13 wineries were members of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association; to date, there are some 55 wineries—further proof that Livermore Valley is indeed fertile ground.



## THE ART OF WINE

### THE PALATE MEETS THE PALETTE AT DARCIÉ KENT VINEYARDS.

Darcie Kent, a fifth-generation vintner and accomplished fine artist, says her two passions are deeply intertwined. “Our wines reflect the unique terroir in Livermore Valley,” she says. “And my paintings reflect the unique attributes of our wines.”

Her interests in fine wine and evocative artwork are deeply rooted in her DNA; her great-grandfather—the son of the original winemaker in Kent’s family history—hand-painted his own labels, and a tradition was born. Today, all the wines that bear the **Darcie Kent Vineyards** name also bear colorful labels based on Kent’s original artwork. (See page 31 for an example.)

Visitors to the Darcie Kent Vineyards can experience firsthand how she has lovingly kept the legacy alive. An on-site art gallery displays Kent’s paintings, and a tasting room features a selection of wines from the six vineyards in the Darcie Kent portfolio.

“We are so privileged to be here in Livermore Valley,” Kent says. “It offers the ideal weather, soil and climate to produce excellent wines. But even more importantly, there’s a welcoming, family feel here. And for a family business like ours, that makes all the difference.”

## VINTNER FOR A DAY

### WENTE'S WINEMAKERS STUDIO GIVES CORK DORKS THE LATEST IN DIY WINE.

Call it the ultimate wine geek experience. **Wente's Winemakers Studio** offers immersive tasting sessions, during which a "wine ambassador" leads patrons through four of the winery's latest releases. The Livermore studio sets itself apart from a typical tasting room by hosting regular 60- to 90-minute classes on topics such as wine and cheese pairings and wine aroma. With the Blending Experience, aspiring vintners can use samples from Wente's various estate vineyard blocks to blend their own custom bottles. *wentevineyards.com*



Bob Bossi and Dan Rosenberg

## VINTAGE FRIENDS

### A LONG HISTORY LEADS TO WINE-MAKING GOLD AT DANTE ROBERE.

When Dan Rosenberg and Bob Bossi decided to establish a vineyard in Livermore Valley, they knew they'd be ideal business partners. Friends for some 40 years—the two South Bay natives met in high school—Rosenberg and Bossi share a similar palate, which made their plans to become co-winemakers that much smoother.

They began in 2007 by planting a small vineyard in Rosenberg's backyard in Livermore. The friends then immersed themselves in the art of wine making: studying oenology, learning the business and volunteering with others to observe the process. Now a decade later, they produce up to 3,100 cases a year of Chardonnay, Zinfandel, Barbera and Petite Sirah, among others.

"Over the years, I have seen such positive changes and great advances among the winegrowers here," says Rosenberg. "I am just so glad that we are part of the great wine community here."

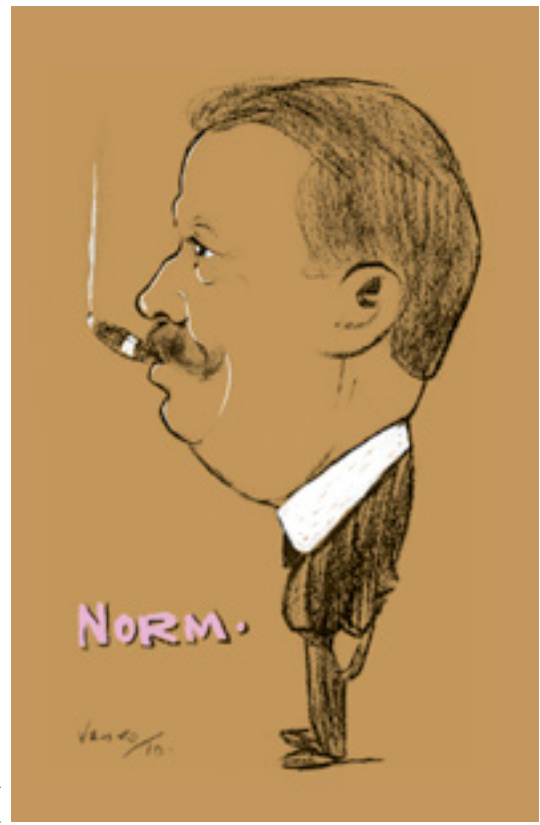
As for how they came up with the name **Dante Robere**, Bossi admits that it was a deliberate effort to "snob it up" a bit.

"We couldn't call it Dan and Bob's wines," says Bossi, with a laugh. "And Dante Robere just had the right ring."

1



2



4

5

3

# LABELS TO LOVE

GO AHEAD AND JUDGE THESE BOTTLES BY THEIR COVERS. THE ART OF WINE DOESN'T STOP AT WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOTTLE. IN LIVERMORE VALLEY, THE CRAFT ALSO SHINES THROUGH ON THE LABELS.

### 1. BIG WHITE HOUSE/JOHN EVAN CELLARS

For a departure from manicured lawns and uptight fonts, the walls and labels of Big White House and John Evan Cellars proudly display the work of the winemaker's sister, Laura Marion. [bigwhitehouse.com](http://bigwhitehouse.com)

### 2. RUBY HILL WINERY

Of all the cases of Peacock Patch Zinfandel produced at the Ruby Hill Winery every year, only 12 bottles feature a full-color image of a peacock. If you come across one, you will win a bus tour on Mello Cielo and experience the history, art and science behind the vineyard's award-winning wines. [rubyhillwinery.net](http://rubyhillwinery.net)

### 3. VASCO URBANO WINE COMPANY

The labels on Nottingham Cellars' Rhone varietals take us back to 1910, when caricature artist Vasco Urbano Loureiro sketched local patrons. Now, the drawings are an homage to area history—each label introduces wine drinkers to the story of Henry, The Sheriff, Norm and more. [nottinghamcellars.com/vu](http://nottinghamcellars.com/vu)

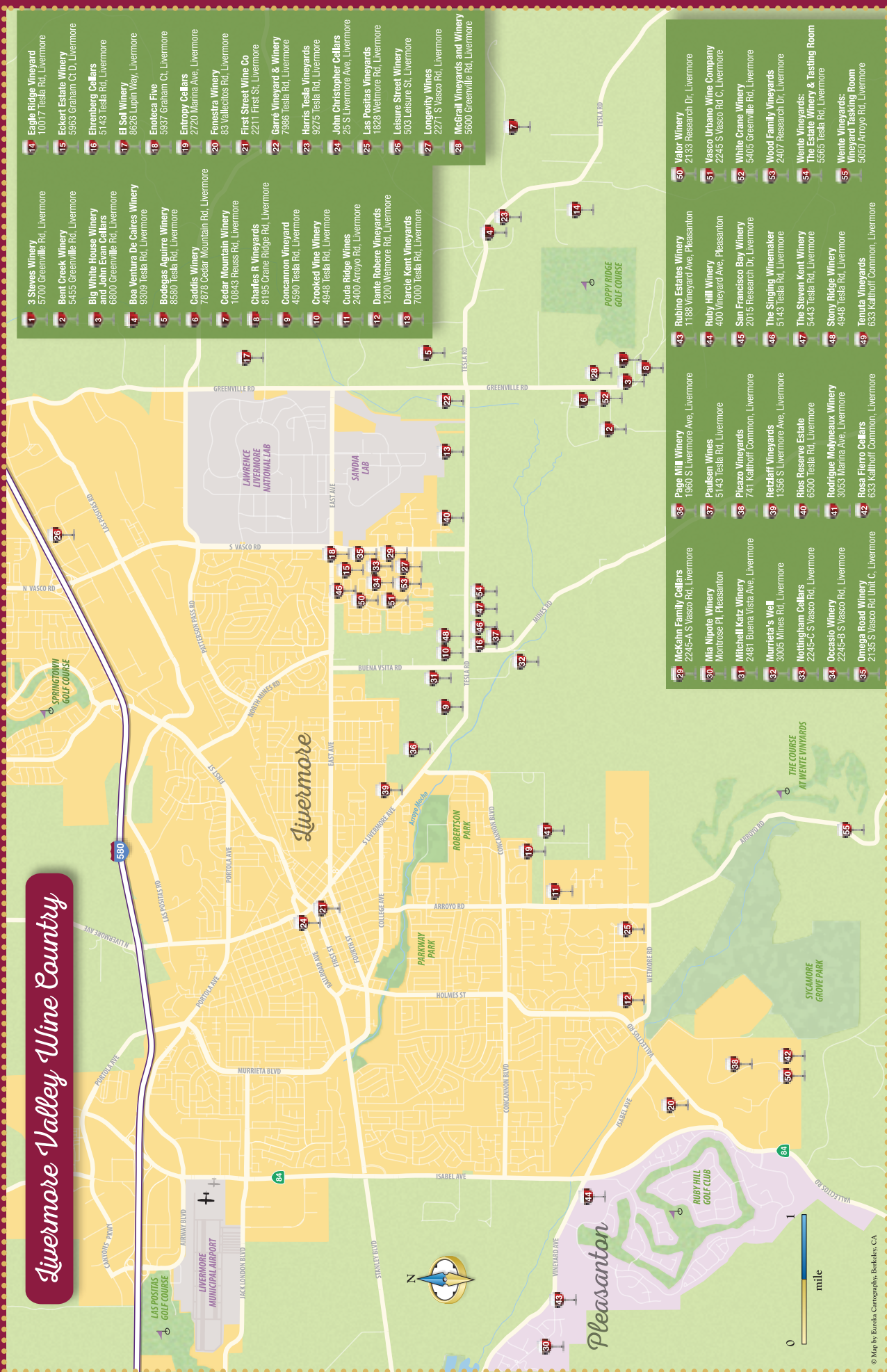
### 4. DARCIE KENT VINEYARDS

Renowned vintner and professional artist Darcie Kent captures the spirit and splendor of Livermore Valley in her vivid and evocative original labels. [darciekentvineyards.com](http://darciekentvineyards.com)

### 5. WENTE VINEYARDS

Wente Vineyards selects one artist per vintage to grace the face of its Small Lot Artist Series (reserved for its club members). For the 2014 Serenity red blend, local artist Nick Brown's painting captures the tranquil skies above the Livermore Valley vineyards. [wentevineyards.com](http://wentevineyards.com)

# Livermore Valley Wine Country



- 1 3 Steves Winery  
5700 Greenville Rd, Livermore
- 2 Bant Creek Winery  
5455 Greenville Rd, Livermore
- 3 Big White Horse Winery and John Egan Cellars  
6800 Greenville Rd, Livermore
- 4 Bea Ventura De Gaires Winery  
3309 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 5 Bodegas Acquire Winery  
8530 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 6 Caddis Winery  
7878 Cedar Mountain Rd, Livermore
- 7 Cedar Mountain Winery  
10843 Reiss Rd, Livermore
- 8 Charles R Vineyards  
8195 Crane Ridge Rd, Livermore
- 9 Concannon Vineyard  
4530 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 10 Crooked Vine Winery  
4948 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 11 Cuda Ridge Wines  
2400 Arroyo Rd, Livermore
- 12 Dante Robere Vineyards  
1200 Weimore Rd, Livermore
- 13 Darcio Kent Vineyards  
7000 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 14 Eagle Ridge Vineyard  
10017 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 15 Eckert Estate Winery  
5863 Graham Ct, Livermore
- 16 Ehrenberg Cellars  
5143 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 17 El Sol Winery  
8620 Lupin Way, Livermore
- 18 Enteca Five  
5937 Graham Ct, Livermore
- 19 Entropy Cellars  
2720 Marina Ave, Livermore
- 20 Fenestra Winery  
83 Vallecitos Rd, Livermore
- 21 First Street Wine Co  
2211 First St, Livermore
- 22 Garra Vineyard & Winery  
7966 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 23 Harris Tesla Vineyards  
9275 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 24 John Christopher Cellars  
25 S Livermore Ave, Livermore
- 25 Las Positas Vineyards  
1828 Weimore Rd, Livermore
- 26 Leisure Street Winery  
503 Leisure St, Livermore
- 27 Longevity Wines  
2271 S Vasco Rd, Livermore
- 28 McGrill Vineyards and Winery  
5600 Greenville Rd, Livermore

- 29 McKam Family Cellars  
2245-A S Vasco Rd, Livermore
- 30 Mia Nipote Winery  
Montrose Pl, Pleasanton
- 31 Mitchell Katz Winery  
2481 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore
- 32 Muriela's Well  
3005 Mines Rd, Livermore
- 33 Nottingham Cellars  
2245-C S Vasco Rd, Livermore
- 34 Occasio Winery  
2246-B S Vasco Rd, Livermore
- 35 Omega Road Winery  
2139 S Vasco Rd Unit C, Livermore
- 36 Page Mill Winery  
1960 S Livermore Ave, Livermore
- 37 Paulsen Wines  
5143 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 38 Piaczo Vineyards  
741 Kalfour Common, Livermore
- 39 Reitzel Vineyards  
1365 S Livermore Ave, Livermore
- 40 Rios Reserve Estate  
6500 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 41 Rodrigue Molyneux Winery  
3053 Marina Ave, Livermore
- 42 Rosa Fiero Cellars  
633 Kalfour Common, Livermore
- 43 Rubino Estates Winery  
1188 Vineyard Ave, Pleasanton
- 44 Ruby Hill Winery  
400 Vineyard Ave, Pleasanton
- 45 San Francisco Bay Winery  
2013 Research Dr, Livermore
- 46 The Singing Winemaker  
5143 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 47 The Steven Kent Winery  
5443 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 48 Stony Ridge Winery  
4948 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 49 Tenuta Vineyards  
633 Kalfour Common, Livermore
- 50 Valor Winery  
2133 Research Dr, Livermore
- 51 Vasco Urbano Wine Company  
2245 S Vasco Rd C, Livermore
- 52 White Crane Winery  
3403 Greenville Rd, Livermore
- 53 Wood Family Vineyards  
2407 Research Dr, Livermore
- 54 Wente Vineyards:  
The Estate Winery & Tasting Room  
5565 Tesla Rd, Livermore
- 55 Wente Vineyards:  
Vineyard Tasting Room  
5050 Arroyo Rd, Livermore



# VISIT TRI-VALLEY'S Wine Trail

VISITTRIVALLEY.COM

© Map by Eureka Cartography, Berkeley, CA

# All Wine Trails

## LEAD TO TRI-VALLEY

Forget Kevin Bacon: If You're Drinking California Wine, You're Just a Few Degrees From Winemakers of the Tri-Valley.

1. Named for the legendary bandit Joaquin Murrrieta (an inspiration for the fictional character Zorro), **Murrrieta's Well Winery** was founded by Louis Mel, a Frenchman whose legacy lives on in the winery's handcrafted blends.

2. **Charles Wetmore**, the father of California wine industry, met the owner of Château d'Yquem through Louis Mel's wife, where he obtained Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon vine cuttings that made the region famous.

3. In 1889, Charles Wetmore's **Livermore Valley** white wine gained the region international fame by winning the Grand Prix at the International Paris Exposition.

4. Vines all over California and Oregon, including nearly every California chardonnay, are sourced from **Livermore's** vineyards.

5. **Wente Vineyards** has been using the cuttings Charles Wetmore brought back since 1883 to create what is now the world's most popular white varietal and the base for most California chardonnays.

6. In the 1950s, Joe Concannon hired **Katherine Vajda** to serve as Concan MJ non-Vineyard's lead winemaker, making her one of the country's first female winemakers.

7. **Jim Concannon** released the world's first standalone Petite Sirah in 1961.



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Save money! On average, shipping one bottle of wine will cost about \$12; for a case, that price skyrockets to \$60. But with Wine Ships Free, you don’t have to worry about the extra fees. Simply email your receipt and proof of your hotel stay to [wineshipsfree@visittrivalley.com](mailto:wineshipsfree@visittrivalley.com), and the costs will be reimbursed.

Take home some of the best wine in the world from 14 award-winning wineries, including Concannon, Wente, Nottingham Cellars and more. [visittrivalley.com/wine-ships-free](http://visittrivalley.com/wine-ships-free)



## VINEYARD ROCKER

**MCGRAIL'S WINEMAKER MARK CLARIN HITS THE RIGHT NOTES.**

From driving a tractor in the Wente Vineyards as a 20-year-old to his current position as winemaker for **McGrail Vineyards and Winery**, Mark Clarin has a long history in Livermore Valley.

After discovering a love of wine making during his early days at Wente, Clarin went on to get a degree in fermentation science at UC Davis and spent a few years at Bonny Doon Vineyard in Santa Cruz, before returning to the Tri-Valley in 2004. “I love Livermore,” says Clarin. “We all help each other out, and there’s a true camaraderie.”

Now he’s back on the tractor, tending the grapes in the McGrail vineyard, (“I feel closer to my product doing the hands-on work, and it’s a better product because of it.”) and creating award-winning Cabernet Sauvignon for the family-owned winery. “The McGrails are great people, and we have a wonderful staff,” he says. “When you come out here, you have a really good experience.”

In his off hours, Clarin, who is married and has two adult children, is in a rock band called The Bacchus Brothers. The trio formed in 1999 and has released three albums, while performing regularly at area venues. “We play a lot of wineries,” Clarin says with a laugh.

# 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.



**TAP THIS**



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## WHAT'S BREWING

## DISCOVER EXCITING NEW BEERS AT THESE MICROBREWERIES.

> **Altamont Beer Works**

Livermore's long-standing micro-brewery jump-started the city's beer scene. Try the Undersized IPA if you're new to craft beer, or go Hella Hoppy if you're a pro. [altamontbeerworks.com](http://altamontbeerworks.com)

> **Danville Brewing Co.**

Danville Brewing Co. cooks up delicious pub eats to pair with five house beers and selections of bottled brews, craft cocktails, and wines. [danvillebrewing.com](http://danvillebrewing.com)

> **Eight Bridges Brewing Co.**

The family-owned, family-friendly microbrewery offers a range of brews that all beer lovers can enjoy and board games for the kids. [eightbridgesbrewing.com](http://eightbridgesbrewing.com)

> **INC 82 Brewing**

This Dublin gastropub pays homage to local history in both its decor and its moniker. (The city was incorporated in 1982.) INC 82 offers signature craft beers and a seasonal menu of pub grub. [inc82.com](http://inc82.com)

> **Main Street Brewery**

Grab a pint and bite at this local favorite that promises seven house beers along with a dozen rotating guest taps. [mainstreetbrewery.com](http://mainstreetbrewery.com)

> **Shadow Puppet Brewing Company**

This craft brewery combines traditional brewing techniques with uncommon ingredients, creating unique tasting experiences. [shadowpuppetbrewing.com](http://shadowpuppetbrewing.com)

> **Working Man Brewing Co.**

Award-winning brewers and co-owners Joel Pelote and Matt Stine obsess over every beer they produce until it's just right. [workingmanbrewing.com](http://workingmanbrewing.com)



## THE PUPPET MASTER

## BRIAN BLACKBURN CASTS A LONG SHADOW WITH HIS BREWERY'S UNIQUE BLENDS.

**Shadow Puppet Brewing Company's** founder and CEO Brian Blackburn always wanted to run his own business. Working in corporate marketing, he helped tech companies like Microsoft and HP build their brands, all the while thinking about how to make his own mark.

He found entrepreneurial inspiration in an unlikely source: a home-brewing kit gifted to him by his wife. "I made my first batch, and it was really horrible," Blackburn says with a laugh. "So I thought: I have to figure this out."

Blackburn invested in better equipment and learned everything he could about craft brewing; soon, it paid off. "I entered some contests and won some awards," he says. "That planted the seed for Shadow Puppet."

Shadow Puppet opened in Livermore in 2016, and its unique beers and family-friendly taproom are already popular with locals. The brews are a collaborative effort, with Blackburn developing the concepts and Shadow Puppet brewmaster Craig Danielson determining the execution.

Blackburn is optimistic about Shadow Puppet's future thanks in part to support from the community. "Livermore recognizes the importance and value breweries bring [to the city]," he says.

## DESIGNATED (BUS) DRIVER

### TRAVEL SAFE WHILE YOU TASTE.

With four breweries and multiple taprooms, Livermore is making a name for itself when it comes to craft beer. Hop aboard the **Blue Brew Bus** to ensure a safe and festive tasting experience. The Livermore Brew Tour offers stops at three breweries (with tasting fees covered), one facility tour, a souvenir beer glass and a drink on the bus. Plus, a Blue Brew Bus receipt or wristband makes you eligible to receive discounts at several downtown restaurants, so you can preplan dinner to follow the 5 p.m. conclusion of the tour. [bluebrewbus.com](http://bluebrewbus.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 percent of Altamont was hand built by the Altamont team, with no outside contracting. “It was really a labor of love,” says Sartori.

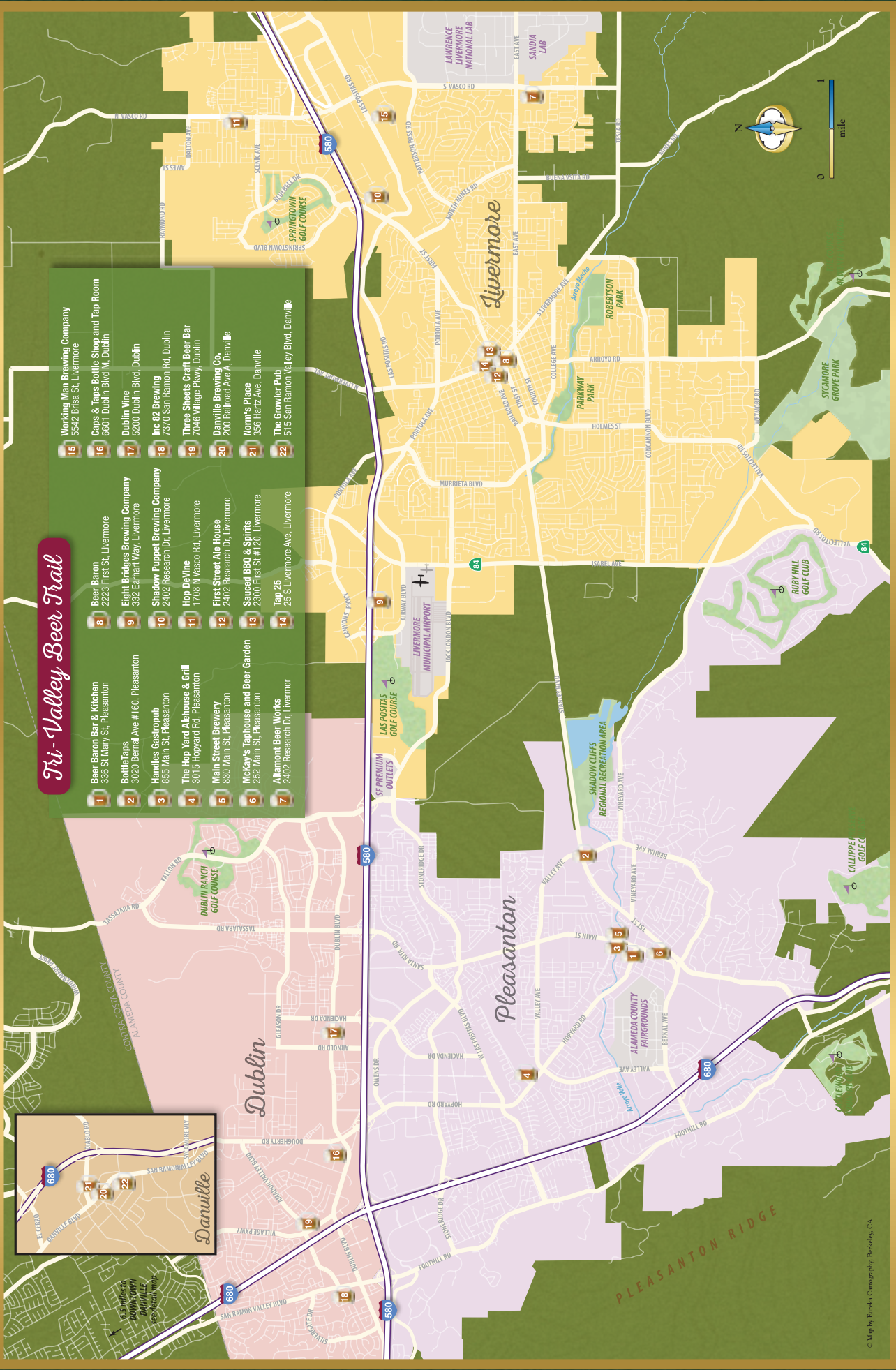
With its laid-back vibe and clean, flavorful beers, Altamont made a strong first impression on Tri-Valley natives and visitors new to the beer scene. The brewery’s business continues to increase at a steady rate each year, and Sartori is happy to keep it that way. When asked about the future, he replies, “We’re just going to continue to grow.”

# Tri-Valley Beer Trail

- 1 Beer Bacon Bar & Kitchen**  
336 St Mary St, Pleasanton
- 2 Bottle Taps**  
3020 Bernal Ave #160, Pleasanton
- 3 Handies Gastropub**  
855 Main St, Pleasanton
- 4 The Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill**  
3015 Hoyday Rd, Pleasanton
- 5 Main Street Brewery**  
830 Main St, Pleasanton
- 6 McKey's Taphouse and Beer Garden**  
252 Main St, Pleasanton
- 7 Alamoont Beer Works**  
2402 Research Dr, Livermor

- 8 Beer Bacon**  
2223 First St, Livermore
- 9 Eight Bridges Brewing Company**  
332 Earnart Way, Livermore
- 10 Shadow Puppet Brewing Company**  
2402 Research Dr, Livermore
- 11 Hop Del'Vine**  
1708 N Vasco Rd, Livermore
- 12 First Street Ale House**  
2402 Research Dr, Livermore
- 13 Sauced BBO & Spirits**  
2300 First St #120, Livermore
- 14 Tap 25**  
25 S Livermore Ave, Livermore

- 15 Working Man Brewing Company**  
5542 Briss St, Livermore
- 16 Caps & Taps Bottle Shop and Tap Room**  
6801 Dublin Blvd W, Dublin
- 17 Dublin Vine**  
5200 Dublin Blvd, Dublin
- 18 Inc 82 Brewing**  
7370 San Ramon Rd, Dublin
- 19 Three Sheets Craft Beer Bar**  
7046 Village Pkwy, Dublin
- 20 Danville Brewing Co**  
200 Railroad Ave N, Danville
- 21 Norm's Place**  
356 Hartz Ave, Danville
- 22 The Growler Pub**  
515 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville



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# VISIT TRI-VALLEY'S BEER TRAIL

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**BEER BARON BAR  
& KITCHEN**  
PLEASANTON



**EIGHT BRIDGES BREWING  
COMPANY**  
LIVERMORE



**DUBLIN VINE**  
DUBLIN



**BOTTLETAPS**  
PLEASANTON



**SHADOW PUPPET  
BREWING COMPANY**  
LIVERMORE



**INC 82 BREWING**  
DUBLIN



**HANDLES  
GASTROPUB**  
PLEASANTON



**HOP DEVINE**  
LIVERMORE



**THREE SHEETS  
CRAFT BEER BAR**  
DUBLIN



**THE HOP YARD  
ALE HOUSE**  
PLEASANTON



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**MCKAY'S TAPHOUSE  
AND BEER GARDEN**  
PLEASANTON



**TAP 25**  
LIVERMORE



**THE GROWLER PUB**  
DANVILLE



**ALTAMONT  
BEER WORKS**  
LIVERMORE



**WORKING MAN  
BREWING COMPANY**  
LIVERMORE



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**BEER BARON**  
LIVERMORE



**CAPS & TAPS BOTTLE  
SHOP AND TAP ROOM**  
DUBLIN

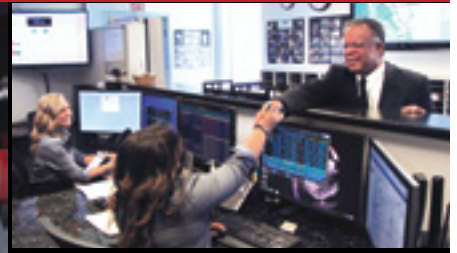
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## DINING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

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

- > **First Street Alehouse.** First Street Alehouse in downtown Livermore is the locals' go-to spot for drinking and dining, with impressive American food and 28 rotating beers on tap. Admire the wall of almost 6,000 vintage beer cans, the country's largest public collection. [firststreetalehouse.com](http://firststreetalehouse.com)

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- > **The Growler.** Featuring 20 rotating taps of local craft brews, this Danville bar and restaurant specializes in mouthwatering burgers, with meat supplied by famed New York butcher Pat LaFrieda and cooking by head chef Rachael Zavala, who took the top prize on Food Network's *Chopped* in 2016. [growlerpubdanville.com](http://growlerpubdanville.com)

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- > **Beer Baron Bar & Kitchen.** This bar's Pleasanton location offers delicious lunch and dinner (plus brunch on the weekends), while the Livermore spot has a cool speakeasy atmosphere that's perfect for date night. Enjoy its rotation of 30 craft beers along with craft cocktails. [beerbaronbar.com](http://beerbaronbar.com)

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- > **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. Drop in for Brewery Night every Tuesday, featuring local and national brewers showing off their craft. [hopyard.com](http://hopyard.com)

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- > **McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden.** McKay's bar and kitchen in Pleasanton offers scrumptious pub fare and local beer and wine. Feeling really hungry? Go big with the Jammin' burger, an 8-ounce short rib and chuck patty, topped with bacon jam and aged white cheddar. [mckaysbeergarden.com](http://mckaysbeergarden.com)

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- > **Norm's Place.** A family-owned grill and bar, Danville's Norm's Place offers "fun, food and friends" to go with the 25 beers on tap. Prove your eating prowess at the taco-eating contest held every Tuesday. [normsgrill.com](http://normsgrill.com)

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- > **Sauced BBQ & Spirits.** Just as the name suggests, Livermore's Sauced serves up savory barbecue, which should be paired with one of the 19 craft beers on tap, including seven of its very own house beers. [saucedbbqandspirits.com](http://saucedbbqandspirits.com)



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## TAP QUEST

**YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH THE TRI-VALLEY'S MIX OF HIP BARS AND TRENDY TAPROOMS.**

### BOTTLETAPS

The newly opened BottleTaps is more than just a craft-brew taproom and bottle shop; it's a beer education center. Run by Eric Wall, the only certified beer judge in Pleasanton, this upscale joint offers a variety of beers in its five retail coolers, from the well-known to the more obscure but still delicious. [bottletaps.com](http://bottletaps.com)

### CAPS & TAPS BOTTLE SHOP & TAPROOM

Quench your thirst at Caps & Taps, a family-owned taproom boasting 18 rotating drafts and a range of bottled craft beer, located in The Shops at Tralee Village in Dublin. [capsandtapsdublin.com](http://capsandtapsdublin.com)

### HOP DEVINE

Both wine bar and taproom, Livermore's Hop DeVine showcases the best of the local beverage scene as well as not-so-local drinks. Snack from the small but yummy menu of panini and salads. [facebook.com/hopdevine](https://facebook.com/hopdevine)

### TAP 25

Located in Blacksmith Square in Livermore, Tap 25 offers a rotation of 25 craft beers on tap, plus live music on Thursdays and Saturdays, and a lovely outdoor setting. [tap-25.com](http://tap-25.com)

### THREE SHEETS CRAFT BEER BAR

This Dublin bar has 30 rotating taps of craft beer, and boasts a 200-inch projection screen and four flat screens to watch your favorite Bay Area team. Bring your own food into the bar from local restaurants or food trucks. [threesheetscraftbeer.com](http://threesheetscraftbeer.com)



Justin and George Beardsley

## BUILDING BRIDGES

**JUSTIN AND GEORGE BEARDSLEY BELIEVE IN KEEPING IT LOCAL.**

"Bridges are about linking things together," says Justin Beardsley, brewmaster of **Eight Bridges Brewing Co.** True to its name, Eight Bridges and the team behind it aim to be a force for community connection. The family business—based in Livermore—opened in February 2014, and the focus has always been on making quality craft beer with natural, traditional ingredients and a deeply local spirit.

"Craft beer is meant to be local," says Justin's father, George, who is president of the company. "We feel local craft beer has a responsibility to support the community."

Already, Eight Bridges has made a deep impact. Along with two other Tri-Valley brewers, the father-son duo helped to create the Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival, a nonprofit event that donates money to help children travel for medical care. Eight Bridges has also organized events for multiple sclerosis and local animal shelters.

On a smaller level, Eight Bridges can proudly say that it was Livermore's original dog- and family-friendly tasting room. "It's a family business, so it's all about family here," Justin says.

# TIME

# OUT

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, makes staying inside not only silly, but a crime against nature.



DANIELLE POFF

Lake Del Valle

# 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 into 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 rainbow trout and inland chinook salmon, 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. [ebparks.org/parks/del\\_valle](http://ebparks.org/parks/del_valle)

### 2. THE WEEKEND WARRIOR (MODERATE)

**On foot:** 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 Ridge-line Trail is a bit of a climb but worth the sweat. [ebparks.org/parks/Pleasanton](http://ebparks.org/parks/Pleasanton)

**On the water:** Skim over Lake Del Valle on a rented stand-up paddleboard; from \$20. [outbackadventures.com](http://outbackadventures.com)

**On horseback:** Livermore's **Horizons East Equestrian Center** offers English-style riding lessons to guests of all ages and skill levels. The equestrian center also specializes in team-building events. [showstables.com](http://showstables.com)

### 3. THE SUPERMAN (CHALLENGING)

Hike to the scenic summit of **Mount Diablo** for a pulse-quickenning 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](http://parks.ca.gov/mountdiablo)



COURTESY OF VISIT TRI-VALLEY



## GREAT GREENS

**GET YOUR GAME ON AT A DISTINCTIVE TRI-VALLEY GOLF COURSE, THEN GRAB A BITE AT THE CLUBHOUSE.**

If you are looking for a round with a view, it's hard to beat **The Course at Wentve Vineyards**. Grapevines and oak-dotted hills flank the only Greg Norman-designed course in Northern California, where golfers encounter plenty of challenges and thrills. Overlooking the tricky 18th hole, The Grill offers a casual menu and full bar. [wentvevineyards.com/course](http://wentvevineyards.com/course)

For more great risk/reward play, head to the back nine at Pleasanton's **Callippe Preserve Golf Course**. The greens are complex—for example, the fairway at hole 10 is bisected by a wide, dry ravine—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](http://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 a burger or a salmon-topped salad at The Grill. [poppyridgегolf.com](http://poppyridgегolf.com)

The nine-hole course at **Pleasanton Golf Center**, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, is suited to all abilities and budgets. Perfect your swing at the facility's driving range, and recharge at the clubhouse, which serves salads, sandwiches and beer. [pleasantongolfcenter.com](http://pleasantongolfcenter.com)

With nine- and 18-hole courses, **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 Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill, where kids eat free after 5 p.m. [laspositasgolfcourse.com](http://laspositasgolfcourse.com)

If you're lucky enough to know a member at the private **Crow Canyon Golf Course** in Danville, be sure to score an invite (or become a ClubCorp member). Experience the signature 18th hole, involving a distinctive water hazard and an elevated green, then choose between the country club's Grill (casual) and Vintage (high-end) dining rooms. [clubcorp.com](http://clubcorp.com)

With lots of par 3s, **Dublin Ranch Golf Course** is a short course that is long on interest, offering a few surprises as well as great wraparound views. At the course's new Hilltop Restaurant, try the Birdie, a grilled chicken sandwich with bacon, onions and Monterey Jack. [dublinranchgolf.com](http://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 lies on the former Southern Pacific Railway Right-of-Way, established in 1891, and it connects directly to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

### DEL VALLE REGIONAL PARK

For spectacular lakeside vistas and tracks of varying difficulty, head to Del Valle Regional Park. Try the out-and-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 plant indigenous to these parts. Make sure to visit Rock City and the wind caves!





A ballet performance at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

# JUST THE TICKET

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

## ONSTAGE

The **Bankhead Theater** brings some 100 music, theater and comedy acts to Livermore each year. The lineup includes international dance troupes, Grammy-winning singers, YouTube-famous comedians and other stellar performers. [lvpac.org/bankhead](http://lvpac.org/bankhead)

The **Village Theatre** in Danville presents classic plays with contemporary overtones (think Eugene O'Neill and George Orwell), as well as music (including jazz and bluegrass) and children's theater. [villagetheatreshows.com](http://villagetheatreshows.com)

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. Along with its sister stage, the **Amador Theater**, the Firehouse hosts Museum on Main's popular speaker series and one-person shows depicting the likes of Harriet Tubman and "Buffalo Bill" Cody. [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org)

## AT THE WINERIES

The play's always the thing at the summertime **Livermore Shakespeare Festival**, and capping an evening of Shakespearean comedy with a glass of Chardonnay while strolling the lovely grounds of Wente Vineyards makes for a not-to-be-missed experience. Wente also produces a roster of concerts under the stars—combining music, wine and a refined dinner—plus the casual **Front Porch Music Festival**. [livermoreshakes.org](http://livermoreshakes.org), [wentevineyards.com](http://wentevineyards.com)

Its comedy program puts the "laff" in Retzlaff Vineyards. Fans can picnic beneath the trees as they watch the Livermore winery's **Comedy Uncorked** summer shows; musical buffs come for a concert calendar that extends through the fall. [retzlaffvineyards.com](http://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 art house theater screens first-run, classic and indie films, while moviegoers pair local craft beer and wine with food from neighbor restaurant Zephyr Grill & Bar. [vinecinema.com](http://vinecinema.com)

## AT THE WATER PARK

From spring through early fall, Dublin's new **Wave** water park features music twice-weekly in its grassy amphitheater. Pick up dinner at one of the food trucks, and let the sound waves wash over you. [dublinca.gov/1917/Tuesday-Night-Concert-Series](http://dublinca.gov/1917/Tuesday-Night-Concert-Series), [thedublinwave.com](http://thedublinwave.com)

# 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 gleaming fleet of iconic cars, including jazz-era autos, a Ford Thunderbird built for the 1964 World's Fair, Alfa Romeo BAT cars and Chrysler's first fiberglass car. On another floor, Spirit of the Old West comes to life with miniature scenes, objects and photos; a third section displays contemporary African masks and other artwork, and the latest addition, Into China. [blackhawkmuseum.org](http://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. Traveling exhibitions add layers of historical depth, while a kids' corner provides hands-on activities. [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org)

## EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Eugene O'Neill, the only American playwright to win the 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 his desks, manuscripts and photos; in September, the O'Neill Festival presents plays in the barn. [nps.gov/euon](http://nps.gov/euon), [eugeneoneill.org](http://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. Changing exhibitions include "A Great Frontier Odyssey: Sketching the American West" (January to March) and "The Chinese and the Iron Road" (March to June). Model trains run all summer, and the holidays bring Christmas memorabilia. [museumsrv.org](http://museumsrv.org)

## LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY DISCOVERY CENTER

The Discovery Center introduces kids and adults to the thrill of STEM learning. Pedal an "energy bike" to see how much power it generates, and hold a plasma globe, a glass ball electrified with a Tesla coil. [llnl.gov/community/discovery-center](http://llnl.gov/community/discovery-center)

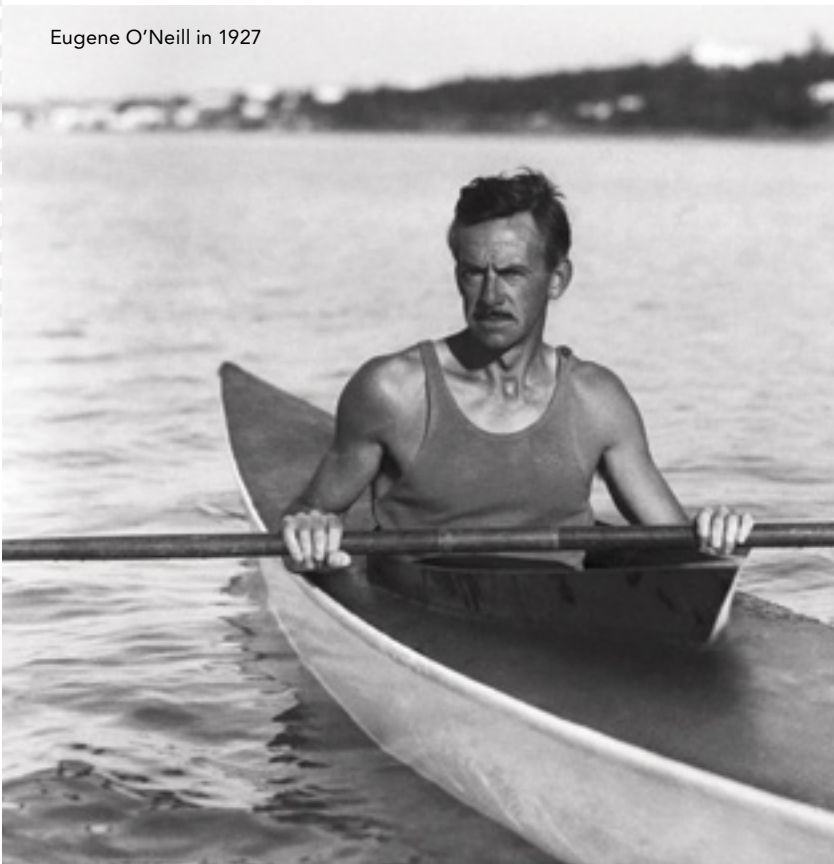
## DUBLIN CAMP PARKS MILITARY HISTORY CENTER

This museum-quality history center offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the Camp Parks military base—established during World War II—which helped transform Dublin from a rural community into the dynamic city it is today. [dublinca.gov/1916](http://dublinca.gov/1916)

## DUBLIN HERITAGE PARK AND 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. In the school, interactive exhibits describe a time when the region was part of Mexico, and a pioneer playhouse allows for make-believe. A tour of the house provides details about its architecture and the family who lived there. [dublin.ca.gov/269](http://dublin.ca.gov/269)

Eugene O'Neill in 1927





**BLACKHAWK**  
MUSEUM

*To Imagine... To Dream... To Inspire...*



The Blackhawk Museum is home to the **Automotive Gallery** that features over 55 classic, rare and unique automobiles, the **Spirit of The Old West** exhibit about the western expansion from the mid-1700s to early-1900s, and the newly opened **Into China** gallery showcasing handcrafted masterpieces that capture past and present cultures.



Blackhawk Plaza | 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle | Danville, California  
925.736.2280 | [Museum@BlackhawkMuseum.org](mailto:Museum@BlackhawkMuseum.org) | [BlackhawkMuseum.org](http://BlackhawkMuseum.org)





## CAR TALK

With loads of sunshine, beautiful country roads and quaint downtowns, the Tri-Valley makes the ideal backdrop for celebrating classic rides, with car shows, cruises and meets.

### **BLACKHAWK CARS & COFFEE**

Cruise down to Danville's Blackhawk Museum on the first Sunday of every month, when the institution hosts a gathering for car enthusiasts to show off their wheels. Admirers thrill to the glamour of beautifully designed autos, owners exchange tips on mechanics, and everyone enjoys a cup of joe. [blackhawkmuseum.org](http://blackhawkmuseum.org)

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

At Pleasanton's Alameda County Fairgrounds, the Goodguys Association presents three Get-Togethers and the West Coast Nationals during the year. More than 3,000 hot rods, custom cars and muscle trucks are on hand for Get-Togethers, along with lowrider displays, award contests and kids' model making. [good-guys.com](http://good-guys.com)

### **CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE**

A parade of vintage cars in mint condition rolls into Danville every September for the Concours d'Elegance, a gathering designed to raise

funds for Parkinson's disease research and patient care. Spectators can goggle at delicious styles dreamed up in decades past, as race cars, sports cars, antique and high-end modern vehicles, and a handful of boats and motorcycles come together at this don't-miss event. [danville-delegance.org](http://danville-delegance.org)

### **HOT SUMMER NIGHTS CAR SHOW**

On one weekend in both July and August, Danville welcomes the family-friendly Hot Summer Nights Car Show. More than 400 classic cars pull into town for viewers' pleasure. Live music plus good food and drink complete the festivities. [dhsncs.com](http://dhsncs.com)



**Below:** The San Francisco Premium Outlets feature more than 180 stores, including popular stops such as Bloomingdale's and Sak's Fifth Avenue Off 5th.



## SHOP TALK

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

**W**ith more than 180 stores, the **San Francisco Premium Outlets**, located in Livermore, take some time to navigate. But savvy shoppers can find great deals on luxury lines if they want to explore. Options run from the trendy (Rag & Bone) to traditional (Brooks Brothers), upscale (Barneys New York) to basic (The Gap Factory). And though the majority of shops lean high end, popular bargain spots—like Forever 21—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 delightfully 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; its chic printed dresses and jackets are delectable.

If your taste tends toward expensive footwear, 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. Treat yourself: This is luxe for less. [premiumoutlets.com/outlet/san-francisco](http://premiumoutlets.com/outlet/san-francisco)



### 5 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.** The Counter—a gourmet burger joint—recently opened here.
- 3. The kids would rather be painting.** Young Art Lessons offers drop-in sessions.
- 4. You prefer your spuds to be vegan, non-GMO waffle fries from a local company.** 3 Potato 4 is all that.
- 5. You're into Nordstrom, Apple and Lego.** Check, check and check.

# Livermore

## SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

JUNE 28 thru JULY 29, 2018

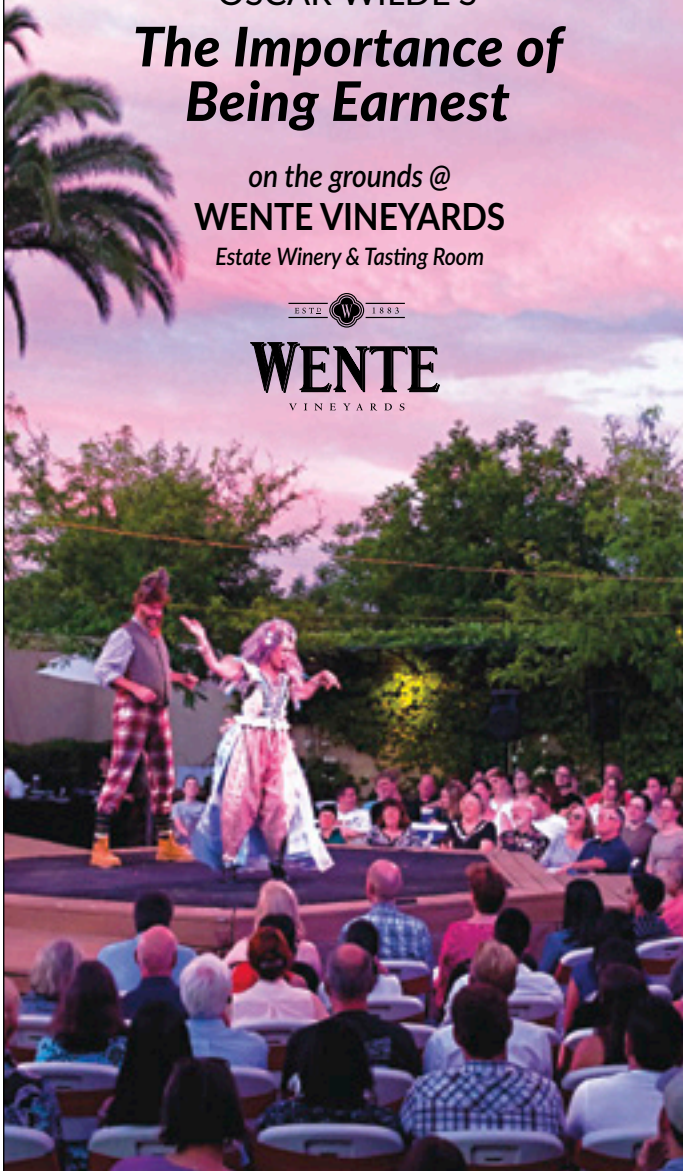
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S  
**The Winter's Tale**

OSCAR WILDE'S  
**The Importance of  
Being Earnest**

on the grounds @  
**WENTE VINEYARDS**  
Estate Winery & Tasting Room



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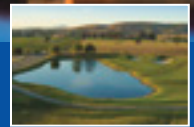
WHERE NATURE AND GOLF COME TOGETHER



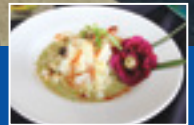
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## MADE IN THE TRI-VALLEY

TAKE HOME UNIQUE PRODUCTS FROM THESE LOCAL PURVEYORS.

### LUNA TEA COMPANY

Jenni Curtice has a message for those who love her fragrant blends: Slow down, and smell the tea leaves. “Tea allows us to be in the moment,” she says. Curtice’s mixes, with names like Study Sesh and Lady Wednesday, are sold online and at her Livermore tea lounge. When devising a blend, she thinks about aroma, flavor and even healing properties. In the evening, Luna Tea’s lounge offers unexpected cocktails made with strong tea and fermented spirits. [lunatea.co](http://lunatea.co)

### DANVILLE CHOCOLATES

Locals rave about the delights cooked up by Terri Vollmer, who opened her shop after 25 years in the confectionery industry. Indulge in the famed dipped goods (fruit, nuts, pretzels and more) or luscious house-made truffles. [danvillechocolates.com](http://danvillechocolates.com)

### G’S BEES

Livermore’s Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa offers revitalizing treatments—as well as honey made from hives on the property. Head beekeeper Ron Thomas and his wife, Carol, bottle the honey in their kitchen and sell it exclusively at the resort. [purpleorchid.com](http://purpleorchid.com)



Prim on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton

## GETTING THE GOODS

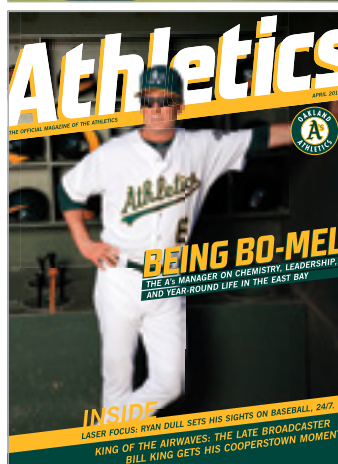
STROLL THE MAIN STREETS FOR ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS, OR POP INTO A SHOPPING CENTER FOR BIG-NAME BRANDS PLUS DINNER AND A MOVIE.

> **Hartz Avenue** cuts through historic downtown Danville with a wealth of charming shops. Start at colorful Sweet Street: Even if you don’t have much of a sweet tooth, this spot is worth a visit for the eye candy alone. Snickerdoodles’ adorable name suits its cute, gently used children’s wear and gear. For the more mature set, Francesca’s promises fashion-forward and trendy women’s apparel. Fast footwear is everything at Forward Motion Sports; after getting expert advice on running shoes, you’ll be inspired to join the locally famous Wednesday Night Run (now going on its 26th year).

> **Main Street in downtown Pleasanton** has the boutiques locals love. Check out Prim and neighboring Prim Pop, which specialize in boho-chic clothing for women and children. For more traditional tastes, Clover Creek is jam-packed with cheery gifts and home accents. Therapy stocks funky, stylish home goods and gifts, as well as ultracool accessories. Pop into KJ Couture for shapewear and apparel, and stop by the resident locally owned general bookstore, Towne Center Books, for your 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 (try Red Tractor Cafe or Kobe Pho & Grill) before capping off your outing at the movies.

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### East Bay Lifestyle

- Diablo magazine*
- Diablo Weddings*
- The Berkeley/Oakland Book*
- The Danville/Dublin/San Ramon Book*
- The Lamorinda Book*
- The Livermore/Pleasanton Book*
- The Walnut Creek Book*

### Arts & Entertainment

- Diablo Arts magazine*

### Travel & Tourism

- Concierge—The Insiders Guide to the East Bay visitors guide*
- Concierge—The Insiders Guide to Wine Country visitors guide*
- Napa Sonoma magazine*
- Visit Oakland visitors guide*
- Visit Tri-Valley Inspiration Guide*



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# THE WEDDING PARTY

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Turn the big day into a big weekend with this guide that will inspire more than bliss. Whether you want to hit the San Francisco Premium Outlets for day-before prep, let loose at Barone's during a bachelorette blowout or recap good times over brunch, you and your guests will enjoy a visit that goes beyond the vows.



DANIELLE POFF



**Left:** The Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa in Livermore.  
**Below:** Coffee at Danville's Sideboard.



## LADIES' DAY (AND NIGHT) OUT

MARK THE HAPPY OCCASION WITH A WEEKEND OF SHOPPING, SPA TREATMENTS AND A TASTE OF LIVERMORE VALLEY'S FINE WINES.

- > Skip Starbucks, and head straight to **Sideboard** for a potent dose of artisanal coffee. Coffee not your speed? Don't worry: They've got mimosas and spicy Bloody Marys, too. Indulge in puffy beignets or a sour cream scone while planning your itinerary on the sunny patio or in the eclectic dining area—complete with a sideboard, of course. [itsonthesideboard.com](http://itsonthesideboard.com)

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- > Dive into the world of retail at the **San Francisco Premium Outlets** located in Livermore—the largest outlet center in California. For boutique bounties, head to Main Street in Pleasanton or Prospect Avenue in Danville, where local fashionista faves such as **Prim**, **Drift Co.**, and **Flaunt** will help you keep on trend. [premiumoutlets.com/outlet/san-francisco](http://premiumoutlets.com/outlet/san-francisco), [iloveprim.com](http://iloveprim.com), [catchthedrift.co](http://catchthedrift.co), [shopflaunt.com](http://shopflaunt.com)

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- > Before the big day, say goodbye to stress and hello to the relaxing wonders of **The Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa**. Get revitalized with the spa's signature Hand Prints massage, an 80-minute experience that incorporates rosemary olive oil made at the property, along with warm towels, compression, light stretching, and acupressure on your back and feet. [purpleorchid.com](http://purpleorchid.com)

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- > Need to “wine” down? Take in the scenery at one of the numerous wineries in Livermore Valley wine country, where tasting flights await. For a tour of the region, hop aboard the **Livermore Wine Trolley**, and sip sans stress. [livermorewinetrolley.com](http://livermorewinetrolley.com)

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- > 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 stroke-by-stroke instruction, with a paintbrush in one hand and a glass of Sauv Blanc in the other. [pinotpalette.com/danville](http://pinotpalette.com/danville)

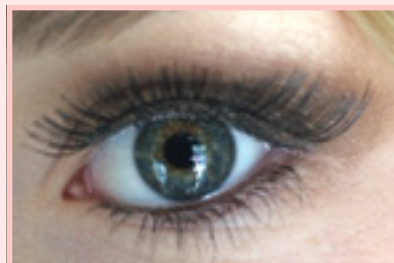
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- > Every Thursday evening during the summer, Sin City meets Pleasanton in the enormous outdoor backyard at **Barone's**. Stiff cocktails, live bands and questionable outfits are worth every penny of the \$15 cover. Tip: Reserve a cabana for a home base (and a place to hold court) after you let loose on the dance floor. [baronespleasanton.com](http://baronespleasanton.com)

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## LOVE AT FIRST SITE

PLAN YOUR SPECIAL DAY AT THESE TOP WEDDING VENUES.

### CRESTA BLANCA EVENT CENTER & TERRACE LAWN AT WENTE VINEYARD

Wente's Spanish-style Cresta Blanca building is a lovely part of the landscape while the Terrace Lawn makes for an enchanting outdoor ceremony.

### 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 wedding.

### BELLA ROSE 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 wedding 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 special day perfect.

### REINSTEIN RANCH

Give your wedding a Western vibe. The antiquated barn adds intimacy to the ceremony, and the grassy fields are a romantic setting for pictures.



## MEN OF ACTION

WHETHER YOU WANT AN AMPED-UP BACHELOR PARTY OR AN AFTERNOON ON THE LINKS, 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](http://wentevineyards.com/course), [playcallippe.com](http://playcallippe.com)
- > For legit barbecue, head to **Sauced BBQ & Spirits** in Livermore. Go for the nachos, a Runny Elvis 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 a \$5 whiskey of the day or a Bloody Mary from the Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar on weekends. [saucedbbqandspirits.com](http://saucedbbqandspirits.com)
- > Auto enthusiasts will find a collection of treasures at the **Blackhawk Automotive Museum**. You don't have to be car crazy to Instagram the "rolling sculptures" for instant social media approval. [blackhawkmuseum.org](http://blackhawkmuseum.org)
- > Gather up some buddies, and hit the **Tri-Valley Beer Trail**. Check in at 10 of the 22 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](http://altamontbeerworks.com), [mainstreetbrewery.com](http://mainstreetbrewery.com), [threesheetscraftbeer.com](http://threesheetscraftbeer.com), [growlerpubdanville.com](http://growlerpubdanville.com)
- > Work off any prewedding nerves 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](http://parks.ca.gov)
- > Attention, carnivores: Pull over when you see the neon sign for **Hap's Original** in Pleasanton, a New York-style steak house that features dry-aged beef, seafood and handcrafted cocktails. If Chicago is more your vibe, reserve a booth at **McNamara's Steak & Chop House** in Dublin for mouthwatering eats in a mood-inducing dining room. [hapsoriginal.com](http://hapsoriginal.com), [mcmamarasteak.com](http://mcmamarasteak.com)



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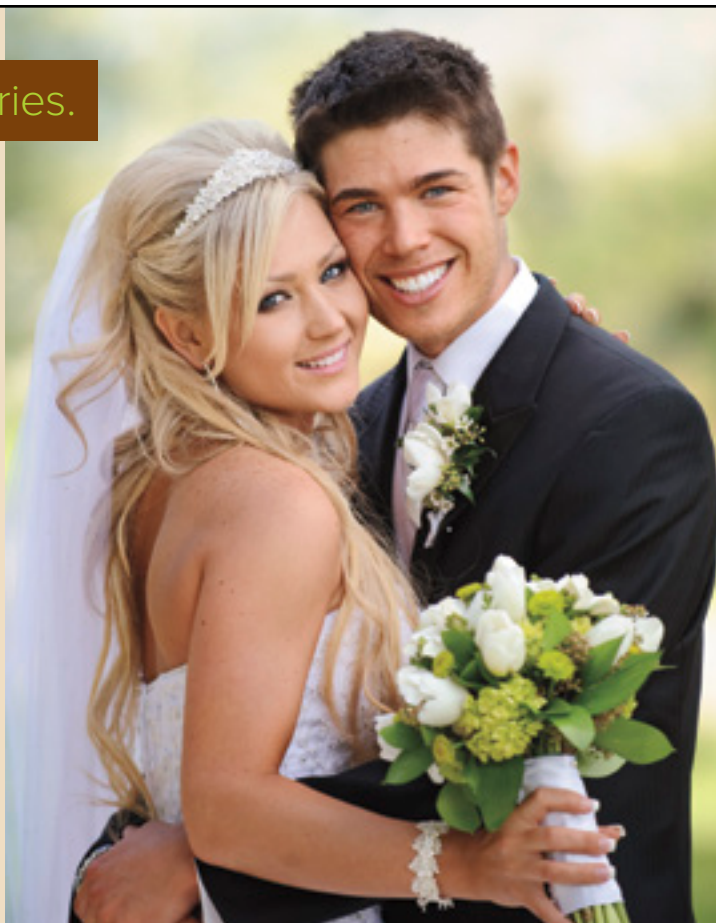
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**Left:** Pleasanton's Meadowlark Dairy.  
**Below:** Campo di Bocce in Livermore.



## FAMILY TIME

**FROM BOCCE BALL TO NATURE HIKES, A TRI-VALLEY WEDDING WEEKEND CAN BE AN ENTERTAINING TRIP FOR ALL AGES.**

- > Grab a seat at the original **Denica's Real Food Kitchen** in Dublin, where breakfast and lunch are as unfussy as the atmosphere. Order at the counter to indulge the tykes (and yourself) with supersize samples of the cafe's legendary fresh-baked cookies. [denicascafe.com](http://denicascafe.com)

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- > Double knot the kids' shoes, and slather on plenty of SPF before hiking around **Del Valle Regional Park**, where oak-covered hills frame a shimmering lake ideal for swimming, boating and paddleboarding. Pack a picnic for a full afternoon of adventure. [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org)

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- > Step back in time at the **Meadowlark Dairy** in Pleasanton for a nostalgic drive-thru experience. The kids will get a kick out of ordering sky-high soft-serve ice cream cones. [meadowlarkdairy.com](http://meadowlarkdairy.com)

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- > Energy overload? Bounce it off on the trampolines at **Rockin' Jump**, or splash it away at **The Wave**, both in Dublin. Alternatively, fulfill your kid's racing dreams at Livermore's **Umigo Indoor Kart Racing & Event Center** or **K1 Speed**. For more go-kart action—along with mini golf, bumper boats, laser tag and a massive arcade—head to **Boomers**, also in Livermore. These family-friendly spots are sure to stem a sugar rush and prep appetites for the upcoming festivities. [dublin.rockinjump.com](http://dublin.rockinjump.com), [thedublinwave.com](http://thedublinwave.com), [umigoracing.com](http://umigoracing.com), [k1speed.com](http://k1speed.com), [boomersparks.com/livermore](http://boomersparks.com/livermore)

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- > Reach beyond butter noodles at **Eddie Papa's American Hangout**. The iconic American dishes are made from scratch using local organic produce, all-natural proteins and sustainable seafood. And the mound of freshly spun cotton candy presented to every table at the meal's end wins kids over every time. [eddiepapas.com](http://eddiepapas.com)

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- > Practice teamwork to uncover clues at **Limitless Escape Games** in Livermore. With heist-, pirate- and Sherlock Holmes-themed options, you and the kids can meld minds to escape with your bounty, free yourselves from a curse, or catch the leader of the notorious Baker Street Five. [limitlessestapgames.com](http://limitlessestapgames.com)

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- > After a full day of play, cocktail hour beckons parents at **Campo di Bocce**. Book a semiprivate room facing the vineyards, or nab a table outdoors to enjoy traditional Italian fare and eight world-class bocce courts. The kids can eat pizza and chicken tenders while grown-ups decompress with a glass of vino. [campodibocce.com](http://campodibocce.com)

## WHERE TO EAT

## DANVILLE

**Basil Leaf Cafe**

is as much about the outside world as it is about the inside, with two levels of attractive patio seating along Hartz Avenue. The owners have given this vintage building an airy, open feeling, and no matter where you sit, you'll have a wide choice of basil-spiked pasta dishes—as well as grilled fish or creamy risotto. 501 Hartz Ave., 925.831.2828, [thebasilleafcafe.com](http://thebasilleafcafe.com). Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Blackhawk Grille**

The Grille's seamless transition from fine to fun dining is complete, with a sexy new bar that draws you in. The huge exhibition kitchen dishes up trendy pizzas, classic salads, sandwiches—and filet mignon. Our short rib meat loaf captured the comfort food motif, while plump, sauteed mussels are one of many appetizers built to share. If you're looking for an intimate experience, choose the retro booths or by the duck pond, where a warm-weather brunch is particularly lovely. 3540 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, 925.736.4295, [blackhawkgrille.com](http://blackhawkgrille.com). Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Blue Gingko** Blue Gingko's waterside lounge reels in pass-

ers by 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 Circle, 925.648.7838, [blueingkokosushi.com](http://blueingkokosushi.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Blue Line Pizza** The signature deep-dish at this modern parlor is phenomenal, packing just-wilted spinach into a cornmeal crust with feta and a garlicky 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](http://bluelinepizza.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Bridges Restaurant & Bar**

After 25 years, Bridges remains remarkably fresh. The refined, Asian- and French-accented menu shows both creativity (watermelon salad with man-



chego cheese and kimchi vinaigrette) and craftsmanship (New York steak

served with edamame and bacon). Famous for its scene in *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Bridges' stunning atmosphere (including the garden patio) is timeless. 44 Church St., 925.820.7200, [bridgesdanville.com](http://bridgesdanville.com). Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Cafe Meyers**

Freshly baked goods, pancakes, Belgian waffles and three-egg omelets make Cafe Meyers a great place to start the day. The room is smartly comfortable, with granite-top tables and a soothing beige color scheme. At lunchtime, go for the soups, salads and sandwiches. (There's a cafe garden sandwich for vegetarians.) 3468 Camino Tassajara, 925.736.7772, [cafemeyers.com](http://cafemeyers.com). Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Dana's** Come here for reliably good, often transcendent and always alluring California-American fare. Mussels are studded with Israeli couscous and suffused with lemon and garlic. A meaty rib eye and the sole piccata are assertively flavored and uncommonly good. It's a cozy bistro with a contemporary lounge and plenty of patio seating. 416 Sycamore Valley Road, W., 925.838.7611, [danasdining.com](http://danasdining.com). Lunch Mon.–Sat.,

dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun.

🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Danville Brewing Company**

With its curved bar and wraparound patio, this on-site brewery is a looker. Try one of the eight grass-fed burgers (The DBC with red onion jam is our fave) with one of the 20 on-tap brews (the Chux Double IPA is a house specialty). Or enjoy a craft cocktail and an upscale pub offering, such as honey-licked fried chicken. 200 Railroad Ave., 925.217.4172, [danvillebrewing.com](http://danvillebrewing.com). Lunch and dinner daily, breakfast Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Danville Harvest**

This country-chic, farm-to-table restaurant showcases elevated comfort food with a Southern twang. A mustardy, South Carolina-style BBQ pork loin, scallion hush puppies, and My Mama's Breakfast Plate (at brunch) are seductive samples. With a vibrant bar and lounge reserved for walk-ins, 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](http://danvilleharvest.com). Dinner daily, lunch Mon.–Fri., brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Esin Restaurant & Bar**

It has a reputation for fine dining, but Esin is really more of a classy neighborhood

## 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

🍷 Private room parties of 50 or more

🍷 Late-night dining (service after 10)

🍷 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.

bistro, attracting friends and families with its affordable "small" plates and three-course dinner specials. House-made 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](http://esinrestaurant.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Faz Danville** 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. Start with curry lentil soup, move on to grilled rack of lamb with mint chutney and finish with tiramisu. 600 Hartz Ave., 925.838.1320, [fazrestaurants.com](http://fazrestaurants.com). Dinner Tues.–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-crust-ed crab cakes and buttery Kobe steaks. The wine list boasts powerful Napa Valley reds that can stand

up to the meat. 200 Sycamore Valley Road W., 925.552.0505, [forbesmillsteakhouse.com](http://forbesmillsteakhouse.com). Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Forge** The crusts here have tang, and the toppings—made with pristine produce such as heirloom tomato, spinach or even cauliflower—change with the season. Forge is urban cool, with a stark dining room and a simple bar, where you can nurse a pint while watching your pie burble in an 800-degree oven. Salads are as assertive as the smoke-kissed pizzas. 345 Railroad Ave., 925.855.1700, [theforgepizza.com](http://theforgepizza.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**The Growler** For just \$10, create a flight from 20 beers on tap, or opt for wine on tap. The menu tops out at \$16—for “The Growler Classic,” or the deliciously spicy chipotle chicken sandwich. Our kale salad and pastrami sandwich were vibrant. Minimalist decor but warm service. 515 San Ramon Valley Blvd., 925.984.2706, [growlerpubdanville.com](http://growlerpubdanville.com). Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Incontro Ristorante** A gorgeous patio and a stately dining room are the backdrop to Incontro’s soulful Italian menu. We began with a simply amazing warm octopus appetizer, and moved on to a gutsy lamb rack with mint pesto. A second entree of

Gorgonzola, pear and candied walnut pizza—drizzled with honey—doubled as dessert. 455 Hartz Ave., 925.820.2349, [incontrodanville.com](http://incontrodanville.com). Lunch Thurs.–Sat., brunch Sun., dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Locanda Ravello** With its convivial courtyard and cottage-turned-bar, Locanda is built for hospitality. Epicurean pizza toppings (porcinis, burrata, prosciutto di Parma) 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](http://ravello-danville.com). Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Norm’s Place** This casual automobile-themed eatery recently underwent a major remodel, doubling its seating and patio space. The updated menu changes regularly, but staples include traditional comfort food items such as wings, burgers and a spicy chicken wrap. Salads and sandwiches are fresh and reasonably priced. 356 Hartz Ave., 925.552.6676, [normsgrill.com](http://normsgrill.com). Brunch Sun., lunch Tues.–Sun., dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**The Peasant & 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. 267 Hartz Ave., 925.820.6611, [rodneyworth.com](http://rodneyworth.com). Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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](http://petesbrassrail.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Piatti** Although Piatti is part of a chain, it’s 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 juicy, and the well-trained waitstaff will help you choose a wine to match. 100 Sycamore Valley Road W., 925.838.2082, [piatti.com](http://piatti.com). Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Revel Kitchen & Bar** Revel is the hipster complement to Esin and Curtis

deCarion’s staterier Danville restaurant, Esin. Entrees such as rabbit tagliatelle rocked on our visit, 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](http://revelkitchenandbar.com). Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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 may best be described as



“grandma gourmet.” Our favorites include an airy goat cheese pudding, and moist chicken salad with Point Reyes blue cheese, smoky bacon and creamy avocado. Great coffee and desserts. 90 Railroad Ave., 925.984.2713, [itsonthesideboard.com](http://itsonthesideboard.com). Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

## DUBLIN

**Amakara** Amakara doesn’t look particularly Japanese, with its polished stone floor and big leather dining chairs, but the food is the genuine

article. Starting with sweet-and-sticky rice and finishing with cleansing ginger, the sushi here is superior. We loved the red tuna and its upscale cousin, toro. Items from the kitchen were good, too, but a little less so (greasy tempura). 7222 Regional St., 925.803.8485, [amakarasushi.com](http://amakarasushi.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

**The Banana Garden** This roomy and stylish Malaysian restaurant is a cross-cultural experience. Start with the roti pratha, a crispy bread with toasted-curry coconut sauce. The charred chicken satay 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, [thebananagarden.com](http://thebananagarden.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

**Casa Orozco** With standard Mexican favorites and complex dishes like the barbacoa (long-simmered beef in a spicy ranchero sauce), this restaurant has expanded many times over the years and is always crowded. Accompany that margarita with camarones a la diablo (shrimp sautéed with spicy ranchera sauce). The staff—savvy and accessible—could not be better. 7995 Amador Valley Blvd., 925.828.5464, [casarozcodublin.com](http://casarozcodublin.com). Lunch and dinner

daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Coco Cabana** As hip as it is friendly, Cabana’s Latin-fusion menu 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-C Tassajara Road, 925.556.9055, [cococabanadublin.com](http://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 greens with walnuts and the chicken tacos. Order a snickerdoodle to go. 6058 Dougherty Road, 925.829.6200, [denicascafe.com](http://denicascafe.com). Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷🍷

**Hot Crab** It’s no ordinary shrimp boil at this Louisiana Cajun seafood restaurant; your customized catch comes bathed in a garlicky chile-infused oil whose heat runs from “mild” to “volcano.” Easy-to-slurp clams and meaty head-on shrimp are reward-

ing, 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 daily. \$\$\$

**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 oyster sauce. And that's just for starters. 4288 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 213, 925.833.9090, koipalace.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. Y P \$ \$

**Matsu Sushi** When you're in the mood for ultralively, authentic Japanese food, opt for Matsu Sushi. The Titanic roll, with shrimp tempura, tuna, salmon and more, is practically a meal. The tempura—two big shrimp, broccoli and seasonal vegetables—is lightly battered and greaseless. Tempura works at dessert, too: Order the tempura-style green tea ice cream. 4930 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 800, 925.833.3966, matsusushidublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y \$ \$

**Mayflower Restaurant** Whether it's stunning dim sum 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 BBQ pork and the ultrafresh lettuce cups. 4086 Grafton St., 925.551.8088, mayflowerdublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y P \$ \$ \$

**McNamara's Steak & Chop House** The mahogany bar, low lighting and luxurious decor at McNamara's say classic steak house. We loved the plump chilled prawns, charred filet mignon and rosemary-seasoned rack of lamb. At dessert, go for the fudge-smooth warm brownie, but skip the chewy chocolate crepes. 7400 San Ramon Road, 925.833.0995, mcnamarasteak.com. Dinner daily. Y P \$ \$ \$ \$

**Pamir Restaurant** Where to start? We say bulanees, 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

cardamom. 4288 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 111, 925.999.8820, pamirdublin.com. Lunch and dinner Thurs.–Tues. \$ \$

**Sri-Thai** Before or after a flick at Dublin's Regal Cinemas, check out Sri-Thai's scrumptious offerings. The small, unassuming restaurant does traditional Thai entrees, such as pad thai and curry chicken, with care. The light Thai roll with bean thread noodles and mushrooms gets a delicate radish rose. Bonus: Our soft drinks came with scallop-edged lemon slices and endless refills. 4930 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 620, 925.828.2281, srithaidublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y \$ \$

**Tandoori Pizza** This Indian-Italian pizzeria is as tasty as it is unique. You can still get a puffy pepperoni pie (the all-meat combo is first-rate), but once you sub curry sauce in for tomato, you may never go back. Choose a pizza with a chile icon for the full experience. The vibe here is ultracausal. 4060 Grafton St., 925.248.2636, tandooripizzadublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. \$

**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 zippy chicken yakitori skewers and the 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., Ste. K, 925.556.9575, yanagisushigrill.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y \$ \$

## LIVERMORE

### Backyard Bayou at the Vineyard

This cavernous Cajun-style spot offers a good time. Tear into a platter of shellfish sauced and spiced to your specs. Or play the field with soul-satisfying gumbo, luxurious lobster rolls and spice-crust-ed skewers of grilled alligator. The full oyster bar here is front and center, adding a definitive New Orleans spirit. 2491 First St., 925.523.0611, thebackyardbayou.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. Y P \$ \$ \$

**Bar Tatami** This attractive Asian restaurant inside Casino 580 is surprisingly good. We indulged in dazzling Thai mussels, Asian pear short ribs, Korean tacos, and a very decadent all-American burger stuffed with rich goodies. If you gamble, the food can be tastefully brought to your betting table—where a diverse \$5 casino menu is also available. Check out the bountiful 580 breakfast. 962 N. Canyons Parkway, 925.800.0076, parkwestcasino580.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y \$ \$

**Campo di Bocce** On the outskirts of town, Campo di Bocce can evoke a Tuscan retreat, where daily

seafood specials like osso bucco and grilled halibut grace romantic fireside nooks. But the cavernous indoor/outdoor space—it seats 270—is family friendly: Reserve a bocce court (where bowling meets croquet), and order a plate of lamb lollipops or a pepperoni pizza. There's a big bar with a great local wine list. 175 E. Vineyard Ave., 925.249.9800, campodibocce.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. Y P \$ \$ \$

**Casa Orozco** The family-owned and operated Casa Orozco restaurants in the Tri-Valley are all about comfort food in a loud, festive atmosphere. The menu includes all the Mexican standards—tacos, burritos, fajitas—that 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 cool, house-made guacamole. 325 S. L St., 925.449.3045, casaorozcolivermore.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y P \$ \$

**Demetri's Taverna** Meals in this warm remodeled space start with heated pita bread and a garlicky spread called skordalia. The tender dolmades 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 Greece—oregano, feta, tomato and grilled red onion—into each

juicy bite. 2235 First St., 925.373.0306, demetrstaverna livermore.com. Lunch and dinner daily. Y P \$ \$ \$

**El Charro** 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, chile 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. Y P \$ \$

**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's not fancy, but you can't match the Alehouse's indulgent, unpretentious vibe. Meals end with a Tootsie Pop. 2106 First St., 925.371.6588, firststreetalehouse.com. Breakfast Sat. and Sun., lunch and dinner daily. Y P \$ \$ \$

**Lemongrass Thai Restaurant** In the heart of Livermore, you'll find Thai-food lovers ensconced at family-owned Lemongrass, a longtime

fixture of downtown. Lace curtains and oversized paintings create a peaceful backdrop. Sample the garlic prawns, fried tofu sauteed with sweet curry sauce and green beans, or fresh salmon specials featuring seasonal vegetables. The wine list showcases Livermore Valley wines. 2216 First St., 925.606.6496, [lemongrasslivermore.com](#). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷💰

**Patxi's Pizza** This stylish pizzeria is twice as big as the Lafayette location, with a full bar and patio seating. We love the Chicago style, but unless you want a long cocktail hour, order it online and bring it home half-baked, or have it delivered. Our "thin" crust was just OK, but the pan pizzas are great. Fresh salads make a healthful contrast to these irresistible "gut-bombs." 2470 First St., 925.371.1000, [patxipizza.com](#). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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 Tues.–Sun., brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

**The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards** A commitment to a seasonal menu that emphasizes local ingredients keeps things happening at this restaurant in wine country. Stand-out dishes include heirloom tomato soup with charred balsamic, and grilled local calamari with fingerling potatoes, tomato confit, and black olive tapenade. The lemony-garlicky Caesar salad features hearts of romaine served with a judicious sprinkle of smoked paprika. Meanwhile, Wente's famous smoked pork chop never fails to satisfy. An ever-evolving list of more than 500 wines includes some excellent Livermore selections. 5050 Arroyo Road, 925.456.2450, [wentevineyards.com](#). Lunch Fri.–Sat., dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Roya Afghan Cuisine** Roya offers something for everyone and offers everyone a great value. The veal "kebab" arrives as an enormous T-bone; the challaw badenjan brings a lush eggplant stew. Six juicy 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.–Sat.,

dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

**Sauced BBQ & Spirits** Stacks of wood, banks of TVs, rows of butcher-papered tables 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 corn bread best. Start with a green salad so you can finish with fried Oreos. 2300 First St., Ste. 120, 925.961.1300, [saucedbbqandspirits.com](#). Lunch and dinner daily, breakfast Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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 light salad prechilled and straight from the fridge, followed by generous samplings of cheese and meat fondue. Wrap it up with a personalized (get Grand Marnier) chocolate fondue. 2300 First St., 925.443.6638, [simplyfonduelivermore.com](#). Dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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 deli-

cious. Pumpkin-salmon curry showcases squash and seafood in a red peanut curry. Roasted duck comes off the grill flavorful and meaty. 2470 First St., Ste. 108, 925.454.9888, [staranisethai.eat24hour.com](#). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

**Terra Mia** 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 clean—seasoned well and served with simple sides. 4040 East Ave., 925.456.3333, [terramialivermore.com](#). Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

**Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard** With a classy decor and wine list, Uncle Yu's has an enticing vibe. So enjoy a lovely Alsatian white with spinach dumplings—soft 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., Ste. 125, 925.449.7000, [uncleyusvineyard.com](#). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

**Zephyr Grill & Bar** Zephyr's all-day menu lists some 26 main courses—40 when you include salads and sandwiches. Some hidden deals include thick slabs of seared tuna, and a lemon cheesecake that, while huge, says finesse not factory. Tall, window-side booths are sleek, but dine at the bar to sense the scene. A fantastic selection of Livermore Valley wines. 1736 First St., 925.961.1000, [zephyrgrill.com](#). Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

## PLEASANTON

**Andy & Yu's** Impeccable ingredients, judicious cooking and artful presentations make Andy Tsang's cuisine distinctively fresh. Jumbo prawns are encased in a light, puffy batter; greaseless Singapore noodles are loaded with pork and shrimp; and silky orange roughy is bathed in a mild but fragrant black bean sauce. The modern dining room is simple, and the service is extraordinary. 348 Saint Mary St., 925.750.8888, [andyandyus.com](#). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

**Barone's Restaurant** Around the corner from the hustle of Main Street, its burbling fountain marking time, Barone's makes one long for an old-fashioned shrimp cocktail or veal parmigiana. Barone's menu pays homage to souped-up American and Italian fare. Start with scoozi (Gorgonzola-stuffed flatbread),

smoked salmon or the prosciutto salad, followed up with house-made ravioli, swordfish or pepper steak. 475 St. John St., 925.426.0987, [baronespleasanton.com](#). Dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Beer Baron Bar & Kitchen** To pair with the bar's international brews (including 25 taps), the kitchen offers Asian-spiced lamb riblets, citrusy halibut ceviche, rustic duck sausage and a good old-fashioned burger—on brioche, of course. The tavernlike space, defined by a wall of whiskeys and a ceiling of interlocking reclaimed barrel staves, is as welcoming as the food is enticing. 336 St. Mary St., 925.223.8577, [beerbaronbar.com](#). Lunch Tues.–Sun., dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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 mushroom, wrapped in Indian pancakes. A tropical mural sets a nurturing tone in the relaxed yet bustling dining room. 4000 Pimlico Drive, 925.399.5232, [blossomvegans.com](#). Lunch and dinner Wed.–Mon. 🍷

**Blue Agave Club** This "club" provides genuine Mexican delicacies such as earthy cuitlacoche "truffles" on plump, succulent shrimp, and chicken enjococado

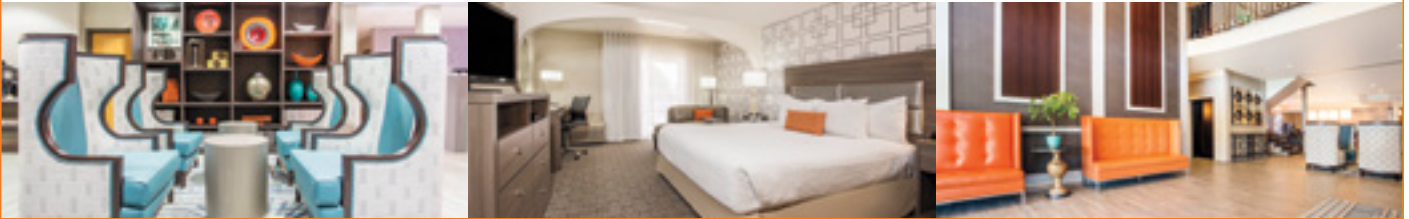


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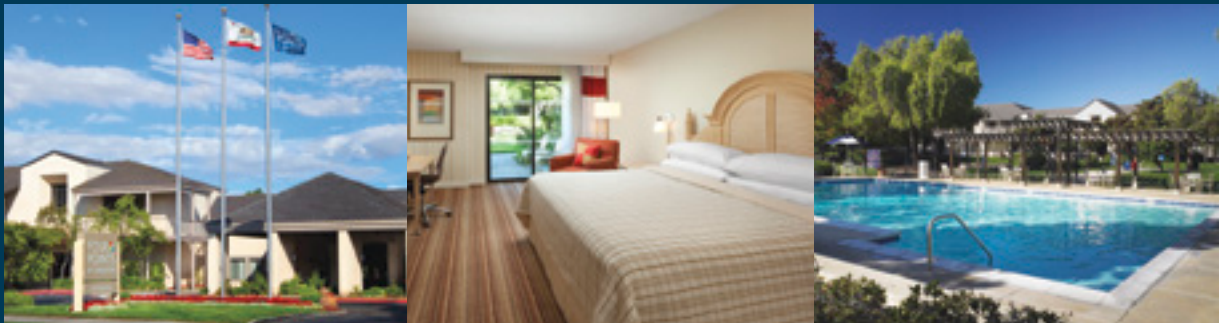
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in sour cream sauce. A gorgeously grilled skirt steak stars in a platter that includes chicken mole, chile relleno, grilled green onion and guacamole. The outdoor patio is heaven, and there are more tequilas than you can count. 625 Main St., 925.417.1224, [blueagaveclub.com](http://blueagaveclub.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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 lemongrass and a thin but darkly caramelized sauce. 4220 Rosewood Drive, 925.227.1312, [chinaloungeus.com](http://chinaloungeus.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Dean's Cafe** When Dean's opened its door in the mid-1950s, Pleasanton was a small, country town. Today, Dean's is still serving breakfast all day. The vast omelet menu includes fillings from Polish sausage to clams. At lunch, Dean's offers appealing oldies like the stacked clubhouse or a French burger (named for its toasted French

roll). For a walk down memory lane, order an old-fashioned root beer float. 620 Main St., 925.846.4222. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷

### Eddie Papa's American Hangout

This affordable American hangout has a family-friendly 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 Road, 925.469.6266, [eddiepapas.com](http://eddiepapas.com). Brunch, lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Faz Pleasanton** Faz Poursohi's success with Mediterranean food in the Bay Area may be unmatched. In this Pleasanton venture, he has added American favorites. Mesquite-grilled hamburgers and a 12-ounce New York steak are solid choices, as are the various kebabs. Try the brick oven-roasted half-chicken served with buttermilk mashed potatoes. 5121 Hopyard Road, 925.460.0444, [fazrestaurants.com](http://fazrestaurants.com). Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

**Forno Vecchio Restaurant** Would you like your french fries with pancetta and Gorgonzola, or with truffle oil and parmesan? Starters such as these are examples of the bold and simple

dishes that set Forno Vecchio apart. Moist salmon redolent with rosemary is served with charred lemons and cheesy risotto. Brussels sprouts are heavily spiked with sherry vinegar and sun-dried tomatoes. 680 Main St., 925.425.0099, [fornovecchio.com](http://fornovecchio.com). Dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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. The curries are good, but trust the tandoor—and double up on the garlic naan. 411 Main St., 925.846.3077, [frontierspice.com](http://frontierspice.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Gay Nineties Pizza Co.** Always hopping with birthday parties and post-soccer-game 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](http://gayninetiespizza.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Handles Gastropub** "Handles" is an ode to the restaurant's 30 beers on tap—a line of pull handles that dazzles like a line of dancing girls. More pub than gastronomic, the gutsy menu showcases burgers, BBQ wings, chicken potpie and chili. Still, the iceberg wedge salad uses Point Reyes Original Blue, and the fish and chips are made with fresh, moist seasonal fish. 855 Main St., 925.399.6690, [handlesonmain.com](http://handlesonmain.com). Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun., brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Hap's Original** Hap's has been around since the 1950s and has evolved into an upscale steak house. Complimentary crudites and Hap's namesake salad topped with walnuts, Gorgonzola and honey-chile vinaigrette made for refreshing starters. The filet mignon with brandy peppercorn sauce (one of five sauce choices for all steaks) was even better with a seasonal side dish of grilled artichokes. 122 W. Neal St., 925.600.9200, [hapsoriginal.com](http://hapsoriginal.com). Dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Lokanta Mediterranean Grill & Bar** A Turkish word meaning "neighborhood bistro," Lokanta is at once exotic and familiar. A clean open kitchen dishes up bean and barley salads, along with vodka-spiked salmon and skewered hanger steak. 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](http://eatlokanta.com). Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

### McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden

You'll feel right at home in McKay's buzzing beer garden. Try the jammin' burger slathered with bacon jam or a Cubano sandwich, properly pressed with the mandatory pickles. Soft fresh-baked pretzels and crunchy house-made chips had the right salty goodness for pairing with an array of all-local craft beers. 252 Main St., 925.425.0217, [mckaysbeergarden.com](http://mckaysbeergarden.com). Lunch Wed.–Sun., dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

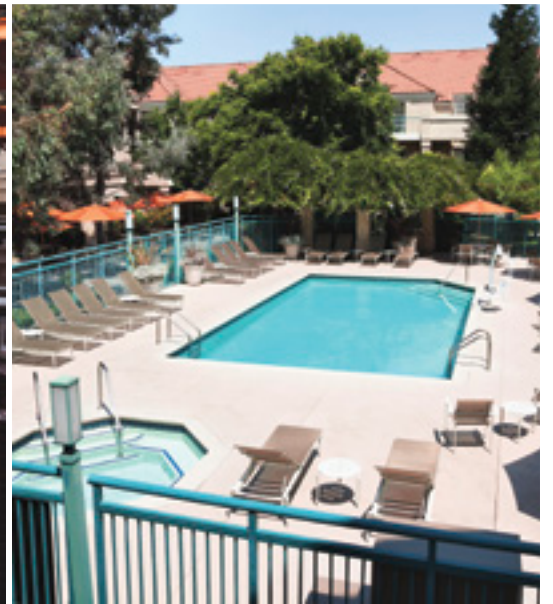
**Nonni's Bistro** Born in Iceland, owner Jon Magnusson borrows freely from Italian, French and American traditions, specializing in comfort foods with just a touch of California froufrou. Check out warm goat cheese crepes, capery bistro steak salad and, of course, anything with Magnusson's magnificent smoky lox, made with sustainable Loch Duart salmon from Scotland. 425 Main St., 925.600.0411, [nonnibistro.net](http://nonnibistro.net). Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Oasis Wine Lounge** At this stylish Mediterranean spot, check out the pumpkin borani appetizer—it's

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](http://oasiswinelounge.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**The Press Artisan Cafe** At this tiny but hip cafe, tucked in the back of Mission Plaza, breakfast brings Acme levain toastini topped with avocado and egg or ricotta and fruit. For lunch, try creative paninis such as smoked turkey and pesto, or ham and apple with brie. Get a large house-made marshmallow toasted while you wait. 1987 Santa Rita Road, Ste. H, 925.846.9900, [thepressartisancafe.com](http://thepressartisancafe.com). Breakfast and lunch Mon.–Sat. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**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 house-made charcuterie and hot-and-creamy salt cod croquettes. 501 Main St., 925.800.3090, [sabiopleasanton.com](http://sabiopleasanton.com). Dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷



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## WHERE TO SLEEP

**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? Options range from the Marilyn Monroll—with shrimp tempura, crab and avocado—to the Monterey—a mix of shrimp and jalapeños. 2835 Hopyard Road, 925.484.5588, *sozosushi.com*. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍣💰

**Sri Venkatesh Bhavan** You won’t find saucy curries, tandoori or kebabs here. At this South Indian vegetarian restaurant, rice and lentils rule, transformed into a variety of nourishing dishes and breads. Go for the dosas (crispy crepes) and the tiffins, a classic plate with a variety of tastes. The dining room is bare bones, but prices are rock bottom and service is quick. 3180 Santa Rita Road, 925.425.0901, *srivenkateshbhavan.com*. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. \$

**Taste of Sing-Ma** Sing-Ma stands for “Singapore-Malaysia”—evocative of Thai, Chinese and Indian cuisines. While the atmosphere is plain, presentations are delightful. Fried rice arrives in a half pineapple; stir-fry is in scooped-out mangoes; and chilled juice is in a whole young coconut. Crepe-like roti is buttery, with a rich

curry sauce to boot. Don’t miss the basil eggplant. 824 Main St., 925.249.9448, *tasteofsingma.com*. Lunch and dinner Wed.–Mon. 🍷🍣💰

**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*. Lunch daily, dinner Mon.–Fri. 🍷🍴💰

**3 Potato 4** Stoneridge Shopping Center patrons now have a quick meal option that is both delicious and guilt-free: baked fries. The waffle-cut russets and sweet potatoes are crisp on the outside, soft on the inside. Pair them with curry ketchup, Sriracha mayo or self-serve gourmet salts. Everything on the menu is vegan and gluten-free. 1 Stoneridge Mall Road, 925.425.7205, *3p4shop.com*. Lunch and dinner daily. \$

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803 Camino Ramon  
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**Holiday Inn**  
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**Hyatt Place**  
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925.828.9006

**La Quinta Inn & Suites**  
6275 Dublin Blvd.  
925.828.9393

## LIVERMORE

**Americas Best Value Inn**  
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925.447.3865

**Best Western Plus Vineyard Inn**  
7600 Southfront Road  
925.456.5422

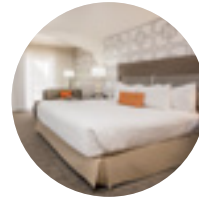
**Courtyard by Marriott**  
2929 Constitution Drive  
925.243.1000

**Del Valle Lodge**  
3979 First St.  
925.447.2348

**DoubleTree by Hilton**  
720 Las Flores Road  
925.443.4950

**Extended Stay America**  
2380 Nissen Drive  
925.373.1700 🐾

**Hampton Inn**  
2850 Constitution Drive  
925.606.6410



**Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham**  
1700 N. Livermore Ave.  
925.606.6060

**Hilton Garden Inn**  
2801 Constitution Drive  
925.292.2000

**Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites**  
3000 Constitution Drive  
925.961.9600

**Home2 Suites by Hilton Livermore**  
2625 Constitution Drive  
925.960.1242

**La Quinta Inn & Suites**  
7700 Southfront Road  
925.373.9600 🐾

**Motel 6**  
4673 Lassen Road  
925.443.5300 🐾



**The Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa**  
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925.606.8855

**Quality Inn & Suites**  
5959 Preston Ave.  
925.606.7171

**Residence Inn by Marriott**  
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925.373.1800 🐾

**Sands Motel**  
3787 First St.  
925.447.6500

**Springtown Inn**  
933 Bluebell Drive  
925.449.2211

**Studio Inn**  
1321 Portola Ave.  
925.447.1515 🐾

## PLEASANTON

**Best Western Pleasanton Inn**  
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**DoubleTree by Hilton Pleasanton at the Club**  
7050 Johnson Drive  
925.463.8000

**Extended Stay America**  
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925.730.0000 🐾

**Four Points by Sheraton**  
5115 Hopyard Road  
925.460.8800



**Hyatt House**  
4545 Chabot Drive  
925.730.0070 🐾

**Larkspur Landing Hotel**  
5535 Johnson Drive  
925.463.1212 🐾

**Motel 6**  
5102 Hopyard Road  
925.463.2626

**Residence Inn by Marriott**  
11920 Dublin Canyon Road  
925.227.0500 🐾

**Sheraton Pleasanton**  
5990 Stoneridge Mall Road  
925.463.3330 🐾

**The Rose Hotel**  
807 Main St.  
925.846.8802

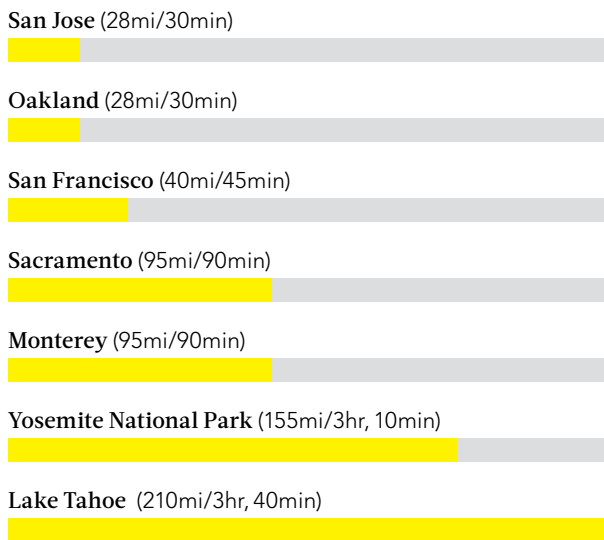


**Marriott Pleasanton**  
11950 Dublin Canyon Road  
925.847.6000 🐾

**Tri Valley Inn & Suites**  
2025 Santa Rita Road  
925.846.2742



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



**AVERAGE TEMPERATURE**

Spring	Summer
HIGH > 71° / LOW > 45°	HIGH > 87° / LOW > 54°
Fall	Winter
HIGH > 76° / LOW > 48°	HIGH > 59° / LOW > 38°

# 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. 800.411.RAIL, [acerail.com](http://acerail.com)
- > **Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART).** Includes stops at West Dublin/Pleasanton and Dublin/Pleasanton. 510.464.7134, [bart.gov](http://bart.gov)
- > **County Connection.** Bus service throughout Contra Costa County, including Danville. 925.676.7500, [cccta.org](http://cccta.org)
- > **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. 925.455.7555, [wheelsbus.com](http://wheelsbus.com)

**SHUTTLE/LIMOUSINE/TAXI SERVICES**

- > **4GQ Limousine Services:** 800.640.LIMO
- > **Black Tie Transportation:** 800.445.0444
- > **Blue Bird Cab:** 925.500.0001
- > **Charity Cab:** 925.353.5357
- > **DeSoto Cab Company:** 925.777.7777
- > **East Bay Shuttle:** 925.800.4500
- > **Checker Cab Co.:** 925.447.4444
- > **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,** 925.960.8220, [cityoflivermore.net](http://cityoflivermore.net)
  - > **Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC),** 28 miles from the Tri-Valley, 408.392.3600, [flysanjose.com](http://flysanjose.com)
  - > **Oakland International Airport (OAK),** 28 miles from the Tri-Valley, 510.563.3300, [oaklandairport.com](http://oaklandairport.com)
  - > **San Francisco International Airport (SFO),** 40 miles from the Tri-Valley, 650.821.8211, [flysfo.com](http://flysfo.com)



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