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DOG FRIENDLY

BREWERIES
GETAWAY

Scenery
BEER TRAIL

LIVERMORE

TRIVENTURE

LIVE IT UP
CALIFORNIA

Family
HISTORY
WEDDINGS
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TRI-VALLEY INSPIRATION GUIDE 2020



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FEATURES

18 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.

28 LIQUID ASSETS Livermore Valley is well known as one of California's leading wine regions, but the Tri-Valley is also making its mark with craft beers, hip bars and trendy taprooms.

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



44

TOP TO BOTTOM: NICOLE FRANZEN; @MPERRY80

DEPARTMENTS

5 GETTING ORIENTED

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

8 THEN & NOW

From the historic to the practical to the downright quirky, the area has countless stories to tell.

56 BLISS

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

62 WAYFINDING

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



TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY OF GERARD Z HONEY BEES, @ONETRAVELINGGERMAN



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Welcome

WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE 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—Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin or Danville—you'll find yourself slowing down a notch, relaxing just 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: Livermore Valley wine country, Mount Diablo, Pleasanton Ridge, Lake Del Valle and Shadow Cliffs, all with plenty of walking, hiking or biking trails.

Explore our award-winning Tri-Valley Ice Cream Trail and wake up to our newest trail, the Tri-Valley

Caffeine Trail. And don't forget the Tri-Valley Beer Trail, which ties our four cities together and links us to our hops-growing past. We challenge you to become a Tri-Valley Trailblazer and discover your favorite trail, and you don't have to leave the pooch at home! The Tri-Valley is one of the dog-friendliest destinations around.

Whether you are into wine (we've got almost 60 wineries), beer (we've got 23 stops on the beer trail), ice cream, artisanal coffees and teas, 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!

The Visit Tri-Valley Team



The Visit Tri-Valley team, from left: Susan Bolt, Robin Fahr, Amber Birdwell, Leigh Cranor, Barbara Steinfeld and Todd Dibs.

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 second-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 have been family owned

and operated for generations. Livermore is not just for wine aficionados, though: The San Francisco Premium Outlets (with 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 more than 220 different restaurants, cafes, dessert bars and more. Performances at the Firehouse Arts Center entertain year-round.

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VISIT TRI-VALLEY HAS A VOICE

HEY ALEXA, OPEN THE VISIT TRI-VALLEY GUIDE!

HELLO,

AND WELCOME TO THE VISIT TRI-VALLEY GUIDE. WHAT CAN I HELP YOU WITH TODAY? JUST SAY A TOPIC LIKE WINERIES, RESTAURANTS, BREW PUBS AND BARS, HIKING AND BIKING, OR EVENTS.

WHAT KIND OF WINERY WOULD YOU LIKE? JUST SAY SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE THE WINERY TO OFFER.

LET'S TRY A WINERY THAT SERVES ROSÉ AND IS DOG-FRIENDLY.

HOW ABOUT WINERIES?

HERE ARE 3 DOG-FRIENDLY WINERIES THAT FEATURE ROSÉ...



Access the entire Tri-Valley, with just your voice.

You can access the Visit Tri-Valley Guide through your virtual assistant on your phone, home and auto devices, where applicable. You will be taken through a series of questions to provide you with information about what to do, where to go and what to see in the Tri-Valley.

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, EVERYTHING IS 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**; the region's oldest Catholic church, **St. Raymond** (1859); the **Murray Schoolhouse**; and the **Kolb House**, a 1911 Craftsman bungalow that now operates as a museum. **Dublin Camp Parks Military History Center** preserves the old military base, which was known as Fleet City during World War II.

In Danville, an oak tree thought to be 350 years old stands on Diablo Road, and its likeness serves as the town's logo. The historic **Railroad Depot** nearby houses the culturally rich **Museum of the San Ramon Valley**.

In Pleasanton, sign up for a historic walking tour with the **Museum on Main**. 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 clones. **Concannon Vineyard**, founded the same year, 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.

In addition, the area boasts numerous historic homes, such as **Ravenswood** in Livermore and Pleasanton's **Century House**, both of which are available for weddings and special events.



Livermore Train Depot



Gerard'z
Honeybees

MADE IN THE TRI-VALLEY

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DANVILLE CHOCOLATES

Locals rave about the delights cooked up at this chocolate shop, founded 20 years ago by confectioner Terri Vollmer and now owned by Jacqui Amayo, who has played a key role in the store's success. Indulge in the famed dipped goods (fruit, nuts, pretzels and more). danvillechocolates.com

GERARD'Z HONEYBEES

The century-old family business is based out of Livermore, with hives throughout the Bay Area and Central Valley. The raw, natural honey comes in flavors from wildflower to blackberry. gerardzhoneybees.com

MEDLENO COFFEE

The purveyors behind this Danville shop pride themselves on quality at every stage of coffee preparation, including their locally roasted whole beans. Selections include Colombia Supremo, fair trade Guatemala Huehuetenango and Ethiopia Yirgacheffe. medleno.com

NUUBIA

This Pleasanton-based artisan chocolatier is the world's first confectioner to commit to sourcing wildlife-friendly ingredients—and its chocolates are award-winningly good, too! At the small shop, customers can pick up chocolates purchased online or browse and buy on a whim. nuubiasf.com

RANCHO MILAGRO OLIVE OIL

Livermore's Rancho Milagro, located on 182 acres in the foothills above the town, produces grass-fed beef, vegetables and four varieties of olive trees (Frantoio, Hojiblanca, Picual and Coratina). The organically grown olives are harvested and pressed shortly after they are picked to produce the freshest extra-virgin field blends. (Available at fortuneemporium.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" (pictured below), including a 19th-century murdered prostitute. Investigate 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.





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GET TRANSPORTED

BREW BUS

With 23 breweries, taprooms and alehouses, the Tri-Valley is making a name for itself in craft beer. Hop aboard the Blue Brew Bus to ensure a safe tasting experience. The tour offers stops at three breweries (with tasting fees covered), one facility tour, a souvenir beer glass and a drink on the bus. bluebrewbus.com

WINE WHEELS

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, hopscotching among multiple wineries for the independent at heart. livermorewinetrolley.com

GOLDEN AGE

The Golden State Trolley has set its sights at blending "yesterday's nostalgia with today's modern luxury" ever since it began traversing Bay Area roads in January 2019. The Golden State Trolley can be rented as a private charter; shuttle; or transportation for weddings, corporate outings, or other events. goldenstatetrolley.com



BOTTOM: COURTESY OF VISIT TRI-VALLEY; TOP: COURTESY OF PEDEGO

TOUR THE TERRAIN

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. Check out Livermore's scenic [Greenville Road](#), which boasts six vineyards within an easy, milelong stroll, or [Tesla Road](#), home to [Wente](#), [Concannon](#), [Steven Kent](#) and other well-known wineries. For a dark glimpse into the region's history, the [Museum on Main](#) in Pleasanton offers spooky [Ghost Walk](#) guided tours of downtown Pleasanton's most haunted sites in October for Halloween. museumonmain.org

12 MPH

Zip along the grapevines on electric bikes from Livermore's [Pedego Electric Bikes](#). Livermore's Jim Buck recommends this ride from the storefront: "Head east on Patterson Pass, alongside the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. On Greenville Road, turn right and head up the gradual hill. As you peak, you can see the Livermore Valley wine country as it opens up to you. At the crossroads of Tesla and Greenville, head straight across Tesla toward McGrail, Charles R, Bent Creek, Big White House, Caddis and 3 Steves tasting rooms." Check out visittrivalley.com for three more self-guided bike routes. pedegoelectricbikes.com

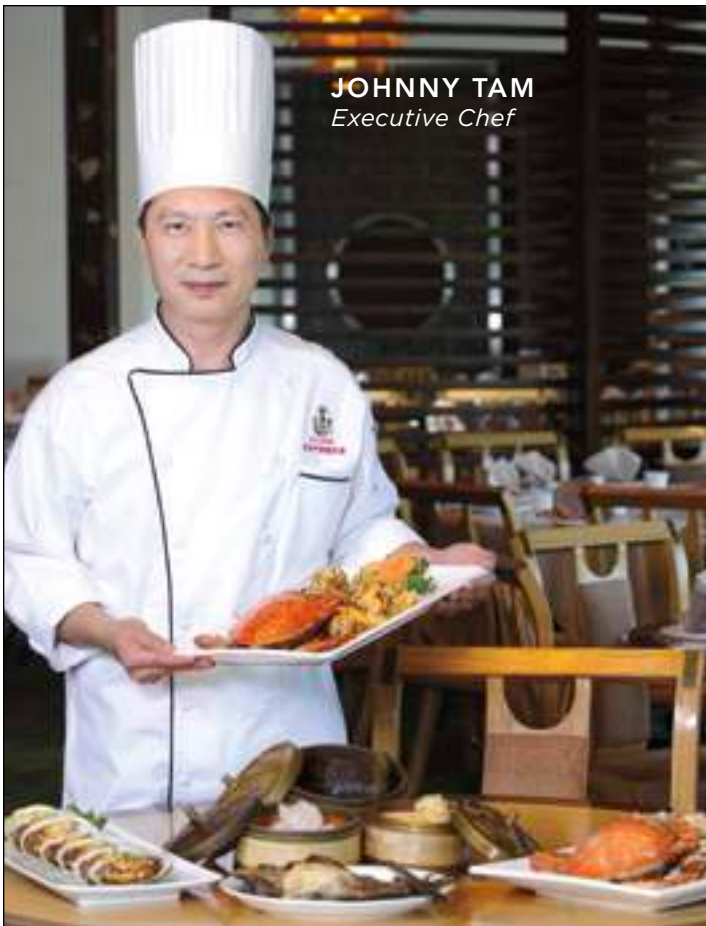
40+ MPH

[Black Tie Transportation](#) offers luxury sedans and SUVs, limovans, and executive coaches to give you a feel for the region without the hassle of driving. Custom tours of Tri-Valley wineries (and breweries) come with recommendations from its in-house wine specialist. 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



JOHNNY TAM
Executive Chef

THE BEST DIM SUM IN THE BAY AREA

Named for a famous fishing village located in Hong Kong, Koi Palace's fishtail-shaped bar, live seafood in display tanks, and lotus leaf-adorned carpet create a vibrant backdrop for executive chef Johnny Tam's meticulously prepared dishes. Before he began crafting the Cantonese delicacies that appear on Koi Palace's daily lunchtime dim sum menu, Tam rose to prominence as a chef in Hong Kong and honed his technique during stints in Oakland and Las Vegas. Since 2008, Tam has been masterfully coaxing the freshest flavors out of Koi Palace's popular lunchtime offerings, including shrimp dumplings, sticky rice in lotus leaf, and shui mai with diced mushroom.



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THE LONELY MOUNTAIN

It's hard to miss Mount Diablo, rising over the Tri-Valley to 3,849 feet. Hikers, bikers or plain old drivers can explore the mountain on the trails and roads in **Mount Diablo State Park**. You can get up the mountain via the South Gate in Danville, which takes you all the way up to the summit. Don't miss the view from the summit: On clear summer days, you can see not only the three valleys that come together to create the Tri-Valley but also the Sierra and sometimes even Half Dome in Yosemite! parks.ca.gov



BRIGHT IDEA

The planet's longest-burning light bulb, according to *Guinness 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



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 Pleasonton, 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.



YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME IN OUR NEW AMERICAN BACKYARD

Bring the family and come hang out in Dublin's backyard. Family-friendly amenities include Dublin's state-of-the-art recreation and aquatic complex, The Wave. Take in a round of golf at the Dublin Ranch Robert Trent Jones, Jr. golf course or savor an impressive selection of international cuisine and excellent shopping. Energetic enthusiasts can explore our 20+ parks, hiking trails, and dedicated open space or enjoy go-karts, bowling, laser tag, ice skating, a trampoline park, and an IMAX theater. Of course, Dublin is THE place to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Come and join us! **Everything you want, right here in our New American Backyard.**



DUBLIN
CALIFORNIA

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT DUBLIN HAS TO OFFER, PLEASE VISIT WWW.DUBLIN.CA.GOV

SAVE THE DATES

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

FEBRUARY

Celebrate the local beer scene with the Blue Brew Bus at the annual **Livermore Downtown Brew Crawl & Food Drive**.

Downtown Pleasanton presents **Bubbles & Bacon**, a fun culinary event where participating locations offer bacon-inspired bites and bubbling beverages.

MARCH

At the **St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl** in downtown Pleasanton, sample craft beers, ciders and tasty bites at more than 30 downtown locations.

The annual **St. Patrick's Day Festival and Parade** in Dublin is a weekend full of traditional Irish jigs, beverages and entertainment, with a 5K fun run/walk.

Run the **Livermore Valley Half Marathon** and earn drinks and music at the finish.

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



Scottish Highland Gathering and Games

U.S.-made hot rods steal the show at the ever-popular **Goodguys All-American Get-Together** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

APRIL

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

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

MAY

Enjoy the **Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival** with unlimited pours and food, giant beer pong, and live music.

Raise a glass at the **Livermore Wine Country Downtown Street Fest** and enjoy a **Wine & Beer Pop Up** experience, crafts, shopping and dining.

Wine & Wags celebrates dog-friendly wineries and local animal rescues. Adoptions available.

JUNE

The **Goodguys 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** in Pleasanton. (Into July)

Tap into the **Brew Fest** within the Alameda County Fair for the ultimate brew experience.

Enjoy theater, wine and a picnic at Darcie Kent Vineyards during the **Livermore Shakespeare Festival**. (Into August)

The Alameda County Fair is not-to-be-missed summer fun.



©JOEY_BAYAREAHOMES

Calendar /

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**.

Livermore Valley's premier food and wine affair, **Taste Our Terroir**, features cooking classes, seminars and vineyard tours.

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

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

Enjoy 15 perfect bites of both sweet and savory culinary delights at downtown **Pleasanton's Forkful**.

Revel in the exciting crush season 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.

Honor one of Danville's most famous residents at the **Eugene O'Neill Festival**. See performances of the playwright's works.



The Goodguys car shows feature classic wheels.

@6T3_NOVA

OCTOBER

Experience innovative arts and technologies at **Ignite!** in Pleasanton. The free family event features hands-on activities, entertainment and food.

Get your thrills at **Pirates of Emerson**, the yearly theme park at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

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

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

Join downtown Pleasanton's **Halloween Brew Crawl** for adult trick-or-treating, with tastings at more than 25 locations.

More than 200 artists fill the city of Livermore with their inspired creations during **Artwalk**.

NOVEMBER

Check out the **Goodguys 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**.

Ride through Niles Canyon at night during the holiday season with the **Train of Lights** on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. (Into December)

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.

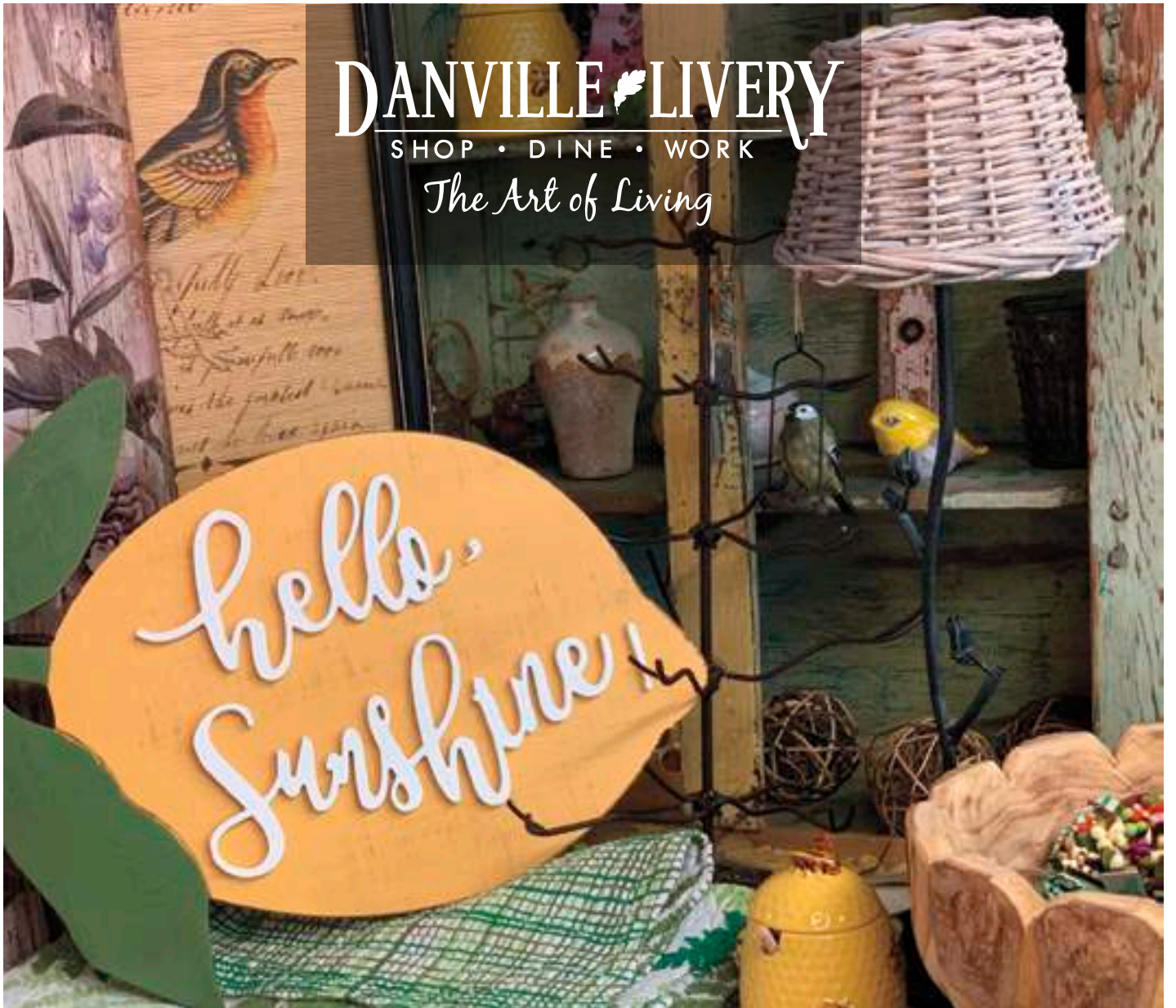
Downtown **Livermore's Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade** has more than 50 floats and ends with a tree lighting.

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

For a full listing of events, visit VisitTriValley.com.



Tezkatlipoka Aztec Dance and Drum performs at Ignite!



DANVILLE LIVERY

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PIATTI RISTORANTE & BAR



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AOZORA JAPANESE RESTAURANT



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www.danvillelivery.com | Danville, CA 94526



NICOLE FRANZEN



BEST BITES

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



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SOCIAL BIRD KITCHEN & BAR

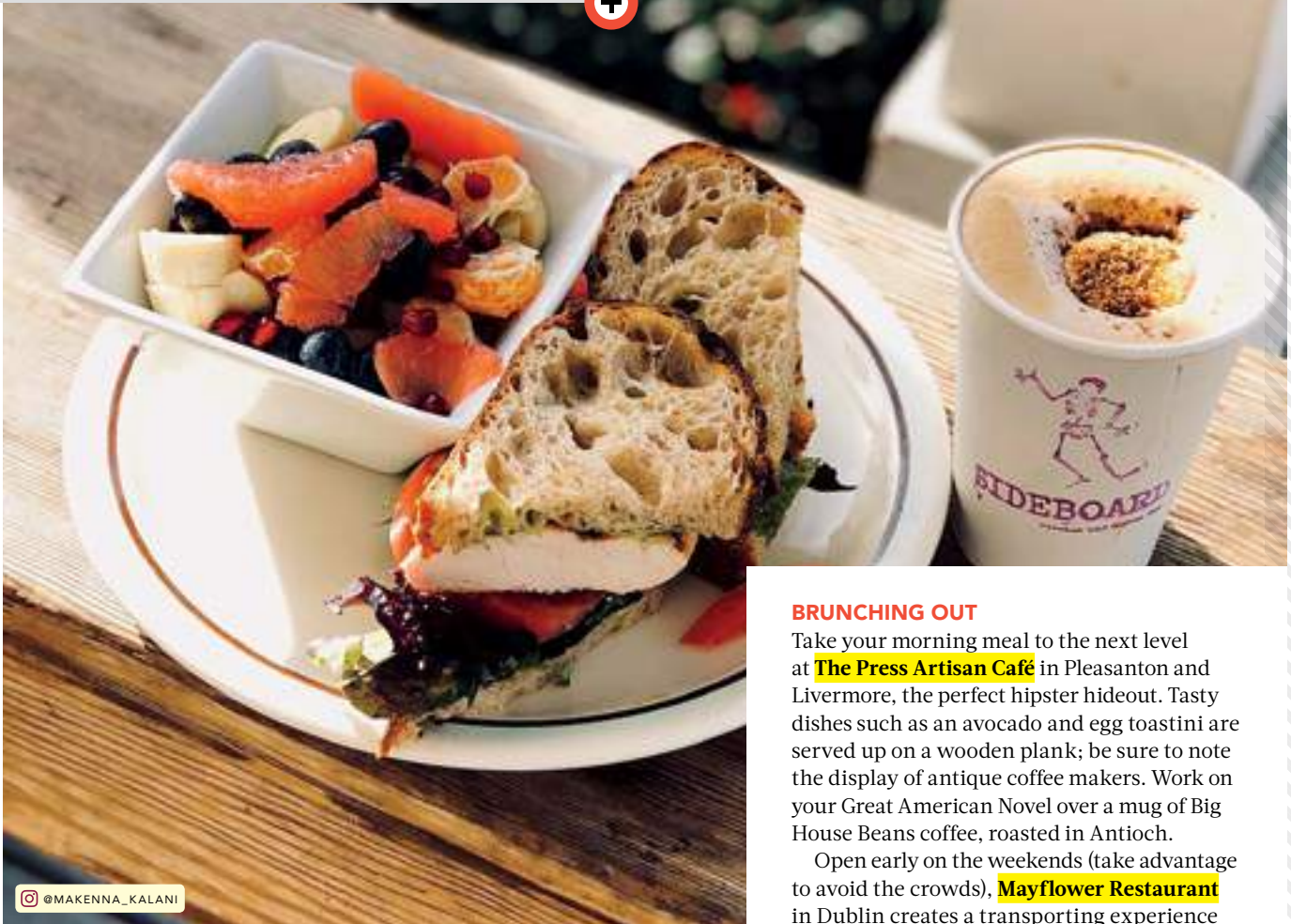
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Follow the locals to Danville's **Sideboard**, a premier coffee bar that features deluxe brands such as Four Barrel, Sightglass, Temple and more. Indulge yourself with an order of beignets to go.



@MAKENNA_KALANI

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. For more quirky furnishings and no-frills food to start your day, check out **Jim's Country Style Restaurant** in Pleasanton. The intensely popular diner (there can be a line at the door on weekends) features wood-paneled walls, street signs as art and mouthwatering all-day breakfast items.

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 breakfast straight out of the French countryside, fill up at Danville's **Basque Boulangerie**. The bakery and cafe mixes melt-in-your-mouth baked goods with local, seasonal fruit and healthy, savory items.

BRUNCHING OUT

Take your morning meal to the next level at **The Press Artisan Café** in Pleasanton and Livermore, 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.

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. **Monica's**, located in a historic Livermore building, offers generously portioned, handcrafted breakfasts. Enjoy a satisfying brunch on the outdoor patio.

Baci Bistro & Bar, in downtown Pleasanton, specializes in steak, seafood and Italian cuisine, but the weekend brunch menu is something really special. Try the fried egg avocado toast or steak tostadas, and don't miss the \$12 bottomless mimosas.

If you're feeling adventurous, head over to Dublin's **Blossom Bee**, a 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.

© Jennie McGregor



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If you want to kick back and relax, **Danville Brewing** is your spot. The restaurant boasts exceptional pub food paired with award-winning beers like 925 Blonde and Oatmeal Raisin Cookie (which lives up to its name).

For a culinary adventure south of the border, look no further than Livermore's family-owned **Posada**. A contemporary take on Southwestern food, Posada (or its food truck, Posada on Wheels) 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 Mexican cuisine. More than 20 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 Southeast Asian cuisine, Pleasanton's **Experience Burma** has you covered. Dining family style is recommended—and the best way to sample multiple dishes—so grab some friends and dig into the pumpkin pork stew or lemongrass tofu. In Livermore, **Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard's** remarkable wine list is spotlighted by the multicourse tasting menu, which pairs Szechuan staples and vino.

If you prefer Italian cuisine, try Livermore's popular **Campo di Bocce**. Cap your meal with a round of bocce on one of the restaurant's eight world-class courts.

COMFORT FOOD

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

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 like 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 wine bar with Italian American food and 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 provide elegant settings and spacious patios. But classic doesn't mean stuffy: 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.

Pleasanton's 1950s steakhouse **Hap's Original** allows for dining in style and comfort. While steak is most definitely the focus here, with the finest dry-aged cuts of beef, the house-made sauces and dressings help elevate already scrumptious dishes.

WORLDLY WONDERS

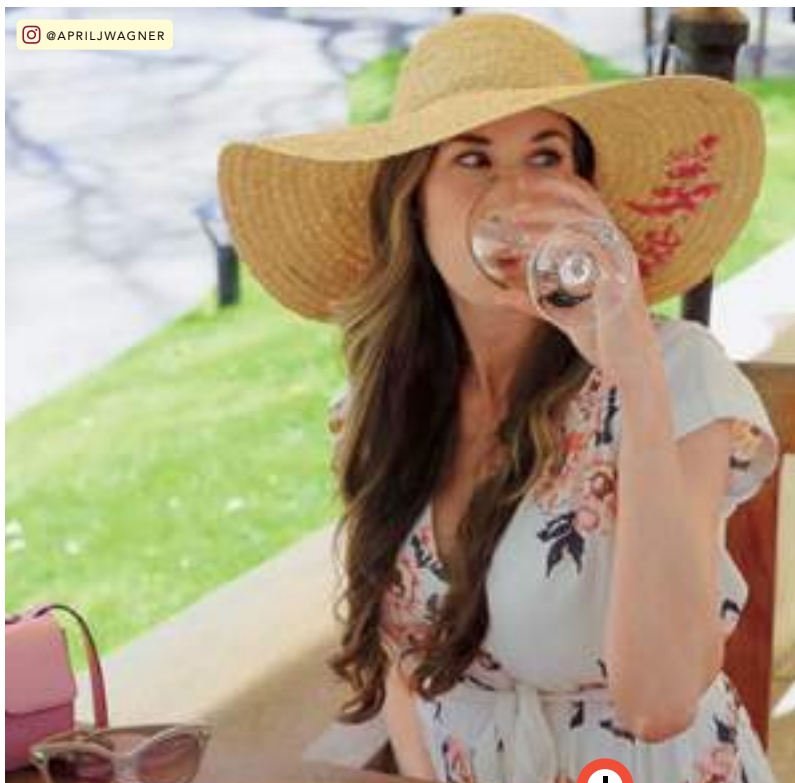
Authenticity can be tasted in every bite at **11th Tiger Thai Street Café** in Danville. Offering a blend of street food from various parts of Thailand, the restaurant serves up an extensive yet enticing menu of noodles, curries, small bites, soups and more in an intimate space.

Get a taste of Jordan at Livermore's **Petra**. This family-owned eatery is excellent for both those dipping their toes into Middle Eastern cuisine for the first time and more experienced eaters. The mansaf gets a special recommendation, and complimentary cardamom tea and pita shouldn't be skipped on either.

The family behind Pleasanton's **Korean Village** wants you to feel at home in their little village. With congenial service and lovingly cooked, authentic Korean meals like fish cake ramen and soft tofu soup, you'll likely find they've achieved their goal.

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.

Cocina Hermanas' spacious patio on Danville's bustling Hartz Avenue is an ideal spot to sip a margarita while enjoying Mexican fare spiced with Northern California influences. Using traditional culinary techniques, Cocina Hermanas serves popular street food—think tacos, flautas and grilled corn on the cob—and family-style dishes made from local, sustainable ingredients.



@APRILJWAGNER



The esteemed Restaurant at Wente Vineyards was recently reimagined as the more relaxed **Vineyard Table and Tasting Lounge**. The refreshed menu features shared plates that pair perfectly with the award-winning Wente wines; diners can also take in exquisite views along with a selection of light snacks from the new lower deck. The menu changes frequently with an eye to seasonal, regional produce.

Range Life occupies a restored 1800s carriage house in Livermore and mixes urban and rustic in both food and atmosphere. The seasonally changing menu draws influences from diverse cuisines, and playful craft cocktails are an excellent way to round off an evening on the town.



HOT SPOTS

Dublin's **Berevino Cucina & Wine Bar** specializes in old-world Italian cuisine and an extensive 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 upscale tavern offers bar bites and small plates, as well as heartier entrees until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Also in Danville, **Albatross** serves meticulously crafted global cuisine dreamed up by Executive Chef Brian Bowen. The food is complemented by the curated wine list and chic setting.

Chef Matt Greco elevates 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. 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, make for an unforgettable experience.

MAKE WAY FOR DUMPLINGS

There's nothing like a dumpling—which can be found in countless shapes, sizes and styles—to satisfy one's craving for comfort food with an international twist. And the Tri-Valley offers numerous delicious versions of this fan favorite.

Start your journey at **Pacific Pearl**, which opened in 2018 on Pleasanton's Stoneridge Drive. **King Wah Restaurant & International Food Court** features a variety of dumplings on its dim sum menu, including a spinach trio. **Dalian Club House** also provides an intimate experience for savoring fresh, boiled dumplings, while **Fiery Shanghai** serves up memorable Shanghai style and chili oil flavors. A few miles away, **Shanghai Dumpling House's** list of choices includes generous helpings of vegetables and fish, steamed lamb dumplings and more—perfect for a lunch to share.

In Dublin, **Mayflower Restaurant** offers a considerable dim sum menu, and the pan-fried and steamed dumpling options—including scallops, shrimps and even sea bass—are must-haves. **Koi Palace** at Ulferts Center was Dublin's original dim sum restaurant and serves a variety of dumpling types from northern China, including those with spinach, squid ink, beet and turmeric skins. **88 BaoBao** shifted focus to noodles and steamed dumplings in 2018, and offers fried leek, pork and shrimp dumplings, as well as fried chicken and fried vegetable options.

Finish your dumpling adventure at **Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard** in Livermore, and enjoy the steamed dim sum tray featuring dumplings as diverse as har gau, shumai, pea sprout and pumpkin (with sea scallops and wild shrimp).

Take a 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).



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THE ULTIMATE ICE CREAM TRAIL

SAMPLE THE TREATS ON THE TRI-VALLEY'S SWEETEST TRAIL.

- > Start your tour at Danville's **Smallcakes**. While the worldwide cupcake chain is generally known for its, well, cupcakes, stores also make 10 flavors of small-batch ice cream daily. The scoops are often inspired by Smallcakes' famous *gateau* recipes, which means pairing cake and ice cream is more than possible—it's encouraged.
- > Head to Dublin to enjoy a different sort of ice cream—organic soft serve. **O'Honey** elegantly swirls and layers its signature dessert with fun textured additions, such as Rice Krispies and honey. The deeply Instagrammable result is just as satisfying to look at as to eat. The matcha options have garnered rave reviews, and the Honey Lover more than earns its name.
- > 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.
- > 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 **Bake-a-Wish** and pick up a seasonal scone or turnover. Savory fans can also fill up on its sourdough toast and avocado. For more decadent delicacies, look no further than **Old Towne Danville Bakery**, established in 1952. This long-standing spot does everything from cakes to cookies; around the holidays, keep an eye out for its special menus. Or head to premier Dublin bakery **Tous les Jours**, which serves up slices of cake so aesthetically pleasing that it's difficult to eat them. But not too difficult, because they taste even better than they look. Livermore's **Casse-Croute Bakery** instantly transports diners to France with its authentic tarts and croissants.



O'Honey

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 winemaking history. Continuing that tradition, Livermore Valley wineries are constantly finding new ways to create impressive varietals.



@WITH_LOVE_TALI

NEXT-GENERATION WINEMAKERS

MEET THREE 30-SOMETHINGS WHO ARE BRINGING THEIR A-GAME TO LIVERMORE'S WINE SCENE.

Youth isn't always wasted on the young. Not when the young are making world-class wine.

Take **Dave Hendrickson**, 33, one of several up-and-coming Livermore Valley vintners at the vanguard of the region's vibrant wine scene.



As the head winemaker at Occasio Winery, Hendrickson draws on small lots of cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay and other Bordeaux-style varietals that have found a natural home in Livermore, producing wines with a vivid sense of place. He also distills gin, whiskey and eau-de-vie under Occasio's just-launched Sidewinder Spirits Company, which is set to release its first bottles next year. "Distillation is a beautiful process," Hendrickson says. "And working at a small winery has given me an opportunity to explore it."

Another young winemaker with a taste for adventure is **Collin Cranor**, 33, who founded Nottingham Cellars with his parents in 2009.



Sourcing from Livermore vineyards, Cranor coaxes cabernet sauvignon, merlot and other select fruit into wines of wonderful complexity. Because he also has a passion for Rhone-style wines such as grenache and petite sirah, Cranor makes those, too, under the Vasco Urbano Wine Company label. "Livermore is a lot like midvalley Napa," Cranor says. "When you plant the right clones in the right places, you get incredibly expressive wines."

Rhone-style varietals like syrah and mourvedre also serve as inspiration for **Charles McKahn**, 30, of McKahn Family Cellars. Note the word "family." It isn't just for show.



Working alongside his parents and his wife, McKahn pursues a calling he discovered when he was 15 and his mom and dad gave him his first tiny sip of wine. "There was just something magical about it," McKahn says. "I knew right then what I wanted to do with my life, but I had to wait a little. I was six years shy of legal drinking age."

THE LIQUIDITY OF LIVERMORE

WINEMAKING HAS A ROBUST HISTORY IN LIVERMORE VALLEY.

Livermore Valley wine culture has aged well over the centuries since Spanish missionaries began growing wine grapes 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 Livermore 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 nearly 60 wineries.

WINEMAKING EXPERIENCES

TAKE A DEEPER DIVE INTO THE ART OF VINO CREATION.

Three Livermore wineries offer one-of-a-kind experiences for visitors that go well beyond a simple tasting.

At **Wente Vineyards'** Wine-makers Studio, guests can enjoy classes on wine-related topics; they can also attend a Blending Session, where they'll blend estate blocks of wine to create their own custom bottle of wine. wentevineyards.com

Las Positas Vineyards, in the southwest corner of the Livermore Valley, offers a vine and facility walk during its Sunday Estate Tour and Tasting Experience, led by a winery ambassador.

laspositasvineyards.com

Concannon Vineyard hosts a variety of private tastings, which include a five-wine seated tasting; the Landmark Tour, which includes a walk through the historic winery; and the Heritage Experience, an estate tour and intimate tasting paired with small bites and led by a wine specialist.

concannonvineyard.com



WINNER'S CIRCLE

SOME OF THE MANY AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS EARNED BY LIVERMORE VALLEY WINES.

The wines of Livermore Valley have a long history of making their mark, starting with Cresta Blanca Winery taking the Grand Prix crown at the Paris Exposition in 1889. This was the first time a California wine bested French offerings at the competition—and Livermore wines have been earning accolades ever since.

The Livermore Valley brought home more than 150 awards from the 2019 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the largest competition of North American wines in the world. **Las Positas Vineyards** won the Red Sweepstakes Medal for its 2016 Livermore Valley Malbec, and Livermore Valley AVA members earned multiple Double Gold and Best of Class awards.

AMONG THE OTHER HONORS RECEIVED BY THE LIVERMORE VALLEY AVA:

- > **Concannon Vineyard** earned *Wine Enthusiast* Editors' Choices for both its cabernet sauvignon and petite sirah.
- > **McGrail Vineyards and Winery** took home Best of Class at the Indy International Wine Competition for its Bordeaux blend.
- > **Stony Ridge** won California State Fair's Best of Class and a Double Gold for its red varietal blend, Trifecta.
- > And who could forget *Wine Spectator's* lead California taster singing the praises of **Steven Kent Winery's** Lineage brand in 2014, saying it was one of the best wines ever to come out of the wine region.

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 Murrieta (an inspiration for the fictional character Zorro), **Murrieta'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 Concannon 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.



1



2



4



3



5

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. WENTE VINEYARDS

Wente Vineyards selects one artist per vintage to grace the face of its Small Lot Artist Series (reserved for club members). Featured here is artwork by Bay Area artist Lisa Elley, who creates uplifting, textured and colorful landscapes using her palette-knife technique. wentevineyards.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

3. VASCO URBANO WINE COMPANY

Vasco Urbano Wine Company's GSM Passport Series 2015 Coco Blanc features an artful, X-marks-the-spot map indicating where the wine grapes

were sourced. (Coco stands for Contra Costa, the East Bay county where the fruit was harvested.) nottinghamcellars.com/vu

4. 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

5. DARCI 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

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THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

FORMER PILOT RHONDA WOOD NOW PRODUCES TOP-FLIGHT VINOS.

Over the course of her first career, Rhonda Wood enjoyed sky-high views of the Livermore Valley while serving as a pilot for US Airways. Nowadays, she still appreciates the region. But as the head winemaker of **Wood Family Vineyards**, she does so with her feet planted on the ground.

The transition began in 1991, when Wood got pregnant with the first of her two children and took a leave of absence from the cockpit. To occupy her time, she started brewing beer but soon decided she had a better option.

“I drank a lot more wine than beer,” Wood says. “That got me thinking, ‘Why am I making beer when I could be making wine?’”

Inspired by the idea, she and her husband, Michael, planted vines behind their Fremont home. But before they’d harvested their first backyard crop, they came across an 18-acre vineyard site for sale in Livermore—the future location of their first winery, where the couple would also build a home. At the time, the property was planted to merlot, but in the years since, the Woods have added cabernet franc, malbec and petit verdot to the mix, all of which are featured in the winery’s portfolio.

In 2001, Rhonda took another leave of absence from US Airways. Five years later, she retired from the airline to devote herself full time to her second career. Her winemaking operation has expanded to a larger location, complete with a welcoming tasting room, and Wood’s winemaking has continued to evolve. “One thing I love is that you’re always learning,” she says. “But another thing is that it keeps you outside and active. In one sense, it reminds me of being a pilot, because I’ve always got amazing views.”

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.

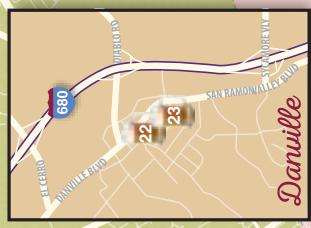


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COURTESY OF VISIT TRI-VALLEY

Tri-Valley Beer Trail

- 1 Beer Baron Bar & Kitchen**
336 St. Mary St, Pleasanton
- 2 BottleTaps**
3020 Bernal Ave #160, Pleasanton
- 3 Main Street Brewery**
830 Main St, Pleasanton
- 4 McKay's Taphouse and Beer Garden**
292 Main St, Pleasanton
- 5 The Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill**
3015 Hopyard Rd, Livermore
- 6 Altamont Beer Works**
2402 Research Dr, Livermore
- 7 Beer Baron Livermore**
2223 First St, Livermore
- 8 Eight Bridges Brewing Company**
332 Earhart Way, Livermore
- 9 First Street Alehouse**
2105 First St, Livermore
- 10 Hop Davine**
1708 N Vasco Rd, Livermore
- 11 Hops and Sessions**
2339 First St, Livermore
- 12 Pennyweight Craft Brewing**
2455 Railroad Ave, Livermore
- 13 Shadow Puppet Brewing Company**
4771 Arroyo Vista, Site B, Livermore
- 14 Tap 25**
25 S Livermore Ave, Livermore
- 15 Working Man Brewing Company**
5542 Brass St, Site F, Livermore
- 16 Caps & Taps Bottle Shop and Tap Room**
6601 Dublin Blvd, Site M, Dublin
- 17 Dublin Wine**
5200 Dublin Blvd, Dublin
- 18 Inc 82 Brewing**
7370 San Ramon Rd, Dublin
- 19 Thirsty Bay**
5286 Ironhorse Pkwy, Site B, Dublin
- 20 Three Sheets Craft Beer Bar**
7046 Village Pkwy, Dublin
- 21 World of Beer**
4920 Dublin Blvd, Site 260, Dublin
- 22 Danville Brewing Company**
200 Railroad Ave, Site A, Danville
- 23 The Crowler Pub**
515 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville



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WORLD OF BEER
DUBLIN



MCKAY'S TAPHOUSE
& BEER GARDEN
PLEASANTON



HOP DEVINE
LIVERMORE



CAPS & TAPS
DUBLIN



DANVILLE BREWING
COMPANY
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THE HOP YARD
ALEHOUSE & GRILL
PLEASANTON



HOPS AND SESSIONS
LIVERMORE



DUBLIN VINE
DUBLIN



THE GROWLER PUB
DANVILLE



ALTAMONT
BEER WORKS
LIVERMORE



PENNYWEIGHT
CRAFT BREWING
LIVERMORE



INC 82 BREWING
DUBLIN

WAYS TO PLAY:

- 📷 Follow @TriValleyBeerTrail on Instagram, post 10 beer pictures at different locations and tag #TapTriValley
- 📄 Upload your completed passport to our website at TriValleyBeerTrail.com
- ✉ Mail or bring in your completed passport in person to [Visit Tri-Valley, 5075 Hopyard Rd, Ste 240, Pleasanton, CA 94588](http://Visit-Tri-Valley, 5075 Hopyard Rd, Ste 240, Pleasanton, CA 94588)



TRIVALLEYBEERTRAIL.COM

*Must turn in completed passport in person to receive Growler.



Eric Wall and his father, Daniel

BREAKING BREW GROUND

BOTTLETAPS, A FAMILY-OWNED HOT SPOT IN PLEASANTON, OFFERS A WELCOMING INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF BEER.

It's a whole new world of craft beer, and Eric Wall of **BottleTaps** wants to make sure that people get a warm introduction to everything that world has to offer.

"We want to change people's perspective on beer," says Wall, who opened his suds-centric restaurant and bar in Pleasanton in 2017, along with his wife, Michele, and parents, Daniel and Jody. "There are so many amazing brews out there, and we want to introduce people to beer that they might not know about."

The BottleTaps staff are all cicerone beer server trained, allowing them to guide customers through the complexities of different beers. The selection features 30 beers, ciders, meads and even kombucha on tap, along with more than 170 cans and bottles from all over the world. (There is also a curated wine list.) Additionally, the comfortable yet chic eatery offers a menu of shareable plates, tapas and larger bites that pair perfectly with the beers.

"Beer isn't just for chicken wings, nachos and greasy burgers. You can have really good food and great beer," says Wall. "That's where the idea for BottleTaps began."

Wall, who discovered his love of beer in his youth while home brewing with his grandfather, wants BottleTaps to be more than a haven for beer connoisseurs. "We are very family friendly and have a patio that allows dogs. It's a fun place. We want people to check us out and create their own experience."

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

> **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

> **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

> **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

> **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

> **Shadow Puppet Brewing Company**

This craft brewery combines traditional brewing techniques with uncommon ingredients, creating unique tasting experiences. 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

CONTAIN YOUR BEER

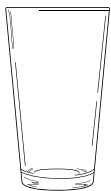
THE VESSEL FOR YOUR
DRINK DOES MORE THAN
JUST HOLD IT.



Tulip: This glass shares many of the pilsner's attributes but enables you to swirl the brew like wine. Use it for Belgian styles.



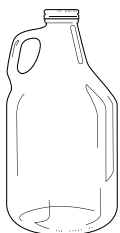
Goblet: The wide, medieval-esque design of this glass is another excellent choice for showcasing Belgian ales.



Pint: One of the most common glasses used for beer, the pint doesn't accentuate aroma, so it is normally used for beers that don't need assistance, such as IPAs, porters and stouts.



Pilsner: Made for light beers like its namesake, this glass's shape allows for the best retention of head on the beer, as well as enhancing the beer's fragrance.



Growler: The best way to transport draft beer from your favorite brewery back home is this reusable jug. Many breweries sell them, but to receive a special Tri-Valley Beer Trail growler, complete all the stops on the trail. To learn more, check out visittrivalley.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. In fact, the impression was so strong that the brewery expanded into the space beside its original taproom in 2018. The hashtag accompanying the Instagram announcement post seems nearly prophetic: #ifyoubuildittheywillcome.



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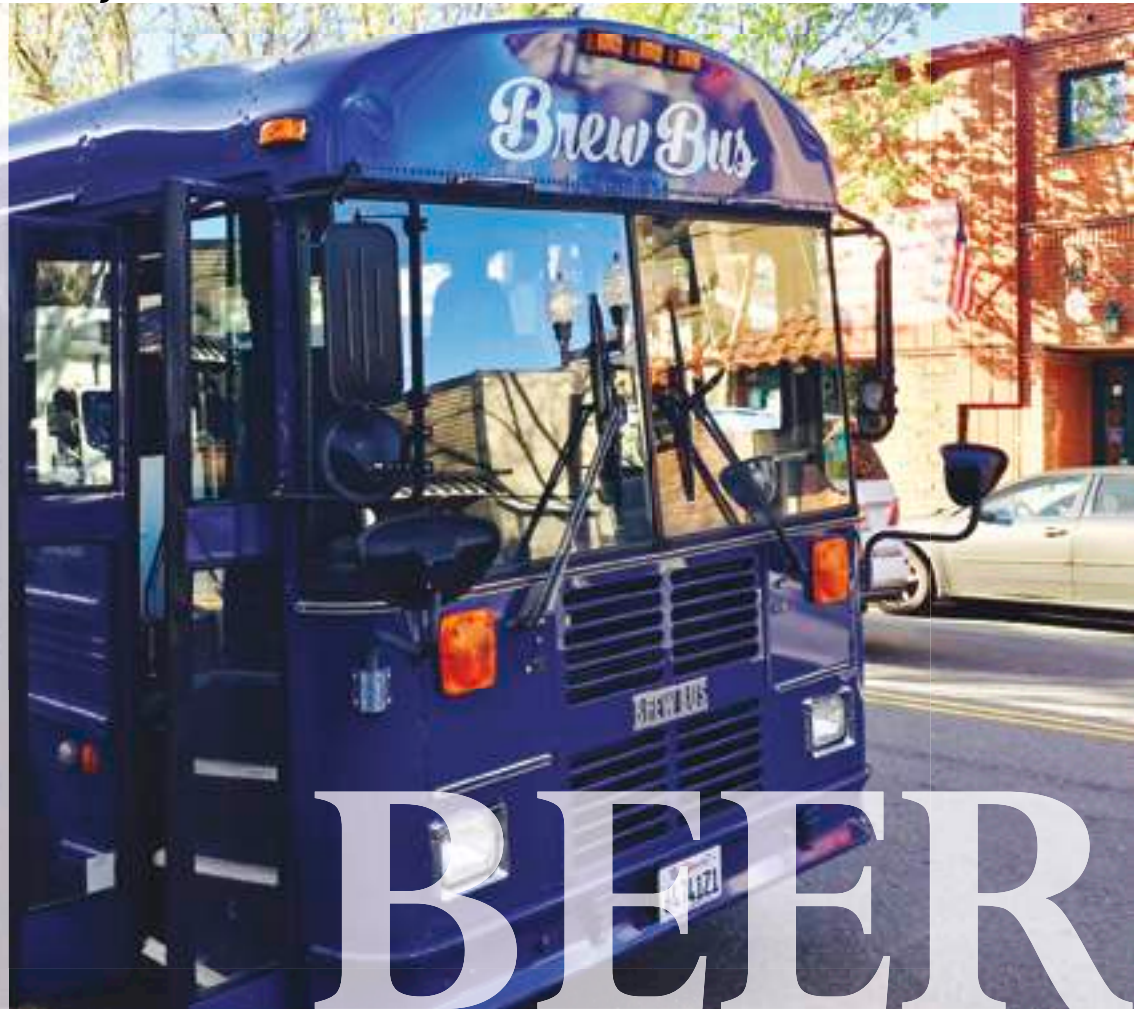
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BottleTaps



Beer Baron Bar & Kitchen

DINING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

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

- > **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, and pair with its astounding duck fat fries. beerbaronbar.com

- > **BottleTaps.** 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, that will pair nicely with tasty tapas. bottletaps.com

- > **First Street Alehouse.** This Livermore alehouse is the locals' go-to spot for drinking and dining, with a tempting array of sandwiches and burgers and 28 rotating beers on tap. Admire the wall of more than 6,000 vintage beer cans, the country's largest public collection. firststreetalehouse.com

- > **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. For beer on the go, browse the impressive on-site bottle shop for great picks. growlerpubdanville.com

- > **Hop DeVine.** With some 20 craft beers on tap and a menu of delicious crowd-pleasers (think juicy burgers, mac and cheese, and fish and chips), Livermore's Hop DeVine is the perfect place for a casual bite in a friendly atmosphere. hopdevine.net

- > **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

- > **World of Beer.** Check out Dublin's World of Beer for a constantly rotating list of domestic and foreign beers. Pair your brew with sliders, nachos or international dishes such as pork schnitzel, bibimbap, or even a giant Bavarian pretzel. worldofbeer.com



STAY & PLAY

AT ALOFT DUBLIN-PLEASANTON

Celebrate your style at the all-new Aloft Dublin-Pleasanton. Located in the heart of the Tri-Valley, we offer easy access to golf courses, restaurants, wineries and corporate offices nearby. Plus:

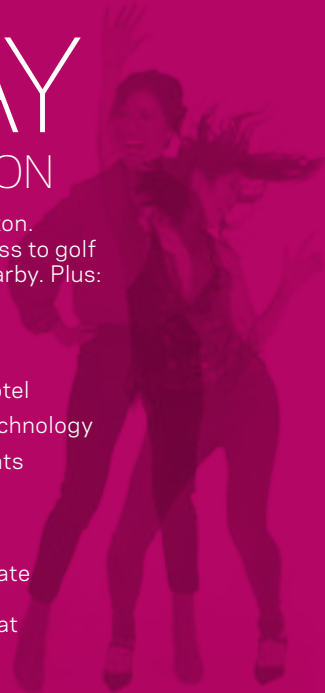
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WAKE-UP CALL

ENERGIZE YOUR DAY WITH A JAUNT ALONG THE TRI-VALLEY CAFFEINE TRAIL.

If your ideal way to start the morning—or finish up the afternoon—is with a strong cup of coffee, the Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail is for you. Download a passport on visitrivalley.com—a stamp from each of the four cities will earn you a Tri-Valley mug—and enjoy delicious snacks, savory teas or the perfect cup of joe. Here are four not-to-be-missed cafes.

> Basque Boulangerie

Danville's Basque Boulangerie serves up breakfast, lunch and dinner in an old-world French bakery atmosphere. An outpost of the original Basque Boulangerie in Sonoma, this charming cafe—located in the historic Danville Hotel—is known for its artisanal breads, pastries and more.

> Boba Bliss

Founded by two sisters, Dublin's Boba Bliss uses high-quality Stumptown coffee beans and organic tea to create its delicious beverages. With ingredients ranging from honey boba to lychee jelly and chia seeds, their customizable drinks are distinctive palate-pleasers.

> Espresso Rosetta

"Espresso runs in our blood," claim the proprietors of Livermore-based Espresso Rosetta, and their handcrafted, high-quality coffee drinks prove it's true. Not only does the cafe offer flavor-packed beverages made with time-tested techniques, but it's also the place to find creative "latte art" gracing your cup.

> The Press Artisan Café

At the ever-popular Press (with locations in Livermore and Pleasanton), you'll find meticulously crafted paninis, salads and more, all made with fresh, seasonal and organic ingredients. The extensive drinks menu offers a wide variety of excellent coffees, teas, lemonades and juices.

HIT THE TRAIL

MORE WAYS TO EXPLORE THE TRI-VALLEY'S CAFFEINATED CULTURE.

DANVILLE

- > Coffee Shop
- > Medleno Coffee
- > Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen
- > Starbucks Reserve

DUBLIN

- > Allegro Coffee (Whole Foods)
- > Amazing Basil (A Cup of)
- > Cafe Tapioca
- > Tea Heart

LIVERMORE

- > Panama Bay Coffee Co.
- > The Steam House Coffee & Kava Bar
- > Story Coffee

PLEASANTON

- > Characterz Cafe and Coffee Roasterz
- > The English Rose Tea Room
- > Inklings Coffee & Tea



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

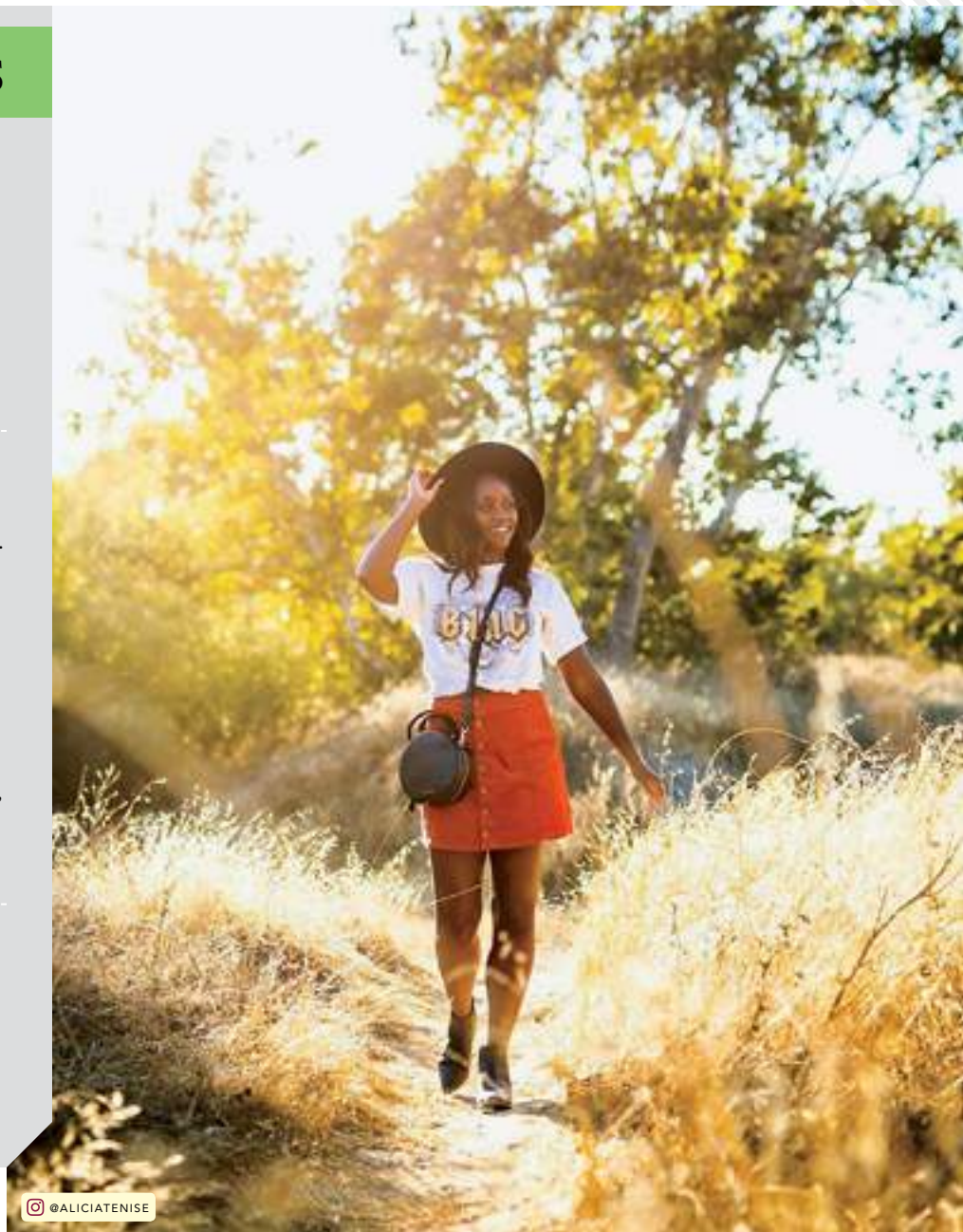
2. THE WEEKEND WARRIOR (MODERATE)

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 Ridgeline Trail is a bit of a climb but worth the sweat. The new Castleridge trailhead allows for exploration of the northern ridgeline of the park—after a steep climb, of course. ebparks.org/parks/Pleasanton

For those who prefer aquatic activities, you can skim over **Lake Del Valle** on a rented stand-up paddleboard (from \$20). outbackadventures.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



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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 connects directly to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

DEL VALLE REGIONAL PARK

For spectacular lakeside vistas and trails 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 indigenous plant. Make sure to visit Rock City and the wind caves!

Check out visitttrivalley.com for self-guided bike routes and information on bike rentals.



GREAT GREENS

GET YOUR GAME ON AT A DISTINCTIVE TRI-VALLEY GOLF COURSE.

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

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

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 meal at The Grill. poppyridgegolf.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

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

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



The Bankhead Theater hosts a wealth of cultural acts, including dance company MOMIX.

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 AND ON VIEW

The **Bankhead Theater** brings some 100 music, theater and comedy acts to Livermore each year. The lineup includes international dance troupes, Grammy-winning singers, comedians and other stellar performers. The **Bothwell Arts Center** also showcases free, themed art exhibitions. lvpac.org

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

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. Visitors shouldn't miss the **Harrington Gallery**, which features seven group exhibitions per year from local and regional artists. 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 Wentevineyards makes for a not-to-be-missed experience. Wentevineyards also produces a roster of concerts under the stars—combining music, wine and a refined dinner—plus the casual **Front Porch Music Festival**. Find out about more winery events at visittrivalley.com. livermoreshakes.org, 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

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

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, 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, as well as the latest addition, Into China. 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

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 O'Neill's desks, manuscripts and photos; in September, the O'Neill Festival presents plays in the barn. nps.gov/euon, 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. museumsrv.org

LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY DISCOVERY CENTER

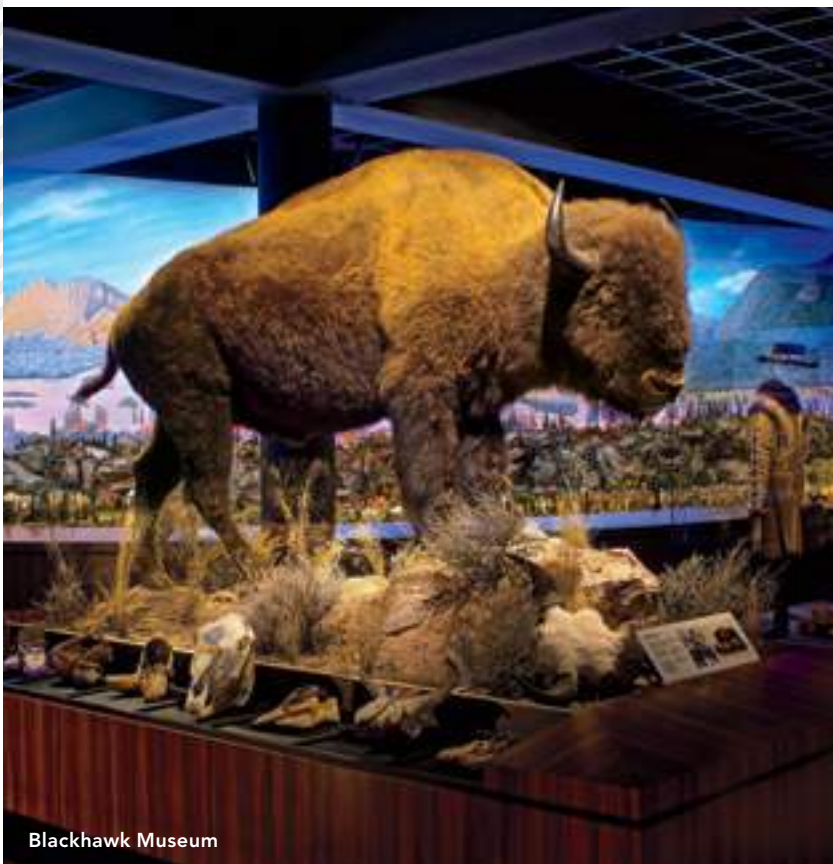
The Discovery Center introduces kids and adults to the thrill of STEM learning. Pedal an "energy bike" to see how much power it generates and hold a plasma globe, a glass ball electrified with a Tesla coil. lnl.gov/community/discovery-center

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

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



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Natural History



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Blackhawk Museum | Danville, California

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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.

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

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 over-the-top styles dreamed up in decades past, as race cars, sports cars, antique and high-end modern vehicles, and even a handful of boats and motorcycles come together at this don't-miss event. danville-delegance.org

HOT SUMMER SUNDAYS CAR SHOW

On one weekend in both July and August, Danville welcomes the Hot Summer Sundays Car Show. At this family-friendly event, more than 400 classic cars pull into town. Live music plus good food and drink complete the festivities. dhsncs.com

SUMMER NIGHTS IN THE LIVERY

August brings hot nights and car-themed events to Danville. For two nights, the Danville Livery shopping center is filled with live music, hot rod car shows, strolling entertainment and more. danvillelivery.com



Below: San Francisco Premium Outlets features 180 stores, including popular stops such as Bloomingdale's and Saks Fifth Avenue Off 5th.



SHOP TALK

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

With 180 stores, **San Francisco Premium Outlets**, located in Livermore, takes some time to navigate. But when exploring, savvy shoppers can find great deals on luxury lines. Options run from the trendy (Rag & Bone) to traditional (Brooks Brothers), upscale (Barneys New York) to basic (Gap Factory). And though the majority of shops lean high end, popular bargain spots 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 Check out visittrivalley.com for our shopping trail at the outlets!



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 serves up gourmet burgers here.
- 3. The kids would rather be painting.** Young Art Lessons offers drop-in sessions.
- 4. You're all about international fashion.** Zara, one of the globe's largest fashion companies, is a big draw at Stoneridge.
- 5. You're into Nordstrom, Apple and Lego.** Check, check and check.



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EAT AND SHOP

MAKING A FULL DAY OUT OF SHOPPING? STOP TO REFUEL AT THESE STELLAR EATERIES.

AT STONERIDGE SHOPPING CENTER

Staples like The Cheesecake Factory, the Counter and P.F. Chang's are always good choices for a meal in between serious shopping, but check out Go Fish Poke Bar as well for elevated poke bowls and vegan and gluten-free options. If you happen to be shopping on a Friday, head out to the parking lot to find some of the Bay Area's best food trucks to choose from.

AT THE SAN FRANCISCO PREMIUM OUTLETS

The expansive outlets host 17 food-providing shops, from Subway and Chipotle to Chicken Now and Green Leaf's. But for a more exotic break, head across the street to the **Pacific Pearl** shopping center. This new area—which opened in summer 2018—already boasts 24 restaurants, many with an Asian-cuisine focus. Notable are Japanese chain Kura, which serves dozens of different sushi rolls on a revolving belt, and Fiery Shanghai, which promises to light up your taste buds with Szechuan and Shanghai cuisine.



Whim House in Danville

GETTING THE GOODS

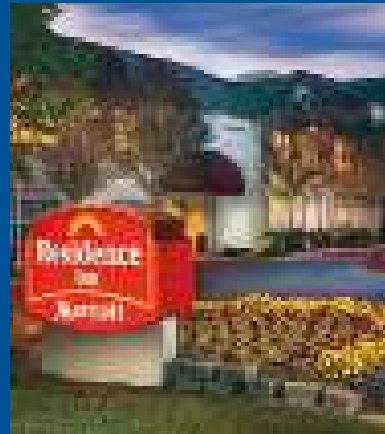
STROLL THE STREETS FOR ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS OR BIG-NAME BRANDS.

- > **Hartz Avenue** cuts through historic downtown Danville with a wealth of charming shops. Even if you don't have much of a sweet tooth, Sweet Street is worth a visit for the eye candy alone. Whim House spotlights a charming selection of contemporary home goods. And after getting expert advice on running shoes at Forward Motion Sports, you'll be inspired to join the locally famous Wednesday Night Run.
- > **Main Street in downtown Pleasanton** is a treasure trove of singular boutiques. Check out Prim and neighboring Prim Pop, which specialize in boho-chic clothing for women and children. Therapy stocks funky, stylish home goods and gifts, as well as ultracool accessories. Stop by the resident locally owned general bookstore, Towne Center Books, for 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 (such as Kobe Pho & Grill) before capping off your outing at the movies.
- > **First Street in Livermore** is all about local boutiques, stocked with items locals love. Don't miss Green Soap Bath Shoppe, which is a great place to pick up gourmet and organic soaps, lip balms, and candles. Pop into First Street Wine Company to taste and purchase vino from the Livermore Valley wine region.

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THE WEDDING PARTY

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.



A bride and groom celebrate their marriage at Pleasanton's Palm Event Center in the Vineyard.



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

- > 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, iloveprim.com, catchthedrift.co, shopflaunt.com

- > 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

- > 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

- > 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. pinotspalette.com/danville

- > 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 \$20 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

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in the vineyard

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PLAN YOUR SPECIAL DAY AT THESE TOP WEDDING VENUES.

CRESTA BLANCA EVENT CENTER & TERRACE LAWN AT WENTE VINEYARDS

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 ROSA 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.



@JOUAD_IN_CHINA

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, 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 the whiskey of the day or a bloody mary from the Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar on weekends. saucedbbqandspirits.com
- > Auto enthusiasts will find a collection of treasures at the **Blackhawk Museum**. You don't have to be car crazy to Instagram the "rolling sculptures" for instant social media approval. blackhawkmuseum.org
- > Gather up some buddies and hit the **Tri-Valley Beer Trail**. Check in at 10 of the 23 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, mainstreetbrewery.com, threesheetscraftbeer.com, growlerpubdanville.com
- > Work off any pre-wedding 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
- > Attention, carnivores: Pull over when you see the neon sign for **Hap's Original** in Pleasanton, a New York-style steakhouse that features dry-aged beef, seafood and handcrafted cocktails. If beer and bites are more your vibe, pull up a stool at **World of Beer** in Dublin for a deeply satisfying lunch, dinner or "beerunch" (or, beer brunch). hapsoriginal.com, worldofbeer.com



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DOG DAYS

EXPLORE THE TRI-VALLEY WITH YOUR FURRY FRIEND AT THESE WELCOMING DESTINATIONS.

WINERIES

LIVERMORE

3 Steves Winery
Bent Creek Winery
BoaVentura de Caires Winery
Bodegas Aguirre Winery
Caddis Winery
Cedar Mountain Winery
Charles R Vineyards
Concannon Vineyard
Crooked Vine & Stony Ridge Winery
Cuda Ridge Wines
Dante Robere Vineyards
Darcie Kent Vineyards
Eagle Ridge Vineyard
El Sol Winery
Enoteca Five
Fenestra Winery
First Street Wine Company
Garré Vineyard & Winery
Las Positas Vineyards
Longevity Wines
McGrail Vineyards and Winery
McKahn Family Cellars
Mitchell Katz Winery
Murrieta's Well
Nottingham Cellars
Occasio Winery
Omega Road Winery
Page Mill Winery
Retzlaff Vineyards

Rios-Lovell Estate Winery (Rios Reserve Estate)
Rosa Fierro Cellars
San Francisco Bay Winery
Singing Winemaker
Steven Kent Winery
Tenuta Vineyards
Vasco Urbano
Wente Vineyards
Wente Winemakers Studio
White Crane Winery
Wood Family Vineyards

PLEASANTON

Cellar Door
Mia Nipote Winery
Rubino Estates
Ruby Hill Winery

BREWERIES/PUBS

DANVILLE

Danville Brewing Company
The Growler
Norm's Place

DUBLIN

Inc 82 Brewing
Three Sheets Craft Beer Bar

LIVERMORE

Altamont Beer Works
Eight Bridges Brewing Company
First Street Alehouse
Tap 25
Sauced BBQ & Spirits



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PLEASANTON
Beer Baron Bar & Kitchen
Bottle Taps
The Hop Yard
Alehouse
Main Street Brewery
McKays Taphouse & Beer Garden
Hop DeVine

RESTAURANTS

DANVILLE

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria
Blackhawk Grille
Blue Ginkgo
Blue Line Pizza
Café Meyers
Dana's
Esin Restaurant & Bar
Faz
Forbes Mill Steakhouse
Forge Pizza
Garlex Pizza
The Great Impasta
Incontro Ristorante
Locanda Rovello
Los Panchos Mexican Restaurant
Mangia Mi
Maria Maria
Norm's Place
The Peasant & the Pear
Piatti
The Prickly Pear Cantina

Primo's Pizzeria & Pub

DUBLIN

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria
Armadillo Willy's BBQ
Berevino
Coco Cabana
Denica's Real Food Kitchen

LIVERMORE

Backyard Bayou at the Vineyard
Bar Tatami at Parkwest Casino
Beeb's Sports Bar and Grill
Campo di Bocce
Casa Orozco
Demitris Taverna
Garré Café
Patxi's Pizza
Posada
Riata Diner & Tavern
Sansar Indian Cuisine
Sauced BBQ & Spirits
Simply Fondue

Strings Italian Café
Terra Mia
Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard
Zephyr Grill & Bar

PLEASANTON

Barone's
Gay Nineties Pizza Co
Gotta Eatta Pita
The Press Artisan Café
Sabio on Main
Strizzi's

& Suites
Home2 Suites by Hilton Livermore
La Quinta Inn by Wyndham
Motel 6 Livermore
Residence Inn Livermore
Springtown Inn

PLEASANTON

AC Hotel Pleasanton
Best Western Plus Pleasanton Inn



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HOTELS

DANVILLE

Best Western Danville Sycamore Inn

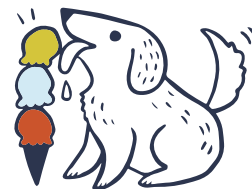
DUBLIN

Aloft Dublin-Pleasanton
Extended Stay America-Dublin-Hacienda Dr.
Holiday Inn Dublin-Pleasanton
Hyatt Place Dublin/Pleasanton
La Quinta Inn & Suites

LIVERMORE

Extended Stay America-Livermore-Airway Blvd.
Holiday Inn Express

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pleasanton at the Club
Extended Stay America Pleasanton-Chabot Dr.
Hyatt House Pleasanton
Larkspur Landing Pleasanton
Marriott Pleasanton
Motel 6 Pleasanton
Residence Inn Pleasanton
Tri Valley Inn & Suites



For a full list of dog-friendly locations, visit visittrivalley.com/dog-friendly-locations.

WHERE TO EAT

DANVILLE

Albatross The presentations are highly refined; the flavors, worldly; the decor, sophisticated. Yet the vibe is relaxed and convivial. Grilled octopus arrives with potatoes smashed with 'nduja—a spreadable, spicy Italian salumi. Lamb ragu lands in Persia with a crispy saffron rice cake and preserved peppers. Even dessert was extraordinary: a perfectly poached pear served with silky caramelized white chocolate. 312 Railroad Ave., 925.718.5445, albatross-danville.com. Brunch Sat. and Sun., lunch Tues.–Fri., dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Basque Boulangerie Café This cafe shines at breakfast, when rich, baked-from-scratch French toast and bread pudding demand an extra shot of espresso in your latte or a second cup of coffee from the array of self-serve choices. A modest beer and wine list and kombucha on tap add intrigue at night. 411 Hartz Ave., Ste. A, 925.208.1631, basqueboulangerie.com. Breakfast and lunch Wed.–Mon., dinner Thurs.–Sat. 🍷🍷🍷

Blackhawk Grille The Grille's huge exhibition kitchen dishes up pizzas, classic salads, sandwiches—and filet

mignon. Our short rib meatloaf 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 Cir., 925.736.4295, blackhawkgrille.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Blue Ginkgo Blue Ginkgo's waterside lounge reels in passersby to a piscine paradise. The sushi is always pristine, but lunch is the best value, with generous slabs of nigiri and seaweed salad. Winning small plates include crunchy soft-shell crabs and tempura prawn lettuce wraps. 3496 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., 925.648.7838, blueginkgosushi.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. 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 manchego cheese and kimchee 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. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Crumbs This umbrella-festooned eatery offers hearty American breakfast and lunch standards every day. 428 Railroad Ave., Ste. B, 925.838.8824, crumbsdanville.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Danville Harvest This country-chic, farm-to-table restaurant showcases elevated comfort food with a Southern twang. A mustardy, South Carolina-style barbecue pork loin, scallion hush puppies and My Mama's Breakfast Plate (at brunch) are seductive samples. 500 Hartz Ave., 925.362.3665,

danvilleharvest.com. Dinner daily, lunch Mon.–Fri., brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷

Esin Restaurant & Bar 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. Choose seating on the patio or in the stately dining room. 750 Camino Ramon, 925.314.0974, esinrestaurant.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

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-crusted crabcakes and buttery Kobe steaks. The wine list boasts powerful Napa Valley reds that can stand up to the meat. 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.552.0505, forbesmillsteakhouse.com. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Locanda Ravello With its convivial courtyard and cottage-turned-bar, Locanda is built for hospitality. Epicurean pizza toppings (porcinis, burrata, prosciutto di Parma)

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 p.m.)

🐾 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.

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. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

McGah's Pub & Pianos The American pub fare strikes just the right note: spicy shrimp with smooth jalapeno sauce; crispy fried chicken sandwich; and great burgers

galore. The dueling pianos—Friday and Saturday nights only—are a riot, and the sports theme is the real deal: E.W. McGah helped found the Oakland Raiders. 148 E. Prospect Ave., 925.743.8466, mcgahs.com. Breakfast Sat.–Sun., lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Norm's Place This casual automobile-themed eatery offers a menu that changes regularly, but staples include comfort foods 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. 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. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and 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. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Piatti One of the best Californian-Italian restaurants in the Tri-Valley, with dishes such as Bellwether Farms ricotta gnoc-chi, Monterey Bay calamari and fried Prince Edward Island mussels. The filet mignon is thick and juicy, and the waitstaff will help you choose a wine to match. 100

Sycamore Valley Rd., 925.838.2082, piatti.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Revel Kitchen & Bar

Revel is the hipster complement to Esin and Curtis deCarion's statelier 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. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen and Coffee Bar

Order at the counter and wait for consistently delicious dishes to be delivered in a rustic and quirky dining area. Our favorites include an airy goat cheese pudding and a moist chicken salad with Point Reyes blue cheese, smoky bacon and creamy avocado. 90 Railroad Ave., 925.984.2713, itsonthesideboard.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Valley Medlyn's

A hole-in-the-wall brunch spot popular with locals for its hearty dishes and delightfully decadent

desserts. 330 Hartz Ave., 925.552.6449. com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sun. 🍷🍷

Zalla Kabob House

In true Afghan style, Zalla's cuisine is brightly spiced and satisfying. The kebabs will fill you up, but it's worth starting with appetizers of lush eggplant (bannan) and butternut squash (kadu). We also loved the rich, complex lamb shanks at this darling order-at-the-counter cafe. 202 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.208.1403, zallakabobhouse.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷

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. 7568 Dublin Blvd., 925.803.8485, eatamakara.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

The Banana Garden

This stylish Malaysian restaurant is a cross-cultural experience. Start with the roti prata, a crispy bread with toasted-curry coconut sauce. The charred chicken satay is plump and moist. Clusters of slick noodles are just one of the intriguing textures in the fragrant seafood char koay kak. 4100 Grafton St., 925.248.2854, thebananagarden.com.

Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

Coco Cabana

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. 4500-C Tassajara Rd., 925.556.9055, cococabanadublin.com. Brunch Sun., lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Denica's Real Food Kitchen

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. At lunch, we liked the chicken pesto sandwich, fresh spring greens with walnuts and the chicken tacos. 6058 Dougherty Rd., 925.829.6200, denicascafe.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷

Gum Kuo

This Oakland follow-up has a welcoming burnt-umber decor and dishes ranging from comforting to daring. Comforting is the delicate tofu and snappy pumpkin hot pot. A whole crispy-skinned pompano requires dexterity but is remarkably moist. Gum's chow fun—slick with egg and slippery shrimp—is a sweet companion to bony yet beautifully bronzed duck. 3720 Fallon Rd., 925.999.8627,

gumkuorestaurant.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

Hot Crab

It's no ordinary shrimp boil at this Louisiana Cajun seafood restaurant; your catch comes bathed in a garlicky, chili-infused oil with varying heats. Easy-to-slurp clams and meaty shrimp are rewarding, but serious crackers can opt for a heap of crawfish or 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 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. 🍷🍷

Lee's Sandwiches

This San Jose food truck turned chain focuses mainly on Asian and European sandwiches. The Vietnamese banh mi is the star, with zippy pickled vegetables and house-made baguettes, available in a dozen varieties, from grilled chicken to sardine to lemongrass tofu. 4101-B Dublin Blvd., 925.828.8888, leesandwiches

dublin.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. \$

Mayflower Restaurant

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 barbecue pork and the ultrafresh lettuce cups. 4086 Grafton St., 925.551.8088, mayflowerdublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

McNamara's Steak and Chop House

The mahogany bar, low lighting and luxurious decor at McNamara's say classic steakhouse. We loved the plump chilled prawns, charred filet mignon and rosemary-seasoned rack of lamb. 7400 San Ramon Rd., 925.833.0995, mcnamarasteak.com. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

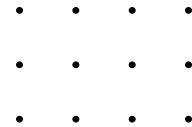
Pamir Restaurant

Where to start? We say bulanees, squares of fried flatbread filled with potatoes or leeks. Right behind is buranee badenjan (sautéed 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). 4288 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 111, 925.999.8820, pamirdublin.com. Lunch Thurs.–Tues., dinner Thurs.–Mon. \$

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Yanagi Sushi & Grill This 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. 🍷💰

LIVERMORE

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 Pkwy., 925.800.0076, parkwestcasino580.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🕒💰

Bua Thai Kitchen Soft brown leather booths and hardwood decor make this Thai eatery feel warm and inviting. The food is equally homey, with the mango yellow curry being a standout, as the sweetness of the mango contrasts nicely with the heartier curry. 1106 E. Stanley

Blvd., 925.292.8587, buathailivermore.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷💰

Campo di Bocce On the outskirts of town, Campo di Bocce can evoke a Tuscan retreat, where daily specials like osso bucco and grilled halibut grace romantic fireside nooks. But the indoor/outdoor space 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. 🍷🐾💰

Cinco TacoBar Instagrammers love this hip taqueria, with its vibrant calavera murals and neon sign pleading, "Feed me tacos and tell me I'm pretty." You'll want to order at least two tacos, which are served in thick corn tortillas and stuffed with fillings such as soft carne asada, sweet al pastor and grilled squash. 4526 Las Positas Rd., 925.583.5300, cincotacobar.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🕒💰

Demitris 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, demitristaverna.livermore.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🕒🐾💰

El Charro The full bar and festive-yet-relaxed ambience have turned a family operation into a modern Livermore standout. The restaurant features smoked pork chops for carnivores, chili rellenos for vegetarians and killer enchiladas for



anyone. 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. 🍷🕒💰

Hops & Sessions This pour-your-own beer pub is a wide-open communal space with a wall of 28 rotating taps and a "starting line" where you scan your driver's license and credit card in exchange for a wristband. The beer selection is well rounded with local brews. The pub food is above average, with sausages, a crispy chicken sandwich and a killer wedge salad on offer. 2339 First

St., 925.495.4118, hopsandsessions.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🕒💰

The Last Word Trade your Coke for a cocktail, and get truffle instead of butter on your popcorn, at this hip saloon behind Livermore Cinemas. Pair your Blood and Sand (a smoky Manhattan) or a Death in the Evening (licorice sparkling wine) with upscale sliders, spicy chicken and waffles, or a sophisticated arugula salad. 2470 First St., 925.493.7293, lastwordbar.com. Dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🕒🐾💰

Monica's Livermore Housed in a soulful brick building with a fantastic shaded patio, Monica's specializes in big, homey plates of traditional breakfast and lunch fare and simple, from-scratch pastries. While our Reuben sandwich and shrimp omelet were so-so, a hearty huevos rancheros and two grilled chicken salads were standouts. 2074 Second St., 925.292.5568, monicaslivermore.com. Breakfast and lunch daily, dinner Thurs.–Sat. 🍷🕒🐾💰

Petra This family-run restaurant offers Jordanian dishes as authentic as you'll find anywhere in the Bay Area. Solicitous service and plenty of freebies—including cardamom tea and creamy lentil soup—make it a homey gold mine. The classics—falafel, hummus, baba ghanoush and tabbouleh—are all extraordinary. 4524

Las Positas Rd., 925.371.0412, petra-livermore.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 💰

Posada The offerings at Posada are particularly wonderful at brunch, when diners can nosh on sublime huevos rancheros, meaty enchiladas with fried eggs and grilled oysters Posada. Happily, the 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 Wed.–Sun., brunch Sun. 🍷🕒🐾💰

The Press Artisan Café With a walk-up counter that flows into minimalist yet spacious decor, The Press serves fresh, creative and affordable toastinis and paninis. The avocado tripled cheese panini is as lush as a sandwich can be, while the B.L.E.T. with egg (and Hobbs' Applewood Smoked Meats bacon) and side salad was a steal at \$10. The original is in Pleasanton. 2470 First St., Ste. 110, 925.292.1916, thepressartisancafe.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🕒💰

Range Life This neighborhood favorite serves high-quality, seasonal fare in a restored 1800s brick building. 2160 Railroad Ave., 925.583.5370, rangelifelivermore.com. Dinner Wed.–Mon., breakfast and lunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷💰

Roya Afghan Cuisine Roya offers something for everyone and at 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. 2020 First St., 925.447.0576, roya.afghancuisine.com. Lunch Tues.–Sat., dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🕒🐾💰

Sauced BBQ & Spirits Stacks of wood, banks of TVs 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. 2300 First St., Ste. 120, 925.961.1300, saucedbbqandspirits.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🕒🐾💰

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, followed by generous samplings of cheese and meat fondue. Wrap it up with a personalized chocolate fondue. 2300 First St., Ste. 110, 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 balanced carrot-plum sauce. The panang beef is tender and delicious. 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, staranisetthai.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. The fish is



fresh, and the meats are seasoned well and served with simple sides. 4040 East Ave., 925.456.3333, terramialivermore.com. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

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. 39 S. Livermore Ave., Ste. 125, 925.449.7000, uncleyusvineyard.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Vineyard Table and Tasting Lounge

A commitment to a seasonal menu that emphasizes local ingredients keeps things happening at this restaurant. Standout dishes include heirloom tomato soup with charred balsamic and grilled local calamari with fingerling potatoes, tomato confit and black olive tapenade. Meanwhile, the famous smoked pork chop never fails to satisfy. An ever-evolving list of more than 500 wines includes some excellent Livermore selections. 5050 Arroyo Rd., 925.456.2450, wentvineyards.com. Dinner Wed.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

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. 1736 First St., 925.961.1000, zephyrgrill.com. Lunch Mon.–Fri., brunch Sat.–Sun., dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

PLEASANTON

Barone's Restaurant

Around the corner from the hustle of Main Street, Barone's makes one long for an old-fashioned shrimp cocktail or veal parmigiana.

The 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. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Blossom Vegan Restaurant

This vegan paradise has a distinctive Vietnamese edge. We love the green papaya salad and curried eggplant. Do not miss the mushu-mushu, wrapped in Indian pancakes. 4000 Pimlico Dr., Ste. 112, 925.399.5232, Lunch and dinner Wed.–Mon. 🍷

Blue Agave Club

This "club" provides genuine Mexican delicacies such as earthy huitlacoche "truffles" on plump, succulent shrimp and chicken enjococado in sour cream sauce. A gorgeously grilled skirt steak stars in a platter that includes chicken mole, chili 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. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

China Lounge

A theatrical open kitchen, pulsing bar and 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 Dr., 925.227.1312, chinaloungeus.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

This hangout has a 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 Southern fried chicken in a skylit dining room. 4889 Hopyard Rd., 925.469.6266, eddiepapas.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Experience Burma Restaurant & Bar

Burmese cuisine echoes the flavorful and shareable qualities of Indian and Thai food yet is wholly distinctive. The tea leaf salad bursts with crunchy nuts, seeds and jalapeno. Wok-fried lemongrass pork is tender and aromatic, while glistening mango shrimp balances sweet sauce with chiles. 221 Division St., 925.398.8219, theexperienceburma.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

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. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Hap's Original

Hap's has been around since the 1950s and has evolved into an upscale steakhouse. Complimentary crudites and Hap's namesake salad topped with walnuts, Gorgonzola and honey-chili vinaigrette made for refreshing starters. The filet mignon with brandy peppercorn sauce was even better with a seasonal side dish of grilled artichokes. 122 W. Neal St., 925.600.9200, hapsoriginal.com. Dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Jim's Country Style Restaurant

Sure, we try to look out for our arteries, but sometimes Kashi cereal with fruit just won't cut it. Jim's has the stuff: ranch-style omelets with biscuits and gravy, hearty

pancakes, and sugar-sprinkled French toast—all served until 4 p.m. At lunch, try the triple-decker barnyard club. 5400 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 1, 925.426.7019. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷

Lokanta Mediterranean Grill & Bar

A Turkish word meaning "neighborhood bistro," Lokanta is at once exotic and familiar. An 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. 443 Main St., 925.223.8074, eatlokanta.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden

Try the jammin' burger slathered with bacon jam or a Cubano sandwich, pressed with the mandatory pickles. Soft fresh-baked pretzels have the right salty goodness for pairing with an array of local craft beers. 252 Main St., 925.425.0217, mckaysbeergarden.com. Lunch Wed.–Sun., dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Nonni's Bistro

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 anything with Magnusson's

magnificent smoky lox, made with sustainable Loch Duart salmon from Scotland. 425 Main St., 925.600.0411, nonnibistro.net. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

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. Dinner daily, lunch Tues.–Fri., brunch Sat. and Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Salt Craft Innovative chef Matt Greco has created a full-service neighborhood spot with all outdoor seating. Situated in a converted house, the interior is now one big kitchen and bakery. Polenta and poached eggs in the morning, whole-grain pastas at lunch, and slow-roasted pork loin at night are just a few reasons to drop by. 377 St. Mary's St., 925.425.9716, saltcraftpleasanton.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

Shanghai Dumpling House Enjoy classic Chinese dishes at this local haunt. There is no fuss over presentation or ambience—just plain good food. 201 Main St., Ste. E, 925.201.3009,

shanghaidumplinghouse.business.site. Lunch and dinner Wed.–Mon. 🍷🍷

SideTrack Bar + Grill This casual spot serves an inspired array of juicy burgers and tasty sandwiches in a friendly, open dining room. 30 W. Angela St., 925.399.6789, sidetrackeats.com. Brunch Sat. and Sun., lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Sozo Sushi Sozo means “creative” in Japanese, and this sushi bar in Pleasanton lives up to the name. Sure, you could order the classics: 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 Rd., 925.484.5588, sozosushi.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Tri Valley Bistro With its warm earth tones and unobtrusive service, Tri Valley Bistro offers a measure of old-fashioned romance. Start with a lush arrangement of prosciutto, dried figs and 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 Tues.–Fri., dinner Tues.–Sun., brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

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PLEASANTON

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925.475.4828

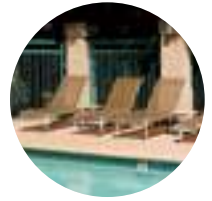
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Larkspur Landing Hotel
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925.463.2626



Pleasanton Marriott
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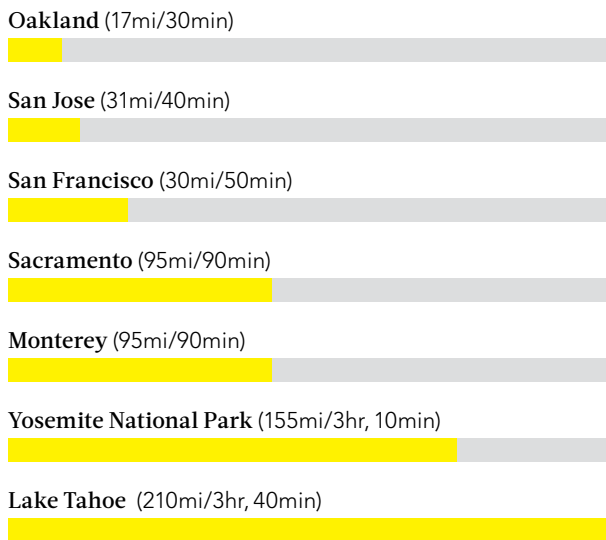
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Tri Valley Inn & Suites
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925.846.2742 🐾



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AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
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| 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 with new Saturday service. 800.411.RAIL, acerail.com
- > **Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART).** Includes stops at West Dublin/Pleasanton and Dublin/Pleasanton. 510.464.7134, bart.gov
- > **County Connection.** Bus service throughout Contra Costa County. 925.676.7500, countyconnection.com
- > **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. 925.455.7500, wheelsbus.com

SHUTTLE/LIMOUSINE/TAXI SERVICES

- > **4GQ Limousine Services:** 800.640.LIMO
- > **Black Tie Transportation:** 855.643.9388
- > **Blue Bird Cab Co.:** 925.500.0001
- > **Charity Cab:** 925.353.5357
- > **DeSoto Cab Co.:** 925.777.7777
- > **East Bay Shuttle:** 925.800.4500
- > **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 (LVK),** 925.960.8220, cityoflivermore.net
 - > **Oakland International Airport (OAK),** 19 miles from the Tri-Valley, 510.563.3300, oaklandairport.com
 - > **Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC),** 31 miles from the Tri-Valley, 408.392.3600, flysanjose.com
 - > **San Francisco International Airport (SFO),** 37 miles from the Tri-Valley, 650.821.8211, flysfo.com



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