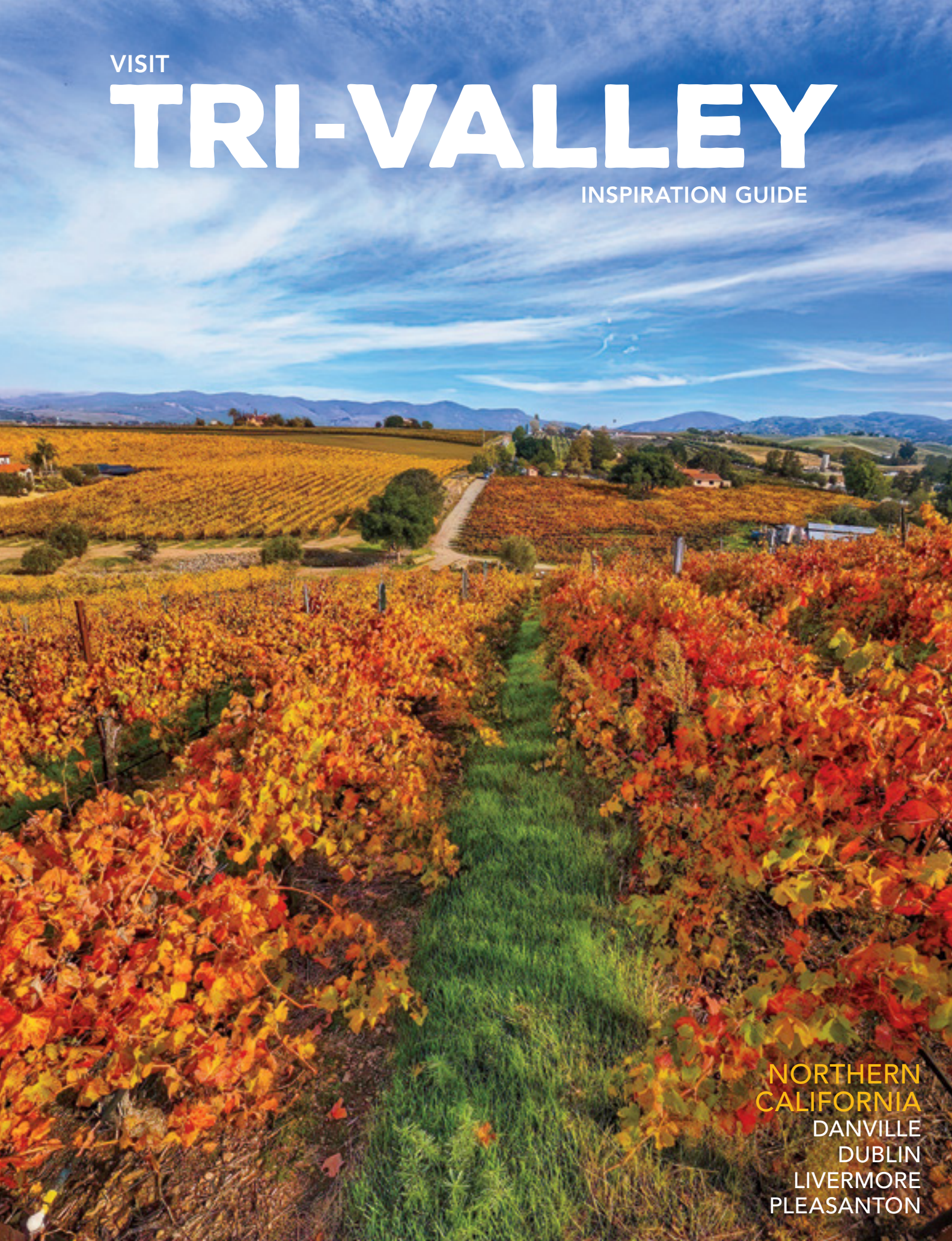


VISIT

TRI-VALLEY

INSPIRATION GUIDE



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PLEASANTON

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Welcome



The Visit Tri-Valley team, from left: Justin Bower, Susan Bolt, Robin Fahr, Tracy Farhad, Amber Haley and Todd Dibs.

WELCOME TO THE TRI-VALLEY!

The heart of innovation in the Tri-Valley continues to amaze both locals and visitors alike. From hundreds of headquartered companies creating “firsts” in life sciences, medicine, technology and I.T. to the world’s first fusion ignition by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (see page 11 for more), the Tri-Valley is a hot spot worthy of visiting year-round!

Uncover your favorite culinary and libation adventure in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville with friends and coworkers (see pages 16 and 26 for more). Share your unique experiences and sign up for The Vibe—the Tri-Valley’s newest calendar of events—to get weekly personalized bulletins of cultural happenings, sure to elevate the soul (visit page 13 for further details).

Come for the amazing shopping and retail therapy (go to page 40 for some highlights), beautiful outdoor spaces, vibrant small towns, exciting festivals and awe-inspiring sporting events. Whatever business or leisure time brings you to the Tri-Valley, 43 lodging choices and hundreds of international dining options, from budget to binge-worthy, await you with open arms. That’s what the Tri-Valley is all about—bringing a feeling of down-home to your home away from home, with plenty to talk about when you get back. See you soon!

Cheers,

TRACY FARHAD
PRESIDENT & CEO, VISIT TRI-VALLEY



TOURISM CARES

Feel free to traipse, travel and follow your joy in the Tri-Valley. We just ask you to keep a few considerations in mind while doing so.

- Roam Responsibly.**
- Educate Yourself.**
- Safety First.**
- Preserve the Tri-Valley.**
- Embrace Community.**
- Celebrate Culture.**
- Teach Others.**

Information courtesy of Visit California.

ON THE COVER:
Livermore Valley Wine Country

PHOTO BY ASHISH TIBREWAL / @VELVETLANDSCAPES



Look for QR codes to link to more information about the Tri-Valley.



16

FEATURES

16 BEST BITES A meal-by-meal guide to some of the Tri-Valley's most tantalizing dining options—with suggestions for a variety of budgets, tastes and vibes.

26 LIQUID ASSETS 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.

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



40

TOP TO BOTTOM: NICOLE FRANZEN; DANIELLE POFF

DEPARTMENTS

4 WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS
Check out our quick overview of the Tri-Valley's four distinct and vibrant cities.

8 COMMUNITY CULTURE
From historic sites to groundbreaking discoveries to artisan goods, the area has countless stories to tell.

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

55 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 HONEYBEES; WEDDING DOCUMENTARY




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WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

A quick take on the Mount Diablo region's extraordinary towns.



**WHERE SMALL-TOWN CHARM
MEETS BIG-CITY STYLE**

DANVILLE

Take a stroll along bustling Hartz Avenue in downtown Danville and experience the relaxed yet polished vibe for yourself. The town's vibrant center features chic shops, regional theater productions and art shows, cosmopolitan drinking spots, and top-notch restaurants. Venture away from the hub and you'll find cultural draws such as Tao House (the one-time residence of playwright Eugene O'Neill, where his plays live on during the annual Eugene O'Neill Festival), as well as Danville's numerous hiking trails, parks and open spaces.

Downtown Danville is home to history-rich attractions such as the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

SHUTTERSTOCK



For a full list of dog-friendly locations, go to [VisitTriValley.com/dog-friendly-locations](https://www.visittrivalley.com/dog-friendly-locations).

THE CROSSROADS OF THE BAY AREA

DUBLIN

Perfectly situated at the connection of two major freeways, Dublin is one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States. Along with its diverse culinary scene, the city offers shops, nightlife and recreational opportunities for fun-seekers of all ages, including golf, bowling, ice-skating, go-kart racing, and a water park and trampoline park. There's history here, too: Witness Dublin's annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration, which recognizes the Irish heritage of the city's founders. Look for shamrocks adorning street signs in honor of those early immigrants from the Emerald Isle. The city even welcomed a new professional baseball team, the aptly named Dublin Leprechauns, in 2023.



St. Patrick's Day celebrants go for the green at Dublin's annual festival.



Scan this code to see more info about dog-friendly sites.

RAISE A GLASS IN WINE COUNTRY

LIVERMORE

Forget Napa and Sonoma. California's oldest wine-growing region, Livermore is 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. There is a wide selection of craft breweries and trendy restaurants, along with plenty of kid-friendly attractions, including mini golf, super slides and laser tag. Livermore is also host to the annual Intermediate League World Series, featuring baseball all-stars, ages 11 to 13. Shoppers flock to the San Francisco Premium Outlets and specialty boutiques downtown. Sample Livermore's rich cultural offerings by catching a show at the Bankhead Theater.



Livermore's many vineyards produce award-winning wines.

LIVING WELL

PLEASANTON

Once a Wild West hideout, contemporary Pleasanton has a plethora of dining, retail options and outdoor activities. The city's idyllic environment has earned it consistent accolades as one of the most desirable places to live in the state. Shopaholics can browse Stoneridge Shopping Center and Main Street boutiques, while food lovers have their pick of restaurants featuring fabulous fare from around the globe. Pleasanton also has a happening downtown; 1,200 acres of parks, open space and trails; and plenty of cultural events, including engaging performances at the Firehouse Arts Center year-round.



The Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton hosts cultural events year-round.

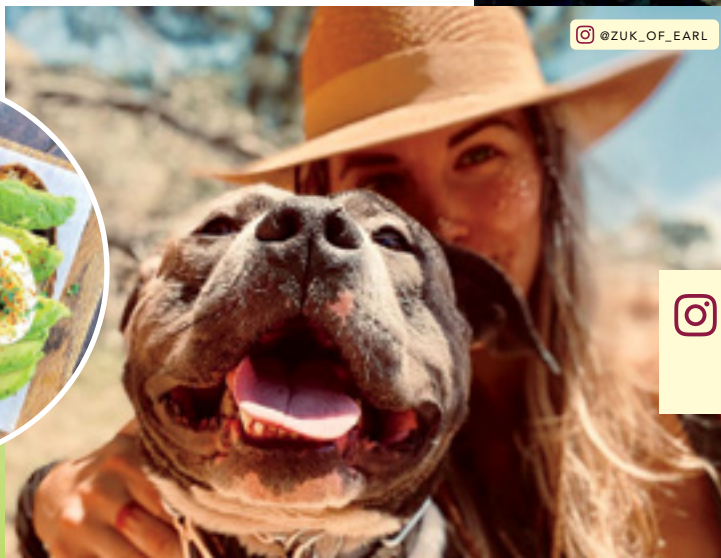
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COMMUNITY CULTURE

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, the **Dublin Heritage Park & Museums** is a 10-acre area that is home to **Pioneer Cemetery**; the region's oldest Catholic church, **St. Raymond** (1859); the **Murray Schoolhouse**; and the **Kolb House**, a 1910 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 more than 350 years old stands on Diablo Road, and its likeness serves as the town's logo. The historic 1891 **Southern Pacific Railroad Depot** nearby houses the **Museum of the San Ramon Valley**.

In Pleasanton, sign up for a historical 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 Pleasanton's **Century House**—which is more than 150 years old—and **Ravenswood** in Livermore (available for weddings and events).



Dublin Heritage Park & Museums



Good Common
Sense Naturals

- > Stop at **Good Common Sense Naturals** in Pleasanton and Danville for organic beauty products made with ingredients grown in-house. With a focus on sustainability, the company has cut out parabens, detergents and fragrances. goodcommonsense.com

MADE IN THE TRI-VALLEY



TAKE HOME UNIQUE PRODUCTS FROM THESE LOCAL PURVEYORS.

The Tri-Valley has been a hotbed of innovation and creativity for decades, celebrated as being the home of some of California's first viticultural pioneers, world-renowned scientific researchers and even a Nobel Prize winner. Today it continues to attract artists, farmers, chefs, winemakers and more who cultivate, curate and craft their locally made goods. When visiting, stop by some of the following makers, and take a piece of this special region home with you.

- > Those who can't resist a sweet treat should head to **Danville Chocolates**. Loved by locals for their confectionery excellence, the talented chocolatiers at this downtown shop serve up an assortment of delicacies, including truffles, chocolate barks, dipped fruits and more. danvillechocolates.com
- > Artisanal honey is the perfect addition to your favorite snack, warm drink or charcuterie board. **Gerard's Honeybees** not only produces its raw honey from native wildflowers, it also provides valuable cross-pollination to regional food growers. The honey is available for purchase at a variety of wineries and boutiques or online. gerardzhoneybees.com
- > **Sweet Hope Soap Co.** specializes in handcrafted soaps, face masks and other body products made with sustainable ingredients. Find its small-batch products at makers fairs, area boutiques and online. sweethopesoapco.com
- > Pleasanton's **Studio Seven Arts** showcases regional and national artists, including Steve Thomas's vintage-style travel paintings of Pleasanton, Mount Diablo and Livermore Valley. studiosevenarts.com

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kwanderosa.com

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theolivina.com

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Pleasanton
srisurabhi.us

DISCOVER TRI-VALLEY TREASURES WITH WHEELS!

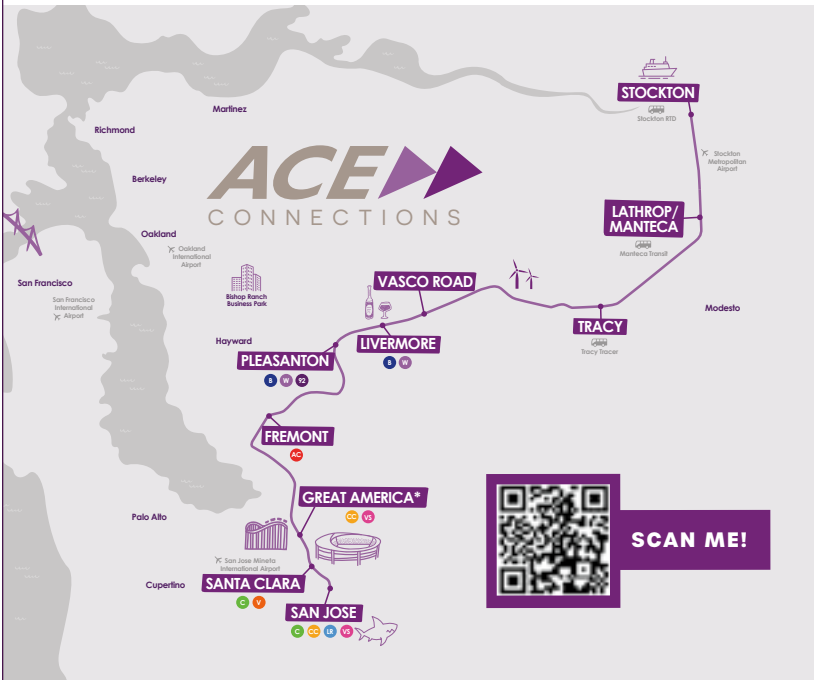
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WINE WHEELS

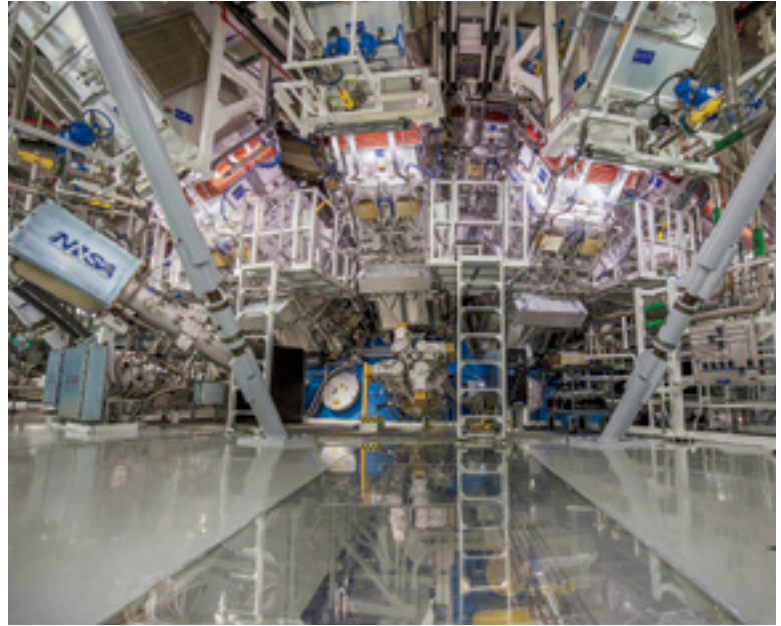
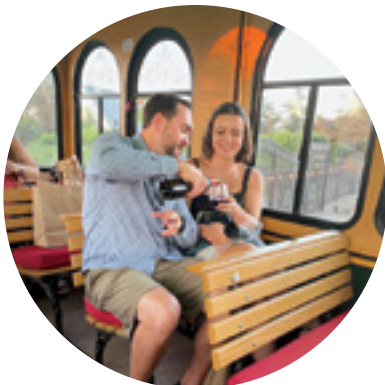
The **Livermore Wine Trolley** tour takes visitors to three wineries for a wine-tasting flight and small bites as part of the Sip & Savor Wine Pairing Tour. Other special offerings are the Taste of the Tri-Valley Food Tour—in which guests sample menus from three noted restaurants—and the Sip & Paint Wine Tour, which includes a painting session at Pinot's Palette. livermorewinetrolley.com

LUXE RIDE

Explore Wine Country in style on an expertly hosted custom tour with **Black Tie Transportation**. blacktietrans.com

GOLDEN AGE

The **Golden State Trolley** has blended “yesterday’s nostalgia with today’s modern luxury” since it began traversing Bay Area roads in January 2019. The Golden State Trolley can be rented as a private charter or shuttle as transportation for weddings, corporate outings or other events. goldenstatetrolley.com



BRIGHT IDEAS

LIVERMORE, HOME TO THE SMARTEST MILE ON EARTH, IS WHERE YOU WILL FIND GROUNDBREAKING NEW CONCEPTS AND HISTORIC ARTIFACTS.

There have been many great achievements rooted in the Tri-Valley over the years, but one of the biggest might be the first-ever demonstration of controlled nuclear fusion ignition by **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory** (LLNL), often called the smartest square mile on earth.

The breakthrough took place at the Livermore-based National Ignition Facility late at night on December 5, 2022, and within days, the moment made headlines around the globe. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer M. Granholm called it “one of the most impressive scientific feats of the 21st century.” The effort is a key step on the journey toward limitless clean energy.

LLNL is a federally funded research and development center that was initially established in 1952. Today, the lab continues to be at the forefront of nuclear advancements and security, along with cutting-edge ideas across a variety of other scientific fields. Visitors can get an inside look at its work at the LLNL Discovery Center (see page 45 for more). llnl.gov

Coincidentally, Livermore is also the site of the planet’s longest-burning light bulb, according to Guinness World Records. This humble bulb—nicknamed the **Centennial Light**—can be seen at Livermore Fire Station No. 6 on East Avenue. It was first turned on in 1901 and has been switched off only four times in the ensuing years. 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

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Within 1,200 acres of parks and open spaces and 24 miles of trails to explore, Pleasanton is the ideal destination for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. Tee off at the award-winning Callippe Preserve or savor the exceptional local produce found year-round at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market. Soak up the small town vibe with a stroll through downtown Pleasanton's specialty shops or enjoy an array of outdoor dining experiences. Top the day off and be entertained with a full schedule of events, concerts, and performances at the Firehouse Arts Center. Come, experience an extraordinary day, and make lasting memories in Pleasanton!

www.inPleasanton.com

WHAT'S YOUR VIBE?

Don't miss out on all the Tri-Valley has to offer! From live concerts to community festivals, our new online events platform, The Vibe, can help you stay up-to-date on local happenings. Choose your own Tri-Valley adventure with a customized itinerary perfectly crafted to fit your tastes. Go to VibeTriValley.com to experience our fun-filled region like never before. Get a preview of a year's worth of events with the calendar below.



FEBRUARY

Toast the local beer scene (and give back to the community) at the **Livermore Brew Crawl & Food Drive**.

Area restaurants show off their most diverse offerings, including deals for wine lovers and foodies, during **Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week**, February 23–March 3.

MARCH

Hot rods, classics and more shine at the **Goodguys All American Get-Together** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Support the runners at the **Livermore Valley Half Marathon** and celebrate with drinks and live music at the finish.

Let your imagination take flight with **Livermore Valley Opera** as it kicks off its 32nd season.

Celebrate the season with carnival games and an Easter egg hunt at Dublin's **Spring Eggstravaganza**.

Sample craft beers and ciders at Pleasanton's **St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl**.

Dublin's **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** is a weekend full of traditional Irish jigs, beverages and entertainment.

APRIL

Ring in spring with fresh produce and local goods at the **Dublin Farmers' Market**. (Through September)

See the Tri-Valley's showcase of STEM at the **Tri-Valley Innovation Fair** presented by Quest Science Center.

MAY

Raise a glass at the **Livermore Downtown Street Fest**, and take part in a wine and beer pop-up experience, crafts, shopping and dining.

Revel in unlimited pours, food and live music at the **Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival**.

Wander through the streets of downtown Danville while delighting in local shops, wine, art and live music at the **Spring Sip & Stroll**.

JUNE

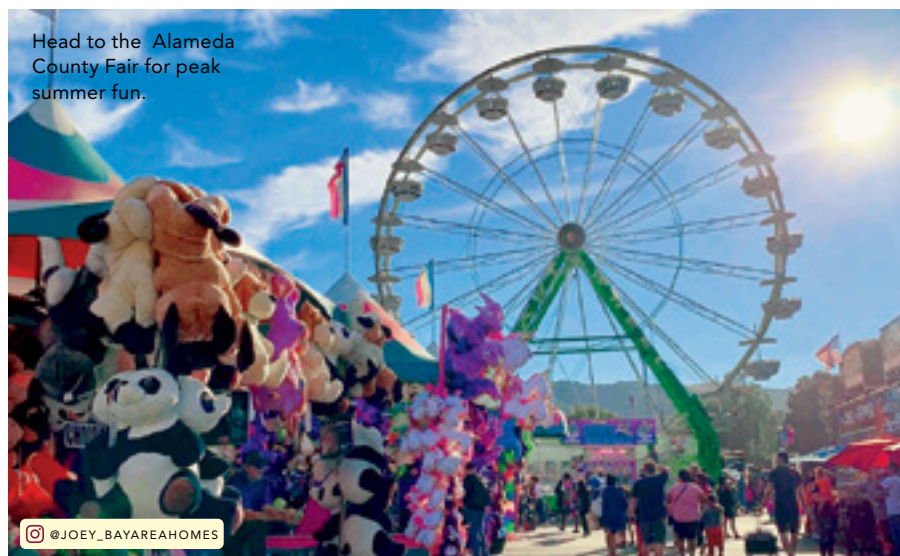
Ferris wheels, funnel cake and horse racing delight at the **Alameda County Fair** in Pleasanton. (Into July)

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

Enjoy live theater, wine and a picnic at Livermore's Darcie Kent Estate Winery during **Shakespeare in the Vineyard**. (Into August)

JULY

Recognize Independence Day with the annual **Danville July Fourth Parade**.



Head to the Alameda County Fair for peak summer fun.

© @JOEY_BAYAREAHOMES

Calendar /

The **Fourth of July Family Fun Fireworks Celebration** is a pyrotechnic spectacle in downtown Livermore.

AUGUST

See more than 3,000 hot rods, custom autos, classics, muscle cars and trucks at **Goodguys West Coast Nationals**.

SEPTEMBER

Honor one of Danville's most famous residents at the **Eugene O'Neill Festival**, and see performances of O'Neill's works.

Sample a selection of perfect bites at **Forkful** in downtown Pleasanton.

Downtown Danville hosts auto lovers at its **Hot Summer Sundays Car Show**.

Fete Scottish culture, competition and entertainment at the Alameda County Fairgrounds during the **Scottish Highland Gathering and Games**.

Commemorate the end of summer at Dublin's **Splatter** festival, where art, music and wine are colorfully combined.

OCTOBER

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

Join the family for some old fashioned fall fun at Dublin's **Harvest Fair**.

Hop on your bike and discover fab new beers during **Livermore Bikes and Brews**.



The Goodguys car shows feature classic wheels.

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

Livermore Valley's premier food and wine affair, **Taste: The Livermore Valley Wine Experience**, is a four-day celebration of local wines and wineries.

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

NOVEMBER

Start the holiday season right with Danville's **Lighting of the Old Oak Tree**.

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

DECEMBER

Enjoy a hearty spread of pancakes then take photos with a special guest from the North Pole at Dublin's **Breakfast With Santa**.

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

Downtown Livermore's **Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade** highlights a variety of floats and ends with a tree lighting.

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

Enjoy wine and a trolley ride past Livermore's best holiday displays with the **Lights of Livermore** holiday tour.

Check out VibeTriValley.com for the most up-to-date information on these and other exciting events.



Scan this code to see The Vibe's selection of area events.



Take in performances, art and wine at Splatter in Dublin.




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LIVERMORE VALLEY
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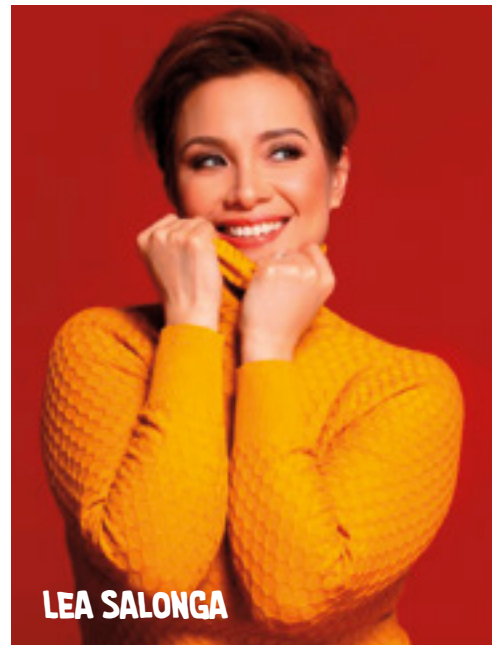
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BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER / DESSERT



MOLLY DECOUDREUX



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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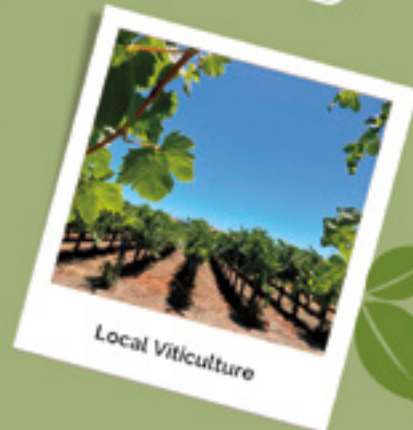
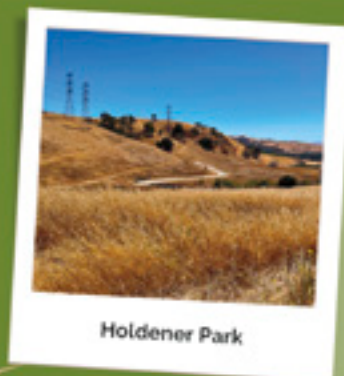
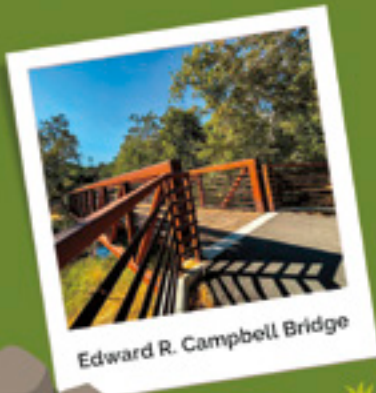
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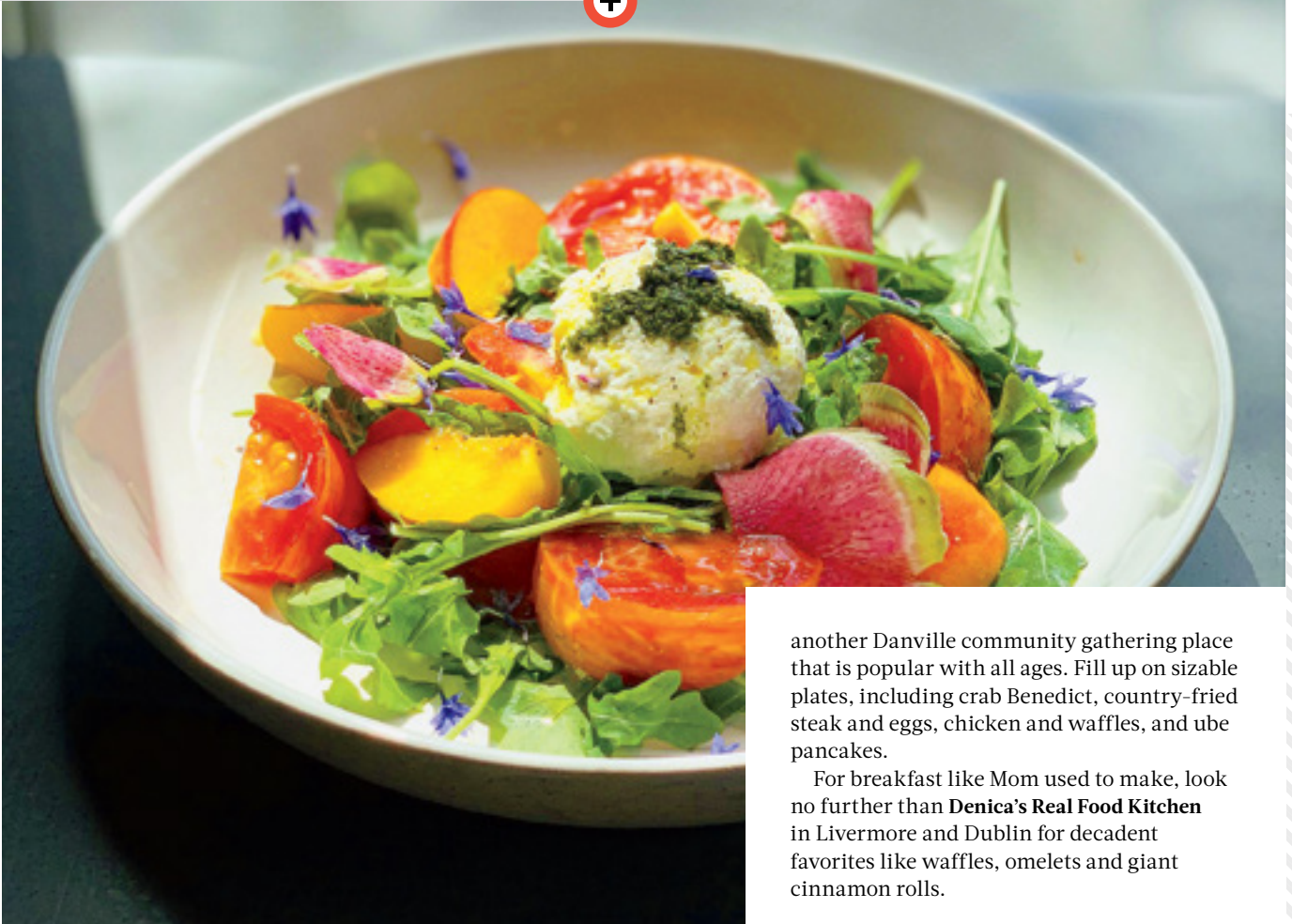
Tri-Valley
Conservancy

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Take your morning meal to the next level at **The Press** cafe in Pleasanton and Livermore. Sample tasty dishes such as an avocado and egg toastini or cheese grits and eggs (at weekend brunch). Work on your Great American Novel over a mug brewed from Chromatic Coffee Co. beans.



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

The Riata Diner & Tavern in Livermore reflects the area's pioneer past with Wild West-inspired decor and memorabilia—and serves 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 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.

Monica's Livermore, located in a historic building, offers generously portioned breakfasts, including French toast made with house-baked bread. Consider having your meal on the spacious outdoor patio.

Follow the locals to Danville's **Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen and Coffee Bar**, a premier cafe that features deluxe brands such as Sightglass, Temple and more. Indulge yourself with an order of beignets to go. **Crumbs** is

another Danville community gathering place that is popular with all ages. Fill up on sizable plates, including crab Benedict, country-fried steak and eggs, chicken and waffles, and ube pancakes.

For breakfast like Mom used to make, look no further than **Denica's Real Food Kitchen** in Livermore and Dublin for decadent favorites like waffles, omelets and giant cinnamon rolls.

BRUNCHING OUT

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. If you're feeling adventurous, head over to **Blossom Bee**, also in Dublin. The Thai fusion creperie puts a twist on breakfast food with dishes like the Dublin Rancheros crepe with grilled chicken and scrambled eggs.

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.

Enjoy the sweet scents of morning in the Tri-Valley 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 first meal of the day.



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Break up your day with a culinary journey to Myanmar. Top dishes on the robust Burmese menu at **Burma! Burma!** in Dublin include tea leaf salad, garlic noodles, and pork and vegetable curries. Try the black sticky rice for dessert.

serves a delicious menu centered on seasonal ingredients.

Lunch in style at Pleasanton's **Oasis Wine Lounge**. The exotic interior space, with rich red accents throughout, and inviting patio are ideal for dining à deux or with a group. The Mediterranean menu with a modern flair includes lamb lollipops, pumpkin borani, gyros and kebabs.

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.

Demiya is a welcome new addition to the Dublin dining scene, dishing out Japanese curry, udon, katsu and more in an airy, fast-casual space on Village Parkway.

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. Also in Pleasanton, **Bocado: Un Petit Bistro** serves elevated crepes with traditional and inventive flavors.

Enjoy a taste of something different at **The Banana Garden Malaysian Cuisine** in Dublin. The flavorful Malaysian menu includes boldly spiced items like belacan string beans and tender chicken satay, while the saltwater aquarium and painted palm trees create a soothing tropical vibe.

For a culinary adventure south of the border, Livermore's family-owned **Posada Alta Cocina** is a solid bet. A contemporary take on Southwestern food, Posada is a great lunchtime stop before a day of wine tasting.

Since opening in 2016, **Danville Harvest** has earned a lot of buzz—and deservedly so. Embracing the farm-to-table concept, the charming restaurant

POWER LUNCH

For authentic Southeast Asian cuisine, **Experience Burma** in Pleasanton has got 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 lemon-grass tofu. In Livermore, **Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard's** remarkable wine list perfectly complements Szechuan staples and delectable dim sum.

If you like some action with your meal, try **Da Boccery** in Livermore. In addition to its menu featuring pizzas, sandwiches and salads, the eatery offers bocce courts, shuffleboard and axe throwing, among other games.

Prefer to kick back and relax? **Danville Brewing Co.** is your spot. The restaurant boasts exceptional pub food as well as award-winning beers like 925 Blonde and Chux Double IPA.



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 eateries, including **Terra Mia Ristorante Italiano** in Livermore, which serves authentic Italian fare such as house-made pasta, pizza and other favorites in a welcoming space. Newer to the Livermore scene is **Range Life**. The Michelin-rated restaurant is located in a restored 1800s carriage house—mixing urban and rustic sensibility in food and atmosphere. The seasonally changing menu draws influences from diverse cuisines, and its craft cocktails are an excellent way to round off an evening on the town.

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. For a deep-dish experience in Pleasanton, look no further than **Zachary's Chicago Pizza**; the local mainstay adds a Californian touch to the beloved Chicago-style pie.

WORLDLY WONDERS

Sophistication is on the menu at Danville newcomer **Zaya Thai Pantry**. The restaurant features a striking open interior with a picturesque bar area. The food is as impeccably presented as it is cooked—the signature khao soi noodle soup topped by a bone-in short rib is almost too pretty to eat.

Bridges Restaurant & Bar is a paragon in the Danville culinary world, but classic doesn't mean stuffy. The polished, upscale restaurant, 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.

Get a taste of Jordan at Livermore's **Petra**. This family-owned eatery is good for those trying Middle Eastern cuisine for the first time as well as more experienced eaters. The excellent complimentary cardamom tea and pita are also worth mentioning.

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 tempting rolls.

HOT SPOTS

Dublin's **Berevino Italian Pub** specializes in old-world Italian cuisine and an extensive wine list; it's a great place to have a romantic dinner or sip reds with a big group of friends.

The team behind Forbes Mill Steakhouse has found inspiration in the ocean with **Tides** in downtown Danville. The modern menu

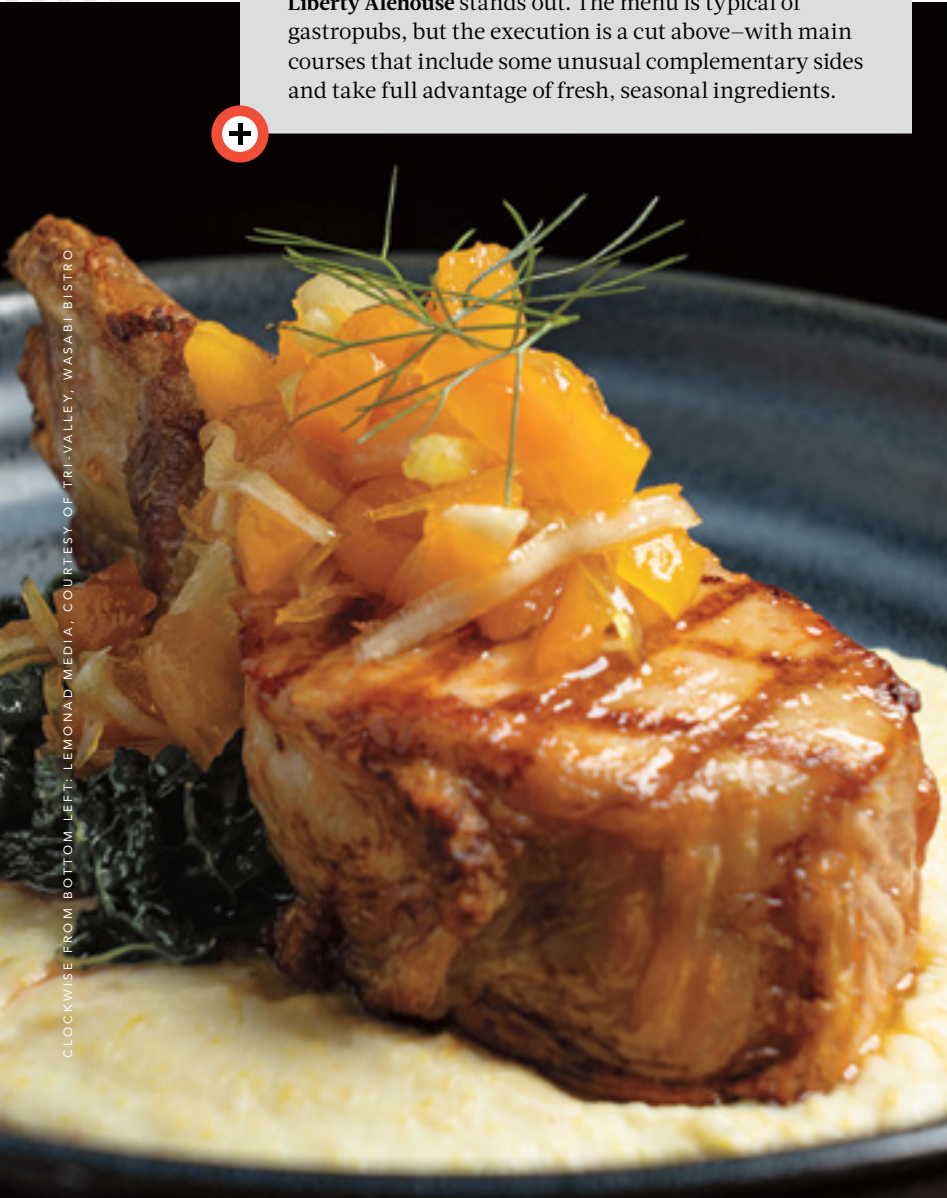
includes pasta, seasonal oysters, whole fish dishes and aquatic-themed craft cocktails. Try the perfectly tender King Ora salmon or well-spiced crab cakes.

The Yellow Chilli, from celebrity chef Sanjeev Kapoor, offers outstanding gastronomic tours of India in his Danville and Livermore locations. The restaurants, while remaining approachable for families, exude an elegant atmosphere—and the food is equally noteworthy. Try the rich butter chicken or amritsari machchi—a delicious Punjabi spin on British fried fish. Also in Danville, **Revel Kitchen & Bar** has been a smash with city sophisticates. The upscale tavern in downtown features bar bites and small plates, as well as heartier entrees and can't-miss desserts.

Sabio on Main, with its delectable dishes and large bar, has become a go-to spot in Pleasanton. Try the three- or five-course prix fixe dinner or treat yourself to executive chef Francis Hogan's 10-course tasting menu for the ultimate dining experience.

Elia is another sophisticated standout in Pleasanton. Thoughtful takes on Mediterranean favorites such as grilled octopus and moussaka are served on the spacious patio or in the open, airy dining room that feels as refreshing as a breeze from the Aegean Sea.

Tucked into Livermore's downtown district, **Sons of Liberty Alehouse** stands out. The menu is typical of gastropubs, but the execution is a cut above—with main courses that include some unusual complementary sides and take full advantage of fresh, seasonal ingredients.



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM, LEFT: LEMONAD MEDIA, COURTESY OF TRI-VALLEY, WASABI BISTRO

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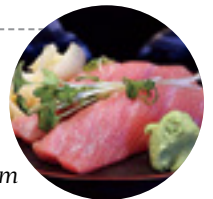
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CULINARY EXCELLENCE

THE TRI-VALLEY IS AN AWARD-WINNING DINING DESTINATION.

The exceptional culinary scene has earned recognition at the highest levels. Recent accolades include California Michelin Guide ratings for **Sabio on Main** in Pleasanton and **Range Life** in Livermore (the latter received a Bib Gourmand distinction).

Sabio on Main also received a *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence in 2023, as did Danville's **Forbes Mill Steakhouse**. Livermore's **Posada Alta Cocina** and **Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard** earned the publication's Best of Award of Excellence.

Sample the best cuisine that the area has to offer during **Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week**, held February 23–March 3, 2024. The annual 10-day spectacular includes foodie events and deals at the Tri-Valley's top restaurants, wineries and breweries.

Go to VisitTriValley.com to find out more.



THE PERFECT MIX

CHEF MAURICE DISSELS BRINGS ECLECTIC GUYANESE CUISINE TO PLEASANTON AT HIS LIVELY EATERY, OYO.

Among palm fronds and a map of Guyana, the portrait of a woman in a yellow hat looms large over the dining room of Oyo in downtown Pleasanton. She is Oyo, the grandmother of founder and executive chef Maurice Dissels and the force behind one of his earliest childhood memories: tasting her spicy chili sauce.

Dissels's restaurant is inspired by his grandmother's food philosophy—she dubbed it *muxalace*, meaning *let's lace this pot up with a little bit of everything*—and eclectic Guyanese cuisine. He hails from Guyana, located on the northern coast of South America. Its population includes people of Indian, African, European and Chinese descent, as well as several Indigenous tribes; this diversity is reflected in Guyanese food, and in Oyo's.

The menu includes curries from Eastern Asia; a West African pepper pot, filled with braised short rib and salted pork; and South American-style paella—four kinds, in fact: traditional, vegan, “del Negra” (with black squid ink), and seafood. There is also generous representation of Caribbean island cuisine, from jerk half chicken with citrus mayo to Run Down Fish: oven-baked sea bass with coconut cream and white wine.

The dessert selection features several fun finishes, including a decadent banana bread pudding with pineapple glaze and coconut ice cream. Even more fun is the live Caribbean music that plays on select evenings, as well as the occasional bottomless red wine sangria specials.

The restaurant is quite different from Birk's, the classic Santa Clara steakhouse where Dissels served as executive chef for 15 years. But at Oyo, he's clearly home—the passion for his family and heritage imbuing the food and drawing crowds of happy diners.

HERE'S THE SCOOP

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

- > Start your tour at Danville's **Lottie's Creamery**. The locally based sweet shop serves ice cream made in-house from fresh, seasonal ingredients. Look for cool treats in creative flavors such as oatmeal raisin cookie, vanilla salted almond toffee, Ethiopian coffee and chocolate zinfandel. Sundaes, ice-cream sandwiches and floats are also on the tempting menu.
- > Pleasanton's **SomiSomi Soft Serve and Taiyaki** offers a Korean dessert known as ah-boong, a goldfish-shaped waffle cone stuffed with soft serve and topped with options such as taro, custard and red beans. Or try the taiyaki, a warm, fish-shaped waffle treat packed with those same garnishes.
- > For a spot promising the "finest all natural ice cream in the world," visit **Kwality Ice Cream** in Dublin, where specialties include eggless ice-cream cakes, sugar-free scoops, and kulfi (traditional Indian ice cream) in flavors such as kesari pista (think pistachio with a touch of saffron) and mango. You can also try cassata: three layers of ice cream topping a slice of sponge cake.
- > Dig into old-fashioned treats at **Loard's** in Livermore. The creamery has been scooping up cones since 1950, and proudly proclaims it hasn't changed its ice cream recipe during those 70-plus years. Flavors run the gamut from traditional—chocolate, vanilla and butter brickle—to slightly more modern takes such as ube, sea salt caramel and green tea.



Scan this code to see more about the Tri-Valley Ice Cream Trail.

@CONNIESMUNCHIES



Take a drive to Pleasanton's iconic **Meadowlark Dairy**, California's first certified dairy. Founded in the early 1900s, it is a nostalgic throwback to the days of local milk shops. Hit the drive-through for a cone of Meadowlark's signature soft serve ice cream (which can reach half a foot tall).

TREAT YOURSELF RIGHT



To satisfy a different kind of sweet tooth, stop by Livermore's **Wingen Bakery** and pick up a fig pop tart or orange spiced coffee cake. For more decadent delicacies, visit **Old Towne Danville Bakery**. This long-standing spot does everything from cakes to cookies; around the holidays, keep an eye out for its special menus. Excellent éclairs, cannolis and macarons are just some of the European goodies at **Primrose Bakery** in Pleasanton. Or head to premier Dublin bakery **Tous les Jours**, which serves up slices of cake that are so aesthetically pleasing it's difficult to eat them. But not too difficult, because they taste even better than they look.

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, the 50 wineries in the Livermore Valley are constantly finding new ways to create impressive varietals.



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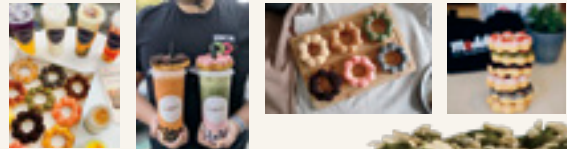


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CATERING SERVICE AVAILABLE

WINE COUNTRY: BY THE NUMBERS

50: Number of Livermore Valley wineries with tasting rooms

118: Number of varietals from local wineries according to *lwwine.org*

140: Number of years that Wente Vineyards, the oldest continuously operated, family-owned winery in the U.S., has been in business

1840s: Decade in which Robert Livermore planted the region's first commercial vines

1889: The year a California wine first bested French offerings at the Paris Exposition, when Livermore's Cresta Blanca Winery was awarded the Grand Prix crown

4,000: Number of vineyard acres in the Livermore Valley

4: Hours it takes to complete the Pedego electric bike tour of the Livermore Valley

12: Maximum number of guests at the new cabanas at McGrail Vineyards

1st: Wente Vineyards is home to the world's first fully electric tractor from Monarch Tractor



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 (see sidebar for additional Livermore Valley wine facts).

The Livermore Valley brought home 174 awards from the 2023 *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition, the largest competition of North American wines in the world. Almost Famous Wine Company, Concannon Vineyard, Dante Robere Vineyards, Darcie Kent Estate Winery, Las Positas Vineyards, McGrail Vineyards and Wood Family Vineyards got Best of Class awards, while Livermore Valley AVA members earned multiple gold awards.

AMONG THE OTHER HONORS RECEIVED BY THE LIVERMORE VALLEY AVA:

> Carolyn Wente of **Wente Vineyards** was named *Wine Enthusiast's* 2023 American Wine Legend; she is the first woman to receive that esteemed accolade from the publication.

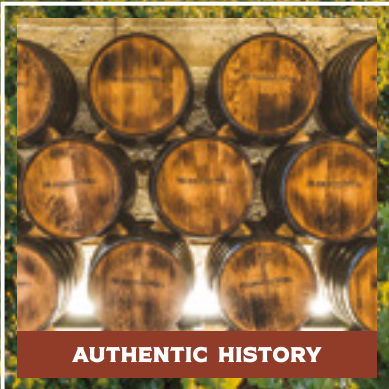
> **Rodrigue Molyneux Winery** earned gold for its pinot blanc and petit verdot, and Best of Class for its nebbiolo at the Los Angeles International Wine Competition.

> **McGrail Vineyards** was recognized at the Critics Challenge International Wine & Spirits Competition for its red blend and cabernet.

> **Garré Vineyard & Winery** received Best of Show and Best Red at the 14th annual Livermore Valley Uncorked awards for its sangiovese.

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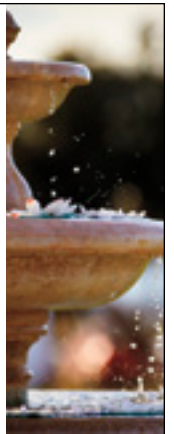
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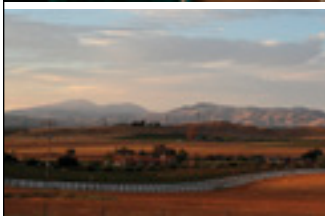


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SCAN ME



WELCOME PARTY

CURT PIPES SERVES UP EXCEPTIONAL WINES, DELICIOUS BITES AND A CONVIVIAL ATMOSPHERE AT LAS POSITAS VINEYARDS.

Curt Pipes, assistant general manager and chef at Livermore's Las Positas Vineyards, believes the experience of visiting his winery should be open to all.

"We are family-friendly and dog-friendly, and want everyone to feel welcome here," Pipes says. "We want to have an upbeat, positive environment where everyone can have fun."

An old-world vibe, award-winning wines, a spacious patio overlooking the vineyards, live music on Friday and Saturday evenings, and a tempting menu of small bites are just some of the attractions at Las Positas.

The winery first introduced charcuterie plates and table service to wine-tasting visitors in June 2020; now Pipes has expanded the dining space and created a curated menu that pairs perfectly with the small-lot wines from Las Positas winemaker Brent Amos.

"We want to connect food and wine together," he says. "Great food is an art form." Pipes, who grew up in Danville, is committed to the Tri-Valley.

"There is a great down-to-earth mentality in Livermore Wine Country, and we all work together," says Pipes. "I am proud to be a part of this region, and I want to help it grow into a wine destination with a well-known reputation for quality wine, quality food and a quality visitor experience."



TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY OF VISIT TRI-VALLEY; RON ESSEX

SHIP WHAT YOU SIP—FOR FREE!



Thanks to the program **Wine Ships Free**, guests staying at participating Tri-Valley hotels get the wine they want shipped directly from participating wineries—without the extra costs of shipping and handling. Here's why this deal is a no-brainer.

You'll save money! With Wine Ships Free, you don't have to worry about the extra shipping fees. Simply email your receipt and proof of your hotel stay to wineshipsfree@visittrivalley.com, and the costs will be reimbursed.

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

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.



@NIKSTERS



Scan this code to see info about the Tri-Valley Beer Trail.

Homegrown Hops

COURTESY OF VISIT TRI-VALLEY



Dust Bowl Brewing Company



BottleTaps



Danville Brewing Co.



BEER BITES

LOOKING FOR A NIBBLE WITH YOUR LIBATION? THESE RESTAURANTS AND TAPROOMS ARE SURE TO SATISFY.

> **Beer Baron Whiskey Bar & Kitchen** / This Pleasanton spot has a robust menu of starters, sandwiches, salads and entrees for lunch and dinner, as well as weekend brunch. Pick from its rotation of craft beers to complement a yummy order of tacos. beerbaronbar.com

> **BottleTaps** / BottleTaps is more than just a craft-brew taproom; it's a beer education center. Run by Eric Wall, the only certified beer judge in Pleasanton, this upscale joint offers a variety of to-go beers in its retail coolers, from the well-known to the more obscure but still delicious, that will pair nicely with tasty tapas. bottletaps.com

> **Danville Brewing Co.** / Nosh on well-executed burgers, sandwiches, bowls and hearty entrees. The food goes perfectly with Danville Brewing's craft brews, including the award-winning Irish stout. danvillebrewing.com

> **Dust Bowl Brewing Company** / The Livermore taproom serves drafts from its 30-tap tower, while a Hazy Barbecue Livermore Pit Stop food truck dishes up smoked meats and bar bites. dustbowlbrewing.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 6,000 rare 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 the famed butcher Pat LaFrieda. For beer on the go, browse the impressive on-site bottle shop. growlerpubdanville.com

> **Hop DeVine Cocktails & Grubbery** / With some 20 beers on tap and a menu of delicious crowd-pleasers, Livermore's Hop DeVine is the perfect place for a casual bite in a friendly atmosphere. hopdevine.net

> **World of Beer** / Check out Dublin's World of Beer for a rotating list of domestic beers, along with brews from around the globe. Pair your drink with wings, nachos or a giant Bavarian pretzel. worldofbeer.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 several years ago. The hashtag accompanying the Instagram announcement post about the expansion seems nearly prophetic: #ifyoubuildittheywillcome.



WHAT'S BREWING

DISCOVER EXCITING BEERS AT THESE MICROBREWERIES. ALONG WITH TAPROOMS AND ALEHOUSES, THE TRI-VALLEY BEER TRAIL ALSO FEATURES SEVERAL LOCAL BREWERIES.

- > **Altamont Beer Works** / This long-standing microbrewery jump-started Livermore's beer scene. Try the Mac Drizzle golden ale, or go extreme with Hella Hoppy IPA. For easy drinking, look for the Humm Baby pale ale when it is on tap. altamontbeerworks.com

- > **Danville Brewing Co.** / Danville Brewing Co. cooks up delicious pub eats to pair with house beers, canned brews, craft cocktails and wines. danvillebrewing.com

- > **Homegrown Hops** / The original site in Livermore features bocce courts, cornhole and picnic tables; Homegrown recently opened another taproom in downtown Livermore. homegrownhopsbeer.com

- > **INC 82 Brewing** / This Dublin hot spot pays homage to local history in its decor and moniker (the city was incorporated in 1982), as well as serving craft beers and pub grub. inc82.com

- > **Main St. Brewery** / Grab a pint at this Pleasanton favorite that offers multiple house beers along with a dozen rotating guest taps. mainstbrewery.com

- > **Rivers End Brewing Company** / Freshness is on tap at this Livermore brewery that crafts small-batch suds. riversendbrewing.beer

- > **Shadow Puppet Brewing Company** / This Livermore brewery creates unique tastes using traditional techniques and uncommon ingredients. shadowpuppetbrewing.com

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TRI-VALLEY CAFFEINE TRAIL



RISE AND GRIND, CAFFEINE LOVERS! The Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail is a unique collection of cafes, coffee-houses and tearooms, each with its own special set of peps and perks. Sip on craft coffee creations, sweet boba tea and steamy artisanal teas as you explore the most creative caffeine connoisseurs of the Tri-Valley. Visit five participating coffee shops on the Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail and we'll send you a Tri-Valley mug to use at home!



TRI-VALLEY ICE CREAM TRAIL



HERE'S THE SCOOP! Taste your way through the Tri-Valley with your choice of soft serve, sundaes, gelato, ice-cream sandwiches and more from our collection of local ice creameries. Visit five participating stops on the trail to win your very own ice-cream scooper to use at home. Here on the sunny side of the bay, the Tri-Valley Ice Cream Trail is one of the tastiest ways to satisfy your sweet tooth.



TRI-VALLEY BEER TRAIL



DRINK LOCAL BEER AND SCORE SOME SWAG! The Tri-Valley Beer Trail is a curated collection of exclusive deals and discounts from the best breweries, alehouses and taprooms in the Tri-Valley. Our mobile-friendly passport is available on any device with no purchase required. Check in at 10 participating stops to win beer swag, or go the extra mile and visit every stop on the trail to win a 64-ounce growler!





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 cup of coffee, the Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail is for you. See the list of participating coffee shops and upload photos from five stops at VisitTriValley.com to earn a Tri-Valley mug—all while enjoying tasty snacks, savory teas or the perfect cup of joe along the trail. Here are five not-to-be-missed cafes.

- > **Boba Bliss** / Dublin's Boba Bliss uses high-quality Stumptown coffee beans and organic tea to create its beverages. With ingredients such as honey boba and lychee jelly, its drinks are palate-pleasers.

- > **The Press** / 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 features a variety of excellent coffees, teas and lemonades.

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

- > **Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen and Coffee Bar** / Danville's Sideboard serves up breakfast, lunch and dinner in a relaxed, homey environment. Enjoy an artful espresso drink made from Sightglass beans or a cup of green tea, and pair your beverage with a fresh beignet (weekends only).

- > **Tea Heart** / Check out this Dublin spot's delicious bubble teas, which include toppings such as tapioca balls, popping boba and fruit jelly.

HIT THE TRAIL

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

DANVILLE

- > Medleno Coffee

DUBLIN

- > AJ's Coffee
- > Cafe Tapioca

LIVERMORE

- > Grounded Coffee and Local Delights
- > Panama Bay Coffee Co.
- > The Steam House Coffee & Kava Bar
- > Story Coffee Co.

PLEASANTON

- > Bobafinitea
- > Honey Tea
- > Inklings Coffee & Tea



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TIME

OUT

The Tri-Valley's wealth of recreational activities and sporting events (such the long-running Scottish Highland Gathering and Games), plus its variety of retail outlets and choices for culture (and car) lovers, make 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 to 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 trout, striped bass and catfish, 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

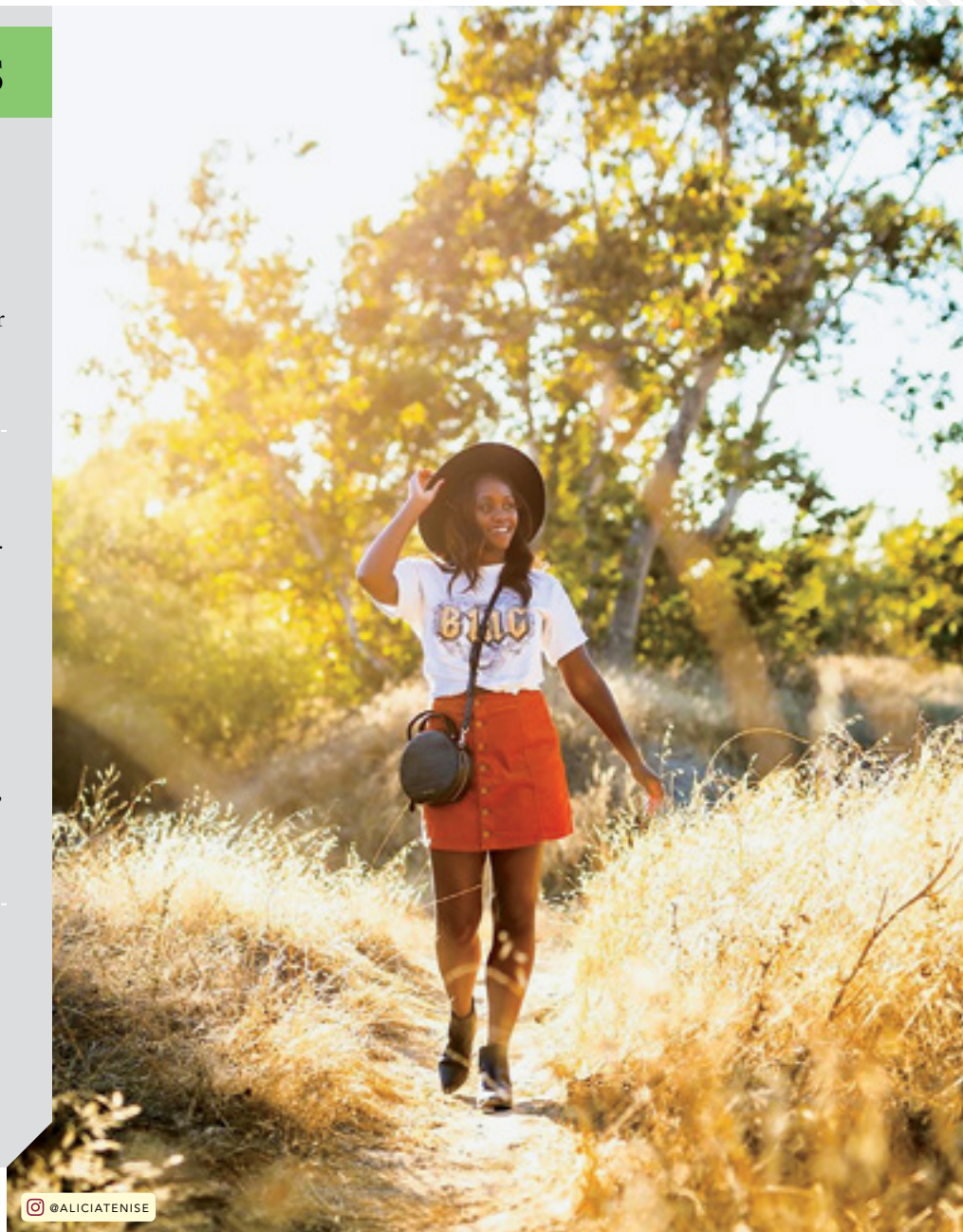
2. THE WEEKEND WARRIOR (MODERATE)

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 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 summit of **Mount Diablo** for a pulse-quickening 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



@ALICIATENISE

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. If you want added speed, zip along the trail on an electric bike from Pedego Electric Bikes in Livermore.

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 VisitTriValley.com for self-guided bike routes and information on bike rentals.



@TWO_WHEELED_WANDERER



GREAT GREENS

GET YOUR GAME ON AT DISTINCTIVE TRI-VALLEY GOLF COURSES.

If you are looking for a round with a view, it's hard to beat **The Course at Wentle Vineyards** in Livermore. Grapevines and oak-dotted hills flank the Greg Norman-designed course, where golfers encounter plenty of challenges and thrills. Overlooking the tricky 18th hole, The Grill has a casual menu and full bar. wentlevineyards.com/course

For more great risk/reward play, head to the back nine at Pleasanton's **Callippe Preserve Golf Course**. The greens are complex, so be sure to treat 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 lunch at The Grill. poppyridgegolf.com

The nine-hole course at **Pleasanton Golf Course** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds is suited to all abilities and budgets. Perfect your swing at the facility's nearby driving range and recharge at the clubhouse, which serves salads, sandwiches and beverages. pleasantongolfcenter.com

With nine- and 18-hole options, **Las Positas Golf Course** in Livermore promises 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 and family-oriented Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill. laspositasgolfcourse.com

With lots of par 3s, **Dublin Ranch Golf Course** is a shorter course that is long on interest, supplying a few surprises as well as great wraparound views. At the course's snack bar, order burgers, sandwiches, nibbles and a selection of beverages. dublinranchgolf.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 rotating fleet of iconic cars. Other sections spotlight the Old West, China's rich history, a collection of fine makeup compacts, African art and *World of Nature*—which focuses on the planet's diverse species and ecosystems. blackhawkmuseum.org

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. dublin.ca.gov/1916

DUBLIN HERITAGE PARK & 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 and early 1900s. In the school, interactive exhibits reflect the region's history, and

a playhouse allows for make-believe. Self-guided tours of the house provide insights into Dublin's agricultural history. dublin.ca.gov/269

EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Eugene O'Neill, the only American playwright to win a 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 desk, man-



Blackhawk Museum



Above: Danville resident Eugene O'Neill with his dog, Blemie, in 1931.

Right: Learn about local history at the Museum on Main in Pleasanton.



uscripts and photos; in September, the Eugene O'Neill Festival presents exciting live performances. nps.gov/euon, eugeneoneill.org

LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY DISCOVERY CENTER

The Discovery Center introduces kids and adults to the inner workings of the famed Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Enjoy virtual tours showcasing the lab's scientific innovations, as well as on-site exhibits such as a replica of the National Ignition Facility target chamber and an energy bike demonstrating the amount of pedaling needed to power a light bulb. llnl.gov/community-education/discovery-center

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

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. Rotating exhibitions add layers of historical depth, while a kids' corner provides hands-on activities. The museum also hosts free walking tours and the annual Ghost Walk, showcasing the town's most haunted sites every Halloween. museumonmain.org

CAR TALK

CELEBRATING CLASSIC RIDES IN THE TRI-VALLEY.

CARS AND COFFEE LIVERMORE

Join other auto enthusiasts for this monthly Livermore car meetup (held the third Saturday of every month from April to November). The event is family-friendly, and all makes and models are welcome. carsandcoffeelivermore.com

GOODGUYS ROD & CUSTOM ASSOCIATION

At Pleasanton's Alameda County Fairgrounds, the Goodguys Custom & Rod Association presents two Get-Togethers and the West Coast Nationals during the year. More than 3,000 hot rods, custom cars and muscle cars are on hand, along with lowrider displays, award contests and a kids' zone. good-guys.com

HOT SUMMER SUNDAYS CAR SHOW

In September, Danville welcomes the Hot Summer Sundays Car Show. Hundreds of classic cars and cool hot rods pull into town for this fun community event. dhsscs.com



TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY OF EUGENE O'NEILL NHS; BRYAN COSTALES; COURTESY OF VISIT TRI-VALLEY



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SEEN?**
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PLEASANTON MUSEUM ON MAIN

603 Main Street, Pleasanton
(925) 462-2766
www.museumonmain.org



JUST THE TICKET

Bankhead Theater hosts a variety of acts, including Pink Martini featuring China Forbes (left, with musician Thomas Lauderdale).

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 40 to 60 touring artists to Livermore each year. The lineup includes dance troupes, Grammy-winning singers, comedians and other performers. The **Bothwell Arts Center** also showcases free themed art exhibitions. livermorearts.org

The **Village Theatre** in Danville presents classic plays with contemporary overtones (think Arthur Miller and George Orwell), as well as music and children's theater. danville.ca.gov/226/Village-Theatre

In Pleasanton, the intimate **Firehouse Arts Center** spotlights musicals and comedy, as well as jazz, folk and other music genres, from big names as well as local stars. The Firehouse also hosts Museum on Main's popular speaker series. Visitors shouldn't miss the **Harrington Gallery**, which typically 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 Shakespeare in the Vineyard program from the **Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company**; capping an evening of Shakespearean comedy with a glass of chardonnay at Darcie Kent Estate Winery is a not-to-be-missed experience. Music lovers: Discover up-and-coming bands at the **Almost Famous Wine Lounge** and enjoy musical events at area wineries throughout the year (find out more at VisitTriValley.com). sparctheater.org, almostfamouswine.com

Its comedy program puts the "laff" in Retzlaff Vineyards. Fans can picnic and watch the Livermore winery's **Comedy Uncorked** summer shows; musical buffs come for a concert calendar that extends through the fall. comedyuncorked.com

AT THE MOVIES

Livermore's **Vine Cinema and Alehouse** is one of the best date-night spots in the Tri-Valley. The theater screens first-run, classic and indie films, while moviegoers pair local craft beers and wine with pizza, chicken strips and other nibbles. vinecinema.com

AT THE PARKS

Enjoy the sounds of summer at free concert series in several Tri-Valley towns, including ones at **Emerald Glen Park** in Dublin, **Oak Hill Park** in Danville and **Lions Wayside Park** in Pleasanton. dublin.ca.gov, danville.ca.gov, pleasantondowntown.net

Make VibeTriValley.com your online resource for cultural events throughout the year.

SHOP TALK

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

With 180-plus 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 (Armani) 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 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.

Do your tastes tend toward expensive footwear? Then 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.

If shopping whets your appetite (or in celebration of National Outlet Shopping Day every June), stop in at one of the 17 outlet eateries, from Johnny Rockets to Villa Fresh Italian Kitchen. But for a more exotic break, head across the street to the Pacific Pearl shopping center. This area boasts 26 dining spots, 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. premiumoutlets.com/outlet/san-francisco

Check out VisitTriValley.com for our shopping trail at the outlets.



Left: Chic shops such as Whim House in Danville are great for gifts—for yourself and others.
Above: San Francisco Premium Outlets features more than 180 stores.



America's Finest Hemp Co. in Danville

GETTING THE GOODS

CONSIDER THE NATIONAL RETAILERS AT STONERIDGE SHOPPING CENTER IN PLEASANTON OR STROLL THESE TRI-VALLEY STREETS FOR ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS.

- > **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. For a variety of curated, high-quality CBD and hemp products, visit America's Finest Hemp Co.

- > **Main Street in downtown Pleasanton** is a treasure trove of singular shops. Check out Primm Boutique, which specializes in boho-chic clothing for women. Therapy Stores stocks funky, stylish home goods and gifts, as well as ultracool accessories. Stop by the locally owned general bookstore, Towne Center Books, for literary needs.

- > **Dublin's Hacienda Crossings** on Dublin Boulevard 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 grab a bite 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 the Olive Oil Pantry and Tasting Room, which is a great place to sample top-quality infused olive oils and balsamic vinegars in a wide variety of flavors. Pop into First Street Wine Company to taste and purchase vino from the Livermore Valley wine region.

FARMERS MARKET FINDS

SHOP FOR FRESH PRODUCE AND LOCALLY CRAFTED TREATS AT FARMERS MARKETS THROUGHOUT THE TRI-VALLEY.

DANVILLE

Grab your market bag; head to downtown Danville; and fill up on delicious apples, berries and farm-fresh veggies. For some top-notch proteins, make sure to stop at Victorian Farmstead Meat Company or Prather Ranch. Held year-round, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 205 Railroad Ave. pcfma.org/danville

DUBLIN

Emerald Glen Park hosts farmers, bakers and falafel makers (along with many other food purveyors) from April through September. Groove to tribute bands and other fun, fabulous acts while you shop, thanks to the free Summer Concert Series held June to August in the amphitheater. Thursdays, 4-8 p.m., 4201 Central Pkwy. pcfma.org/dublin

LIVERMORE

There's not one but two options for agricultural discoveries, live entertainment and local eats in Livermore. The year-round farmers market is held on Second Street between J and L streets on Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The Thursday Night Livermore Downtown Market takes place in Carnegie Park (located at 2115 Third St.), 4-8 p.m., from April to October. livermorefarmersmarket.org

PLEASANTON

You'll discover regional goodies such as honey, jams, olive oil, breads and handcrafted cheese, along with fruits, vegetables and more at this year-round market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 46 West Angela St. pcfma.org/pleasanton

IN GOOD COMPANY

From blissful weddings to family reunions to business conferences, the Tri-Valley is the ideal location for special events. Keep that convivial vibe going with spa experiences, wine and beer tastings, golf outings, and other recreational adventures that can turn a one-day happening into a fun-filled trip that inspires memories that last a lifetime.



The Club at Castlewood



Left: Chill out with some cow cuddling at the Śrī Surabhi cow sanctuary in Pleasanton. **Below:** Coffee at Danville's Sideboard.

TAKE IT EASY

RELAX WITH A WEEKEND OF SHOPPING, SPA TREATMENTS, ANIMAL THERAPY AND A SAMPLING OF LIVERMORE VALLEY'S FINE WINES.

- > Skip Starbucks and head straight to **Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen and Coffee Bar** in Danville for a potent cup of joe. Coffee not your speed? Don't worry: They've got mimosas, bellinis and spicy Bloody Marys, too. Indulge in puffy beignets or maple whipped cream-topped French toast while planning your itinerary on the sunny patio or in the eclectic dining area—complete with a sideboard, of course. sideboard.co

- > Dive into the world of fabulous retail at the **San Francisco Premium Outlets** in Livermore—the largest outlet center in Northern California. For small-shop style, head to Main Street in Pleasanton or Prospect Avenue in Danville, where local fashionista faves such as **Primm Boutique** and **Flaunt** will help you keep on trend. premiumoutlets.com/outlet/san-francisco, iloveprimm.com, shopflaunt.com

- > Say goodbye to stress and hello to the calming wonders of **The Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa** in Livermore. Get revitalized with a bliss-inspiring relaxation massage or the Ashiatsu Deep Feet Bar Therapy treatment, a luxurious 50-minute experience that combines Swedish oil massage with deep pressure from the therapist's feet. purpleorchid.com

- > What could be more zen than a spot of cow cuddling? Pleasanton's **Śrī Surabhi Go Kṣetra** cow sanctuary is home to 22 cows and bulls, available for cuddle therapy. srisurabhi.us

- > Take in the scenery and tasting flights at the numerous beautiful wineries in Livermore Valley Wine Country. Reserve a spot on 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 glass of sauv blanc in hand. pinotpalette.com/danville

- > If your relaxing day has left you craving an evening of live music and libations, head to **Pairings** in Pleasanton. The wine bar—which has the motto “sip, savor, social”—has weekend entertainment and perfect wine pairings most of the week. pairingsubr.com



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SEE THE SITES

PLAN YOUR SPECIAL EVENT AT THESE TOP VENUES.

BELLA ROSA AT GARRÉ VINEYARD & 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.

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 happening.

EVENT CENTER/TERRACE AND VINEYARD LAWNS AT WENTE VINEYARDS

The Spanish-style event center offers a dramatic setting while the Terrace and Vineyard Lawns provide open-air options (all have on-site catering).

MURRIETA'S WELL

One of California's original wine estates, Murrieta's has stellar food and service fit for a perfect occasion.

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.

REINSTEIN RANCH

Give your occasion a Western vibe. The antiquated barn adds intimacy to wedding ceremonies.

RIOS-LOVELL, RETZLAFF, NELLA TERRA CELLARS, OR CROOKED VINE & STONY RIDGE WINERIES

These wineries have unique event spaces, such as Rios-Lovell's White Wedding Gazebo, Retzlaff's tree-lined walk, Nella Terra's 74-step stone staircase and Crooked Vine & Stony Ridge's barrel room.



GROUP DYNAMICS

WHETHER YOU WANT AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS OR A TEAM-BUILDING OUTING AFTER A CORPORATE MEETING, 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
- > Grab your bike and helmet, then pedal 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
- > 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 some buddies and hit the **Tri-Valley Beer Trail**. Check in at 10 stops with your passport and earn free stuff. Keep the party going at **Altamont Beer Works** in Livermore, **Main St. Brewery** in Pleasanton, **Three Sheets** in Dublin or **The Growler** in Danville. altamontbeerworks.com, mainstbrewery.com, threesheetscraftbeer.com, growlerpubdanville.com
- > Get ready to throw down at **Da Boccery** in Livermore. In addition to multiple bocce courts (both indoor and out), you'll find shuffleboard, arcade games, cornhole and, yes, axe throwing. Fuel up on pizza, small plates and sandwiches—along with beer, wine and cocktails. daboccery.com
- > 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, grab a stool at **World of Beer** in Dublin and indulge in a deeply satisfying lunch, dinner or "beerunch" (or, beer brunch). hapsoriginal.com, worldofbeer.com



WOOD FAMILY VINEYARDS



Photo by Ron Essex Photography

Wood Family Vineyards is a family-owned and operated winery, creating the best expression of Livermore Valley wines since 2000. Winemaker Rhonda Wood passionately crafts award-winning wines, from aromatic whites to powerful reds, that are sure to delight your senses. The Tasting Room is open 7 days a week and features live music every Wednesday and Friday evening. Their fun and friendly team has a glass of wine ready with your name on it.

Call or scan the QR code to make your reservation today!

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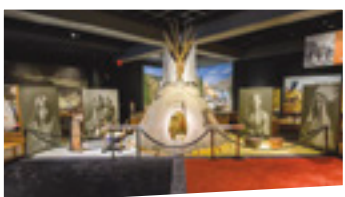
woodfamilyvineyards.com

2407 Research Drive, Livermore CA




BLACKHAWK MUSEUM

3700 BLACKHAWK PLAZA CIRCLE
DANVILLE, CA 94506



5 DIFFERENT EXHIBITS

At the Blackhawk Museum, visitors can discover a world of wonder and excitement through our five captivating exhibits. Explore Art of Africa, immerse yourself in the wonders of Into China, travel back in time with the Spirit of the Old West exhibit, admire our remarkable Classic Car Collection, and marvel at the beauty of the World of Nature.

✉ INFO@BLACKHAWKMUSEUM.ORG



FRIDAY - SUNDAY

Visiting the museum is a delightful way to spend a day. We're open Friday through Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, providing ample time to explore our captivating exhibits. Adults can enjoy our museum for just \$20, while seniors and students can take advantage of our discounted rate of only \$15. Additionally, children aged six and under can enter for free.

☎ 925.736.2280



FUN FOR ALL AGES

Regardless of whether you have a keen interest in history or antique cars, the Blackhawk Museum caters to a diverse range of visitors. You can delve into the fascinating world of the Plains Indians or explore the captivating history of the Terracota Warriors, among many other exhibits that are sure to captivate and educate you.

🌐 BLACKHAWKMUSEUM.ORG

WHERE TO EAT

DANVILLE

Blue Line Pizza The signature deep-dish at this modern pizza parlor is phenomenal, packing spinach into a buttery cornmeal crust with feta and a garlicky rough-cut 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. 🍷🕒🐾💰💰

Blue Sakana Blue Sakana's waterside lounge reels in passersby to a piscine paradise. The sushi is always pristine, the rolls imaginative and the entrees perfectly executed. 3496 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., 925.648.7838, bluesakana.blackhawk.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🕒🐾💰

Bridges Restaurant & Bar Despite its long history, Bridges remains remarkably fresh. Its refined Asian- and French-accented menu shows both creativity (grilled prawn and sesame

noodle salad with toasted cashews) and craftsmanship (New York steak with truffle butter). Famous for its scene in the 1993 film *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Bridges has a stunning atmosphere (including the garden patio) that is timeless. 44 Church St., 925.820.7200, bridgesdanville.com. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🕒🐾💰💰💰

Cielito Cocina Mexicana With its made-to-order griddled tortillas and Western theme, Cielito has soul. It also boasts natural light and whimsical furnishings. The food is not cheap, but the upscale tacos are a great value and the meats rock, especially the carne asada and carnitas (try the hash at brunch). Skip the chewy ceviche and start with a drink instead; the Diablo margarita is a winner. 445 Railroad Ave., 925.725.4732, cielitodanville.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🕒🐾💰💰

Cocina Hermanas Affordable gourmet tacos are reason enough to hit the patio at Cocina Hermanas, but this hacienda's cool bar and inventive platillos principales are equally seductive. Tasty tacos—try the Hermanas Trio—and dense, mole-like enchiladas are always winners. 501 Hartz Ave.,

925.725.4161, cocinahermanas.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🕒💰💰

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 Brewing Co. With its curved bar and wraparound patio, this on-site brewery is a looker. Try one of the grass-fed burgers (the burger with habanero bacon jam is yummy) with one of the 12 on-tap brews. Or cut loose with a craft cocktail and an upscale pub offering, such as buttermilk fried chicken. 200 Railroad Ave., 925.217.4172, danvillebrewing.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🕒💰

Danville Harvest The country-chic farm-to-table restaurant showcases elevated comfort food with a Southern twang. Hush puppies, squash blossoms, fried chicken and waffles, and a packed country breakfast plate (the latter two at brunch) are seductive samples. With a vibrant bar and lounge, and a homey yet stylish dining room with a full-exhibition kitchen, Danville Harvest welcomes all comers. 500 Hartz Ave., 925.362.3665,

danvilleharvest.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🕒💰

Esin Restaurant and Bar It has a reputation for fine dining, but Esin is more of a classy neighborhood bistro, attracting friends and families with its affordable “small” plates and dinner specials. House-made pastas, pot roast, and comforting cakes and pies, along with weighty flatware, crisp service and a serious wine list add up to one of Contra Costa County's most consistently excellent restaurants. Choose from the casual patio or 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-crusting crabcakes and prime New York strip steak. The wine list boasts powerful Napa Valley reds that can stand up to the meat. 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.552.0505, www.forbesmillsteakhouse.com. Dinner daily. 🍷🕒🐾💰💰

The Grille at Blackhawk Expect sterling service, Cal-American fare,

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

P 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 reviews are courtesy of Diablo magazine. Pick up a copy for more East Bay listings.

and a fun and festive vibe highlighted by one of the best outdoor patios in the area. The tavern-style burger satisfies, while the mac and cheese's creamy bechamel-spiked three-cheese sauce and panko-parmesan breadcrumbs lend decadent adult appeal to kid-friendly Kraft-style noodles. The tender bacon-wrapped meatloaf is another comforting treat. 3540 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., 925.736.4295, thegrilleatblackhawk.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🕒💰💰

Incontro Ristorante A gorgeous patio and a stately dining room are the backdrop to Incontro's soulful

Italian menu. Make sure to try the simply amazing fritto misto. Entrees range from a variety of pasta to scallops, chicken and skirt steak. 455 Hartz Ave., 925.820.2349, incontrodanville.com. Lunch Sat., dinner Tues.–Sun., brunch Sun. 🍷🕒💰💰💰

Locanda Ravello With its genial courtyard and cottage-cum-bar, Locanda Ravello is built for hospitality. Epicurean pizza toppings (porcini, burrata, prosciutto



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di San Daniele) 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, locanda.restaurants.com/danville. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Luna Loca *Luna loca* is Spanish for crazy moon, but there's nothing crazy about the food or the setting here. Traditional specialties shape the menu, with a prominent place held by the chicken, beef, shrimp and vegetarian fajitas. Grab a table on the porch if you can. 500 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.831.3644, lunalocadanville.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.-Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

Norm's Place The menu at this automobile-themed casual eatery changes regularly, but staples include traditional comfort food items, including wings, burgers, ahi tacos and a spicy chicken wrap. Salads and sandwiches are fresh and reasonably priced. 356 Hartz Ave., 925.552.6676, normsgrille.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.-Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷



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The Peasant and the Pear Chef Rodney Worth serves smart salads and sandwiches, such as the Sedona: chicken, green chile and provolone. If you go for dinner, don't miss the lamb shank and specialty martinis, such as the signature Pear-tini. The heirloom tomato salad (seasonal) and burrata caprese also impressed. 111 West Prospect Ave., 925.820.6611, rodneyworth.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

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 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 Tues.-Thurs. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Piatti Although part of a chain, Piatti is one of the best Californian-Italian restaurants in the Tri-Valley, with dishes such as lemon ravioli, Niman Ranch pork chop and risotto milanese. The grilled flat iron steak is juicy, and the well-trained waitstaff will help you choose a wine to match. 100 Sycamore Valley Rd., 925.838.2082, piatti.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Revel Kitchen & Bar Revel is the hipster complement to Curtis deCarion's stately Danville restaurant, Esin. Entrees such as braised short ribs rock, but the menu's thrust is bar snacks and small plates. We loved the garlicky hummus and the shrimp and grits. Desserts, famously homey at Esin, get an upscale twist. 331 Hartz Ave., 925.208.1758, revel.kitchenandbar.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen and Coffee Bar Order at the counter, select mismatched silverware and wait for delicious dishes to be delivered in a rustic and quirky dining area. The cooking style here might best be described as



"grandma gourmet." Favorites include mac and cheese and chicken salad with Point Reyes blue cheese, bacon and avocado. Great coffee and desserts. 90 Railroad Ave., 925.984.2713, sideboard.co. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Tides The cocktails, which include two signature punch bowls, trend tropical. On the food menu, the leche de tigre ceviche offered up buttery-tender raw

scallops bathed in a creamy coconut sauce. The crab cake is rock-solid. For entrees, the squid-ink pappardelle came with flavorful mussels, baby octopus and cherry tomatoes in a zesty lemon and white wine sauce. The King Ora salmon arrived perfectly tender, crispy skin side up on a tangle of sauteed mushrooms and pea. Other options include filet mignon and a whole red snapper, while sides like haricots verts and creamed corn are extra. 312 Railroad Ave., Ste. A, 925.553.3120, tides.danville.com. Dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

The Yellow Chili The Yellow Chili, offering a greatest-hits gastronomic tour of India, is chef Sanjeev Kapoor's most popular and recognizable brand. The amritsari machchi—a delicious Punjabi spin on British fried fish, in which the moist white fillets' batter is enhanced by Indian spices—arrives on a platter decorated with flowers and colorful swirls of sauce. The murgh angara bedgi—earthy, tandoori-roasted tikka chicken enlivened with bedgi chilies—rests atop a splash of cool raita yogurt. The kitchen doesn't shy away from standards such as butter chicken. 710 Camino Ramon, 925.272.7595, theyellowchillidanville.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Zaya Thai Pantry For starters, the melt-in-your-mouth veggie curry puffs offer

impossibly pillow mashed stuffing within a samosa-like fried puff pastry. The special entrees are where the kitchen really gets a chance to stretch its legs. The tender, marbled marinated ribeye in the Crying Tiger steak was served with an addictive, eye-wateringly tart dipping sauce. The chicken khao soi (the dish is also offered with an enormous bone-in short rib) delivers an ample, moist chicken leg and hand-cut noodles bathed in a lusciously rich coconut curry that's topped with a nest of fried-crispy egg noodles. 301 Hartz Ave., Ste. 103, 925.567.9292, zayathai.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

DUBLIN

Amakara The longtime neighborhood sushi favorite raised its profile with a swanky new location on Dublin's main drag, adding more dining space, extended hours and a showy kitchen. The food is as good as ever. Creative takes on sushi include the architectural (and Instagrammable) spicy sesame seared-tuna roll: Tempura asparagus spears shoot in various directions, some wrapped with avocado and cucumber inside the fish-and-jalapeno-topped roll. For entrees, ask for the fish of the day, or stick to salmon teriyaki—crispy on the outside, soft inside. 7568 Dublin Blvd., 925.803.8485, eatamakara.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

The Banana Garden Malaysian Cuisine This roomy and stylish restaurant is a cross-cultural experience. Start with the roti pratha, a crispy bread with toasted-curry coconut sauce. The mango chicken is plump and moist. Finish with an irresistible fried-banana dessert. 4100 Grafton St., 925.248.2854, thebananagarden.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Bangkok 101 The space is small but chic, and the kitchen serves authentic yet original dishes prepared in a simple, clean fashion. We love the fried chicken wings, ground chicken sauteed with lemongrass and fried glass noodles with jumbo shrimp. The som tum (papaya salad) is one of many vegetarian dishes on the menu. 7375 Amador Valley Blvd., Ste. 100, 925.828.2133, bangkok101dublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

Burma! Burma! Tucked into an unassuming strip mall is a culinary journey to Myanmar. Start with a traditional tea leaf salad, move on to minted jalapeno chicken with extra heat from sambal chili sauce and wash it all down with a Myanmar Lager. Black sticky rice makes a sweet finish, with brown sugar, coconut milk, condensed milk and a scoop of ice cream. 7294 San Ramon Rd., 925.556.6188, burmaburma.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

Chaat Bhavan Restaurant

Do you want fresh, authentic vegetarian Indian cuisine? Head straight to family-run Chaat Bhavan. The flavorful stir-fried Hakka noodles are a popular choice, as is the Tandoori Sizzler, made with cheese and vegetables. And make sure to order the house-made samosas, as well as naan, roti or paratha. 4112 Grafton St., 925.829.1700, www.chaatbhavan.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷💰💰

Coco Cabana Hip and friendly, Cabana has a Latin-fusion menu that includes tasty small plates: Think lamb lollipops, pork belly chicharron and various tacos. The shrimp al ajillo and herbed beef meatballs were both winners, as was a wonderfully tart shrimp ceviche. Entrees are hit or miss, but cocktails are well executed. Don't skip the awesome beignets with dulce de leche caramel. 4500 Tassajara Rd., Ste. C, 925.556.9055, cococabanadublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🐾 \$\$\$

Demiya Come for an intro to one of Japanese cuisine's under-the-radar comfort food pleasures: curry. Thickened with roux to a gravy-like consistency, the Japanese version tends to be richer than its other Asian counterparts. Demiya's iteration is robust but silky in texture, with deep, delicious layers. A bowl of curry rice

is divided between curry and rice with a protein of your choice. You can't go wrong with the panko-breaded chicken or pork katsu. Other curries feature deep-fried burger patties, cheese-filled burger patties, soft-shell crab, thinly sliced sirloin beef, chicken nuggets and mixed vegetables with mushrooms and spinach. 7477 Village Pkwy., 650.833.8775, demiya.restaurant. Lunch and dinner Tues., Thurs.–Sun. \$\$

Denica's Real Food Kitchen Denica's is the place to go if you have multiple personalities. Part pastry cafe, part lounge, the eatery serves up just about anything—and does it well. The breakfast menu runs from huevos rancheros to killer cinnamon rolls. (Ask to have yours warmed.) At lunch, look for tasty sandwiches and salads. Order a snickerdoodle to go. 6058 Dougherty Rd., 925.829.6200, denicascafe.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷💰 \$\$\$

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too! This small Bay Area chain is family-friendly and offers standard Italian fare. There's a multitude of pasta courses and specialized pizzas. (Carnivores should sample Tina's Too Too Much, with salami, pepperoni, sausage and linguica.) For groups of four to five, try Frankie's family dinner. 11891 Dublin Blvd., 925.828.9380, frankiejohnnieuigidublin.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷 \$\$\$



Koi Palace With its lush green carpeting, fresh orchids and lily pad motif, this dim sum house is easily one of the most elegant in the Tri-Valley. We loved the spinach dumplings bursting with steamed greens. Also wonderful: tender pork buns, chewy pot stickers 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 Wed.–Mon., brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷💰 \$\$\$

KoJa Kitchen You'll find inventive Asian fusion dishes at KoJa—short for Korean-Japanese. Look for sandwiches on garlic rice buns and rice bowls with tender proteins such as braised pork, short ribs or chicken. Make sure to try the kamikaze waffle fries topped with minced barbecue beef, kimchi, Japanese mayo and green onions. 5252 Dublin Blvd., 925.587.1503, kojakitchen.com. Lunch and dinner daily. \$

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 pickled vegetables and house-made

baguettes, available in several varieties, from grilled chicken to shrimp to lemon-grass tofu. Or get it in a bowl, with noodles, greens and dressing. Don't miss the surf-and-turf spring rolls or the cannoli stuffed with ricotta and chocolate. 4101 Dublin Blvd., Ste. B, 925.828.8888, leesandwichesdublin.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. \$

Mayflower Restaurant Whether it's stunning pork buns or dazzling shellfish pulled from the live seafood tank, Mayflower presents authentic Cantonese cuisine with style. The seafood dumplings, pork buns and juicy pot stickers are the best bets. Select at least one traditional Cantonese dish, and for familiar fare, try 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. 🍷🍷💰 \$\$\$

Yanagi Sushi & Grill The contemporary dining room is divided into three sections—a sushi bar, a teppan area and regular booths. We were taken with chicken yakitori skewers and 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., 925.556.9575, yanagisushigrill.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷 \$\$\$

LIVERMORE

Bar Tatami This attractive Asian restaurant inside Parkwest Casino 580 is surprisingly good. We indulged in dazzling chicken wings, beef sliders, fish tacos and a decadent all-American burger stuffed with rich goodies. If you gamble, the food can be 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 Tues.–Sun., lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷💰 \$\$\$

Casa Orozco The family-owned Casa Orozco restaurants in the Tri-Valley are about comfort food in a loud, festive atmosphere. The menu includes all the Mexican standards—tacos, burritos, fajitas—which are fresh, filling and a cut above. Casa Orozco is pretty inside and out: Opt for the patio on a warm afternoon with an appetizer of house-made guacamole. 325 S. L St., 925.449.3045, casaorozco.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷 \$\$\$

Cinco TacoBar The humble taco is elevated here, with tortillas pressed and cooked to order. Grab a carne asada or al pastor taco, a burrito bowl or a Dutch crunch torta, and don't miss the Instagram-ready wall art. 4526 Las Positas Rd., 925.583.5300, cincotacobar.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷 \$

Da Boccery Clever, clever ... but how often does bocce ball lead to debauchery? Still, fun is fun, and there's plenty on offer here: elevated pub fare (sandwiches, burgers, tacos, pizza and more), craft cocktails, bocce, shuffleboard, axe throwing ... wait, what? Maybe there is some debauchery going on. 175 East Vineyard Ave., 925.201.3353, daboccery.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷💰 \$\$\$

Demitri's Taverna Meals start with heated pita bread and a garlicky spread called skordalia. The tender dolmathes 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 Mexican Food & Cantina

The full bar and festive-yet-relaxed ambience have turned a family operation into a modern Livermore standout. The restaurant, triple the size of the First Street original,



features smoked pork chops for carnivores, chili rellenos for vegetarians and killer enchiladas for anyone. Still skeptical? The El Charro margarita, made with agave nectar, could very well be the best drink in town. 186 Maple St., 925.371.8297, elcharrolivermore.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Elevation LVK Let your dining experience take flight at this restaurant overlooking the runways at Livermore Municipal Airport. A seasonal menu showcasing traditional favorites, a wine list that includes Livermore wines and striking views are just some of the highlights. 682 Terminal Cir., 925.800.3839, elevationlvk.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner Wed.–Sat., brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

First Street Alehouse Share a giant basket of onion rings on the patio, and call it lunch. Or stay cool in the expansive brewpub, where you're bound to find a burger, salad or grilled chicken sandwich with your name on it. The food isn't fancy, but you can't match First Street's indulgent, unpretentious vibe.



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Meals end with a Tootsie Pop. 2106 First St., 925.371.6588, firststreetalehouse.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Hops & Sessions This pour-your-own beer pub is a wide-open communal space with picnic-size blonde-wood tables, 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 many local brews. The pub food is above average, with fried mac and cheese, a crispy chicken sandwich and a killer wedge salad on offer. 2339 First St., 925.495.4118, hopsandsessions.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

The Last Word Trade your Coke for a cocktail and get truffle salt instead of butter on your popcorn at this hip saloon behind Livermore 13 Cinema. Pair a Paper Plane (bourbon, aperol and amaro) or a Southside (gin, mint and lemon) with upscale sandwiches, salads, tapas—including lobster manchego mac and cheese—or paella. 2470 First St., 925.493.7293, lastwordbar.com. Dinner Wed.–Sat. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Locanda Wine Bar Owner Enzo Rosano has created a fun, whimsical, drinking-centric space that evokes an

Italian osteria. For the food, that means an emphasis on light eats such as an antipasti plate for two, beautifully composed salads, and several tartare and carpaccio dishes. For drinks it means an expansive wine list heavy on Italian, Napa and Livermore labels. And for the ambience it means a lively setting with a bright, colorful front patio. 2293 First St., 925.583.5016, locandawinebar.com. Lunch and 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 crab omelet were so-so, a hearty huevos rancheros and two grilled chicken salads were standouts. Pickles, jam and most everything else are made in-house. 2074 Second St., 925.292.5568, monicaslivermore.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Petra Middle Eastern Authentic Cuisine This small 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., 925.583.5280, petra-livermore.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. \$\$

Posada Alta Cocina The Southwestern restaurant's Chilean sea bass tacos and lush short ribs with blackberry mole are top-notch, as is the robust wine list (noted for excellence by *Wine Spectator* in 2023) with offerings from around the world. 988 Murrieta Blvd., 925.606.1004, posadarestaurant.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

The Press With a walk-up counter that flows into minimalist yet spacious decor, the Press serves fresh, creative and affordable toastinis and paninis, attracting crowds of all ages. The roast beef jalapeno triple-cheese panini is as lush as a sandwich can be while the BLET with egg (and Hobbs' Applewood Smoked Meats bacon) and a side salad was delicious. 2470 First St., Ste. 110, 925.292.1916, thepressartisancafe.com. Breakfast and lunch Thurs.–Tues. 🍷🍷🍷

Range Life Four New York and San Francisco restaurant veterans relocated to Livermore and transformed a former carriage house into an urban-hip eatery serving seasonal fare such as summer squash curry and steak frites

paired with craft cocktails. 2160 Railroad Ave., 925.583.5370, rangelifelivermore.com. Dinner Wed.–Mon. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Roya Afghan Cuisine Roya offers something for everyone and offers everyone a great value. Try a beef, chicken, lamb or salmon kebab—or a combo of two proteins. Other good choices include the challaw badenjan, a lush eggplant stew, or the challaw kadu with wedges of sweet pumpkin that are smothered in yogurt. Owner Friedoon Yawary ensures a smooth ride in a cozy dining room. 2020 First St., 925.447.0576, royaafghancuisine.com. Lunch Tues.–Sat., dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

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. From the lengthy choice of sides, we liked the baked beans and cornbread best. Start with a green salad so you can finish with fried Oreos. 2300 First St., Ste. 120, 925.961.1300, saucedbbqandspirits.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

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 salad, followed by generous samplings of cheese and meat fondue. Wrap it up with a personalized chocolate fondue. 2300 First St., 925.443.6638, www.simplyfonduelivermore.com. Dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Sons of Liberty Alehouse An upscale gastropub with inventive cocktails and delicious takes on traditional comfort food. The rotating drinks on the menu are worth exploring. The hungry can opt for the fish and chips, featuring large filets of Alaskan cod, perfectly battered, or the massive Niman Ranch double-cut pork chop. The burger is outstanding, and the duck carnitas are a neat mix of flavor and texture. 2327 First St., 925.583.5148, sonsoflibertyalehouse.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun., brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

Star Anise Modern Thai Cuisine The Thai–Southeast Asian food here lives up to its sleek atmosphere. Island finger lumpia are served with a mild and balanced carrot-plum sauce. The panang beef is amazingly tender and delicious. Pumpkin-salmon curry showcases squash and seafood in a provocative red peanut curry. Aromatic roasted duck comes off the grill flavorful and meaty. 2470 First St., Ste. 108,

925.454.9888, stارانisethai.livermore.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Strizzi's Restaurant Enjoy a taste of old-world Italy at this homey eatery that specializes in fish and pasta, made from family recipes with the freshest ingredients. Try the wood-grilled chicken, steak or salmon, along with specialties such as rigatoni Bolognese or spaghetti and meatballs. The kids' menu has plenty to offer for little diners. 2205 First St., 925.456.2200, strizzis.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Terra Mia Ristorante Italiano

A soaring brick fireplace; gleaming open kitchen; and warm, professional service impart an intimate feel to the



cavernous dining room. The Calabrian owners have built on this soulful aesthetic with made-from-scratch bread, pastas and thin-crust pizzas. They get all the basics right: The fish is fresh, and the meats are clean—seasoned well and served with simple sides. 4040 East Ave., 925.456.3333, terramialivermore.com. Dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard With a classy wine

list and decor, Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard has an enticing and leisurely vibe. So enjoy a lovely Alsatian white with spinach dumplings—soft noodlelike wrappers exploding with fresh spinach, shrimp and chicken. Or try the free-range chicken with peanuts, onion and jicama. Desserts, like the wines, are above average. 39 S. Livermore Ave., 925.449.7000, uncleyusvineyard.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Zephyr Grill & Bar

The expansive menu is made up of sandwiches, salads and signature entrees such as the molasses-glazed meatloaf. Tall, window-side booths are sleek, but dine at the bar if you want to sense the scene. You'll find a fantastic selection of Livermore Valley wines. 1736 First St., 925.961.1000, zephyrgrilllivermore.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

PLEASANTON

Blossom Vegan Restaurant

An immediate hit, this vegan paradise has a distinctive Vietnamese edge. Everything is so fresh. Don't miss the green papaya salad, curried eggplant or mu shu wrapped in Indian pancakes. A tropical mural sets a nurturing tone in the relaxed yet bustling dining room. 4000 Pimlico Dr., Ste. 112, 925.399.5232. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷

Blue Agave Club

This "club" provides genuine Mexican delicacies such as enchiladas, burritos, tostadas and even hearty nacho plates that can be topped with the meat of your choice. 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.–Sat. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Bocado: Un Petit Bistro

Bocado is the kind of place everyone would welcome in their neighborhood. Tuck in for a cappuccino or smartly curated alternatives that include panini, pressed sandwiches, salads and, most unusually, ceviche. Crepes are the main attraction and the centerpiece of the menu, with flavors ranging from the classic—egg and cheese; lemon, sugar and butter—to more off the beaten path, such as Thai chicken with potatoes, carrots and red curry, and velvety tiramisu with espresso and mascarpone filling. We recommend the expertly executed pesto chicken. 320 Saint Mary St., 925.425.0229, bocado-un-petit-bistro.ueniweb.com. Breakfast and lunch Tues.–Sun, dinner Thurs.–Sun. \$\$

BottleTaps This 30-tap-strong Cali-focused ale-house with open-hearted service and a ferment-friendly food menu takes beer seriously—with no pretension. The

greaseless Cuban sandwich and a smorgasbord of meats and cheeses prove that hearty needn't be heavy. The brick-accented dining room warmly belies its strip mall locale. 3020 Bernal Ave., Ste. 160, 925.201.1755, bottletaps.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷

Brava Garden Eatery

The couple behind Brava lean on their Argentinian and Italian roots—and mix in some California flare—at their warm and welcoming restaurant on Main Street. Nibble on empanadas and habanero fries in the airy, intimate dining room, or cut into a tender Argentinian steak on the lovely patio. 724 Main St., 925.398.8665, bravagardeneatery.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

Cellar Door Tempting small plates, artisan cheese and charcuterie boards, and a variety of flatbreads complement the cocktails and an expansive rotating wine list. 4469 Railroad Ave., 925.846.3667, ourcellardoor.com. Dinner Tues.–Sun., brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

China Lounge

Allen Shi's baby is a must-visit. A theatrical open kitchen, pulsing bar and refined dining room complement moist ribbons of spicy chicken 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. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

De La Torre's Trattoria of Pleasanton

De La Torre's offers reasonably priced family favorites—from spaghetti and meatballs to veal scalloppine. We especially love the not-too-sweet marsala sauce. Dinner specials include petrale sole and stuffed pork chops. You can even join a "call list" for seasonal cioppino and crab lasagna. 6025 W. Las Positas Blvd., 925.484.3878, delatorres.net. Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner Mon.–Sat. 🍷🍷🍷

Elia Like a Mediterranean breeze, Elia blows onto Pleasanton's Main Street with a light and easy manner. The menu's mezethé starters offer a plethora of appealing options in which healthy ingredients like feta, olive oil, olives, eggplant, garlic and yogurt make repeat cameos. There's no mistaking the tender grilled octopus: It comes out as a single curling fire-charred tentacle atop baby arugula and embedded amid slices of orange, chilled purple potato and kalamata olives. A whole sea bass is served with crispy-fried skin enveloping moist white flesh. 310 Main St., Ste. A, 925.399.6921, eliapleasanton.com. Lunch Tues.–Sun., dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Experience Burma Burmese cuisine echoes the affordable, flavorful and shareable qualities of Indian and Thai food yet is wholly distinctive. The tea leaf salad—tossed at the table—bursts with crunchy nuts, seeds and jalapeno. Wok-fried lemongrass pork is tender and aromatic, while glistening mango shrimp balances sweet sauce with chilies. Warm wood and contemporary lighting are offset by colorful marionette dolls. 221 Division St., 925.398.8219, theexperienceburma.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷

Frontier Spice Indian Cuisine

This attractive spot is known for its tandoori dishes. Alongside meaty kebabs, look for pimento sea bass and lime-scented salmon, 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, thefrontierspice.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

Always hopping with parties and post-soccer-game festivities, this pizzeria and pasta house is the quintessential family restaurant. The secret of the signature pizzas is the crust: The house-made sourdough is aged and cold-stored for five to seven days

before cooking. The oldest pizza parlor in the Tri-Valley, the mainstay's atmosphere remains cozy. 288 Main St., 925.846.2520, gayninetiespizza.com. 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 are refreshing starters. The filet mignon with brandy peppercorn sauce (one of five sauce choices for steaks) is even better with a side dish of grilled artichokes. 122 W. Neal St., 925.600.9200, hapsoriginal.com. Dinner daily. 🍷🍷💰💰💰

Jim's Country Style Restaurant

We try to look out for our arteries, but sometimes Kashi cereal just won't cut it. Jim's has the stuff: hearty pancakes, omelets with biscuits and gravy, and sugar-topped French toast—all served until 3 p.m. At lunch, try the triple-decker barnyard club. 5400 Sunol Blvd., 925.426.7019, jimscountryrestaurant.com. Breakfast and lunch daily. 💰

Locanda Amalfi

Master pizzaiolo Francesco Esposito hails from Naples, Italy, and the menu at Locanda Amalfi heavily features his blistered, thin-crust creations. Make sure to try the surprisingly

light and delicious Meat Lover, topped with prosciutto, sausage and coppa. A brussels sprouts appetizer was too toasty, but the char was tempered by the salty sweetness of the bacon and balsamic glaze. Mamma Carmela's Meatballs are classic comfort, covered in tangy marinara, with crostini for dipping. Finish it all off with tiramisu—or better yet, a limoncello cake that matches the restaurant's hand-painted Italian pottery. 349 Main St., 925.249.5484, locanda-amalfi-pleasanton.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷💰💰💰

Lokanta Mediterranean Grill & Bar

A Turkish word meaning *neighborhood bistro*, Lokanta is at once exotic and familiar. A clean open kitchen dishes up a Greek salad along with branzino and paella. The skylit back dining room makes for some of the best summer dining in the East Bay. Grab a pillow, and enjoy heavenly lamb shish kebab and a glass of Turkish wine. 443 Main St., 925.223-8074, eatlokanta.com. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷💰💰

McKay's Taphouse and Beer Garden

You'll feel right at home in the buzzing beer garden at McKay's. Try the Jammin' Burger slathered with bacon jam or the El Hefe Cuban sandwich, properly pressed with the mandatory

pickles. Soft fresh-baked pretzels and crunchy chips had the right salty goodness for pairing with an array of all-local craft beers. 252 Main St., 925.425.0217, mckaysbeergarden.com. Lunch Wed.–Sun., dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷💰💰

Nonni's Bistro

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

Oasis Wine Lounge

At this stylish Mediterranean spot, check out the pumpkin borani appetizer—its dense orange flesh sauteed in olive oil, its sweetness set off by a garlic-yogurt sauce. The chicken breast curry with peppers is a deeply satisfying mix of vivid flavors served over basmati rice. 780 Main St., 925.417.8438, oasiswinelounge.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷💰💰

Oyo

Like its colorful logo, Oyo made a bold entrance on the downtown dining scene when it launched in 2019. The menu explores the

flavors of the ancestral homelands of the Guyanese people, such as jerk chicken from the Caribbean, curry goat from East Asia, pepper pot from West Africa and South American paella. A tropical banana bread pudding with coconut ice cream and pineapple glaze makes a sweet finish. 680 Main St., 925.249.5936, oyopleasanton.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷💰

Rubys & Roses Restaurant

Hello, gorgeous! The stunning interior (think black leather, chic lighting and a wealth of flowers) promises a luxe dining experience ideal for a special night out, while the sparkling outdoor patio feels like an oasis unto itself. The menu includes classics such as filet Wellington and lamb chops, along with more unusual options like tamale ravioli. Treat yourself to an elegant craft cocktail or glass of vino from the curated wine list. 855 Main St., 925.264.5600, rubysandrosesrestaurant.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷💰💰💰



Sabio on Main

This is a sophisticated restaurant that just wants to have fun. The three- or five-course tasting menu changes seasonally

(for a truly decadent experience, try the chef's 10-course tasting menu); a la carte dishes are available on the patio and at the bar. 501 Main St., 925.800.3090, sabiopleasanton.com. Dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷💰💰💰

SideTrack Bar and Grill

Whether you're after a classic Reuben or Cubano sandwich, or any number of drool-inducing Wagyu burgers, this is your spot. The dining room is a sea of tables flanked by a slick sports bar, but the craft beers, wines and cocktails are a cut above. Non-meat eaters can enjoy plenty of vegan options, and seafood-goers will appreciate the appetizers, including a tower of avocado and ahi poke, crab-cakes and shellfish ceviche. 30 W. Angela St., 925.399.6789, sidetrackeats.com. Lunch and dinner Wed.–Mon., brunch Sun. 🍷🍷🍷💰

Sozo Sushi

Sozo means creative in Japanese, and this sushi bar 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 so many creative rolls? The notable options range from the Marilyn Monroll (shrimp tempura, crab and avocado) to the Artishaw (artichoke hearts and mango sauce). 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 wine and a lush arrangement of cornmeal-crust calamari, sauteed brussels sprouts and baked prawns. Follow with the Cajun blackened grilled mahi-mahi. The focus here is less farm-to-table than luxury. 519 Main St., 925.523.3815, trivalleybistro.com. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷💰

Zachary's Chicago Pizza

Bring on the deep-dish pizza. The Bay Area favorite stuffs its pies with cheesy goodness, zesty sauce and a variety of ingredients that will satisfy every taste. The thin-crust options are also delicious. 337 Main St., 925.600.0089, zacharys.com. Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷💰





Hawthorn Suites
by Wyndham,
Livermore

SPEND THE NIGHT

FROM BOUTIQUES TO TOP HOTEL BRANDS TO A WINE COUNTRY RESORT, THE TRI-VALLEY HAS LODGING OPTIONS FOR EVERY BUDGET.



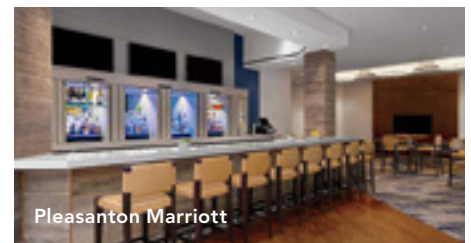
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Key to Symbols

- Dog-friendly
- Pool
- Fitness Center
- Kitchen
- Meeting Space
- Comp Breakfast



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Pleasanton Marriott

DANVILLE

1. Best Western Danville Sycamore Inn

803 Camino Ramon
925.855.8888

DUBLIN

2. Aloft Dublin-Pleasanton

4075 Grafton St.
925.248.8500

3. Extended Stay America Dublin-Hacienda Dr.

4500 Dublin Blvd.
925.875.9556

4. Holiday Inn Dublin-Pleasanton

6680 Regional St.
925.828.7750

5. Hyatt Place Dublin/Pleasanton

4950 Hacienda Dr.
925.828.9006

6. La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham

6275 Dublin Blvd.
925.967.2750

LIVERMORE

7. Americas Best Value Inn

1421 First St.
925.447.3865

8. Best Western Plus Vineyard Inn

7600 Southfront Rd.
925.456.5422

9. Courtyard by Marriott

2929 Constitution Dr.
925.243.1000

10. DoubleTree by Hilton Livermore

720 Las Flores Rd.
925.443.4950

11. El Dorado Inn

3979 First St.
925.447.2348

12. Extended Stay America Livermore

2380 Nissen Dr.
925.373.1700

13. Fairfield Inn & Suites Livermore

(opening 2024)
220 N. Greenville Rd.

14. Hampton Inn

2850 Constitution Dr.
925.606.6400

15. Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham

1700 N. Livermore Ave.
925.606.6060

16. Hilton Garden Inn

2801 Constitution Dr.
925.292.2000

17. Holiday Inn Express & Suites

3000 Constitution Dr.
925.961.9600

18. Home2 Suites by Hilton Livermore

2625 Constitution Dr.
925.960.1242

19. Homewood Suites by Hilton Livermore

5400 Wolf House Dr.
925.606.1984

20. La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Livermore

7700 Southfront St.
925.373.9600

21. Motel 6

4673 Lassen Rd.
925.443.5300

22. The Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa

4549 Cross Rd.
925.606.8855

23. Quality Inn & Suites

5959 Preston Ave.
925.606.7171

24. Residence Inn Livermore

5200 Wolf House Dr.
925.606.1980

25. Rodeway Inn

933 Bluebell Dr.
925.449.2211

26. Sands Motel

3787 First St.
925.447.6500

27. SenS Suites Livermore

1000 Airway Blvd.
925.373.1800

28. Studio Inn

1321 Portola Ave.
925.447.1515

PLEASANTON

29. AC Hotel Pleasanton

5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd.
925.475.4828

30. Best Western Plus Pleasanton Inn

5375 Owens Ct.
925.463.1300

31. Courtyard by Marriott Pleasanton

5059 Hopyard Rd.
925.463.1414

32. DoubleTree by Hilton Pleasanton at the Club

7050 Johnson Dr.
925.463.8000

33. Extended Stay America Suites Pleasanton

4555 Chabot Dr.
925.730.0000

34. Four Points by Sheraton

5115 Hopyard Rd.
925.460.8800

35. Hyatt House

4545 Chabot Dr.
925.730.0070

36. Larkspur Landing

5535 Johnson Dr.
925.463.1212

37. Motel 6

5102 Hopyard Rd.
925.463.2626

38. Pleasanton Marriott

11950 Dublin Canyon Rd.
925.847.6000

39. Residence Inn Pleasanton

11920 Dublin Canyon Rd.
925.227.0500

40. SpringHill Suites

7270 Johnson Dr.
925.474.4566

41. The Rose Hotel

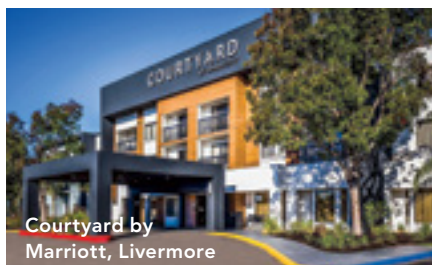
807 Main St.
925.846.8802

42. TownePlace Suites Pleasanton (early 2024)

7260 Johnson Dr.
925.474.4566

43. Tri Valley Inn & Suites

2025 Santa Rita Rd.
925.846.2742



Courtyard by
Marriott, Livermore

NUMBERS CORRESPOND WITH THE MAP ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



LODGING

DANVILLE

1. Best Western Danville Sycamore Inn

DUBLIN

2. Aloft Dublin-Pleasanton
3. Extended Stay America Dublin - Hacienda Drive
4. Holiday Inn Dublin-Pleasanton
5. Hyatt Place Dublin/Pleasanton
6. La Quinta Inn & Suites by Windham

LIVERMORE

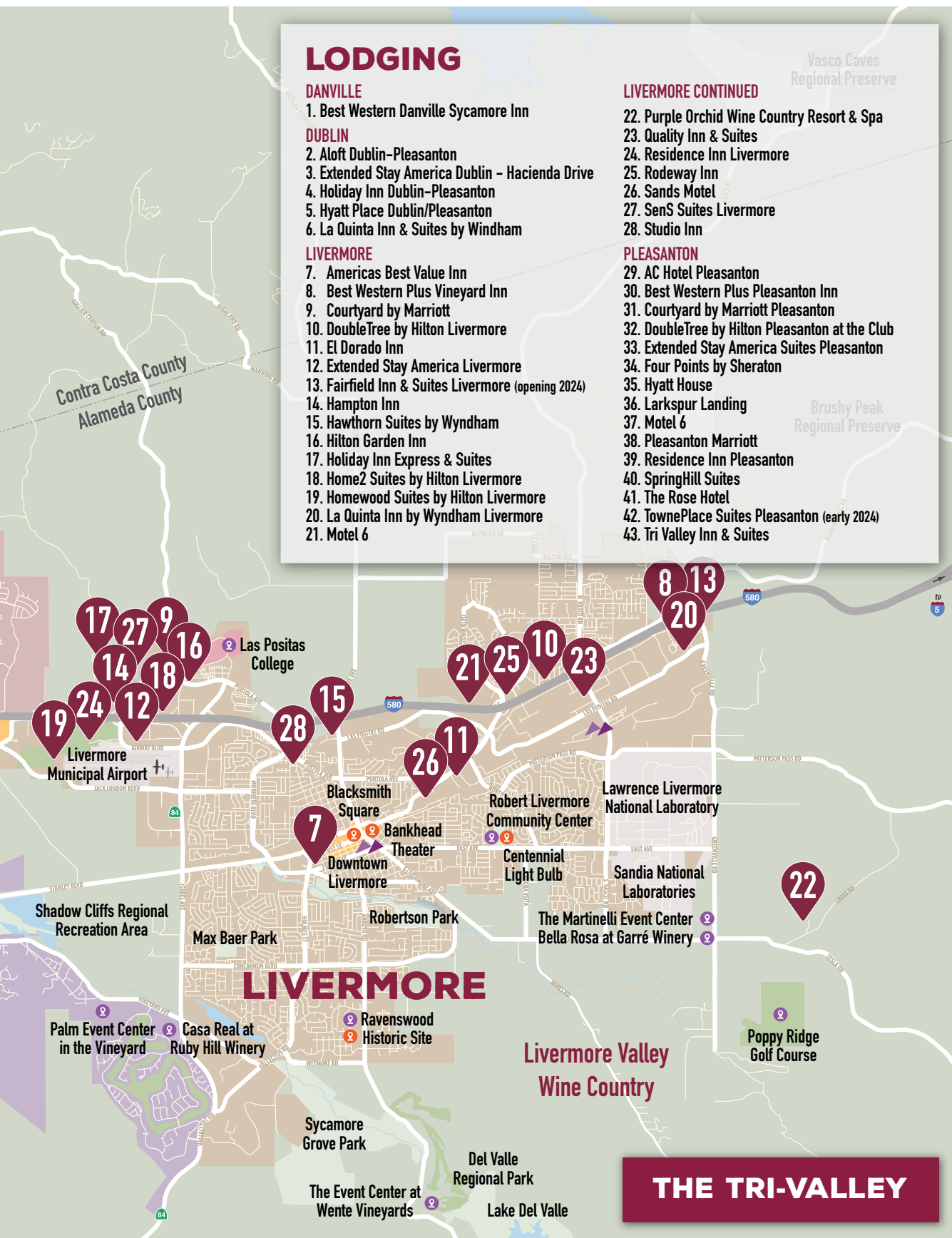
7. Americas Best Value Inn
8. Best Western Plus Vineyard Inn
9. Courtyard by Marriott
10. DoubleTree by Hilton Livermore
11. El Dorado Inn
12. Extended Stay America Livermore
13. Fairfield Inn & Suites Livermore (opening 2024)
14. Hampton Inn
15. Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham
16. Hilton Garden Inn
17. Holiday Inn Express & Suites
18. Home2 Suites by Hilton Livermore
19. Homewood Suites by Hilton Livermore
20. La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Livermore
21. Motel 6

LIVERMORE CONTINUED

22. Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa
23. Quality Inn & Suites
24. Residence Inn Livermore
25. Rodeway Inn
26. Sands Motel
27. SenS Suites Livermore
28. Studio Inn

PLEASANTON

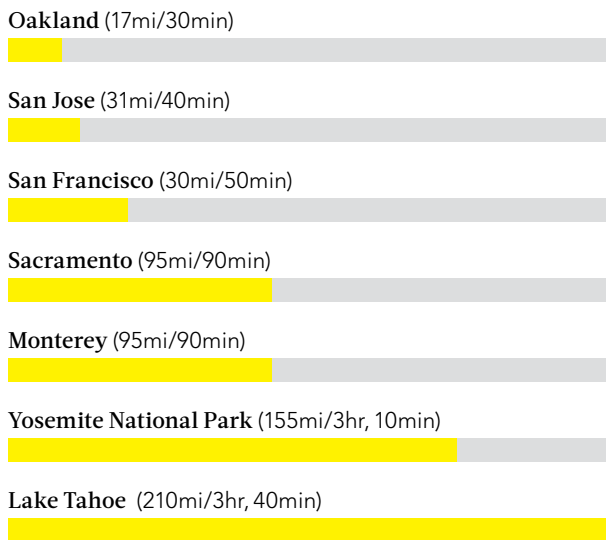
29. AC Hotel Pleasanton
30. Best Western Plus Pleasanton Inn
31. Courtyard by Marriott Pleasanton
32. DoubleTree by Hilton Pleasanton at the Club
33. Extended Stay America Suites Pleasanton
34. Four Points by Sheraton
35. Hyatt House
36. Larkspur Landing
37. Motel 6
38. Pleasanton Marriott
39. Residence Inn Pleasanton
40. SpringHill Suites
41. The Rose Hotel
42. TownePlace Suites Pleasanton (early 2024)
43. Tri Valley Inn & Suites



THE TRI-VALLEY



DISTANCE CHART (FROM THE TRI-VALLEY)



AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

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

TRI-TRAVEL

Whether you take a train, plane or automobile, tripping around the Tri-Valley is both easy and accessible.

GETTING HERE

The Tri-Valley is located east of San Francisco and is easily reachable by plane, train, automobile, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and bus. The closest commercial airport is Oakland International Airport, which is served by BART, shuttles, limousines, taxis, ride-hailing services and other public transportation. Pick up visitor information in terminals 1 and 2 of the airport.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- > **Altamont Corridor Express (ACE).** Makes stops in Livermore and Pleasanton. 800.411.RAIL, acerail.com
- > **Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).** Includes stops at West Dublin/Pleasanton and Dublin/Pleasanton. 510.464.6000, 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 BART, ACE and County Connection. 925.455.7500, wheelsbus.com

SHUTTLE/LIMOUSINE/TAXI SERVICES

- > **Black Tie Transportation:** 925.847.0747
- > **Blue Bird Cab Co.:** 925.500.0001
- > **Charity Cab:** 925.353.5357
- > **DeSoto Cab Co.:** 925.777.7777
- > **East Bay Shuttle:** 925.800.4500
- > **Extraordinary Tour Services:** 925.788.5666
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FLY IN

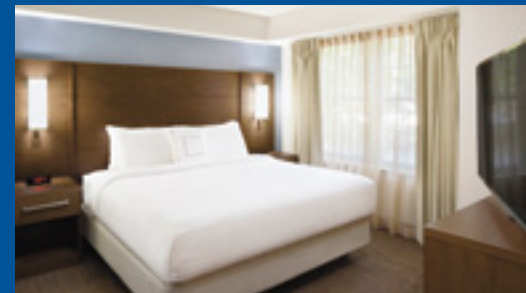
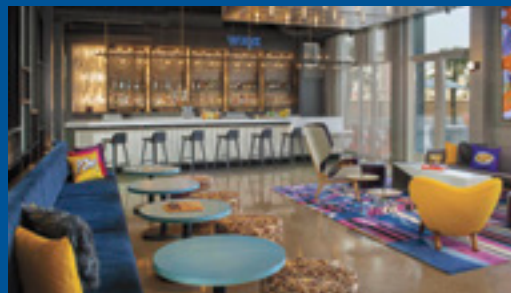
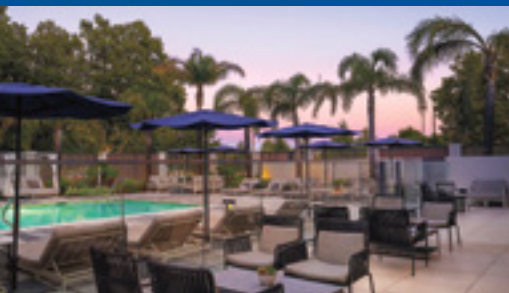
- The Tri-Valley is accessible via three Bay Area commercial airports and one municipal airport.
- > **Livermore Municipal Airport (LVK),** 925.960.8220, cityoflivermore.net
 - > **Oakland International Airport (OAK),** 19 miles from the Tri-Valley, 510.563.3300, oaklandairport.com
 - > **San Jose Mineta 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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Marriott Pleasanton
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(925) 847-6000



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(925) 227-0500

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