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WINE ENTHUSIAST®

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THE TRAVEL ISSUE

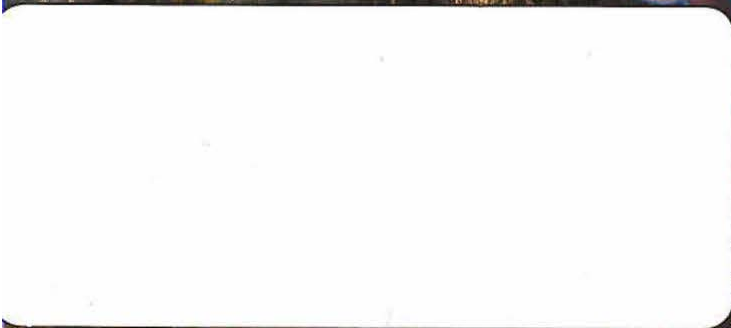
10 TOP WINE GETAWAYS

NEW ZEALAND ♦ ITALY ♦ SPAIN ♦ FRANCE ♦ AND MORE

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MENDOCINO

Mendocino County has 107 wineries and more than 17,000 acres of vineyards, but it draws visitors for other pleasures like giant redwoods, Dungeness crab, wild chanterelle mushrooms, an exhilarating rocky coast and, yes, marijuana cultivation. Mendocino is laid-back, to say the least. A two-plus hour drive north of San Francisco through Sonoma County, traffic is practically nonexistent except for logging trucks. Tasting rooms and restaurants are rarely crowded, but lodging options are scarce except on the coast near the New England-esque town of Mendocino. Ukiah, in the warmer, drier inland valley along Highway 101, is the biggest city, with a whopping population of 16,000. Since 95 percent of the land in Mendocino County is rolling or mountainous, it offers plenty of bends in the road to explore. —*Jim Gordon*

WHERE TO DINE

The enduring **Boonville Hotel**, run by the Schmitt family, renamed its restaurant **Table 128**. It serves upscale family-style, prix-fixe dinners with an Italian bent and a rainbow of local ingredients. A block away, former luxury yacht chef Christina Jones came home to open **Aquarelle**, a creative seafood café and wine bar. In Ukiah, locals crowd Cynthia Ariosta's **Saucy** for classic wood-fired, thin-crust pizza, and they rave about the remarkably authentic sushi and hot soup noodles at **Oco Time**.

WHERE TO STAY

Anderson Valley's most pampering hotel is **The Madrones** near Philo, which has the feel of an Italian villa and underwent a recent expansion by owner-designer Jim Roberts. For spectacular views of the crashing

Pacific surf and logger-chic design, book one of the 10 rooms at the wood-shingled, contemporary **Brewery Gulch Inn** near the town of Mendocino. Or bring a few friends and lodge among the Carignane vines on the **Testa Ranch** property in quiet Calpella. Grape grower Maria Martinson renovated her family's three-bedroom 1927 guesthouse for country comfort.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Before your massage and facial, soak in one of the few naturally warm and carbonated mineral baths in North America at the 160-year-old **Vichy Springs Resort**, on 700 acres outside Ukiah. Shop in Mendocino for local art and New Age jewelry, and marvel at the ocean views. Stay, cook and learn about organic farming at the simply gracious **Apple Farm** in Philo.