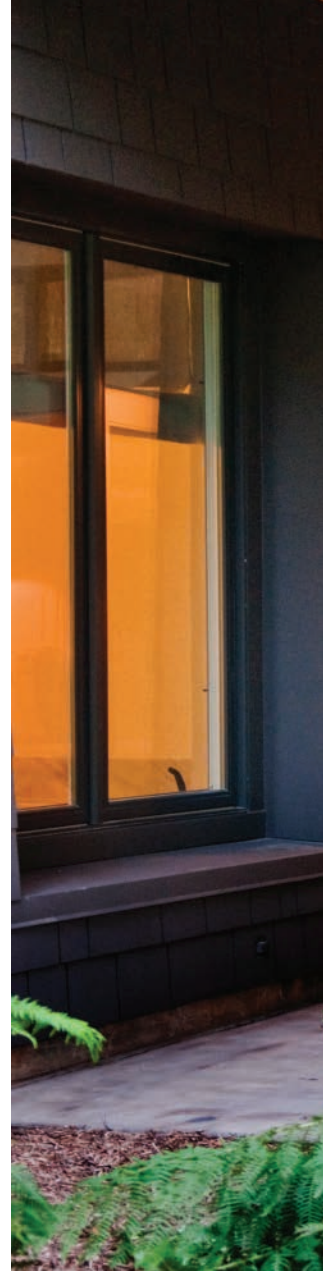


Farm Fresh | Farmhouse Inn

SONOMA COUNTY



By Elyse Glickman
Photography by Adam Potts and Farmhouse Inn

With warmer weather and more opportunities for road trips and romantic getaways, there's nothing more appealing than a food-driven wine country escape. And lucky for Calabasas residents, Sonoma County—one of America's favorites for all things flavorful and comforting—is just a short flight or a few hours' drive from home.

Among the many winery-adjacent luxe lodges and cottages that put Sonoma on the map, the Russian River Valley-based Farmhouse Inn has been a standard since it opened its doors in 1981. It's remained true to its roots as a family farm, built in 1837, and then a family-owned country inn, while also appealing to modern tastes with luxury boutique hotel elements. The standards for lodging and dining have been raised even higher under the direction of siblings Catherine and Joe Bartolomei, who took ownership a little over 20 years ago. What began as a six-room refuge now has 25 rooms along with a welcoming Wellness Barn, a pool area, food and wine-related activities, health-driven programming, and more.

The luxury extends to a lush outdoor sitting area where fresh air and plush Sonoma landscapes abound.



Through a recent refurbishing of its late-19th-century buildings by Gina Gattuso and Lisa North of Myra Hoefler Design, Farmhouse Inn's new modern attributes offset its country authenticity influenced by five generations of Sonoma farmers.

New chefs are in the picture, including Chef de Cuisine Shawn Jackson Clark and Executive Chef Trevor Anderson, who has rebooted the FARMSTAND restaurant and added sophisticated-yet-homey treats with a small-bites menu and curated "Farmhouse Cooler" boxed meals that can be pre-ordered for a day of vineyard tours or a picnic in and around Sonoma's quaint towns.

The Farmhouse Inn's restaurant garnered Michelin recognition in the past, and the culinary standards are exceptional with Chefs Jackson and Anderson bringing global flair and techniques to the various menus. The Wine Spectator-winning ("2022

Best of Award of Excellence") list, blending Sonoma and international selections, only adds to the experience.

Sonoma County's carefree, rustic chic features prominently in the suites. Large windows and sliding doors beautifully frame the natural surroundings and comfortable outdoor patios with private entrances. The 200-square-foot rooms, perched above the restaurant in the property's original 1875 farmhouse, are big on style and substance, with gas fireplaces and generous bathrooms with soaker tubs and walk-in steam showers. Two just-added Cottage Petite Suites are awash in a fresh color palette of white, gray, and black framing classic furniture with ticking stripes, four-poster beds, and locally made rustic linen drapes. Bathrooms are dressed up with Carrera marble updated with sharp ceramic subway tile accents as well as heated marble floors and furniture-like vanities.

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Other on-property extras include a Wednesday movie night, "Wellness Wednesday" workshops, fitness classes, a wine-tasting happy hour between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. curated by Joe Bartolomei, a next-level nightly S'mores session at the fire pits with Valrhona chocolate, and house-made gluten free cookies on the bedside table provided during the nightly turndown.

Room rates range from \$960 for a farmhouse room to \$1,160 for cottages and \$2,010 for a barn one-bedroom suite. For more information and reservations, visit farmhouseinn.com, call 800.464.6642, or write Hotel Manager Matthew DeQuillien at matthewd@farmhouseinn.com. For large family gatherings and business retreats, please contact Tamra Waslewski at tamra@farmhouseinn.com. ■

The 350-square-foot Cottage rooms feature romantic gas fireplaces with a sitting area, steam showers, heated marble floors, relaxing soaking tubs, and quaint outdoor patios with a private entrance. Revamped Cottage Petite Suites blend country-chic interiors with 550 square feet of living space. A beautiful barn door separates an alcove designed for a full-size bed and living space with a gas fireplace, steam shower, heated marble floors, and a relaxing soaking tub. Farmhouse Inn's amenities, including feather beds, locally made Sumbody bath products, seasonal flowers, high-end complimentary snacks, and a complimentary organic artisan bath bar with a variety of skin-loving delights, further distinguish it from comparable properties.

The inn's Wellness Barn balances the food-driven decadence with workout sessions for mind and body using local products and various healing modalities. The spa, tucked into the Wellness Barn, follows suit with a variety of facial and body treatments. The concierge team can arrange a variety of off-property adventures, including a walk at nearby Riverfront Regional Park; guided or self-guided bike rides (rental bikes can be delivered to guests daily); and aquatic adventures (whitewater rafting, kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddle boards) along the Russian River. Thanks to the Bartolomeis' relationship with the winery community, guests also have access to custom VIP tours and tastings at Sonoma's most-acclaimed wineries.

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