

# A Rare World.

THE TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY



## Northern California

**Calistoga Ranch The Carneros Inn Cavallo Point  
Four Seasons San Francisco Bardessono Solage Calistoga  
Auberge du Soleil Meadowood**



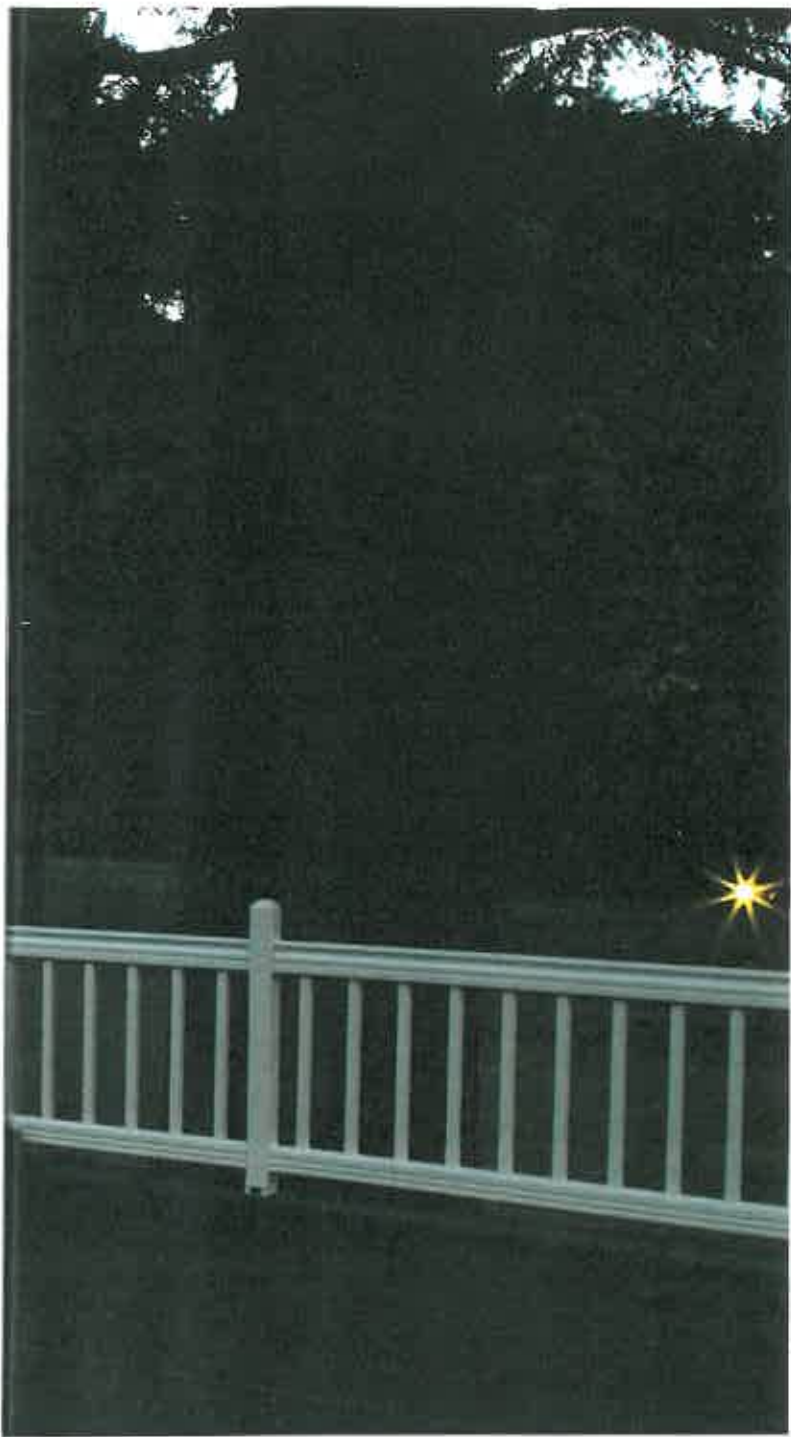
# MEADOWOOD

*The first holds steady.*

**T**HE TRADITION of luxury hospitality in Napa Valley was born with the opening of Meadowood in 1979. Set on over 250 wooded acres just beyond the quaint town of Saint Helena, the property boasts the most diverse offering of recreational amenities of any in the region. Even with the arrival of countless others on the scene, everyone knows well that Meadowood is still the one to beat.

Our vehicle was met on arrival by a bellman who was not only on point, but who clearly has made the perfection of this hospitality tradition his life's work. The pride with which we were greeted and assisted to our home for the evening was beyond compare. Only a truly seasoned master of service could bring such panache to this otherwise simple ritual.

Accommodations at Meadowood each have a unique layout in one of several different buildings and settings. Therefore, it's important to consider your own visit and choose wisely with the guidance of floor plans and photographs. If you're having trouble choosing, may we suggest the Fairway Treeline Lower Room? With a separate living room, sophisticated furnishings and finishes, and a view through the woods onto the golf course's fairway made this one of our favorite accommodations on property. We were also quite keen on the



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MEADOWOOD NAPA VALLEY

finishes of the Estate Room and Estate Suite.

Meadowood has two main restaurants, The Restaurant for fine dining and The Grill for all-day casual. It's unlikely we're the first to tell you that The Restaurant recently earned its third star in the Michelin Guide. We're here to confirm that this dining experience is indeed "worth a trip!" Here, precision abounds with every hand that serves, every bite that is eaten, every ornate decanter that is poured, and every person observing to statistically analyze each diner's pace. The Grill, which couldn't be more polar, does a decent job fulfilling simpler appetites as well.

In the realm of recreation, Meadowood brings you the entire country club and just a bit more. Nine holes of golf, seven hard courts of tennis, and two croquet lawns are each overseen by their

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own respective, respectable pros. Though experienced golfers will agree the course here is just for fun, a real challenge might be to engage Doug Pike for a swing clinic and TrackMan analysis. The resort also maintains two pools, one for families and one for laps. The spa and fitness areas are present and accounted for, but cer-



tainly not the resort's shiniest components.

With its ideal selection of recreational amenities, sublime food and beverage program, comfortable and unique accommodations, and seasoned staff of service professionals, anyone would agree that Meadowood is among the Valley's most superior properties. For the person who seeks all of this in a formal atmosphere of the good life's best, there might be no better place anywhere else either. ●●●●

### **Meadowood**

Saint Helena, California

## DOs & DON'Ts

**DO** expect the ultimate in tradition. This is white gloved country club style to the max.

**DO** schedule at least one entire day to stay on property. With all of the amenities at your disposal here, we can't imagine why you would stay here if you weren't intending on using them.

**DO** consider booking the croquet lawns for a group activity. What better way to unite everyone with a glass of wine in hand than this strategic sport with a level playing field?

**DO** advise when booking if you have any sort of mobility issue. Many accommodations are accessible only by a long series of stepped pathways.

**DON'T** wait a minute longer to book a table at The Restaurant whether you stay here or not. Prepare for four hours worth of incredible flavor combinations.

**DON'T** be fooled by the word "room" in category names-- many do have separate living rooms and are comparable to what might be called a suite somewhere else.