

GETAWAY A Downtown Napa Holiday P. 44

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NAPA

Wine Touring in Old Town

WITH FIRST STREET DECORATED in lights late this month and the Wine Train offering a Santa express option starting Dec. 12, the holidays are an ideal time to discover Napa's pedestrian-friendly center, a short plane ride or a seven-hour drive from Orange County. Twenty downtown tasting rooms and various hotels have popped up in the riverfront area. The food scene just keeps getting better with the recently opened Oxbow Public Market and celebrity chef dining rooms from Tyler Florence and "Iron Chef" Masaharu Morimoto. When you're ready to take the car out, Highway 29, the valley's corridor of world-class wineries, is only five minutes away.

—ANNE VALDESPINO



Taste

Let dinner be an adventure: Chef Ken Frank takes wine-and-food pairings to new heights at **LA TOQUE** in the tony Westin Verasa, matching foie gras and chanterelles on fresh corn polenta with Dragonette Cellars Pinot Noir, (tasting menus \$74 to \$150; add wine pairings, \$48 to \$85).

Relax

4 WESTIN VERASA'S 20 rooms and 160 suites (\$219 to \$799) can be a home away from home; each two-bedroom suite includes a dining room and kitchen (\$400).