



Farm Fresh

Farmhouse Inn, Sonoma County

By Elyse Glickman

Photos by Adam Potts & Farmhouse Inn

With the hot Southern California summer and fall behind us and the eventful holiday season in progress, there's nothing more appealing than a food-driven winter wine country getaway. And lucky for Angelenos, Sonoma County—one of America's centers of all things flavorful and comforting—is a short flight or a few hours' drive away from the big city.

Among the many winery-adjacent luxe lodges and cottages that put Sonoma on the map, the Russian River Valley-based Farmhouse Inn has been regarded as a standard bearer since it opened its doors in 1981. While it has stayed true to its roots as a family farm built in 1837 and, later, a family-owned country inn, it appeals to modern tastes by interspersing elements found in a luxury boutique hotel. In recent years, the standards of the lodging and dining areas have been raised exponentially 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.

This means that what's old is truly new again—making this winter an ideal time to experience this ultimate Sonoma getaway. Through

recent refurbishing of its late 19th century buildings (by Gina Gattuso and Lisa North of Myra Hoefer Design), Farmhouse Inn takes on a 21st century sheen that offsets its country authenticity tied to five generations of Sonoma farmers. New chefs are in the picture, including Chef de Cuisine Shawn Jackson Clark (overseeing the property's new fine dining restaurant), and Executive Chef Trevor Anderson, who has rebooted the FARMSTAND restaurant and added other culinary elements including a small bites menu and curated "Farmhouse Cooler" boxed meals that can be ordered in advance for a picnic on or off property, a day of vineyard tours, or on the go exploring Sonoma's quaint towns.

Farmhouse Inn's restaurant garnered Michelin recognition with Chef Steve Litke at the helm until his 2021 retirement. However, the culinary standards are poised to rise and go in fresh new directions with Chefs Jackson and Anderson bringing modern global flair and techniques to the various menus. However, the Wine Spectator-winning ("2022 Best of Award of Excellence") list blending Sonoma and international selections will remain firmly in place.

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 Farmhouse rooms, perched above the restaurant in the property's original 1873 Farmhouse, are big on style and substance, with gas fireplaces, generous bathrooms with a soaker tub and walk-in steam shower. Two just-added Cottage Petite Suite (factoring in a new room category, as well as another roomy cottage adjoining one of them) are awash in a fresh color palette of white, gray and ▶



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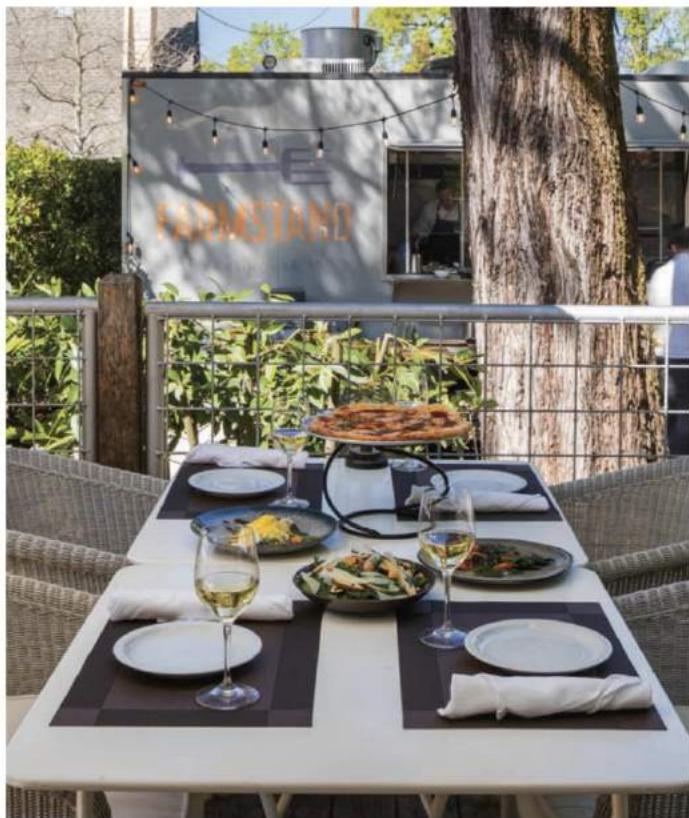
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► black framing classic furniture with ticking stripes, four-poster beds and locally-made rustic linen drapes. Bathrooms are dressed up with Carrera marble updated with sharp ceramic subway tile accent as well as footed soaking tubs, steam showers, heated marble floors and furniture-like vanities.

Cottage rooms, at 350 square feet, feature a romantic gas fireplace with a sitting area, steam shower, heated marble floors, a relaxing soaking tub and quaint outdoor patio with private entrance. Steps from our acclaimed restaurant, newly 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 Heaven-Sent feather beds, locally-made Sumbody bath products, fresh seasonal flowers, and high-end complimentary snacks, and a complimentary Organic Artisan Bath Bar with a variety of skin-loving delights, further distinguish it from comparable properties. On-property extras include a Wednesday movie night, "Wellness Wednesday" workshops, fitness classes, an informative wine-tasting happy hour with wines from a few of the 25 winery partners curated by Joe Bartolomei, a next-level nightly S'mores session at the fire pits with Valrhona chocolate, and house-made Gluten Free Triple Chocolate Chip Cookies on the bedside table provided during the nightly turndown.

The Inn's Wellness Barn balances the food-driven decadence throughout the property 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, meanwhile, 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 adventure (whitewater rafting, kayak, canoe, or stand up paddle board) along the Russian River. Thanks to the Bartolomei's relationship with the winery community, guests also have access to custom VIP tours and tastings at Sonoma's most acclaimed wineries.

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. The Inn also allows children traveling with their parents along with rentals of additional beds brought to the

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rooms. For group sales for family gatherings and business retreats, please contact Tamra Waslewski at tamra@farmhouseinn.com 