

SAN FRANCISCO | SILICON VALLEY | MARIN | NAPA | NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HAUTE LIVING

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

LUXURY LIFESTYLE WITH PURPOSE



FOOD & WINE ISSUE

MEET THESE CULINARY ROCK STARS:
THEIR LIFE JOURNEYS INSPIRE INCREDIBLE CUISINE

\$20.00



OVER-THE-TOP WINE TASTING EXPERIENCES

BY FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER

CLOSE YOUR EYES, POINT TO ANY ONE OF THE MORE than 800 wineries on the Napa Valley and Sonoma County winery maps, and there is little doubt that your blind selection yields a wonderful wine tasting experience. Most of the region's wineries welcome guests with open arms, offering gracious hospitality within their verdant vineyards. A few wineries and winemakers go a step further, immersing

wine lovers in the vinous process, while revealing their secrets to success. Others roll out a virtual red carpet, creating elegant, otherworldly environments in which to escape, if only for an hour or two. And one Napa Valley vintner soars (quite literally) to new heights with her elevated wine tastings. If you are not easily gratified by a routine sampling of Napa Cab, these wine tasting experiences are for you.



AILERON ESTATES TAKE FLIGHT EXPERIENCE

Aileron Estates' wines alone are worthy of a wine country visit. Add a pre-tasting, scenic bi-plane ride over Sonoma, and Aileron becomes a wine tasting must-do. *Take Flight* pairs Aileron proprietor Shannon O'Shaughnessy's luxe Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc with soaring, open-air heights provided by the skilled pilots of Vintage Aircraft Co. in Carneros. The combo is exhilarating. O'Shaughnessy's own passion for flight led to the creation of the unique offering. *Take Flight* is offered in partnership with Vintage Aircraft Co. and includes a 20-minute scenic flight, including aerobatics (inverting, barrel rolls, a hammerhead, and a Cuban eight) if desired, followed by a private tasting of Aileron's first two vintages made by the rock star winemaking team of Philippe Melka and Mayan Koschitzky of Atelier Melka. (\$550 per person)



THEOREM VINEYARDS BACCARAT TASTING EXPERIENCE

Life's landmark occasions often call for an equally momentous celebration. Napa Valley's Theorem Vineyards holds the key for a splurge-worthy solution. The luxury

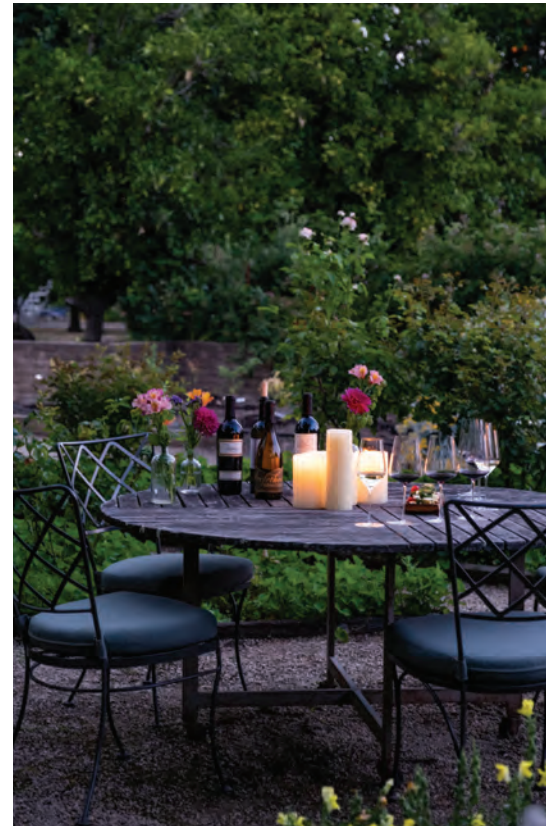
winery has teamed up with renowned French glassware artisans Baccarat Crystal to create the *Theorem Vineyards Baccarat Tasting Experience*, offering celebrants a sumptuous, one-of-a-kind wine and food exploration enhanced by luxurious Baccarat crystal. A guided walking tour of Theorem's Diamond Mountain property culminates at one of the winery's scenic outdoor lookout points or in the soaring, open-air tank room, where a dazzling table festooned with fine linens, fresh-cut flowers in a Baccarat vase, Baccarat candlesticks, and a selection of Baccarat's celebrated stemware await. Three of Theorem's high-elevation, estate bottlings, served with seasonally inspired food pairings prepared exclusively for the occasion by Theorem's culinary director, Chef Josh Mitchell, further enhance the tablescape. For added indulgence, participants may choose one of the elegant Baccarat wine glass styles for themselves, to be engraved with a meaningful phrase. (\$750 per person)



BOUCHAINE VINEYARDS FALCONRY EXPERIENCE

This exclusive opportunity allows guests to witness firsthand the wonder of nature in support of sustainable farming practices. Working with West Coast Falconry, Northern California's premier resource for falconry education and services, Bouchaine

Vineyards' *Falconry Vineyard Experience* allows participants to learn about the role of raptors in vineyard management, while enjoying a glass of wine. The falcons swoop through the air in a display of astonishing agility, return to their handlers, then fly to the gloved arm of each guest as the falconer discusses the eyesight, flying, and hunting techniques of hawks, falcons, owls, and eagles. (\$75 per person)



TREFETHEN FAMILY VINEYARDS TWILIGHT AT TREFETHEN

One of Napa's pioneering wineries, Trefethen Family Vineyards was founded in 1968 by Janet and John Trefethen. More than five decades later, this venerable Napa winery remains family-owned and committed to the craft of producing 100 percent estate-grown wines. The winery is also committed to providing outstanding wine tasting experiences, such as its *Twilight at Trefethen*, where guests can experience and explore the beautiful Oak Knoll family estate in private. A tour is followed by a seated tasting of five of Trefethen's finest wines paired with delicious bites crafted by Trefethen's executive chef, Chris Kennedy. (\$200 per person)