

My Perfect Day in Napa

Written by Jenny Kerr

Wednesday, 09 March 2011 11:16 - Last Updated Friday, 22 April 2011 09:11

As long as I've loved all things wine, it's been on my list to visit the world famous wine making region of Napa.

Last year, I attempted to try to put a trip together to Champagne, France, about 100 miles east of Paris. But unfortunately, some riots over the retirement age prevented me from making plans to fly into Charles De Gaulle airport. I've enjoyed many a day trip with close friends to [The North Fork region of Long Island](#) to frequent my favorite wineries like Bedel and Sparkling Pointe. Most people I've talked to who are not from New York, don't realize what an extensive wine growing region is available at the eastern end. I have also had the opportunity to visit Vigna Maggio in Tuscany in 2008, a trip I will never forget with friends and family.

To get prepared for Napa, I went straight to my source and when I mean source, I mean my brother-in-law Jeff. He is a walking, talking version of Conde Naste Traveler and Wine Spectator all rolled into one. He is THE Gold List, you would think he got paid to do this stuff but he does it purely for the hunt. He's all about finding that deal of the century on a Park Hyatt or the wine that's about to go big tomorrow but you can get it at a fair price today. I love visiting them in Orlando because I feel like I am at a wine bar when I arrive, he makes me taste all his new findings and pairs it perfectly with some sort of gourmet cheese.

So I asked Jeff's advice on what wineries I should visit in my one day in Napa. I told him I could just google the whole thing and create a driving itinerary but he insisted he draw it on a sheet of loose leaf paper. Archaic if you ask me so I still entered the info into Google while he drew the map. I ended up losing his drawing several times before I left their house. Julie would find it just laying on the floor somewhere and put it back in my bag. Thank God for email and the internet because the story might have ended here if I couldn't even keep track of the directions.

Since I was only going to be able to spend one full day in Napa due to my busy schedule, I needed a clear plan. Jeff knows that my favorite white is Chardonnay but I also enjoy some reds and love champagne. So he made a few suggestions that were all wonderful and within a close distance from each other. Cakebread Cellars, Rombauer Vineyards, Phelps Vineyards to taste some good reds, Auberge Du Soleil for brunch and finishing the day off at Mumm Napa for some bubbly. Unfortunately, most of the tasting rooms close around 5pm so I had to modify this plan a little more so I wasn't rushing around to each vineyard. I ended up nixing [Phelps](#) even though I did not want to.

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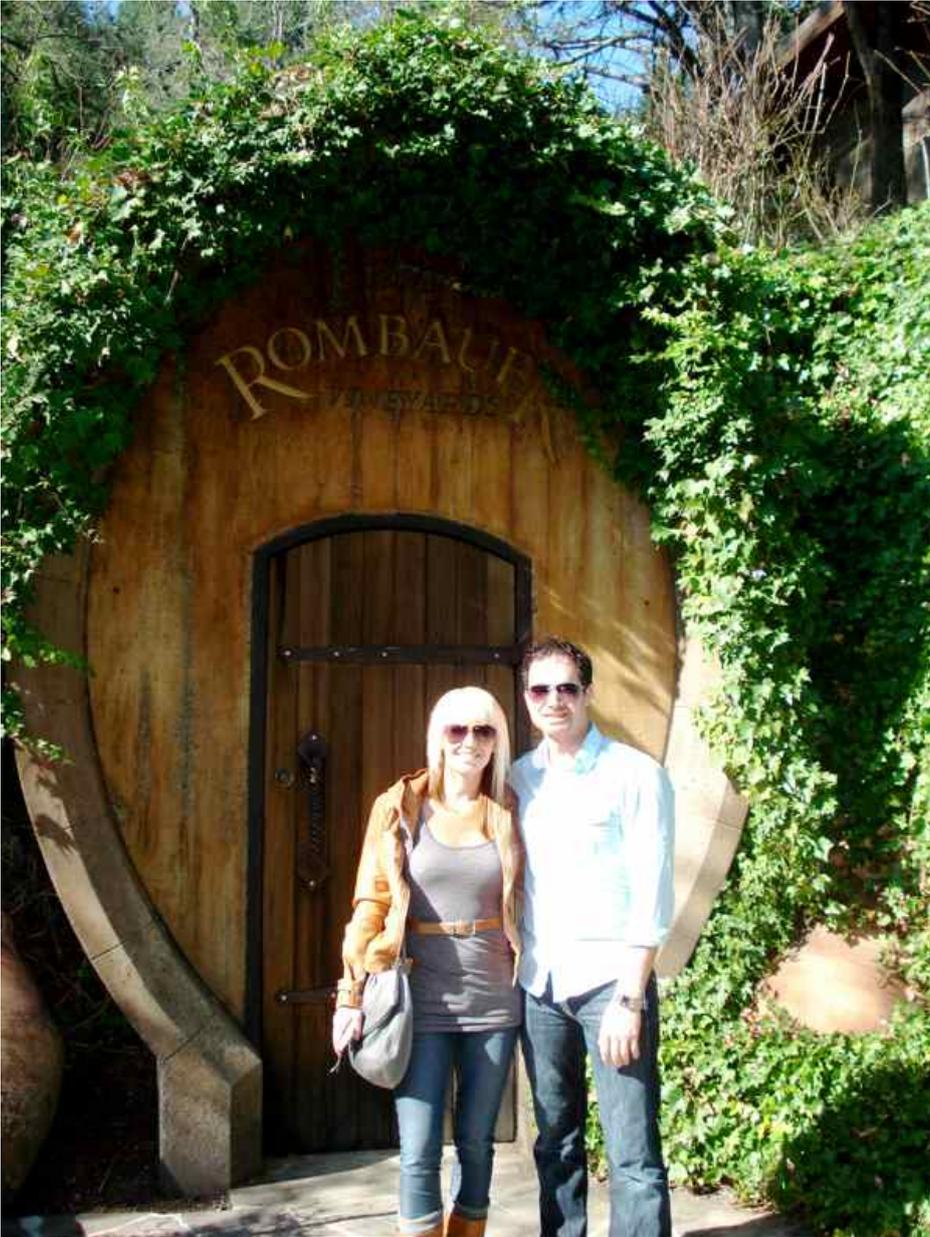
Chateau Napa - The entrance to the chateau, which is a beautiful property. Requires approximately



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Cream, Arbequina Olive Oil Fairy

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Some of the things I did during my trip to Napa Valley, California, including visiting the famous wine country and enjoying the beautiful views. [Click here](#) to see more photos from my trip.