

# STEALS AND DEALS IN THE NAPA VALLEY

BY KERRIN LAZ



Deals in Napa restaurants? Who would have thought it possible? But yes, there are \$10 Blue Plate specials, \$1.50 baby back ribs, and \$25 wine lists. This summer, Napa Valley restaurants are offering specials that venture outside their comfort zone, serving meals not typically seen on their menus. It's a great opportunity to see how kitchen staffs dig in and have fun, including fried chicken at a steak house and Chinese dishes on a California cuisine menu.

Knowing what wine costs, it is downright disheartening when you see the markup at certain restaurants. So I was

happy to hear about the discounting of wine this summer at many Napa Valley restaurants. With all of these deals, you can't afford to stay at home!

So here's a guide to keep handy when planning your visit to the Valley or locals' nights out. Please call ahead to find out the specials for the day you are planning to dine.

*Kerrin Laz is a frequent restaurant diner and the wine director of Dean & DeLuca. After three years of working with Dean & DeLuca on the east coast, in 2006 Kerrin finally made the cross-country move to the Napa Valley. Any questions regarding California wine? Contact her at [wineblog@deandeluca.com](mailto:wineblog@deandeluca.com)*

## Angèle Restaurant & Bar

540 Main Street, Napa, 707.252.8115  
[www.angelerestaurant.com](http://www.angelerestaurant.com)

Sunday through Thursday, Angèle creates versions of classic French dishes, which Proprietor Bettina Rouas pairs with a varietal wine at a 50% discount. On a recent Sunday, a fish stew sold for \$18 and chardonnays were 50% off.

## BarBersQ

3900 Belaire Plaza, Napa, 707.224.6600  
[www.barbersq.com](http://www.barbersq.com)

To celebrate the full moon each month on Friday, BarBersQ offers specials such as \$1.50 baby back ribs, grilled oysters or a taste of whole roasted pig. As a patron who enjoys BarBersQ frequently, I've already circled the monthly Full Moon on my calendar to prepare for this throwdown.

## Bistro Don Giovanni

4110 Howard Lane, Napa, 707.224.3300  
[www.bistrodongiovanni.com](http://www.bistrodongiovanni.com)

Look for "29 Wines Under \$29," and try a bottle from the restaurant's special domestic and international wine list.

## Brix Restaurant

7377 St. Helena Hwy, Yountville, 707.944.2749  
[www.25degreesbrix.com](http://www.25degreesbrix.com)

Monday through Friday from 4-6 PM, Brix is offering 50% off the bar menu and 50% off wines by the glass and cocktail list. On Sundays, attend a "Wine Social" from 4-7 PM in the bar area. Bring a bottle or two to share with friends and local vintners with no corkage charge.

## Cindy's Backstreet Kitchen

1327 Railroad Ave, St. Helena, 707.963.1200  
[www.cindysbackstreetkitchen.com](http://www.cindysbackstreetkitchen.com)

"Cindy's Supper Club," held every Wednesday, offers a different port of call, highlighting international cuisine. For \$45, all courses are included. Recent meals have included flavors of Vietnam, Italy and Greece. Proprietor Cindy Pawlcy is also offering a selected list of 25 wines under \$25.

## Farm

The Carneros Inn, 4048 Sonoma Highway, Napa, 707.299.4900 [www.thecarerosinn.com](http://www.thecarerosinn.com)

Monday through Thursday, Farm invites you to try a three-course menu for \$45. A recent menu began with a walnut pear salad followed by a 10-ounce flatiron steak. Finishing the meal was a chocolate pot de crème.

## Go Fish

641 Main Street, St. Helena, 707.963.0700  
[www.gofishrestaurant.net](http://www.gofishrestaurant.net)

Three Courses for \$21 includes a soup or chowder of the day, chef's choice of entrée and house-made sorbet and cookies. Similar to Cindy's Backstreet Kitchen, the 25 wines under \$25 list are also offered at Go Fish.

## Hog Island Oyster Company

Oxbow Public Market, 610-644 First Street, Napa, 707.251.8113  
[www.hogislandoysters.com](http://www.hogislandoysters.com)

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5-7 PM, Hog Island Oyster Bar offers \$1 Hog Island sweetwater oysters and \$3.50 pints of local beers. As a serious oyster fan, I find this a perfect combo for the warm summer months.

## Martini House

1245 Spring Street, St. Helena, 707.963.2233

[www.martinihouse.com](http://www.martinihouse.com)

The family meal is a long-standing tradition where staff eats together before the restaurant opens. It's the time to try new specials or eat what the cooks serve in their own home. Monday through Thursday from 5-6:30 PM, dine in the cellar and enjoy a family meal from \$10-14. A recent meal I enjoyed was Chicken Teriyaki with bok choy and yam fritters for \$13. Martini House offers these specials to go as well.

## Mustards Grill

7399 St. Helena Highway, Napa, 707.944.2424

[www.mustardsgrill.com](http://www.mustardsgrill.com)

Mustards, like all of Proprietor Cindy Pawlcy's Napa Valley restaurants, offers the special wine list of 25 wines under \$25. The list includes some solid California labels as well as some international wines.

## Press St. Helena

587 St. Helena Hwy South, St. Helena, 707.967.0440

[www.pressstheleena.com](http://www.pressstheleena.com)

On Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 5 PM, Press serves its popular \$10 Blue Plate special if you dine at the bar. Take advantage of 50% off the entire Napa Valley wine list on Wednesdays. On Sunday evenings, a four-course dinner costs \$50, with several options per course.