

## Sunset Traveler

Secrets, surprises,  
and where to go now



### **Solage: Laid-back comfort in Napa**

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It's not harvest or crush, the vines are cut back, and the winter discounts are beginning to thaw. But I'll still make a case for visiting the Napa Valley right now. Mustard. More specifically, the mustard cover crop that starts to bloom, turning fields a sunny yellow like an over the top Provence postcard, in late February and March. Vintners plant it to replenish the soil, but I wonder if it's also because those buttery flowers are the perfect antidote to a rainy winter.

Unfortunately, for copyright reasons, I can't put a fabulous picture of this mustard cover crop in my blog post. But I'm linking to a great image on the blog [vinography.com](http://vinography.com) [here](#). Enjoy.

And now on to where we stayed: Solage, a spa resort in Calistoga, at the tippy top of Napa Valley. The hotel is a favorite of friends of ours, and it was our first time visiting. We loved our cottage—not fancy but deeply comfortable, with a rainwater shower and pedestal tub that was a nice upgrade from home. The service, especially the front desk and concierge, could not have been warmer. When my husband realized he had forgotten a black belt for dinner, the concierge lent him his own.



Free cruisers with your room! Take them out on Rosedale road, right across from the entrance to Solage. Just don't expect to go more than 7 mph. PHOTO: Courtesy of [Solage Calistoga](#)



PHOTO: Courtesy [Solage Calistoga](#)

The spa gets raves at Solage, but we didn't have a chance to check it out. We did get some lounging time at the pool, however ...



**Book it:** from \$375, [solagecalistoga.com](http://solagecalistoga.com). Rates jump beginning March 20.

**Tip:** Yes, the rates here are pretty steep (though not compared to similar hotels in Napa). We booked our room through [hotels.com](http://hotels.com) and got a lower price than the rack rate -- a quick search for rooms right now yielded up weeknight rate starting at \$295.