



B&B Road Trip

Adventure Across America!

Northern California

N A P A C O U N T Y

Cottage Grove Inn Calistoga, California

by David Poarch

Perfect! That's the only way to describe our stay at the Cottage Grove Inn in the Wine Country's famous spa town of Calistoga. We found it a flawless retreat for the short time we had in California's Napa Valley. Two days was too few, but that was all we had before our niece's wedding! We couldn't have found a better place to spend the time!

We left Oklahoma City by air about 7:00 a.m. (CDT) and were on the ground in Sacramento well before noon (PDT). After grabbing a bite to eat with relatives, we bid them a fond goodbye and headed down Interstate 80 from Sacramento toward Napa Valley in search of the Cottage Grove Inn.

Within minutes of arriving in the City of Calistoga we found our destination and quickly discovered – to our pleasant surprise – that the “inn” was actually a series of 16 beautifully detailed private cottages nestled among an old grove of elm trees situated on a very restricted one-way street. We parked, checked in and headed to our cottage – the “Rose Floral.”

If the inside of the Rose Floral cottage was to be anything like the outside, we were in for a great stay. In front of our cottage was its own garden – flowers everywhere! (And it was mid-March!) On the covered porch we were greeted by two



Enjoying breakfast alfresco!

wicker rocking chairs waiting for us to enjoy a quiet glass of wine. When we opened the door to our private cottage we were welcomed by soft music, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings with skylights, a glass front wood-burning fireplace, built-in wet bar with wine and champagne glasses, an entertainment center with DVD, CD, and TV, twin chaise lounge

chairs with ottomans, original art on the walls and a king size bed with sumptuous down comforter and abundant pillows to match! We had yet to step inside, and we were in heaven! Only later would we discover our oversized tile bath room with its two-person Jacuzzi soaking tub, shower and double-sinks! No detail had been overlooked by our hosts!

We were very impressed with our accommodations? Within 30 minutes of arriving we called the front desk and cancelled our dinner reservations in nearby St. Helena. We then found the local deli (about 2 blocks away) where we went shopping and returned to our room to share a chilly evening's picnic and a bottle of Napa Valley wine in front of our softly glowing fireplace, secure in the knowledge that we were not going to miss anything by “staying in” rather than going out for the evening!

The City of Calistoga (pop. 5,000) is located about 80 miles North of San Francisco at the top of the scenic Napa Valley. From the City of Napa you drive about 20 miles north on Highway 29, the main route through the Wine Country. The home of California's Old Faithful Geyser, it is best known for its geothermal hot springs and mineral water and prides itself as THE place in the Wine Country



Fly into San Francisco and drive 80 miles north to Calistoga. A trip you soon won't forget.



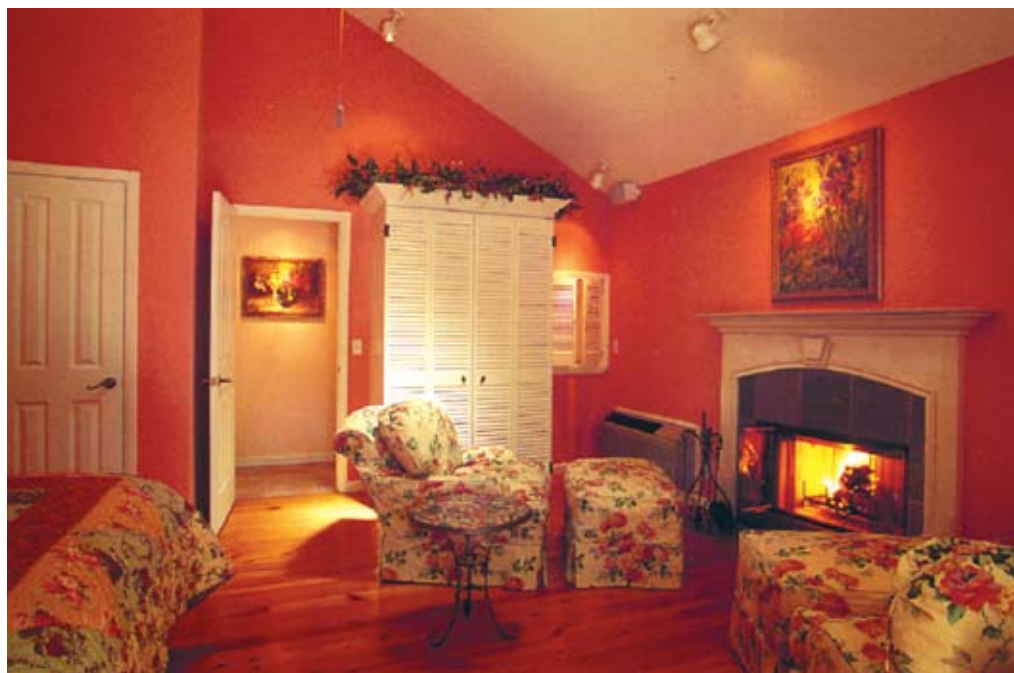
▲ One of 16 quaint, private cottages available at the Cottage Grove Inn.

to enjoy "wine, water and wellness."

Even with all the tourists Calistoga has maintained its small town atmosphere through the years. There are numerous restaurants, a host of spas, art galleries and endless shops to browse. Bike tours, hot air balloon rides, golf, horse back riding and even a 400-acre wildlife sanctuary are all nearby. And did we mention the wineries? From Sacramento it's about an hour and 15 minutes. From San Francisco, more like two. But you're on vacation, so who's wearing a watch? The point is, it's easy to find and easy to get to from Northern California's major airports.

When you enter the town of Calistoga you simply stay on the main street. The Cottage Grove Inn is on Lincoln Avenue, right off the main drag at the north end of town. You can't miss it! And our hosts couldn't have been friendlier or more helpful. When we arrived we asked about dining suggestions. Reservations were made in our names by the desk clerk while we left to settle in. Complimentary wine and cheese is offered each evening.

You've probably guessed. We loved it! We recommend it! But two days is too few! Stay longer if you can! And go with some-body you love! You won't be disappointed. — Teana & David
...on the road



▲ The beautifully appointed and inviting atmosphere of the *Rose Floral* cottage.

Cottage Grove Inn

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Reservations:
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