

# Sunset

## The Napa River Inn—old school style right downtown

The mustard is blooming in the Napa Valley—a glorious sight, but one that ushers in high season rates. One savvy way to save is to stay in downtown Napa, as opposed to further “upvalley,” as they like to say in these parts.



The good news is that downtown has become more appealing by the month, as restaurants, bars, and tasting rooms have filled long-empty spaces. A stay at the **Napa River Inn** puts you a stroll away from downtown’s hotspots, like the improbably amazing vegan restaurant Ubuntu, the Oxbow Market, and the Napa Opera House. Not to mention the Napa River, which snakes muddily by the inn beneath a wide promenade.



The inn itself shares a building with two restaurants, a bakery, and a nightclub. (Personally, I'm a sucker for the French country food like beef bourguignon at Angele (pictured), just downstairs.) The building is what's left of an 1880s warehouse that included, on the second floor, a roller rink.

In keeping with the building's history, rooms are Victorian, a throwback counterpoint to newer, modern hotels in town like Avia, a few blocks away.

**Book it:** Regular rates start at \$209 right now, but through the end of March, there's a Mustard Festival package that costs about the same but throws in a bunch of extras.