



# San Francisco

Bay Area & Wine Country

2007



RESTAURANTS  
& HOTELS

## El Dorado Kitchen

Californian 

005

405 1st St. W., Sonoma (at W. Spain St.)

**Phone:** 707-996-3030

Open daily 11:30am - 9:30pm

**Fax:** 707-996-3148

**Web:** [www.eldoradosonoma.com](http://www.eldoradosonoma.com)

**Prices:** \$\$



Brought to you by the proprietors of Auberge du Soleil in Rutherford, El Dorado Kitchen premiered in June 2005 inside the El Dorado Hotel (see *Wine Country hotel listings*) on Sonoma's plaza. Country-casual meets contemporary-chic in the airy 226-seat dining space, where whitewashed walls contrast with dark woods. The room's focal point is a communal table fashioned from a single slab of 200-year-old wood.

Chef Ryan Fancher, formerly at The French Laundry, distills the essence of seasonal products in what he bills as "food of the sun." His short menu is just as likely to feature a forest-mushroom pizza from the oak-fired oven as it might wine-braised short ribs that literally melt in the mouth.

On a warm evening, the stone courtyard sets the scene for an intimate tête-à-tête.

## Glen Ellen Inn

Californian 

006

13670 Arnold Dr., Glen Ellen (at Warm Springs Rd.)

**Phone:** 707-996-6409

Fri - Tue 11:30am - 9pm

**Fax:** 707-996-1634

Wed - Thu 5:30pm - 9pm

**Web:** [www.glenelleninn.com](http://www.glenelleninn.com)

**Prices:** \$\$



Located just down the road from Jack London State Historic Park, Glen Ellen Inn offers both lodging and dining. As far as the latter goes, lunch bring salads, soups and sandwiches that tend to be on the light side, while dinner adds more substantial main courses (fire-grilled filet mignon, duck breast, grilled salmon, house-made pastas).

Of course, any place that bills itself as an "oyster grill and martini bar" has to serve oysters. Here, they offer three different types of oysters daily, depending on what's freshest. If you're a fan, go for the "Dirty Dozen," a sampling of four of each.

Sonoma ladies who lunch fill many of the tables at noontime, while at night the feminine room turns romantic with candlelight, flowers and windows that peek out on the garden.

## El Dorado



001

405 First St. West, Sonoma (at W. Spain St.)

**Phone:** 707-996-3220  
**Fax:** 707-996-3148  
**Web:** [www.eldoradosonoma.com](http://www.eldoradosonoma.com)  
**Prices:** rooms: \$145 - \$195

27

Rooms



heated



Photo: Reef

The El Dorado occupies a spot at the heart of historic Sonoma, located directly on Spanish Plaza in a recently renovated historic building. Laid out by Mariano Vallejo in 1835, the eight-acre site is the largest Mexican-era plaza in California.

Light and color set the hotel's 27 rooms aglow, while cool tile floors suggest the town's Spanish origins and four-poster beds made up with fine linens add romance. French doors open onto private balconies or terraces and admit a wash of sunlight into the rooms. Some look over the historic plaza; others face the restaurant terrace, which is shaded by a fig tree. Though most bathrooms offer only showers, they are well appointed. Electronics include a flat-screen TV, along with DVD and CD players, cordless phone and dataport.

If you don't mind casual service, the El Dorado presents good value for the money, as well as an alternative to the Provençal or Tuscan style that predominate in other Wine Country hostels. Savor seasonal California cuisine at El Dorado Kitchen (see *Sonoma restaurant listings*).