



2018 Trip Dossier

Cycling California Wine Country



TOUR AT A GLANCE:



US State: California

Length: 6 days

Departs: Napa

Trip code: ACN

Transport: Specialized Diverge bike and support vehicle

Group size: Maximum 12

Accommodation:

5 hotel nights

Meals: 6 breakfasts,

2 lunches and 2 dinners

Staff: Expert cycling guide and support member

Please see our website for detailed destination information and insider tips.

★ TRIP OVERVIEW

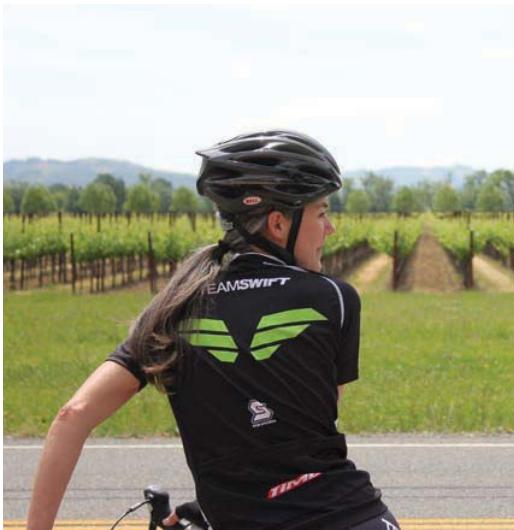
From vines to waves, and back again, join us for a ride through California's famous **Napa** and **Sonoma** countries. You'll get a taste of some of the best wine, beer and cycling routes California has to offer, as you embark on a multi-day adventure. From pastoral country roads under millennia old redwoods, to climbing rocky coastal cliffs, the diverse beauty of **Northern California's Wine Country** will leave you breathless if the route doesn't.

★ CYCLING TOURS

Why our cycling tours might be right for you...

You'll get the opportunity to ride with a specialist cycling guide on routes carefully crafted to showcase the very best of California's biking trails. That being said, we also offer a lot of flexibility for you to control your own ride, pace, etc. As a state renowned for generous wine lands, gentle mountains and a glistening pacific coast shoreline, this tour focuses on the foundations of the sport, and experiencing the thrill of the open road on two wheels. We use top-of-the-range 2018 Specialized Diverge Comp bikes and equipment that are perfectly suited to the diverse terrain of California's familiar and unfamiliar landscapes. Point to point rides not only allow you to get a truly unique sense of adventure, but they also take you into the lesser known parts of California whether you take the main route or the gravel grinder option. You'll be able to engage with local communities and encounter legacies of the Tour of California, among other trails that make these areas a hot spot for cycle enthusiasts the world over. We provide you with a group support vehicle and your own water bottle, with a support staff member to assist with repairs, hydration and nutritional boosts to keep you going.





HIGHLIGHTS:

- Recovery hot spring spa and massage treatment in Calistoga
- Send off lunch at craft beer favorite Stone Brewing restaurant
- Point to point rides with specialist cycling guide
- Cycle through verdant wine lands in iconic Napa Valley and Sonoma County
- Custom fitting on a 2018 specialised Diverge Comp Cycle
- Experience geothermal activity in Calistoga and incredible millennia old redwoods at Armstrong State Park

FEATURED RIDES:

- The Marshall Wall
- Willow Creek Wilderness
- West Dry Creek road
- The Geyser Loop

★ ITINERARY AND DETAILS

Day 1: Napa to Sonoma Starting/meeting point: 10am at the Best Western Inn at the Vines in Napa

Welcome to Northern California's Wine Country, home to nearly 1000 Vineyards and some of the best beer in the country! Join your group in Napa for a pre tour briefing, cycle fitting, and picnic lunch with your cycling professional and support staff as you prepare to set off on your journey. You'll start things off with a 30 mile ride to the city of Sonoma, with a taste of the hills to come. Spend the evening getting to know the city, and its historic colonial era Sonoma Plaza, which features numerous art galleries, restaurants and shopping options.

Route: via Glen Ellen

Distance: 30 miles

Elevation gain: 2956ft

Accommodation: Best Western Sonoma Valley Inn (or similar) | **Meals:** Breakfast and lunch included

Day 2: Sonoma to Bodega Bay Today is not for the birds, but the night may be as we finish our ride in Bodega Bay, the filming location for Alfred Hitchcock's "the birds". Today you will have 2 route options, as you can choose to push yourself to conquer the Marshall Wall, or enjoy a more level ride through pastoral Petaluma. With a total elevation gain of 4429ft, the Marshall Wall is considered by locals to be the best climb in the county. Grab some oysters or seafood fresh from the pacific, and head out to any of the incredible local beaches such as Bodega Head State Park, or Doran Beach to soak in the sun. But save room as you'll rejoin your group to share stories of the climb, and prepare for tomorrow's adventure with an included dinner.

Route 1: Via Petaluma and The Marshall Wall

Distance: 58 miles

Elevation gain: 4488ft

Route 2: Via Petaluma and Tomales

Distance: 48 miles

Elevation gain: 2461ft

Accommodation: Inn at the Tides (or similar) | **Meals:** Breakfast and dinner included

Day 3: Bodega to Healdsburg Today's ride will bring you through Sonoma Coast State Park, before following the Russian River back inland to the heart of Sonoma's Wine Country. Enjoy your included lunch break in the

shade of the awe inspiring, millennia old Redwood trees in Armstrong State Park. The next two nights you'll be staying in the quintessential wine town of Healdsburg, which serves as the hub of Dry Creek Valley, Russian River Valley, and Alexander Valley. Spend the night exploring fashionable boutiques, art galleries, and some of the best restaurants in Wine Country.

Route 1: Via Jenner and Willow Creek (dirt road), Occidental

Distance: 51 miles

Elevation gain: 4564ft

Route 2: Via Jenner, Duncan Mills, and Guerneville

Distance: 40 miles

Elevation gain: 2075ft

Accommodation: Best Western Dry Creek (or similar) | **Meals:** Breakfast included

Day 4 Healdsburg Loop Dry Creek/ Chalk Hill / The Geysers Explore more of the surrounding valleys, and vineyards with the option of two routes. You'll be exposed to the ashy remnants of volcanic activity in Chalk Hill, and the world's largest geothermal field known as the Geysers before returning to Dry Creek for a free afternoon of wine tasting or relaxation. One of the best, and most classic Sonoma County rides, The Geyser provide a challenging, remote ride, seeing a 2330ft elevation gain over 24 miles. Return to town down Dry Creek road, home, home to 50 unique and renowned wineries, which produce some of the best Zinfandel in the world. Stop by the historic Dry Creek General Store for an incredible selection of lunch options before enjoying a free afternoon to explore these local institutions.

Route 1: Via Chalk Hill and West Dry Creek

Distance: 40 miles

Elevation gain: 1319ft

Route 2: Via Geysers Loop

Distance: 54 miles

Elevation gain: 4373ft

Accommodation: Best Western Dry Creek (or similar) | **Meals:** Breakfast and dinner included

Day 5 Healdsburg to Calistoga Today's ride will see us leave Sonoma County for a return into the more rural northern section of the Napa Valley. En route you'll stop for an included lunch at the quirky Jimtown Store, a true Sonoma County Landmark. If you're still feeling strong, ride an additional 25 miles, with 5000ft of elevation gain through Middletown