

FAIRMONT SONOMA MISSION INN & SPA

| BY TRACY ELLEN BEARD

A visit to Sonoma Wine Country is incomplete without a stay at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa. This phenomenal five-star resort boasts delectable farm-to-table dining, comfortable, elegant, well-appointed rooms and suites, a fabulous wine selection, geothermal-fed mineral pools, an opulent spa, and access to the championship golf course at the Sonoma Golf Club nearby.

A Few Nights at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa

I spent a few nights at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa during a recent visit to Sonoma, California. I am very familiar with the area as I grew up only 30 minutes away from the resort. When I venture south to this region, I often visit the local wineries; however, I have never stayed at the Inn.

The Mission Spa Suite was the perfect place to indulge in a mini-wellness retreat. Traveling solo on this trip afforded me the time to lounge on the beautiful four-poster king bed, hog all the pillows, and read a book undisturbed. I spent time each evening in my Jacuzzi tub enveloped in heated water, breathing in the aroma of scented bath salts, watching the fire dance in the hearth, and sipping delicious bubbles. I savored this time of relaxation and appreciated the quiet.

Each morning, I made coffee and sat on my second-floor balcony overlooking a fountain in the nearby courtyard before heading out to explore the resort property.

The land at this AAA Four-Diamond resort has long been revered as a sacred healing ground by Native Americans. I thoroughly enjoyed meandering the long pathways, exploring the wide open spaces, and admiring the stunning landscape and towering redwood trees.

Walking the resort property became an extension of my wellness retreat. It was easy to escape the cares of this world while surrounded by such beauty. Small bridges led to colorful flowerbeds, and grass-lined paths ended in courtyards with wooden benches and water fountains.

The Fairmont Spa

The Spa boasts five thermal mineral pools ranging from 92 to 102 degrees and a Roman-style bathhouse with a soaking pool, hot tub, Halotherapy Sauna, and an Aromatherapy Steam Room. The outdoor terrace is available for registered guests of the Inn and guests with spa appointments in one of the 28 treatment rooms.

Gourmet Cuisine at the Inn

The Inn offers several dining options. The Water Tower Bar is open poolside during the daytime hours. CaliForno opens in the spring through Oct on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and Spa Café is open daily from late morning until late afternoon. 38° North Wine Bar opens daily from 4 pm until 10 or 11 pm, and Santé is open daily for breakfast, Sundays for brunch, and each evening from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

38° North Wine Bar is a popular place in Sonoma. Inspiration for this wine-centric lounge came from iconic wine regions that sit at the temperate latitude on the 38th parallel. These regions include Alicante, Spain; Calabria,



HOTEL



Italy; Hunter's and Hawke's Bay in New Zealand; and Sonoma Valley.

Numerous delicious items are on the menu at 38° North Wine Bar. One evening I dined on a tasty bowl of French Onion Soup with sourdough bread and melted gruyere cheese on top and Roasted Squash Flatbread with confit garlic, kale pepitas, and Vella dry jack cheese. There are many delicious wines to choose from, and their craft cocktail list is extensive.

Santé is the Inn's fine dining establishment. Executive Chef Jared Reeves oversees all food at the resort, but he shines at Santé, where he serves California Fusion cuisine. His meals are wine-focused and change seasonally to showcase local products.

Resort Activities

There is always something going on at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn. Executive Chef Jaren Reeves is partnering with renowned winemakers in Napa and Sonoma counties, creating delicious 4-course wine-paired dinners from April through September. These dinners take place in the Water Tower.

Each day, guests at the resort are invited to participate in wine tasting in the lobby from 4:30 – 5:30 pm. Local wines are showcased and change regularly.

Summer at the Fairmont means music on the front lawn. Each Friday and Saturday, June through October, guests can enjoy seasonal bites from CaliForno Street East and sip on their favorite cocktails and Sonoma wines from 38° North Bar while sitting by the fire-pits listening to live music.

Something for Everyone

Whether your goal is to sip on a glass of delicious local wine while listening to live music, eat delectable cuisine, soak in the mineral baths, read a book in your room, or discover all that Sonoma County has to offer, there is something for everyone at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa. ❖



