

*Exhilarating, Enveloping, & Essential*

CELEBRATING **33** YEARS

**NOB  
HILL**

# GAZETTE

MAY 2011 \$3.00





COURTESY FARMHOUSE INN

Farmhouse Inn, Russian River Valley



COURTESY BODIE GHOST TOWN

Bodie Ghost Town's Gold Rush spirit



COURTESY CALISTOGA RANCH

Calistoga Ranch overlooking Lake Lommel

## Drivable Destinations

There are so many wonderful and diverse getaways only a few hours away from those of us lucky enough to live in San Francisco. Now that the sun is shining and Spring Fever is in full pitch, you might want to plan a mini-break for two or a longer Mother's Day family adventure. Both are as easy as getting into your car, pulling out of the garage, and hitting the road. No security lines or personal pat downs required, and the drives themselves, through some of northern California's most gorgeous landscapes, are worth the trip.

### THE VAGABOND'S HOUSE, CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

There is so much to see and do in this quaint village by the sea; it could take weeks to enjoy it all. Happily for San Franciscans, multiple trips are an option. The picture-perfect European-style town is within reach via coastal Highway 1. Overnighting at The Vagabond's House Bed and Breakfast Inn will add even more charm to your visit. An English Tudor-styled country inn, it is well located. The sun-drenched courtyard is shaded by ancient oaks, and a waterfall and flowers galore create a tranquil haven, home to the largest stag-horn fern in Northern California (according to the owners). Each fairy-tale cottage has a cozy fireplace, quaint furnishings, and a private entrance. Vibrant beaches, art galleries, local restaurants, boutiques, and hidden courtyard gems are within walking distance. Big Sur, Pebble Beach, and Monterey Bay are a short drive away.

*Distance from San Francisco: three and a half hours.*

### BODEGA BAY

Movie buffs will adore a sojourn at this windswept town on the Sonoma coast. The setting for Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, filmed here in 1963, this seaside locale has something for everyone: white sand beaches, nearby vineyards, numerous regional and historical parks. Boating trips are a regular activity, so be on the lookout for sea lions and whales. Diving, kayaking, surfing, and horseback riding along the ocean are other local pursuits. Golf is also popular at several nearby country clubs in and around Bodega Bay. A side trip to the new Francis Ford Coppola Winery in Geyserville is also worthwhile, a place where visitors can dine in the rustic gardens, sample wines, or visit the Movie Gallery to see memorabilia from the director's five decade career. Stay in one of the charming little inns in town, or opt for elegance at one of the wine country's lavish resort-spas, such as Auberge du Soleil, less than an hour away in the Napa Valley. Don't forget to dine at the Tides Wharf and Restaurant, featured in Hitchcock's classic film and still frequented by its star, **Tippi Hedren**.