Visitors to Napa Valley are spoiled for choice when it comes to scenic accommodations, from posh spas surrounded by vineyards to cozy cottages nestled in the area’s verdant hills. Our most recent visit to this wine country, though, found us nestled serenely and unexpectedly charmed by a newly opened boutique inn smack in the middle of downtown Napa proper: The George (georgeinnnapa.com). Set along a row of stately mansions west of the Napa River, this late 19th century summerhouse might just be the most elegant of all, a done-up beauty that abounds with handsome ornamentation and stately gables (no wonder the place is listed on the National Register of Historic Places). Surrounded by towering palm trees that mask the lovely landscaped property, it’s a true gem in the heart of this residential neighborhood.

Inside, it’s equally inviting. After an extensive five-year renovation, the historic home—which was commissioned by prominent Napa resident George E. Goodwin Jr. in 1883—has been reimagined as a sophisticated inn with just nine unique rooms, preserving the grandeur of the original structure with a tasteful balance of elegance and comfort and of the moment luxury amenities, from heated bathroom floors and Molton Brown toiletries to comfortable mattresses and luxury bathrobes and bedding. Adding to the sense of luxury, a concierge is at the ready to help plan your Napa adventure, whether that’s scoring last-minute reservations or booking a scenic hot air balloon ride.

Sophisticated surroundings and luxe comforts? Check and check. But what we enjoyed most about our stay at The George was its beguiling setting, which put the charm of downtown Napa just footsteps away. From early morning strolls along the lazy Napa River to evening meals at hot spots like Angele and Mortimer, we walked every day, inhaled the heady scents of jasmine and rose that seemed to envelop the town like the most fragrant perfume. For those wishing to experience Napa Valley, The George makes an ideal base from which to explore, but it also reveals the secrets of Napa proper. You don’t even have to leave downtown to have a most memorable wine country experience.

In the heart of downtown Napa, historic mansion-turned-luxury inn The George beckons travelers in search of the ultimate in intimate accommodations.

BY P.J. ANDERSON

NAMASLAY ALL DAY

For one night, trade daily stresses for a yoga staycation—your body and soul will be eternally grateful.

BY MADISON DICKY

Breathe in positivity and breathe out anxiety at the Kimpton Marlowe Hotel’s (marlowehotel.com) Intention Factor Wellness Ritual this month. Curated by international yoga instructor, bestselling author, Yogahacker founder and Connecticut native Candace Calabrese-Tavano, this experience welcomes guests to quiet the noise of their unbalanced, overwhelming lives for an evening of self-care and reflection. Upon entering a deluxe guest room, roll out the awaiting mat for a 30-minute virtual yoga session with Tavano. As the calming vibrations of Om silence your creative mind, flow from one pose to the next, linking breath to movement—the world will surely fall away. By so much of our lives dominated by stress, taking the time to breathe optimally and moving to release tension throughout the body while also being fully present in the moment helps to release stress,” the yoga instructor explains. “We can’t control what happens each day, but we can control our reactions to what happens, and yoga definitely helps with that.” After a much-needed savasana, unwrap the marigold, curated by Tavano, with health- and wellness-focused goodies from small businesses. There’s no knowing which icon you’ll find, but each box is centered around intentions like self-care and healthy indulgences. As the evening continues, step back on the mat for a half-hour HITT session, or pick up the signed copy of the expert yogi’s book, Namaste, a quick tip-for-living your most authentic, happy life. Take clanor in the hotel’s restaurant Bambalino Kitchen & Bar, where health-conscious options like roasted beet salad offer the perfect opportunity to continue your wellness journey before coming in early after a mentally and physically transformative day. When your palate, centred and refreshed, Tavano’s job is done. “I hope guests will leave the retreat feeling reconnected, well rested and inspired to create more positive impact in their lives and the lives around them,” she says.