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CITY GUIDE

ENCHANTED
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CASA MADRONA HOTEL & SPA / SAUSALITO, CA

By
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SET JUST ACROSS THE BAY – AND JUST OVER THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE – FROM SAN FRANCISCO, THE TOWN OF SAUSALITO HAS A RICH AND INTERESTING HISTORY, FROM BEING A CENTER OF BOOTLEGGING AND RUM-RUNNING DURING PROHIBITION, TO BEING THE HOME OF AN ICONIC RECORDING STUDIO (ACTS LIKE BOB MARLEY, FLEETWOOD MAC AND METALLICA MADE MUSIC THERE), TO BEING THE HUB FOR THE OVER 400 YEAR-ROUND HOUSEBOATS THAT BOB ALONG THE BAY. IT'S ALSO LONG BEEN A POPULAR TOURIST SPOT, WITH DAY-TRIPPERS DRIVING OR FERRYING ACROSS FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO ENJOY THE CHARMING, SHOP- AND EATERY-LINED DOWNTOWN OR TAKE A BIKE RIDE ALONG THE WATER.

PINK FLOYD AT THE
MANSION AT CASA MADRONA**A MANSION GETAWAY**

And now, it's a place with a stunning new hotel, too: Earlier this summer, Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa unveiled its redone Mansion. Originally built in 1889 as a private home, the 11,000sf, 11-room Mansion is perched on a hill above the hotel's 31-room main building and 20 hillside cottages. Following extensive renovations, it now features breezy, elegant guest rooms and suites, each with balconies, views of Richardson Bay or the San Francisco skyline, and chic furnishings. One suite has been dubbed "Pink Floyd," in honor of its former rock-and-roll guests, though the theme is subtly limited to some original framed photographs and coffee table books.

The centerpiece of the revamped Mansion is the 5,000sf **Alexandrite Suite**, a one-bedroom suite complete with chef's kitchen; state-of-the-art, nine-panel media wall in the living room; and extensive terrace with firepit and gourmet grill. Along with all the in-room perks, guests who book this top suite also enjoy a host of extras like a dedicated concierge, private chef, yoga sessions, a yacht cruise around the bay



and luxury car service to explore the surrounding wine regions. The Mansion can be booked as a whole, or per room.

Guests of any **Casa Madrona room** should save time to enjoy on-site amenities like the excellent spa, where the treatment menu is themed around the Four Elements: Air, Earth, Fire and Water. (We particularly love the Sea to Shore massage, which combines Swedish movements with wave-like rocking and warm herbal compresses for reviving results.) Adjacent to the hotel, Poggio serves northern Italian fare – made with local ingredients and herbs and veggies grown on the property – in a lively atmosphere. www.casamadrona.com



RAMS GATE WINERY

Photography by Adrian Gregorutti

EXPLORE THE AREA

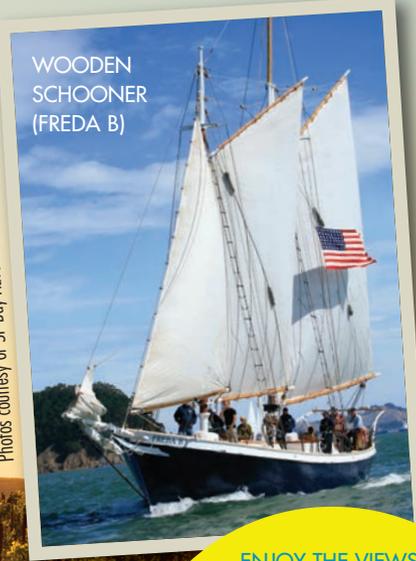
WHILE IN SAUSALITO, DON'T MISS THESE HIGHLIGHTS:

GO WINE TASTING:

Sausalito is just a short drive from northern California's wine country, with some of the wineries and vineyards of Sonoma just 30 minutes away. Make a beeline for **Ram's Gate** (www.ramsgatewinery.com) to hang out in the stunning new visitor's center, take in the Valley views and sample the top-notch Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs.

TAKE A RIDE: Rent a bike from the **Sausalito Bike Company** (www.sausalito-bikeco.com), located a short walk from the hotel, for a ride along the water and docks (or, if you're game, up into the hills). You'll pass some of the houseboat pods, and get a feel for the town's Mediterranean-inspired architecture.

STROLL DOWNTOWN: The hotel is right on Sausalito's main street, so just head out the doors to explore quirky shops, local haunts like **No Name Bar** (where you never know what well-known artist might crash open mic night) and The Trident, a gloriously retro waterfront restaurant and bar. (Ask for Janis Joplin's old table, tucked right along the windows.)



WOODEN SCHOONER (FREDA B)

Photos courtesy of SF Bay Adventures

ENJOY THE VIEWS:

To get the best feel for Sausalito, Marin County and the Golden Gate Bridge, the view is from the water. Casa Madrona works with **SF Bay Adventures** (www.sfbayadventures.com) to book private or group sails on yachts or sailboats; for a really unique experience, head out on the Freda B, a beautifully restored historic schooner.

Photography by Rocco Celestin

