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Clockwise from top left: The Ink House's feminine Harriet Room; the property's main structure was built in 1885; the expansive kitchen, available for private cooking demonstrations, features a massive locally made wooden table set with Palecek chairs; a residential-style bathroom; a charming desk in the Helios Room; the panoramic third-floor observatory is the perfect place for a glass of Castellucci vino at sunset.

Next-Level NAPA

The Ink House brings history with an opulent and bespoke modern touch to California's wine country hotel scene.

*By Kathryn Romeyn
Photography by David Duncan Livingston*

It's not as if Napa was hurting for high-level hospitality before The Ink House opened several months ago. But sibling proprietors Marco and Maria Castellucci saw an opportunity to create a five-star boutique-y bolt-hole that's more than the sum of its Anichini linen-clad bedrooms, fine Zalto glassware and impressive wine portfolio. "The Ink House is meant to be more than an inn, a boutique hotel or a typical B&B—it's an experience," says Marco. "We wanted to take our Italian heritage and hospitality—combined with our relationships in the Napa community—and create an exquisite place to stay [with] an intimate atmosphere [that] provides unmatched personalized luxury experiences and service rivaling the most renowned hotels in the world."

Those arriving via helicopter from SFO to Napa Jet Center are met by the Bentley house car, and the director of operations—who also takes care to ensure personal preferences from vino to favorite pastries (think Model Bakery's famed English muffins) are stocked in the kitchen—can arrange unadvertised, curated bookings. Possibilities include a private caviar and wine pairing with a renowned vintner, or a one-on-one cooking experience in the circa-1885 house's expansive modern kitchen with a three-Michelin-starred chef.

And while there's plenty to eat, drink and see in the surrounding wine country, the four-room property is so plush, comfortable and charming that staying put should be No. 1 on the to-do list. Recline in the 360-degree-view observatory with a book; enjoy the outdoor fire pit; or cuddle up in the blue suede California king bed in the Elvis Room, a tribute to the late singer who made that very space his home while filming *Wild in the Country* in 1960. Each bedroom is unique, while service by the *maitre d'étage* is respectful and discreet—but with a familial warmth. "It is meant to feel like your dream home," says Maria. "From the moment you walk in, there is a sense of place and comfort." Rates from \$1,000 per night, 707.968.9686, inkhousenapavalley.com