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Kenwood Inn and Spa evokes Italian countryside in California wine country

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Kenwood Inn and Spa entrance.

Mary Gilbert

Any delusion first-time guests might feel when they enter the grounds of [Kenwood Inn and Spa](#) that they inadvertently traveled to the [Italian countryside](#) rather than [California wine country](#) is perfectly understandable.

Serenely nestled along Sonoma Highway



Mary Gilbert

(Highway 12) within the rolling hills and bountiful vineyards of Sonoma County's Valley of the Moon, [Kenwood Inn and Spa](#) is reminiscent of Italian villas. A local family, who loved vacationing in Italy and was enthralled with all things Italian, brought back the influence and established the property in Kenwood as a small bed and breakfast in the 1950s.

Kenwood Inn and Spa is designed with a "very Tuscan feel," observes Michael S. Collins, general manager. "You walk through the front door and feel transported to another world."

Rustic architecture, honey-colored walls covered with climbing ivy, sunning terraces, flower-bedecked flagstone courtyards, fruit trees (persimmon, kumquat, loquat, and lemon), lush and fragrant vegetation (jasmine, for one), ornamental statuary, a heated saline outdoor pool, two hot tubs, bubbling fountains, and pastoral views of the vines artfully project a Mediterranean mood.

Further, Kenwood Inn and Spa, an adult-only property, cultivates a sense of tranquility, peacefulness, romance, and relaxation.

Adding to the ambiance of this intimate hideaway hotel in the heart of Sonoma County wine country are the 29 elegantly appointed **rooms** (two suites, 27 guest rooms) situated among three private courtyards. Two styles are available. Beautiful rooms, with their dark, rich colors, exude an old world European feel. Garden rooms are lighter and brighter. Each room features its own unique décor, art work, and custom furnishings.

A signature item in each room is a fireplace. Other guest room amenities include: garden, vineyard, or woodland views; balconies in the upper rooms and terraces in the ground-level rooms; **Caudalie** bath products, which count anti-aging and protective vine and grape extracts among their ingredients; monogrammed Italian linens; luxurious robes; daily chef's-choice breakfast; and Wi-Fi access. In the spirit of serenity, no guest room has a television, and pets are not permitted. Personalized service is another hallmark.

In the guests-only restaurant, diners enjoy **Tuscan-inspired fare**, such as sea bass with a Kalamata olive puree, pork using both the belly and loin, wood-fired pizza, and bruschetta with Italian burrata. The chef sources fresh ingredients from such local purveyors as **Oak Hill Farm** and Mary's Organic Chicken. The inn provides full-service catering for weddings, intimate gatherings, and small meetings. In addition to offering extensive wines by the glass and bottles in the wine bar, the inn partners with local wineries each Friday afternoon for complimentary wine tastings.

Conde Nast Traveler Readers Poll consistently

names **The Spa at Kenwood** one of the top three resort spas in the U.S. Apropos to its location in the heart of California wine country, the focus is on vinotherapy, the rejuvenating power of the grape, with products and treatments from Caudalie.

The Spa at Kenwood offers a comprehensive menu of facial and infusion treatments, body treatments, massages, vinotherapy baths, and spa packages, notes spa director Jessica Schorr. With the Good to Glow card, guests may buy four treatments and receive the fifth one free.

An attractive billboard strategically placed on Highway 12 on the northern approach to Kenwood Inn and Spa pledges guests will “Experience Italy in Sonoma.” This premier retreat fully delivers on that tantalizing promise.

When you go

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Charlotte Travel Examiner

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