

The Symposium for Professional Wine Writers at Meadowood Napa Valley

Frequently Asked Questions

Question (Q): How do I get to Meadowood Napa Valley?

Answer (A): Please visit <http://www.meadowood.com/contact/> for directions to Meadowood from a number of different airports and starting points.

Q: What are my transportation options once I arrive in California (SFO, Oakland, Sacramento airports)?

A: Our preferred transportation provider is Napa Valley Tours and Transportation as they have very knowledgeable drivers and excellent service. Their rate from the airport (San Francisco, Oakland, or Sacramento) is approximately \$260 dollars each way in a sedan, all inclusive. Please call (707) 251-9463 to schedule your ride, and please indicate you are an attendee with the Wine Writers Symposium at Meadowood Napa Valley to receive this rate. The Evans Airporter Shuttle bus is an alternate, less expensive option of transportation from San Francisco and Oakland airports to Napa and costs \$29 (cash only) one way. For a complete rate and schedule listing you may call (707) 255-1559 or visit the website at http://evanstransportation.com/rates_scheduled_airporter.php. If you choose the Evans bus, you will still need to arrange for a taxi to take you to Meadowood from Napa. An additional transportation provider to assist in this process is Napa Red Cab. A one way trip from Napa to St. Helena is approximately \$60, not including a tip. Please call (707) 257-3222 to schedule. Of course, you may decide to rent a car to drive to Meadowood. Parking is complimentary for guests.

Q: Will I need my laptop during the Symposium?

A: We strongly encourage you to bring your laptop or tablet as we have very limited computer resources in our Business Center. However, if you are not able to bring your laptop or tablet, you are welcome to make use of the Business Center, conveniently located next to several Symposium event rooms.

Q: Is it OK to make audio or video recordings during Symposium sessions?

A: Our policy does not allow attendees to record the speakers and sessions.

Q: What is the appropriate attire for the Symposium?

A: Casual attire is appropriate during the Symposium, however, we would request that your choice of attire not be so relaxed as to include sporting or workout garments. Tuesday dinner attire is "wine country casual" with jackets for men optional. This may be translated as a slightly more polished version of traditional casual wear. Dark, well maintained denim paired with a nice sweater or crisp blouse and blazer; knit skirt with a sweater, tights and flats; khakis with a polo shirt and fleece/sweater vest. Thursday dinner is more formal with jackets suggested for men and "wine country elegant" attire for women. This may be translated as a casual version of traditional cocktail attire - elegant but comfortable.

Q: Will the meals during the Symposium be seated?

A: As a general rule, the meals will not be seated. The exceptions to this are as follows: During some lunches and dinners, individual tables will be hosted by faculty members. Each table will have a sign with the name(s) of the hosts. This will allow you to enjoy the company of several faculty members during mealtime throughout the Symposium.

Q: What is the weather like in the Napa Valley during the month of February?

A: February temperatures in Napa Valley range between 40 and 60 degrees during the daytime and we could experience rainy days, sunny days or a combination of both. Please check the National Weather Service prior to arrival. Evening temperatures may drop to the mid-30s.

Q: May I still sign up for an individual coaching session?

A: Coaching sessions will be assigned on a first-come/first-served basis. Please contact Julia Allenby at jallenby@winewriterssymposium.org if you haven't already requested a coaching session.

Q: May I still sign up for a breakout session?

A: Please contact Julia Allenby at jallenby@winewriterssymposium.org if you haven't already specified a breakout session.

Q: What do I do if I have food allergies, dietary restrictions or am allergic to down pillows or comforters?

A: If you listed your allergies and restrictions on your application, they have been noted and will be passed along to our Wine & Cuisine and Housekeeping teams.

Q: Since I am on my own on Wednesday evening, how can I connect with other attendees to make plans to dine at a local restaurant?

A: There will be informal group sign-up sheets available during various sessions/meals on Tuesday and Wednesday. NVV is kindly providing bottles of Napa Valley wine for Symposium participants to take to dinner on Wednesday evening. Pick up a bottle from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in the Woodside Room Here is a [list of recommended restaurants](#) from Napa Valley Vintners.

Q: Is there a way I can arrange for transportation to take me to dinner on Wednesday and perhaps share with other attendees?

A: Meadowood offers complimentary house car service to downtown Yountville and St. Helena. It can be reserved on a first requested, first served basis. You may also pre-arrange a taxi ride with Napa Red Cab by calling (707) 257-3222. The cost will be between \$20 and \$50 each way not including a tip. However, if you can find people going to the same restaurant you may share a ride and split the cost.

Q: Will there be time to explore Meadowood and use the new Spa or the Health & Fitness Center during the Symposium?

A: We encourage you to arrive on Monday or early on Tuesday to take advantage of Meadowood facilities. On Wednesday and Thursday, most of the day will be spent in workshops, panel discussions and coaching sessions. Please contact our Spa directly at (707) 967-1275 for information regarding spa services, pricing and hours, and contact our Health & Fitness Center at (707) 967-1750 for hours of operation, fitness class schedule, hiking trail maps, etc.

Q: I am departing on Friday, February 24; when is the best time to check out of my room?

A: Please check out before Noon. If you would like, a Meadowood staff member will be pleased to arrange for the safe storage of your luggage until you are ready to depart. We will be unable to offer late check-outs on Friday as the hotel is fully reserved for Friday evening.