

# 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 \$245 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 option of transportation from San Francisco and Oakland airports. It makes infrequent stops to Yountville; it most frequently stops in Napa. 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](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 Saint Helena Wine Tours. A one way trip from Napa to St. Helena is \$60, not including a tip. Please call (707) 963-9644 to schedule.

### **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.

Please feel free to bring your laptop or tablet with you to all Symposium sessions, except for the Unplugged Session from 9:15 to 10:30 AM on Thursday. This will be a digital-free, Twitter-free, recording-free session. All digital devices will be checked at the door.

### **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. However, the Symposium will be recording several sessions and we plan to make them available to attendees afterward.

### **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 (in winter) 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. Consider an outfit you’d typically choose for a cocktail party or dinner at a nice restaurant, then dress it down just a little, perhaps by skipping the stockings, stilettos and dangling earrings. The look is still 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 all lunches and dinners, individual tables will be hosted by Speakers. Each table will have a sign with the name(s) of the hosts. This will allow you to enjoy the company of several speakers over mealtime throughout the Symposium.

For dinner Thursday evening, the 15 Napa Valley vintners who provided Fellowships will be seated with their Fellowship recipients. Please note that if you are a Fellowship recipient your seat will be marked by a place card. Please feel free to ask a member of the staff to help you find your seat. Your vintner hosts look forward to spending the evening with you.

**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:** Unfortunately all coaching sessions have been filled. However, sometimes a last minute spot will open because of a cancellation. Please contact Julie Sigourney at [jsigourney@meadowood.com](mailto:jsigourney@meadowood.com) to find out if anything is available.

**Q: May I still sign up for breakout sessions?**

**A:** Yes, most sessions have extra spaces for last minute sign ups. Please contact Julie at [jsigourney@meadowood.com](mailto:jsigourney@meadowood.com) to find out which sessions still have space available.

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

**A:** Be sure to mention all food allergies, dietary restrictions or additional concerns to Julie Sigourney before you arrive at the Symposium. Julie will make all appropriate notes and will pass them 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 3:45 to 5:30 PM in the Meadowood Reception Lodge. A few local restaurants have offered to waive corkage to Symposium attendees. See the list of participating restaurants in the Resources section of the Symposium website.

If you or your group would like to try another local restaurant, here is a [list of recommended restaurants](#) from the 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:** You may pre-arrange this with Napa Valley Cab by calling (707) 257-6444. The cost will be between \$45 and \$50 each way not including a tip. However, if you can find people arriving at the same time you may share a ride and split the cost.

**Q: Will there be time to explore Meadowood and use The Health Spa during the Symposium?**

**A:** Although you will have some time on your own, most of the time will be spent in workshops, panel discussions and coaching sessions. You will, however, find yourself with a bit of spare time over the course of several days.

Please contact our Health Spa directly at (707) 967-1275 for information regarding hours of operation, fitness classes, hiking trail maps, spa treatments, pricing, etc.

**Q: I am departing on Friday, Feb. 20; when is the best time to check out of my room?**

**A:** Please check out by 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb 20 before boarding the bus to CIA for the remainder of Friday's program. If you would like, a Meadowood staff member will be pleased to arrange for the safe storage of your luggage until you return from the CIA.

All participants checking out on Friday but not going to CIA are requested to check out by 12:00 Noon. We will be unable to offer late check-outs on Friday as the hotel is fully reserved for Friday evening.