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**WHERE THE (CALIFORNIA) FUN BEGINS...
INN MARIN**

(Novato, CA) --- The recent completion of a \$2 million renovation and its central location in the San Francisco Bay Area make Inn Marin a truly great find for those interested in uncovering great value while enjoying the ideal, central location of the property.

Inn Marin is located in Novato, just a short distance from California's famed wine country regions of Sonoma and Napa as well as within a quick jaunt into San Francisco. It's convenient highway location makes it easy for those who want to trek around taking in all the sites and amusements...and the list of options is plentiful! With all said, there is truly something for everyone...and Inn Marin is the ideal home away home, providing great value, family style service and central location.

With all of the possibilities of exploration, it is hard to know where to begin. Below is a suggested itinerary that is sure to have travelers leaving their hearts in the San Francisco Bay Area.

DAY ONE: ARRIVAL

Arrive at San Francisco International Airport and transfer to bustling downtown San Francisco. Take a tour of Fisherman's Wharf and Ghirardeilli Square, being sure to experience the tastes of this (most popular) San Francisco destination. Continue across the iconic Golden Gate Bridge and arrive at Inn Marin, the quaint urban resort nestled on five acres in the heart of Marin County. On the way, be sure to stop at the North end viewpoint to experience the panoramic views of San Francisco and the bay from the other side of the bridge. After checking in, enjoy dinner at Rickey's, located inside Inn Marin, featuring classic American comfort food and regional cuisine. Dinner and cocktails are served daily and live Jazz is on the menu on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

DAY TWO: NAPA

After a blissful night sleep at Inn Marin, wake up and prepare to experience the famed northern California Wine Country. Tour Viansa Winery and Italian Marketplace, a beautiful hilltop villa offering generations-old winemaking knowledge, as well as unique Italian wines. Tour the winery, savor the lush Barberas, Dolcettos, and Pinot Grigios, and wander the marketplace while enjoying the sweet and flavorful treats. (Tip: The Italian marketplace at Viansa is an ideal place to shop for gourmet gifts and accessories)

Continue on and tour the Sonoma Plaza, a unique square filled with the aromas of the huge bay and eucalyptus trees that line the meandering walkways. Sonoma Plaza is also home to the Bear Flag rebellion memorial, which commemorates the day in June of 1846 when American settlers rode into town, hoisted up a homemade flag, and declared California an independent republic. Wander through the charming shops and museums that line the streets and enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants that showcase the best of the region's bounty.

Depart Sonoma for the Napa Valley and take pleasure in the view of acres of Vineyards before arriving at Niebaum Coppola. Tour this winery and museum owned by famed movie director Francis Ford Coppola. The museum displays movie memorabilia, such as the 1948 Tucker from the movie of the same name, Don Corleone's desk and chair from the Godfather and Mr. Coppola's five Oscar statues.

If a little celebration is in order, stop, tour and taste sparkling wine at Domaine Carneros enroute back to Inn Marin. This winery is housed in a classic 18th century chateau-style building, inspired by the historic Chateau de la Marquetterie, which is owned by the French Champagne house Tattinger. After a little bubbly, enjoy dinner at Stone Tree Golf Club, one of the finest San Francisco Bay Area golf courses.

DAY THREE: NOVATO

Today, visit the beautiful Olompali State Historical Park, which overlooks the Petaluma River and San Pablo Bay. Parts of this site have been inhabited by the Coast Miwok from 6,000 BC to the early 1850's. View Kitchen Rock where early people ground acorns and seeds into a fine flour for cooking. Several historic buildings have been preserved and efforts are currently underway to recreate an authentic Miwok village. Hike on one of the numerous trails and enjoy the less urban side of the Bay Area. Tour the Marin Museum of American Indians, which houses displays of artifacts from the Coastal Miwok and Pomo Indian cultures.

Continue to the heart of Novato and stroll down the tree-lined streets and historic district of Old Town for an unhurried and enjoyable shopping experience. If it happens to be a spring or summer month, join the locals as they do their shopping at the Tuesday evening Farmer's Market and enjoy a light dinner street side at the farmers market, or at one of the many restaurants in Old Town.

DAY FOUR: SAN FRANCISCO

Today, travelers will delight in a more in-depth tour of San Francisco. Proceed across the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco and spend the morning touring Chinatown, one of North America's largest and oldest Chinatowns. For those interested in literature, pick up a copy of *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan's novel based on her experiences in this well-known neighborhood.

Wander a few blocks north to North Beach, the city's Italian quarter, which retains much of its original character, especially in its restaurants and cafes where travelers are likely to come across the smell of basil and the warmth of a robust Italian accent. North Beach is centered on Washington Square, which is enclosed by the twin spires of St. Peter and Paul church. Be sure to stop in at Beat-era San Francisco watering hole Vesuvio Café and browse the paperback bookstore City Lights, established in 1953 by Beat Poet and publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti, San Francisco's first poet laureate. Hike up the winding staircase and marvel at the views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Aquatic Park, Alcatraz, Pier 39, Treasure Island and the Bay Bridge from the top of Coit Tower.

Take a ferry to the beautiful town of Sausalito, known for its picturesque art galleries and beautiful views of San Francisco. Tour the streets and shops and enjoy the fabulous seafood in one of the restaurants with breathtaking views of San Francisco as a backdrop. As the fog descends, notice the glow of the skyline from across the bay.

DAY SIX: SONOMA WINE COUNTRY

Spend the morning touring the shops and wine tasting rooms around the Healdsburg Town Plaza, which is surrounded by shops, restaurants, galleries, hotels and spas. Pick up picnic supplies at the famous Oakville Grocery and enjoy a picnic on the plaza. After lunch, tour the back roads and wineries of the Alexander and Dry Creek valleys, just north of Healdsburg. On the way back to Novato, have dinner in Santa Rosa at (Kristi: Is it Willie's Wine Bar?).

DAY SEVEN: THE SAN FRANCISCO ARTS SCENE

No trip to the Bay Area would be complete without time spent exploring San Francisco's innovative art scene. Journey to South of Market (SOMA) and tour the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the California Historical Society, Ansel Adams Gallery or the Metron Center. Enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants that abound in this trendy area.