



MICHELIN

San Francisco Bay Area & Wine Country 2008



Professionally researched by our anonymous inspectors so you can make the perfect choice

Reliable recommendations for a range of budgets

More than 80 new listings

El Dorado Kitchen

Californian



011

405 1st St. W. (at W. Spain St.), Sonoma

Phone: 707-996-3030

Lunch & dinner daily

Web: www.eldoradosonoma.com

Prices: \$\$



Brought to you by the proprietors of Auberge du Soleil in Rutherford, El Dorado Kitchen premiered in June 2005 inside the El Dorado Hotel (*see hotel listing*) on Sonoma's plaza. Country-casual meets contemporary-chic in the large, airy dining space, where whitewashed walls contrast with dark woods. The room's focal point is a communal table fashioned from a single slab of 200-year-old wood.

Chef Ryan Fancher, formerly at The French Laundry, distills the essence of seasonal products in what he bills as "food of the sun." His enticing menu is just as likely to feature an albacore tuna Niçoise tartine for lunch as it might Niman Ranch pork osso buco at dinner. On a warm evening, the stone courtyard sets the scene for an intimate tête-à-tête.

El Dorado

002

405 1st St. W. (at W. Spain St.), Sonoma

Phone: 707-996-3220 or 800-289-3031

Fax: 707-996-3148

Web: www.eldoradosonoma.com

Prices: \$\$

27
Rooms



El Dorado Hotel

Wine Country ▶ Sonoma County

The El Dorado occupies a spot at the heart of historic Sonoma, located directly on Spanish Plaza in a recently renovated historic building. Laid out by Mariano Vallejo in 1835, the eight-acre site is the largest Mexican-era plaza in California.

Light and color set the hotel's 27 rooms aglow, while cool tile floors suggest the town's Spanish origins and four-poster beds made up with fine linens add romance. French doors open onto private balconies or terraces and admit a wash of sunlight into the rooms. Some look over the historic plaza; others face the restaurant terrace, which is shaded by a fig tree. Though most bathrooms offer only showers, they are well appointed. Electronics include a flat-screen TV, along with DVD and CD players, cordless phone and dataport.

If you don't mind casual service, the El Dorado presents good value for the money, as well as an alternative to the Provençal or Tuscany style that predominate in other Wine Country hostleries. Savor seasonal California cuisine at El Dorado Kitchen (*see restaurant listing*).