

Photos sourced from NVC Website & River Trail Village Instagram

# International Student Handbook

NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE

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# Welcome



## Superintendent/President's Message (International Students)

Dear Students,

Welcome to Napa Valley College! Whether you are beginning your college journey, returning to continue your education, preparing to transfer to a university, advancing your career, or exploring a new interest, we are honored that you have entrusted us with this important chapter of your journey. Choosing to study in another country is a life-changing decision, and we are committed to making your experience academically, personally, and culturally enriching.

At Napa Valley College, we believe education has the power to transform lives. It opens doors to opportunity, creates pathways to meaningful careers, and strengthens our community. Every day, we see students pursue goals that can change not only their own futures, but also the futures of their families. Whatever path has brought you here, we are committed to creating a college experience where you feel a strong sense of belonging, receive the support you need to succeed, and stay on a clear path toward achieving your goals and aspirations.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and the entire Napa Valley College community, welcome. We are delighted that you have chosen Napa Valley College as your home away from home.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gayle Pitman
Superintendent/President

### Napa Valley Community College
### District Board of Trustees

**Jennifer Baker,** President, District 1

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**Riley Love,** Student Trustee

**Board of Trustees meetings are generally scheduled on the second Thursday of the month with public session beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the McPherson Administration Building, Room 1538.**








# 10 Reasons To Choose Napa Valley College

## GET A SUPERIOR EDUCATION at Napa Valley College

Ranked as one of the top two-year colleges in California (among community and private colleges), Napa Valley College (NVC) consistently demonstrates exceptional student success—whether transferring to a four-year university or entering the workforce.

## Why Choose NVC?

**Exceptional Transfer Pathways**
- Guaranteed transfer to California State Universities (CSUs) through 17 Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT), plus strong pathways to UCs and top private universities.

**Affordable, High-Quality Education**
- Lower tuition costs than four-year universities, with the same academic rigor—ideal for international students looking to save on education expenses.

**Small Class Sizes = Big Support**
- Enjoy a 25:1 student-to-faculty ratio for personalized attention, supportive instruction, and stronger academic outcomes.

**On-Campus Housing**
- Live at River Trail Village, a modern residence hall just steps from class—safe, convenient, and community-oriented.

**Hands-On Career Training**
- Explore 48 career-ready programs in areas like viticulture, culinary arts, and more—develop practical skills that prepare you for the global workforce.

**Athletics & Campus Life**
- Join competitive sports teams like baseball, soccer, volleyball, and more—be part of the NVC Storm and build lifelong friendships.

**Safe, Scenic Location**
- Study in world-renowned Napa Valley, known for its natural beauty, safety, and welcoming community. It's the perfect mix of inspiration and comfort.

**Cultural & Academic Support**
- Access international student advising, counseling, tutoring, and events that help you adjust, connect, and thrive.

**Dedicated Faculty & Personalized Learning**
- Learn from experienced instructors who are passionate about teaching and committed to helping you reach your goals.

**Experience California Life**
- Be close to San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and the Pacific Coast—NVC is your launchpad to explore, learn, and grow in one of the most vibrant regions in the world

# Degree Programs

Napa Valley College, a California Community College, offers a variety of Associate Degree programs. Full-time students can typically complete the required 60 units in two years, while part-time students may take longer depending on their schedules and responsibilities.

We offer three types of degrees:

- **Associate of Arts (AA) degrees**, many of which are designed for students planning to transfer to four-year universities.

- **Associate Degrees for Transfer (AD-T**), which provide a clear pathway to the California State University (CSU) system.

- **Associate of Science (AS) degrees**, which include both transfer-oriented and career-focused options in areas such as Health Occupations and Criminal Justice.

**Transfer Center**
The Transfer Center has many resources to support student transfer. A Transfer Day is held on campus every fall and representatives of four- year colleges visit the center year-round. The Transfer Center is located in room 1335 or can be reached at 707-256-7333.

**Transfer Success**
Napa Valley College is the bridge for many students to a four-year college or university. Academic standards are high and follow-up studies show that our students excel in four-year programs. Our top transfer schools are in close proximity— Sonoma State, Sacramento State, San Francisco State, UC Davis, and UC Berkeley. Students also transfer to many independent and out-of-state institutions. The college has Transfer Admission Guarantees with UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, UC Merced, and St. Mary's College.

# Degree Programs

## Associate Degrees for Transfer

- Anthropology
- Art History
- Communication Studies 2.0
- Economics
- Elementary Teacher Education
- English
- History
- Kinesiology
- Music
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Social Justice Studies-Ethnic Studies
- Social Justice Studies-Gender Studies
- Social Justice Studies-LGBTQ Studies
- Social Work and Human Services
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Studio Arts
- Theater Arts
- Administration of Justice
- Business Administration 2.0
- Computer Science
- Early Childhood Education
- Environmental Science
- Film, Television, and Electronic Media
- Hospitality Management
- Mathematics
- Physics

## Associate In Arts Degrees

- Art History
- Culinary Arts-Professional
- Digital Art
- Ethnic Studies
- Graphic Design
- Music-Instrumental
- Music-Vocal
- Musical Theater
- Photography
- Psychology
- Spanish for Heritage Speakers
- Spanish for Non-Heritage Speakers
- Studio Arts
- Theater Arts-Acting
- Theater Arts-Technical Theater

## Associate In Science Degrees

- Accounting
- Addiction Studies
- Administration of Justice
- Business Administration
- Child and Family Studies
- Digital Design Graphics Technology
- EMT-P Paramedic
- Entrepreneurship
- Human Services
- LGBT Education
- Machine Tool Technology
- Natural Science
- Pre-Health Science
- Psychiatric Technician-Three Semester
- Viticulture
- Welding Technology
- Wine Marketing and Sales
- Winemaking

# Application Deadlines

For Fall semester admission, all materials must be submitted by **May 1.**

For Spring semester admission, all materials must be submitted by **October 1.**

# Admission Steps & Required Documents

**Choose Your Program**
F-1 Students are permitted to take any Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS) or Associate Degree for Transfer (AD-T).

**Complete Online Application Form**
Submit your personal and academic information online to begin the application process. Be sure to select your program of study before submitting.

**Copy of Passport**
A clear, valid copy of the photo identification page from your passport issued by your home country is required.

**Bank Statement**
A bank statement no older than 3 months is required to verify financial resources for the applicant. Documentation must show that applicants meet the required financial minimum for a full academic year (*$32,866). If your account is outside the U.S., the bank must stamp or sign the statement for verification. Students requesting an F-2 Dependent I-20s must also provide proof of an additional $5,000 in financial support per dependent.
**Please note: The financial minimum requirements for F-1 students are set on an annual basis and are subject to change without prior notice.*

**Financial Certification Form**
**(Only Required for Students with a Sponsor or Family Member Covering Expenses)**
The Financial Certification Form is required for all applicants who will not be self-funding their education. If a family member, sponsor, or other third party will be paying for your tuition and living expenses, this form confirms their commitment to financially support you while studying at Napa Valley College.

# Admission Steps & Required Documents (cont.)

**F-2 Dependent Requirements**
**(Only Required if Requesting Dependent (F-2) I-20s)**
Students requesting dependent (F-2) I-20s must submit a clear, valid copy of the photo identification page from each dependent's passport issued by their home country, and the financial support documentation must show an additional $5,000 USD per dependent.

**Transfer Students**
Students transferring from another U.S. college or university must submit copies of all previously issued I-20s from any institutions they have attended. A completed Transfer Form, signed by the current Designated School Official (DSO), is also required if applicable. In addition, students must confirm their eligibility for a SEVIS record transfer and ensure that a SEVIS transfer release date has been scheduled. A copy of the student's most recent I-94, available at i94.cbp.dhs.gov, must also be provided as part of the transfer documentation.

**English proficiency test scores and official transcript evaluations may be submitted electronically through the respective testing or credential evaluation service portals:**

**English Proficiency Test Score**

- Official English Proficiency Exam scores may be submitted directly to Napa Valley College. We accept scores from the following tests, with the minimum required scores listed below:

| English Proficiency Exams | Minimum required |
|---|---|
| TOFEL | Computer-based (133)<br>Internet-based, iBT (45)<br>Paper-based (450) |
| Duolingo English Test | Score: 75 |
| IELTS | Band: 5.0 |
| iTEP | Undergraduate 3.0 level |
| Oxford ELLT | Score: 4 |

# Admission Steps & Required Documents (cont.)

**Applicants may waive the English Proficiency Exam requirement if they meet one of the following:**

- **Primarily English-Speaking Country Waiver** – Students from any of these primarily English-speaking countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British, Indian Ocean Territory, Canada, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guinea, Ireland, Jamaica, Malta, Montserrat, New Zealand, Pitcairn, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, St Helena, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom, United States, Virgin Islands (British)

- **English-Medium Instruction (EMI) Waiver** – Completion of 3+ years at an accredited secondary school where English is the principal language of instruction. Submit an official transcript and a signed letter on school letterhead confirming "Medium of Instruction: English."

- **U.S. College English Coursewor**k – Completion of transfer-level Academic Reading and Writing (e.g. - ENGL C1000 or equivalent) at a U.S. accredited college/university with a grade of C or better. Submit official transcript and course description.

- **Partner Pathway**– Must submit official transcripts reflecting successful completion of ELS Level 109.

**Official Transcripts Evaluation**

- Applicants must provide proof they have at least the equivalent of a U.S. high school graduation. Foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an international evaluation service for general education credit. We recommend using International Education Evaluations.

    - Evaluations must be completed by a recognized credential evaluation service. For a full list of approved transcript evaluator services, please visit: https://naces.org/members/. Official evaluations can be sent to Napa Valley College International Students Program.
    - International Transcripts can only be evaluated for transfer credit if they are from a school that has United States accreditation from an ICAS-approved accreditor.

# Immigration Information

**F-1 STATUS**

Once you are admitted to NVC, you will be issued a certificate of eligibility called an I-20 for F-1 students. This certificate of eligibility (also known as a visa document) must be used to apply for a student visa at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy. After your student visa is issued, you can make plans to come to the U.S. (Note for Canadian citizens: a student visa is not required but you must obtain F-1 status when you enter the U.S.)

**SEVIS**

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a database system used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USCIS) and SEVIS-approved educational institutions to monitor students in F-1 status. Your SEVIS number is printed on your I-20.

**What you will need to apply for an F-1 Student Visa:**

1. **Acceptance Letter from Napa Valley College**
    - You must be accepted into a full-time academic program at a U.S. school certified by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).
2. **Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility)**
    - Issued by your U.S. school's Designated School Official (DSO) after admission and financial verification.
3. **Valid Passport**
    - Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your intended stay in the U.S.
4. **Completed DS-160 Form**
    - Complete the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (Form DS-160) and print the confirmation page for your interview.
5. **Visa Application Fee Receipt**
    - Pay the nonrefundable visa application fee and retain the receipt.
6. **I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt**
    - After receiving your Form I-20, pay the SEVIS fee at fmjfee.com and keep the receipt.
7. **U.S. Visa Photo**
    - Provide a recent passport-style photo that meets U.S. visa photo requirements (2x2 inches, white background).

# Immigration Information

**8. Proof of Financial Support**

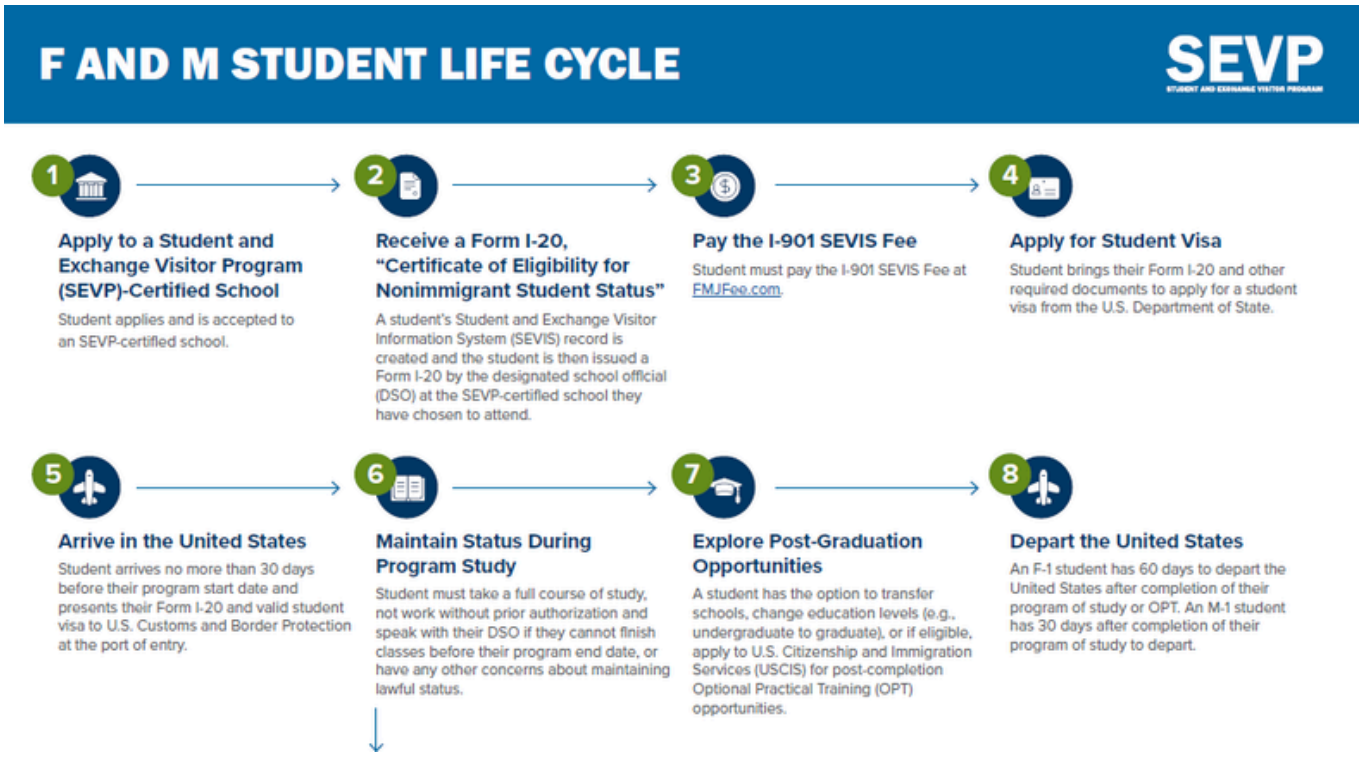
- Demonstrate sufficient funds to cover tuition and living expenses for your entire course of study. Acceptable documents include:
  - Bank statements
  - Affidavits of support
  - Scholarship letters
  - Financial guarantee letters

**9. Evidence of Ties to Your Home Country**

- Provide documentation showing your intent to return home after your studies, such as:
  - Job offers
  - Family obligations
  - Property ownership

**10. English Proficiency Test Scores (if applicable)**

- Some visa officers may request proof of English proficiency, depending on your background and program requirements.



# Tips for Your Visa Interview

**1. Be Clear About Your Academic Plans**

- Know the program, degree, and school you've been accepted to.
- Be prepared to explain why you chose that school and how it fits your future goals.

**2. Show Strong Ties to Your Home Country**

- The F-1 visa is non-immigrant. You must provide proof to the officer that you plan to return home after your studies.
- Mention family, job prospects, property, or future career plans in your home country.

**3. Know Your Financials**

- Be ready to explain who is funding your education (e.g., parents, sponsors, savings).
- Understand and articulate the amounts listed on your bank statements or financial documents.

**4. Practice Concise Answers**

- Visa interviews are often under 5 minutes.
- Answer clearly, honestly, and confidently—avoid overly long or vague responses.

**5. Bring Organized Documents**

While you may not be asked for everything, bring:

- I-20 Form
- SEVIS Fee Receipt (I-901)
- DS-160 Confirmation Page
- Valid Passport
- Visa Photo
- Admission Letter
- Bank Statements/Financial Docs
- Academic Transcripts/Test Scores (if applicable)

**6. Dress Neatly and Arrive Early**

- Business casual attire is appropriate.
- Arrive early to allow time for security checks and screening.

**7. Be Honest**

- Never falsify documents or lie. If you don't know something, it's better to say so honestly than guess.

**8. Stay Calm and Polite**

- The officer may seem serious—that's normal. Remain respectful and don't argue or show frustration.

# Traveling to Napa

Fly into **San Francisco (SFO)** or **Sacramento (SMF)**—each about 1.5 to 2 hours from Napa. Use shuttle services or rideshare apps (like Uber or Lyft) to reach campus. NVC does not currently offer airport pickup.

Students with confirmed housing at River Trail Village should coordinate their move-in timing directly with the housing team. To do so, please contact: rivertrailvillage@assetliving.com

**We strongly recommend arriving during daylight hours and arranging transportation in advance to ensure a smooth and stress-free arrival experience.**



Photos sourced from VisitCalifornia.com



Photos sourced from VisitCalifornia.com

# On-Campus Student Housing

📍 **On-campus convenience** | 🤝 **Supportive student community** | 🌍 **Cultural connection**

**For a closer look at housing follow them on instagram!**
**@rivertrailvillage**








**Live Where You Learn: River Trail Village at Napa Valley College**

River Trail Village is Napa Valley College's brand-new, on-campus student housing community—offering international students a safe, convenient, and inclusive home just steps from your classrooms. Set against the beautiful backdrop of Northern California's wine country, River Trail Village provides fully furnished rooms, high-speed internet, and shared community spaces that make it easy to connect, study, and thrive.

Enjoy the peace of mind that comes with 24/7 campus security, walking access to academic support services, and a built-in community of fellow students from around the world. Whether you're adjusting to life in the U.S. or exploring all that Napa has to offer, River Trail Village helps you feel at home—right from day one.

**For more information on international student housing costs please reach out to housing directly at rivertrailvillage@assetliving.com**

# Upon Arrival

- **Arrive at Campus Housing or Your Accomodation**
  - Move in, unpack, and take time to get settled—whether you're living in NVC campus housing or off-campus accommodations.
- **Check in with the International Student Program**
  - Meet your DSO (Designated School Official)
    - Julia Perez - Academic Affairs Specialist, International Student Program
      - McPherson Building 1500, Room 1533
      - (707) 256-7154
      - julia.perez@napavalley.edu
    - Provide Your I-94
    - Provide proof of Insurance
    - Submit your U.S. address, contact number, and emergency contact
- **Attend Required Orientation**
  - Learn about visa rules, student responsibilities, and campus resources
  - Receive a campus tour and meet key staff
- **Get Your NVC Student ID Card**
  - Visit the Welcome Center
  - Bring photo ID and your student ID number
- **Meet with an Academic Counselor**
  - Finalize your Student Educational Plan (SEP)
  - ***Confirm you're enrolled in at least 12 units, with 9 in-person***
- **Purchase Textbooks and Supplies**
  - Visit the NVC bookstore (online or in-person)
- **Explore Campus Services**
  - Health Center
  - Library
  - Cafeteria
  - Math & Writing Center
  - Student Life Office
- **Secure Transportation Info**
  - Get your bus pass from the Basic Needs Center
- **Join Clubs or Student Activities**
  - Connect with other students and find your community early

# Tuition and Fees

International students are required to pay the current per-unit tuition rate for international students, along with any applicable college fees. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website.

**There is no financial aid available for international students.**
**Payment is due immediately upon registration. Students must pay in full or setup a**

Napa Valley College enforces a payment deadline. By each deadline, students must pay in full, or they must set up a payment plan with 30% down and making on-timne payments to avoid being dropped from **classes**

For full details on deadlines, please visit the Pay-to-Stay Website or contact the Cashier's Office at (707) 256-7188.

Tuition and enrollment fees will be collected in full at the time of registration. Based on the 2025- 2026 academic year, the estimated cost of attendance is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| $12,984 | Tuition & Fees based on 24 units minimum required for F1 visa student. |
| $11,835 | Food and housing (based on home stay) |
| $1,089 | Books and other educational expenses |
| $1,818 | Transportation |
| $4,140 | Miscellaneous and personal |
| $1,000 | Mandatory medical insurance |
| **$32,866** | **Total** |

**Tuition is subject to change.**
Costs above are based on the 2026-2027 academic year and will be adjusted annually. Students who choose on-campus housing will have a variable cost for housing depending on which type of accommodation they select. In support of the F-1 visa application, a current bank statement must show a minimum balance to cover at least the amount needed for the total cost of one academic year's expenses.

# Maintaining Status

Maintaining your F-1 status requires following U.S. immigration regulations. The information below outlines your key responsibilities and resources to help you stay compliant. If you have questions or plan to make changes to your studies, employment, or travel, contact your Designated School Official (DSO).

**Homeland Security 🔗 https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/**
**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 🔗 https://www.uscis.gov/**
**U.S. Department of STATE 🔗 https://travel.state.gov**

## Responsibilities for Maintaining F-1 Status

**Maintain Full-Time Enrollment**
- Enroll full-time each semester (minimum 12 units, including at least 9 in-person or hybrid units).
- Obtain DSO approval before dropping below full-time enrollment.

**Keep Your Documents Current**
- Maintain a valid passport.
- Keep your Form I-20 accurate and up to date.
- Request a program extension before your I-20 expires if additional study time is needed.

**Work Only with Authorization**
- Do not work without authorization.
- On-campus employment is generally limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session.
- CPT, OPT, and other off-campus employment require prior approval.

**Report Changes Promptly**
- Notify your DSO within 10 days of changes to your address, phone number, or legal name.
- Report changes to your major, program, graduation date, or transfer plans.

**Travel Carefully**
- Ensure your I-20 has a valid travel signature before leaving the U.S.
- Carry your valid passport, visa, and I-20 when re-entering.
- Be aware of visa validity requirements before traveling.

**Follow Grace Period Rules**
- After completing your program, you have a 60-day grace period to depart the U.S., transfer schools, or change status.
- OPT participants also receive a 60-day grace period after OPT ends.

**Stay in Contact with Your DSO**
- Keep your SEVIS record up to date.
- Consult your DSO before making changes that could affect your immigration status.

# Student Services & Resources

**For a comprehensive overview of all student services and resources, you can refer to the Student Services & Resources webpage or view the Student Resource Guide.**

### 📍 Napa Valley College Main Campus
Campus Map: View Map

### 🚓 College Police Department
Location: Building 2250
Phone: (707) 256-7770
Services: Campus safety, emergency response
Website: College Police

### 🛒 Basic Needs Center
Location: Building 1202 (below the Little Theater)
Phone: (707) 256-7347
Email: bnc@napavalley.edu
Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Services: Food pantry, housing assistance, financial wellness resources
Website: Basic Needs Center

### 🏥 Student Health Center
Location: Building 2250
Phone: (707) 256-7780
Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Services: Medical care, health education, mental health services
Website: Student Health Center

### 🎓 Admissions & Records / Welcome Center
Location: Student Services Building, 1300
Phone: Admissions & Records: (707) 256-7201
Phone: Welcome Center: (707) 256-7215
Email: WelcomeCenter@napavalley.edu

### 🧑‍🎓 Office of Student Life
Location: Building 1300, Room 1342
Phone: (707) 256-7340
Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Services: Student clubs, leadership programs, campus events
Website: Office of Student Life

# Find your **future** here.

NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE

International Students Program
2277 Napa Vallejo Hwy.,
Napa, California USA 94558