

Paired Up: Napa's Andrea Immer Robinson

All around California's Napa Valley, there are weekly "Andrea" sightings. Napa, after all, is still a mostly rural farming community where everybody knows your business—especially when you're in the wine biz. So, having a bonafide food and wine celebrity show up in your kids' classroom or in line at the grocery store still has locals a-twitter. A former New Yorker, Robinson adopted Napa as her new hometown about a year ago.



Robinson (better known by her maiden name, Immer) is one of only a handful of female master Sommeliers in the world, the author of several books and now, host of *Pairing with Andrea* on the Fine Living Network. But despite her encyclopedic knowledge of wine, what's made Robinson so popular is her ability to make wine approachable to the everyday drinker. Her new show will focus on pairing wine with food, and is being shot at the Mustard Hill Estate, just up the hill from Mustard's Restaurant in Rutherford. While shooting her holiday special (on a surprisingly warm fall day) at the Estate, she let us in on a few of her favorite things—in Napa and otherwise.

What's one of your favorite secret finds? Trail rides at the state parks. The Bale Grist Mill. We love being outside.

What winery are you
Frank Family Vi

What winery are you really excited about right now?
Frank Family Vineyards.

What's the ha
Krispy Kreme
Gerwurtztram

ess needs a dry

Who do you have your eye on as one of the next great female sommeliers?
Melissa Monosaff at the Four Seasons in Philadelphia and Tysan Pierce at the Heathman Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

Are you a what they call a super taster—someone who has extra taste buds and can really taste things like wine differently than the rest of us?
No. I mean, I don't think so. There are differences between women and men, though. I think women in general have a more acute sense of smell...and that's how you really "taste" wine. Plus, I think women are just better at articulating what they are sensing.

