

We hosted Liza Zimmerman of Forbes at Brewery Gulch Inn in late March, and I'm happy to share with you her resulting article -- which is a dedicated review of the property!



## AN IDYLIC GETAWAY ON THE CALIFORNIA COAST

*MENDOCINO, CA* — (Apr. 18, 2023) — Mendocino is always enchanting no matter how much you have traveled. The wild configuration of rocks and ocean waves crashing over them, on its coast, are mesmerizing. It is never easy to get here—even from San Francisco with all the curvy roads—which is part of the charm and the challenge. However, you will feel like you scored when you do.

This beautiful stretch of the Northern California coastline is blissfully undeveloped as some stretches of road don't even have guardrails between you and the Pacific Ocean. It also somewhat resembles Big Sur and some of the most dramatic Italian ocean-facing destinations, like much of the span of the Sardinian. Mendocino is also blessed by its proximity to the Anderson Valley, just inland by a little more a half an hour, where some of the best cool-climate California wines are made with a focus on Alsatian whites, Pinot Noir and delicate sparkling wines. The bulk of the producers in the Anderson Valley are small, but big names like French Champagne house Roederer and Duckhorn have also made inroads with beautiful estates.

### The Brewery Gulch Inn

The hotel's name dates back to Prohibition when the cove in front of the property was used to smuggle booze. Today the hotel's cozy lobby has a fireplace to heat up next to and a stunning view of the Pacific Ocean. Weather permitting you can sit on the deck and read or enjoy a glass of bubbles. The shelves, and tables, are stocked with chess and other board games as well as magazines and even the New York Times. The Brewery Gulch Inn is an 11-room property with dazzling views of the coast. Each room has a cozy roaring fireplace to warm yourself by in winter. The property also has daffodil-inflected gardens that were drenched with rain when I was there. It is separated from the actual coast by a small silver of highway but there are lots of divine Ocean-sidewalks.

The Inn does not do full food and beverage service but has an over-the-top, egg-focused breakfast featuring the best chilaquiles I have ever had. It is then followed by a light dinner with a wine happy hour. The Inn pours a handful of mostly local wines early in the evening to go with the bento-box offerings. These are generally hearty bowls of soup like jambalaya or Indian-influenced chicken recipes. A little side salad and a small dessert wrap-up the meal.

The food was delicious and its 5:30/6:30 pm serving time helped me to learn to eat a little bit earlier before turning in for the night, before the fireplace. I do wish the dinner offerings were a bit more abundant because there is definitely no pizza—or Chinese food—delivery here and few restaurants are open late in Mendocino if you are still hungry. However, I do expect that most guests who motor into this divine space are probably happy hitting the hay earlier in the evening.

The hotel is part of the original 10-acre farmstead of Mendocino pioneer, Homer Barton, and is close to 48,000 acres of meadows and redwoods.

## **Mendocino Town and the Region**

The hotel offers stunning views of the town of Mendocino. This tiny gem of a city resides in a county with only 90,000 residents and glitters on the water. Resort and restaurant building has fortunately been kept to a minimum here so properties are small and not always directly on the water.

Ft. Bragg is Mendocino's slightly larger sibling 20 minutes away and has cool restaurants like the Princess Seafood, which is run by an entirely female crew of fisherwomen in a local marina. The town also has probably the best sock shop in the world: and perhaps the only one dedicated to the fuzzy, colorful world of socks and the occasional pair of stockings.

**Mendocino remains one of the best places in California to unplug!**

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