

FIVE PLACES

Making hay with barns

Whether or not you leave the door open, it's a good chance you weren't raised in a barn. A few places, however, were raised originally *as* barns. Now, instead of crumbled, picturesque relics begging to be part of a photographic essay,

you have lodgings, restaurants, wineries and museums. Here's a few modern spots with rural roots that even Bes-sie would approve of.

— Carole Terwilliger Meyers, Special to The Chronicle

1. Eden Vale Inn, Placerville ▶▶ Sleep tight in contemporary rooms fitted into a repurposed 1918 hay barn. All have outdoor seating, and two have a two-person Japanese soaking tub on a private deck. When not busy relaxing by a slate fireplace in the living room, where the barn's timbered ceilings soar to 27 feet, guests can wander extensive gardens. 1780 Springvale Road, Placerville; (530) 621-0901; www.edenvaleinn.com.

2. Display Hall museum at Audubon Canyon Ranch/Bolinas Lagoon Preserve, Stinson Beach

Visitors come here to see the great blue herons and snowy egrets that nest in the ranch's tall redwoods each spring. They also usually browse this museum inside a converted 1867 milking barn left from the days when the ranch was a dairy. It features an 18-foot ceiling, and its rustic weathered wood is now whitewashed. Look closely and you'll see cow hoofprints worn into the concrete floor at feeding stations. 4900 Highway 1, Stinson Beach; (415) 868-9244; www.egret.org; open March 20 through July 11, 2010; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

3. Kozlowski Farms, Forestville This longtime family-owned-and-operated business produces berry vinegars and jams, wine jellies and fruit butters made without sugar. They are available year-round — along with 14 kinds of house-made pies — in the farm's aptly red-painted apple packing house (the original barn burned down and was replaced in 1967 with this barnlike structure). 5566 Highway 116 N. (Gravenstein Highway), Forestville; (707) 887-1587; www.kozlowskifarms.com.



Eden Vale Inn

Eden Vale Inn has turned a 1918 barn into contemporary lodging in Placerville (El Dorado County).

4. Barndiva, Healdsburg ▶▶ Not a real barn, but designed and constructed in 2004 to look like a big old barn on the outside, this bar-restaurant melds 16-foot ceilings with a spare, contemporary interior decor. The closest a cow has ever come to it is as part of the menu, but diners enjoy the airy space, and you can't go wrong beginning with the vegetarian fritto misto appetizer and a colorful cocktail. 231 Center St., Healdsburg; (707) 431-0100; www.barndiva.com.



Katy Raddatz / The Chronicle 2007

5. Melrose Vineyards, Roseburg, Ore. Located on a scenic bench of the South Umpqua River, just off Interstate 5, this vineyard is known for producing a premium Pinot Gris and Syrah as well as unusual varieties such as Pinotage and Baco Noir. You can sample them in the rustic tasting room inside a restored hay and stock barn circa 1904 — it has a 50-foot-high ceiling — and perhaps stay on for a picnic. 885 Melqua Road, Roseburg; (541) 672-6080; www.melrosevineyards.com; complimentary tasting.