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Hunters Gather for Open Season on Eggs One Day Only -- No Limit April 20, Yountville Park Special Bounty for Bagging Rare Ones

(Photos by Devon Avery and Sharon Stensaas)



Brix Is New Again: Agrarian Chic Interior, Comfy Bar

A Review by Steven Miller
Steven Miller Design Studio

I love that we keep it fresh here!

Over the years I have enjoyed several meals at Brix restaurant. I like to go during daylight because the setting is just so beautiful. The patio is a stunner, and the garden and vineyard offer a near perfect view of the Kelleher family vineyards with a backdrop of the Mayacamas range in all of its splendor.

On the occasions that I have gone and sat inside or after dark, the experience was good but not as pleasurable. The dining was good, but the environment was off. The Tuscan

interior was totally incongruous with its Esherick-esque, Northern Californian Contemporary exterior.

When sitting at the bar, one's view was directed at a wall just adjacent to the main entry of the restaurant. YOU were the first thing people saw as they entered — awkward at best.

The adjoining areas were heavy and overwrought and suffered at the inward focus that the night sky brought.

While driving past Brix on Highway 29 over the last year, I noticed changes to the exterior: a whitewash to the clapboard siding, new plantings, and changes to the lighting.

My interest was piqued, as these changes looked so light and fresh. Were these signals toward something larger happening? They were indeed.

Since closing Brix for renovations in January, owner Valerie Kelleher along with help from the ubertalented team of Kimberly Nunn and Dan Worden from ShopWorks, have refashioned the interior to amazing effect!

Gone is the heavy Tuscan decor, replaced by a light, "agrarian chic" interior signaled by the changes on the outside, which I later learned were the first moves by this design team.

In their boldest move they

tore out the old bar and replaced it with super-comfy banquettes of olive metallic faux leather with cozy round wooden tables that face out to the dining room and the splendid patio and views beyond.

Surfaces inside have been given a similar white enamel finish, and the designers fashioned a custom, hexagonal mosaic tile floor treatment that surrounds the area adjacent to the relocated stone-topped bar.

The interior furniture and lighting were all either refreshed or replaced to great effect.

Bottles were added to the

existing chandeliers, and they add a sparkle that was missing before.

Valerie Kelleher told of trying almost 50 chairs before landing on a very satisfying upholstered rush chair, meant for exterior, but perfectly at home in this dining room.

All of this serves to lighten the look and the mood of the space, bringing the garden and views into the mix inside.

There is a lot to offer here, and the newness and setting is beautiful. I look forward to spending more time here with friends.



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	High	Low
Wednesday 4/17	75	44
Thursday	83	47
Friday	80	50
Saturday	68	49
Sunday	75	44
Monday	89	45
Tuesday	89	53
Precipitation =	nil	
Season Total =	39.91	
Last Year =	17.92	

Town Gets Water From Napa; CalVet Assessing Filters

Yountville is currently getting its water from the City of Napa rather than its regular source -- Rector Reservoir.

The switch was made before dawn on Saturday at the request of CalVet, which owns and operates the reservoir and the water treatment plant that supplies the Town.

A turbidity problem was recognized at the plant, and they needed to determine the cause.

"This may be due to the need to clean and replace the roughing filters. The

plant is assessing the condition of the filters, monitoring the water and will have more information next week," reported CalVet's Lindsey Sin.

Roughing filters are primarily used to separate fine solids from the water that are only partly or not retained at all by a stilling basin or sedimentation tanks. They act as physical barriers and reduce the solid mass.

This is the second time this month the Town has switched from Rector water to Napa water. The first time the Town

requested the switch in response to some customer complaints about musty smelling and tasting water. That switch lasted for five days.

These switches come with increased costs to the Town. Yountville's Public Works Director Joe Tagliaboschi said Napa water is double the cost, and some staff overtime was incurred in the recent switchover because it came on a Saturday.

The primary difference water customers may notice as a result of the switchover is lower water pressure.