

# ESSENTIALIST

STAY | NAPA VALLEY

## History and Hospitality at Calistoga's The Francis House

Words by Fran Endicott Miller

*"Owners Rich and Dina Dwyer utilized their collective years of design and real estate development expertise to create their luxurious boutique inn, and their fusion of skills has produced a hospitality gem."*

*Long considered a Calistoga eyesore, The Francis House now reigns as one of Napa Valley's most heralded and beautiful structures, thanks to the remarkable efforts of owners Rich and Dina Dwyer. The San Francisco based duo—and Napa weekend regulars—swooped-in to purchase the property just weeks before its scheduled demise. Originally built in 1886 and serving as Calistoga's hospital from 1919 to 1964, the building sat empty and crumbling in its prominent corner location for nearly five decades, yet the Dwyers recognized its potential.*

They spent three years carefully and authentically restoring the structure's French Second Empire architecture before opening it as a sumptuous boutique inn. Dina, with an interior design degree from Parsons School of Design in New York City, and Rich, with his 30-year background in developing, building, and remodeling some of the finest homes in the Silicon Valley, never compromised. Every detail was deliberately chosen, from fabric to fixtures.

