



Summer in Napa

Marina Adair

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When Alexis “Lexi” Moreau caught her husband, Jeff, sampling the sous-chef’s more intimate wares in their New York restaurant, she ran—all the way back to her hometown of St. Helena, California. Six months later, Lexi has no husband and no restaurant. But she does have a three-step plan: First, convert her grandmother’s bakery into her dream bistro. Second, ignore Grandma’s matchmaking attempts. And third, avoid Marco DeLuca, her ex’s commitment-phobic, distractingly sexy best friend.

In school Lexi was off-limits for Marco. After all, she was his buddy’s girl. But she’s still as smart and as gorgeous—and apparently as immune to his charms—as she used to be. Yet the simple fake romance they agree upon to dodge Lexi’s grandmother’s matchmaking plans soon turns deliciously complicated. And the sultry summer might bring together all the right ingredients for Marco to win the only woman he’s ever wanted.

Summer in Napa Details

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From Reader Review Summer in Napa for online ebook

Janga says

Alexis Moreau is back in St. Helena, California. Once the golden girl of her hometown, she is returning with a divorce decree so new the ink is barely dry and with her self-esteem in tatters. Her faithless ex was supposed to be her soul mate and forever love, but Lexi didn't realize there was an expiration date on her high school romance that morphed into marriage. Now former husband Jeff is already someone else's husband, and there is no room for Lexi in the New York restaurant she helped to make a success. She's hoping that fulfilling an older dream of turning her grandmother's patisserie into a bistro will give her new purpose. But first she has to cope with a string of unwanted dates her matchmaking grandmother arranges and the ambivalent feelings Marco DeLuca, her ex-husband's best friend and perennial best man is evoking.

Marco DeLuca has always known that Lexi Moreau was off-limits for him, no matter how much she appealed to his libido and to his heart. He needs to focus on getting the old hotel he is transforming ready for the Summer Wine Showdown. Besides, even though technically Lexi is free now, Marco knows that getting involved with her would violate the man rules of romance. Or so he keeps telling himself. But although his head knows he should ignore Lexi, the rest of him is not getting the message.

When the two agree to fake a summer romance, it soon becomes clear that intentions are just tinder for the sparks that fly when this combustible twosome is together. Summer and wine and chocolate and a hero and heroine who finally have a chance to rectify the bad choices their hearts made earlier—it sounds like a perfect recipe for romance to me.

I finished Kissing Under the Mistletoe, Adair's first book in her St. Helena's Vineyard series giggling over the abundance of Rudolphs, and I started the second book giggling over Lexi's window adventure. Both books mix laughter with family dynamics, small-town atmosphere, and sigh-worthy moments to produce just the kind of entertaining escape many romance readers are looking for.

One of the things I liked best about the book is that there is a balance of fraternal support and friction among the DeLuca brothers, a blend I find more believable than the idyllic sibling relationships I sometimes see in romance. I admit I found the family's conviction that Marcus was destined to be a player and a screw-up irritating. But I know that once a family member is cast in a role, breaking out of it is nearly impossible. So I accepted their actions as credible even when I deplored them.

If you are a fan of light romances that are fun to read with likeable primary characters and some scene-stealing secondary characters (a child in the first book, Marco's dog Wingman in this one), I recommend Marina Adair. I look forward to seeing more of the DeLuca family.

Kristen says

In Marina Adair's Summer in Napa, the second installment in the St. Helena Vineyard contemporary romance series, she tantalized us with a delicious treat in this contemporary romance. After a brutal divorce, Alexis "Lexi" Moreau fled from New York to return to her hometown of St. Helena, California, to start over. She decided to start from scratch to help her grandmother run her shop and have her own bistro. And that's

when she ran into Marco "Marc" DeLuca, the best friend of her ex-husband. From there, they stirred up a friendship that blossomed into a fake romance, when they had eyes for each other. For Marc, he always wanted Lexi and had gotten himself into a mess with signing a deal with him. Their fauxmance had heated up into a romance, when secrets and lies came out into the open with a surprising twist in the end when justice will be served on a cold platter.

Susan says

Good starting over/friends to lovers story. Lexie grew up in St. Helena and dreamed of turning her grandmother's bakery into a bistro. Instead, she followed her high school sweetheart to New York, where they opened their restaurant, Pairings. But somehow, all the things she wanted took second place to Jeff's plans, until the day she found him indulging in his own pairings with her sous-chef. Now she's back home, ready to follow her long-delayed dreams. Only it hasn't started out the way she planned.

If it weren't for bad luck, Lexi would have no luck at all. From her late night arrival and sneaking into the apartment over the bakery, to locking herself out on her way to get her suitcase from her car, she has a rough morning. Then she gets stuck in the window of the bakery as she tries to sneak in without being spotted by anyone out on the street, only to be discovered by Marco DeLuca, her ex-husband's best friend and currently the last person she wants to see.

Marc had been looking forward to Lexi's arrival, even though he shouldn't. He's been crushing on her since he was fourteen, but his buddy Jeff asked her out before he could. Now, the "bro-code" says you don't poach your friend's girl, even after they've broken up, but his heart isn't listening.

I enjoyed the development of their relationship. Marc and Lexi had been friends for a long time, except for the period since the divorce. Marc had been unable to figure out what to say to Lexie, and as a result said nothing, leaving her feeling hurt. Now that she's back in town, he has a chance to make it up to her. He begins by trying to be just the friend and supporter that she needs, but his attraction to her keeps growing. I loved his inner conversations as he reminds himself over and over that she's off limits, only to forget everything the minute he's with her. Lexi doesn't want to get involved with anyone right now; she just wants to concentrate on her plans. Unfortunately, her grandmother has a bazillion dates already lined up for her, plus she's trying to fight the crazy things she feels around Marc.

I loved their interactions. Lexi has seen Marc as a player all these years. He's well-known for the variety and short tenure of his women. She gives him a hard time about his current problem, even as she tries to help him. Marc may be a player, but with Lexie, he is completely different. I loved how closely he watched her and saw her struggles. Jeff's actions had done a number on her self-confidence, but Marc had an unexpected sensitivity and seemed to know just what to say or do to give her the boost she needed. He also could think on his feet and came up with a brilliant idea - a faux romance to get her grandmother to lay off the matchmaking and protect him from his more aggressive pursuers. It wasn't long before the "faux" was dropped from the romance, as they began to drop their guards. Marc also has to deal with his reputation within his own family. Because of his actions after the deaths of their parents, his siblings still look at him as the family screw-up. However, he has worked hard to make his hotel a success, and Lexi recognizes that immediately. I loved the way that she gave him the same belief and support that he gave her.

There is also a lot going on around them. The town is getting ready for the Great Wine Showdown, a huge event. Marc has stuck his neck way out in using his recently renovated hotel as the site. There are many

issues creating headaches for him. The longstanding feud between the DeLucas and the Baudouins threatens the wine-tasting itself. Marc's brothers are constantly on his case about one thing or another. Marc's sister Abby is running newspaper ads about her "missing Dick" of a husband, the battle for the caterer has come down to Lexi versus the woman who wants Marc for her own, and Marc is keeping a huge secret from Lexi. I loved the small town politics and personalities that brought all of this to life. The grandmothers were a hoot with their mix of modern and traditional values. I loved the food showdown between Lexi and Natasha, as Lexi strives to regain her mojo when it comes to unique dishes.

The biggest obstacle is one that Lexie knows nothing about, except for the jerking around she's been getting from Jeff. He is a man I detested from the get-go. His treatment of Lexi during and after the divorce is scum-of-the-earth worthy, as he made it impossible for her to use the recipes she developed for Pairings in her new place. Jeff has also been lying like a rug to Marc to gain his cooperation for his expansion plans - plans that once again will stick it to Lexie. Unfortunately, Marc doesn't figure this out until he's in deep with Lexie, and then he doesn't know how to fix it. I ached for Lexie when she found out, as her feelings of betrayal nearly leveled her. I loved the support she got from her friend Abby, and how she picked herself up yet again and went on. I ached for Marc too, as he realized just how badly he had screwed up. Though he can have major problems with his brothers, when the chips are down, they are there to support him when he needs it. I loved Gabe's comment "you don't fuck with our family, our wine, or our women." Marc's "go big" moment at the end is amazing, and he comes through for Lexie in a big way.

This was my first book by this author, but it won't be my last. Her other books are now on my "plan to read" list. I'm especially looking forward to reading Frankie and Nate's book.

Duchess Nicole says

I like stories about women who lose it all only to find out that the best is yet to come. I also love friends to lovers stories, so this was exactly my cuppa. Throw in some nummy food descriptions and I was a goner!

Alexis and Marco have chemistry out the wazoo...and it takes a bit, but have patience, my friends. It's worth the wait to get the fireworks explosions that seem to lie in wait for these two to touch.

"But that's like saying we are perfect for each other because I'm tall or have two eyes."

"I like my women tall, and two eyes are damn sexy."

The small town atmosphere is quaint yet hip all at the same time. The feeling of all of these old friendships and family feuds is perfect for when you want to escape into someone else's life for awhile. These are normal, real people, with everyday problems somehow made captivating by Marina Adair.

My only complaint is that I'm too vindictive for the way things eventually worked out. I wanted the ex to literally crawl on the floor begging forgiveness only to get booted out the door after witnessing a passionate, never-ending kiss between the woman whom he now realizes is the love of his life and his ex-best-friend....Yeah, that would have been great. Hahahahaha!!! Not to say that the ending wasn't satisfactory. It was great. I just wanted more revenge...cuz I'm vengeful like that. *shrug*

This is a series that circles around the DeLuca brothers and the one DeLuca sister. I'm stoked to get to read the other stories now. Marina Adair writes fantastic light contemporary romance. For fans of Bella Andre, Jill Shalvis, Terri Osburn...

Siv30 says

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Nika says

this bored me to death. so many unnecessary details, no real dialogue. for such a boring mess of a book, I truly don't understand the ratings.

GraceMyBookSnack says

A perfect pairing just like great food and fine wine!

Marina Adair has done it again with book 2 of the St. Helena Vineyard series! Summer in Napa is as charming, witty, and fun as the first book, only this time Adair sets out to create the perfect romantic pairing with two long-time, good friends.

Marco DeLuca is the DeLuca brother we get to know all about in this story. Marco has always loved women and living the single life. So when his friend, Lexi Moreau, moves back into town things are shaken up a bit. He's always considered her off-limits, and still does, even after her divorce from his best friend. However, the lines of friendship start to blur as Marco and Lexi embark on a little summer "fauxmance".

I adored Lexi! She's back in her hometown of St. Helena to move on with her life and build her dream bistro. It's her time to make a name for herself and shine. There's so much intricate details that go on that involve family, friends, and small-town traditions. One thing is for sure, this story is so delicious, not only in the slow build of the intense romance between Marco and Lexi, which I very much appreciated, but also, Lexi is a chef, and the food she creates just makes my mouth water! Really, try not to read this on an empty stomach.

From the food, beautiful wineries, to the local pride, Marina Adair continues to feature the distinct allure of the Napa Valley region. That is one of my favorite aspects of this series! I have gone on several day trips to

Napa to fall in love with its charm. I'm pretty sure that is why I absolutely adore this series so much. I see so much of the Napa charm in this story. Another aspect I love is that Adair has a way of creating secondary characters that are as rich and lively as the main ones and puts them in many engaging situations. If you've read book 1, then you will know exactly what I mean when I say...the grandmothers are back!!!

If you're a fan of friends-to-lovers stories with slow-burning true romance, then you must check out Summer in Napa. I truly enjoy Adair's writing and her sense of humor. She even teases us with possible future couple pairings. I can't wait for the next DeLuca brother to fall in love in the next book, Autumn in the Vineyard!

Angela Carr (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

There's a giveaway for this book here on Goodreads...Publisher is giving away 20 books and ends 7/27/13

Ms. Adair had brought a Foodie Romance into this small town story. She had really worked this book to its full potential. She used the wine country as setting, culinary involvement of this community and everything else that comes with small town atmosphere; family history, childhood friends, gossiping neighbors and meddling family members. But most of all, she wrote a story of second chances and first loves.

Marco is the youngest of the five Delucca siblings and Summer in Napa tells his love story. "He was everything that his brothers were, just more. Taller, bigger, brighter, funnier, sweeter and... sexier." In deed he is, but one thing he is not is taken, not that he wanted to be. He's been too busy trying to make his dream come true and playing the field is more his forte. Until his good friend's ex wife came back to town. Alexis Moreau had always been THE ONE for him. All these years he had stood back and watched Jeff marry his first love only to cheat on her. Now, Lexi is back to rebuild her life in their hometown , and he'd be damned if he's just going to sit back and do nothing.

Alexis Moreau was Captain of the cheerleading team, prom queen, valedictorian, and after college, she married well or so she thought. She had caught Jeffrey steaming up the kitchen with her sous chef. Though she is a hot mess right now, she is determined to make her grandmother's bakery into her very own bistro.

Ms. Adair had brought another heroine that has risen from a very bad heartbreak. She broke my heart and inspired me at the same time with this story. I love that Lexi was focused on rebuilding her life despite the put down from her ex-husband. Watching her cook and build her bistro from scratch was kind of cool; it was like a day in a life type of story. I'm glad that she found love. If that were to happen to me, I would've been jaded like there's no tomorrow and sworn of men entirely. But knowing that Marc had always felt something for her, made their love easy and not one time that I felt any insta-love between them. I thought all their interactions were sweet, funny and full of innuendos. Marc is the only man that can call a woman names and make is sound flirty than an insult. He can call me "cream puff" any day.

I'm glad that we have more Delucca siblings to explore. There was a bit of a set up for the next book. Nate who is usually well controlled had a few moments of dumb struck when Frankie was around. And from what I've read, Frankie will shock the hell out of him. Abby the Delucca sister was in this book quite a bit. Like

Lexi, her ex husband had cheated on her. I am intrigued and curious on how Ms. Adair will give her happy ending, sooner than later I hope.

Summer in Napa is an exceptional heart-warming foodie romance , and just like the Kissing Under the Mistletoe, this novel is another five star rating. A job well done, Ms. Adair.

Favorite quote (Spoiler)

~“She likes my dog, doesn’t take my crap, and looks at me like I can be the kind of man Dad was. When she cooks...she wears this apron...And I love her so damn much that I have no idea how I’m suppose to wake up tomorrow and pretend like my life hasn’t just fucking ended”

*ARC provided by Author in exchange for an honest review

Arely says

So we have Lexi, a divorcée to Marco’s best friend, Jeffrey. She plays it safe and never listens to her wants and needs, rather she focuses on others. This was proved time and time again when she would go on blind dates set up by her grandmother, even though she doesn’t want to.

And then we have Marco, a DeLuca and the “screw-up” of the family. I really, really liked Marco here. He was always trying to get Lexi to listen to her instincts and not to others, and unleash her wild side.

The first half of the book I didn’t like so much. It was very annoying seeing Lexi constantly be pushed over by her grandmother and everyone else, never doing what she wanted to do. And Abigail—Marco’s sister—was still annoying. When she found out that her best friend Lexi and her brother were dating, she flew off the handle. That part’s understandable, I mean it’s her best friend and her brother. But what really pissed me off was that, like the rest of the DeLuca family, she didn’t think of Marco in the best light and said things about him that just made me want to throw something at her.

In fact, the whole DeLuca family didn’t think much of Marco. They didn’t think he would be good at his job and were constantly doubting his abilities. I just wanted to hit all of them upside the head.

But once Lexi let go a little bit and they started to hang out more and more, it got better. Much better. I loved how Lexi and Marco’s relationship was so perfect and that they fit together so well. The happy moments between them were heart-melt worthy.

The conflicts that poor Lexi had to go through—including the no-good, cheating ex of hers—made me feel like the poor woman deserved a medal. And the way Marco made up for his mistakes and put Lexi first, that made me melt.

I loved the sweet ending that these two got and I’m looking forward to the next book in the series.

Megan says

Alexis Moreau moves back home to St. Helena, California to lick her wounds after her divorce and help her grandmother with her bakery. But once she is home she finds her grandmother is making it her full time job to find Lexie a new man. One man not on her grandmother's list is her ex-husbands best friend, Marco De Luca. Marco has had a crush on Lexie since high school but he stepped back to let his friend date her instead. Even after nearly 16 years he still has feelings for her but he won't act on them because he feels it would interfere with the 'man code.' Sparks are constantly flying between Lexie and Marc. While Lexie has no idea that Marco has had feelings for her, she finds herself drawn to him even though she knows it wouldn't be a good idea.

I don't want to give away any spoilers but I really enjoyed this book. I liked how the 'player' showed his soft side to Lexie and how she slowly let him in after her divorce. There is a wonderful slow build to their relationship that was lovely to read. Even though Marco had liked Lexie for a while, he never acted on those feelings but once he starts to let her in, the relationship blossoms and was beautiful.

I loved how the characters interact in this story. From Marc and Lexie to the grandmothers, they all fit together so well it is like reading about a real life group of family and friends. They are always in each others business and in general make the environment of the main characters interesting. I also loved how the town is portrayed. It has a small town vibe with all the gossiping old ladies and the use of face book and you tube is pretty entertaining.

Some of the best scenes in this book are when the families are involved. The supporting characters are wonderful. All of the grandmother's are hilarious. What with carrying food in their purses to shove in people mouths before they lie or having a cat dressed up in a different outfit each time it appears was hilarious. And Wingman, what an awesome dog! There are also some pretty stellar scenes that are also embarrassing. It seemed like Marco always appeared at the most...interesting times.

I love this series. Each book shares characters but they can be read as standalones. I can't wait till the next book comes out. Frankie and Nate are gonna be awesome!

KatLynne says

3.5 Stars!

Nadia says

This book was even better than its prequel and if the awesomeness continues, *St. Helena's Vineyard* is about to become one of my favorite contemporary romance series.

Now I'm super excited about the next book. Fingers crossed.

Christi says

quote from "Summer in Napa (A St. Helena Vineyard Novel)" by Marina Adair - (and one of the reasons I keep laughing out loud while reading this book)

"A great step for his sister but terrible timing for him, since her full-page "Have You Seen This Dick?" announcement, complete with a picture of Richard, ran concurrently with his Summer Wine Showdown ad."

Start reading this book for free: <http://a.co/cFLZMe9>

Sarah says

Lexie's dream was always to help her grandmother turn the family bakery into a bistro but instead she followed her husband to New York and helped him set up his dream restaurant. Then she caught her husband having an affair with their sous chef and had her heart broken. Leaving New York behind she has returned home to lick her wounds and to finally put her own dreams first. The last thing she wants is to meet another man so she is horrified by the number of dates her grandmother has lined up for her. When Marco, her friend from high school, offers to be her pretend boyfriend so that she can focus on creating a new menu for the bistro she is happy to take him up on the offer just to avoid the rest of the dates her grandmother has set up. Marco always had a thing for Lexi but when she started dating his best friend she became strictly off limits, now, even though she is divorced it goes against the man code to even think about dating her. Keeping things platonic is easier said than done though, the chemistry between them is hot enough to burn and she is one temptation he has trouble walking away from.

I loved **Kissing Under the Mistletoe** when I read it last year so **Summer in Napa** has been at the top of my wish list ever since and I'm happy to say that I loved this story just as much. When I'm in the mood for a sweet, sexy romance that has me laughing out loud one minute and swooning the next **Marina Adair** always delivers and I can't wait to carry on reading this series. I love this kind of small town romance, one where everyone knows each other's business and the whole town is sticking their noses into the couple's budding relationship. One of the best things about this series is the trio of meddling grandmothers who get up to such crazy things that it's hilarious to read about. I also absolutely love the banter between Marco and his brothers, they tease each other mercilessly but when it comes down to it they have each other's backs and anybody would be a fool to cross them.

Lexi is a fabulous character, she is still smarting from her ex-husband's betrayal and is embarrassed that she has come home with her tail between her legs but she doesn't let that stop her from chasing her dreams. Jeff didn't just cheat on her though, he is still causing her problems even after their divorce and Lexi is livid when she finds out what he has been up to. Things keep kicking Lexi while she is down but she just gets back up and carries on fighting. There are a few times when her insecurities get the better of her but that was completely understandable and between Marco and her best friend Abby they always gave her the push she needed. Marco was a swoon worthy hero, he has a reputation as a playboy but he isn't actually as bad as he seems and he has never lied to anyone or led them on. He went a bit wild after his parents died and his family still tend to think of him as the screw up he was as a teenager but in reality he is a hard working business man who takes his job very seriously. He didn't want to work in the family wine business but he has worked hard to open up his hotel and is determined to make a success of it. I really liked the way Lexi saw past his reputation and understood just how much effort he put in to his career. It was nice for Marco to finally have someone who believed in him and he offered her the same support in return. As much as I loved them both as individuals I liked them even more as a couple, they are so cute together and they really did make a great match.

I've already mentioned how much I loved their families and the other town characters but I can't forget to mention Marco's dog Wingman who added a lot of humour to the story. It was great to catch up with Gabe

and Regan from the previous book and we've also been given a glimpse at future couples. After checking the author's website I was excited to see that Nate and Frankie are next, they have already shown how much they love to hate each other and I'm expecting their chemistry to be off the charts. The St Helena Vineyard series is so much fun to read and although the books do work well as stand alone stories I can highly recommend both instalments so far. **Marina Adair** is right up there with my favourite small town contemporary romance authors and I have to say that I'm enjoying this series as much as Jill Shalvis's Lucky Harbor books which is huge praise from me because I LOVE that series!

Didi says

~~~~~ 4.5 STARS! ~~~~~

This was refreshing on so many levels! Once again, I'm a sucker for friends to lovers stories and this delivered in spades! This is also a new author to me so thanks to Duchess Nicole for reading this and subsequently me finding it ;-)

I'm actually reading out of order starting with the second book in this series and that's okay. The characters from the first one are here and I was given a quick synopsis of what occurred with them.

Every book in the series deals with one of the DeLuca brothers, otherwise known as the Italian stallions ;-)), a group of successful siblings that produce DeLuca wine in beautiful Napa. Here we get Marco DeLuca, a successful business owner and renowned playboy that recently branched out of the family vineyards to restore an old hotel once regaled as the pinnacle of luxury in his home town. Marco has long harbored a crush on Alexis(Lexi) Moreau since they were 14. Unfortunately for him, he's also always repressed those feelings and held back because his friend Jeffrey started dating Lexi.

Years later, Lexi is back in town. After spending years with Jeff, marrying him and ultimately suffering through his betrayal, she decides a new change is in order and her time for accomplishing her dreams, always put on the back burner to her marriage. But she didn't count on Marco and the combustible energy between them taking flight.

Now, after years of holding back are these two destined for a new beginning?

I loved this story and loved how the book's focus wasn't wrapped up in dramatic angst. There was angst of course, but a more mature version, a better and more acute empathy with the characters. This was an intelligent story. It wasn't just about watching two old friends reconnect and find that each one was always waiting for the other....it was about letting go of the past and examining the reasons behind the decisions we fail to make out of fear. It was about trust and the ability to break free from old chains AND I LOVED IT.

I loved how Marco kept trying to convince himself to stay away from Lexi only to find he couldn't and that fate had something else in store. He didn't want to betray Jeff but the question of who he would ultimately be betraying finally pushed him into the best decision of his life.

Jeff finally gets his comeuppance in the end but I wished we got to see his fallout. I wanted to read how he suffers at the hands of his own selfishness, I wanted to see his reaction to how everything turned out. But I guess the purpose of ending this book the way it did was so the reader wouldn't lose focus of the beauty between Marco and Lexi. It wasn't about vindication, but about finally doing what's right and screw anyone else.

Such a beautiful and sweet story! I will be continuing this series and am so glad I found it.

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