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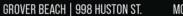
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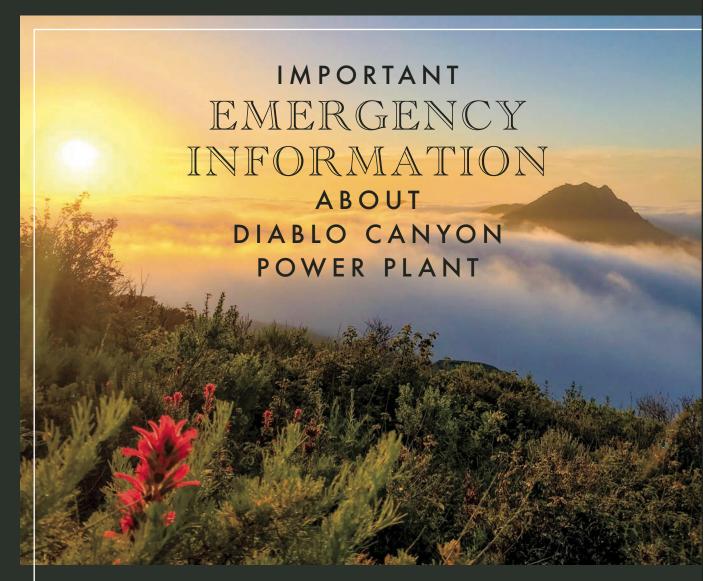
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Welcome to San Luis Obispo County. We are glad you have chosen to visit. A fixture within our community is the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). DCPP is a nuclear power plant that generates approximately 10% of California's electricity. Both PG&E and the County of San Luis Obispo have developed detailed emergency plans that would be used in the unlikely event that an emergency were to occur at DCPP.

If a serious emergency were to occur that would require you to take action, the County would sound the Early Warning System sirens. The sirens are an indication to tune to a local radio or television station for emergency information and instructions.

When at sea, tune to Marine Channel 16.

The siren system is tested regularly throughout the year and may be used for any local emergency.

Additional emergency planning information regarding DCPP is in the current Emergency Planning calendar, and at <a href="https://www.readySLO.org">www.readySLO.org</a>









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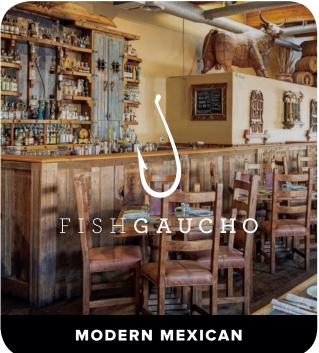
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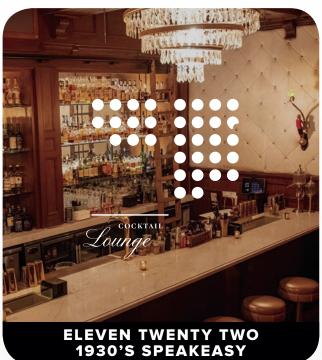
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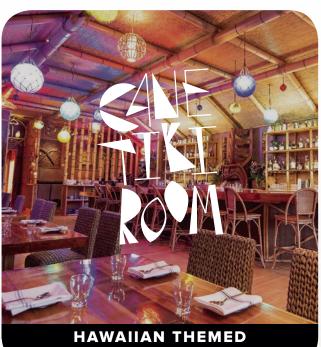


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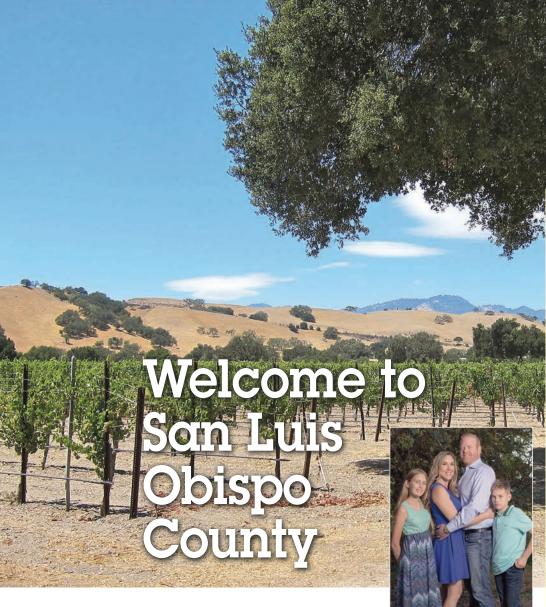
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Melcome! Thank you for reading this newest issue of the San Luis Obispo County Visitor's Guide and experiencing winter on the beautiful Central Coast. The crisp air, beaches and valleys where mysterious morning fog gives way to sunny afternoons, world-leading wine and cozy dinners all come together for some of the most memorable experiences for the entire family.

On these pages, you can learn what's new at your favorite places and be among the first to be part of some of the newest things to do and see!

Along with sightseeing, shopping, fine dining and outdoor experiences that are unique to this part of California. Top off your Central Coast experience with a visit to the Central Coast Casino in Grover Beach.

A local hot spot for the past 25 years, Central Coast Casino is the place where professionalism and friendly small-town charm meet for locals and visitors to join for a good time. Along with professional dealers, the casino is a place for beginners to get complimentary lessons with an emphasis on responsible card-playing.

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get a free complimentary VIP chip and free poker tournament buy-in. For everyone, there are twiceweekly Poker Tournaments with low buy-ins and big jackpots on Monday and Friday.

**Publishers Scott and Beth** 

Brennan and their family

welcome you to San Luis

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The next few months offer some of the most special and romantic times to spend in San Luis Obispo County. Don't miss those special walks along the beach, hiking through some of the most beautiful scenery around, and ending the day with dinner and wine in a warm, inviting world-class restaurant. Don't worry if you run out of time. We always welcome you back! There's always more to see and do!

On behalf of our entire staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome. We hope you enjoy your stay.

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## There are many things to discover around SLO

The city of San Luis Obispo has much to see and do. It is the seat of county government, a popular dining and shopping destination and a traditional college town reflecting eclectic choices in art, entertainment, food and activities.

#### **Attractions**

## The San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Mission

The San Luis Obispo de Tolosa mission is one of the best known historical sites in town. Founded by Father Junipero Serra in September 1772, the mission was the fifth of the California missions and named after Saint Louis, Bishop of Toulouse, France. For information about tours and the gardens or attending mass visit missionsanluisobispo.org.

#### **Historical buildings**

Other historical buildings, many featuring unique architecture, include the Sinsheimer store with an iron front built in 1884 at 849 Monterey St., the Jack House at 536 Marsh Street, which was built in 1875, the State Historical Landmark Dallidet Adobe at 1185 Pacific St and the 1884 Ah Louis Store at 800 Palm St, originally a supply station for the Chinese laborers who built

the railroad tunnels through the mountains of the Cuesta Grade.

The Madonna Inn, known worldwide for its elegant and quirky décor, has been a stop for visitors since first built in 1958. The inn, restaurant and over 100 rooms occupy 1000 acres of scenic Central Coast land.

The historic Carnegie Library on Monterey Street is home to the History Center of San Luis Obispo. Built in 1905, the library is one in a chain of over 1600 libraries funded by the United States by Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The SLO Carnegie Museum is one of three still standing and in use on the Central Coast. The other two are located in Lompoc and Paso Robles.

## San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens

Gardeners and outdoor enthusiasts are not left out. The San Luis Obispo Botanical gardens, on Highway 1 near Dairy Creek Road is the only garden in the United States exclusively featuring plants and ecosystems from the five Mediterranean climates in the world. The design includes miles of paved trails and shady resting spots and a variety of other activities.

#### **Hiking and cycling**

The city's Parks and Recreation Department operates several parks that span 7000 acres of breathtaking views and hiking trails. Visit the website for the City of San Luis Obispo for park maps details about the ease or difficulty of the trails.

The city has over 75 miles of bike paths and what better way for cycling enthusiasts to enjoy a vacation. San Luis Obispo was designated a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists in 2007. Visit bikeslocounty.org for cycling maps for the City of San Luis Obispo, wine trails and other locations in San Luis Obispo County.

### **Attractions & Tours**

#### **Be Hoppy Tours & Tastings**

Take a tour that will tantalize your taste buds! Cruise along in a pub-styled limo bus to the best craft beverage destinations in San Luis Obispo county. Great party idea for birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, bachelor/bachelorette celebrations. Beer-Wine-Distilleries-Cider Fun Starts Here! BeHoppyTours.com, 866.BE.HOPPY

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#### San Luis Obispo Symphony

Bringing music to your community since 1961 through accessible performances and outreach opportunities. By investing in promising local youth with the drive and determination to study orchestral music, SLO Symphony is building the next generation of musicians and music patrons. Visit slosymphony.org for more information

### **Dining & Drinks**

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#### SLO Wine & Beer Co.

Taste a variety of wines and craft beer from local regions and around the world. Best deals on cases and guests can special order almost anything. Live music, comedy nights, winemaker dinners and more! Don't forget to grab a bite from the Wicked Garden Food Truck when visiting. 3536 S. Higuera St., slowineandbeerco.com, (805) 544-9463

#### Golf

#### **Dairy Creek Golf Course SLO**

Dairy Creek Golf Course and Event Center is located 10 minutes North of San Luis Obispo. This 9-hole links-style course has the best practice facility in SLO County with a driving range, short game areas, putting greens, and a new Toptracer Range. 2990 Dairy Creek Rd., SLO, dairycreekslo.com, (805) 782-8060

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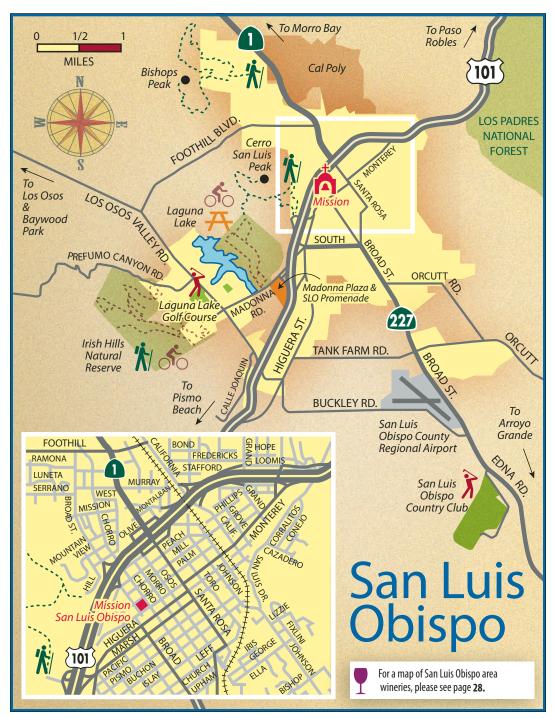
### Shopping

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Megan's Organic Market is SLO's #1 adult-use cannabis retail shop. They carry the widest selection of high quality products in the county, from customer-favorites to unique and hard-to-find gems. Check out their shop today! 280 S. Higuera St., SLO, megansorganicmarket.com, (805) 592-1420

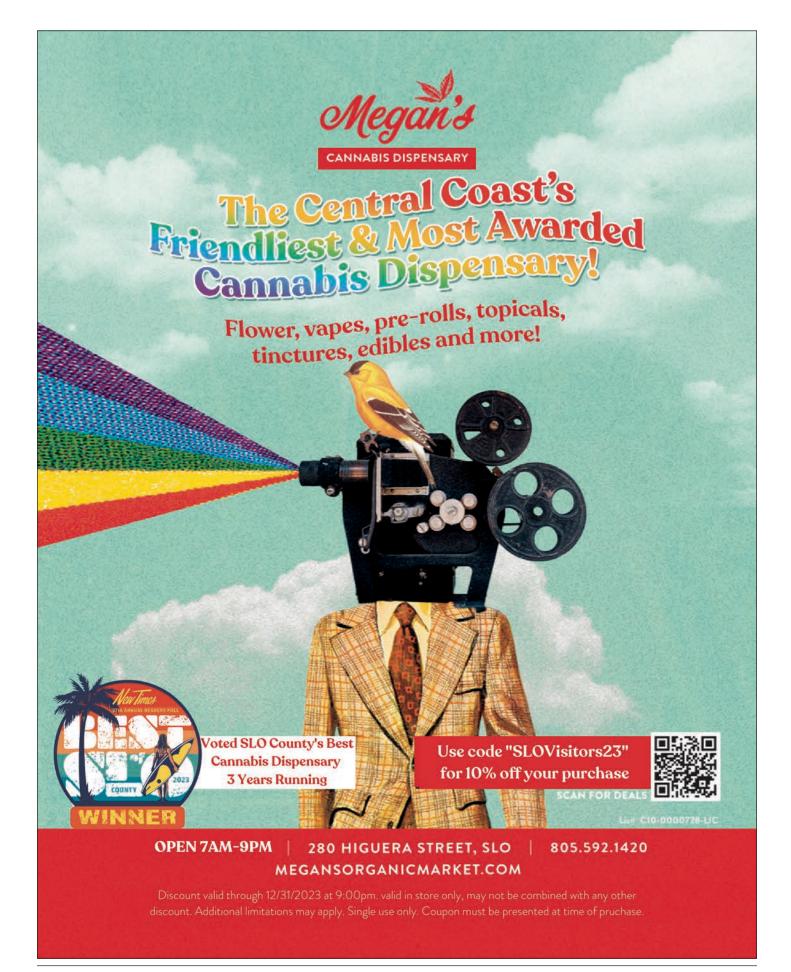
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About Mama!

"Mama," Chef Nico's Mom, is our pastry chef. She started baking when she was a little girl in Italy, the traditional way—by hand. She continues whipping up baked goods by hand for nearly 53 years. Because for her, there is no other way!



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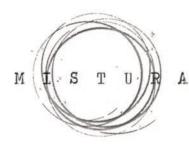
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## **SLO Symphony celebrates its 62nd season**

## Experience something new with every concert

Now in its 62nd season, the San Luis Obispo Symphony continues to inspire and educate locals as well as visitors to the area. Incorporated in 1961, the mission of the SLO Symphony is to "support an outstanding community orchestra, to foster symphonic and chamber music education, and to contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the central coast community."

Whether a first-time attendee or a seasoned concert-goer, there is always something new and exciting with each SLO Symphony performance. And, with a season that runs October through May, there is still time to make plans to attend unique concerts in 2024.

"You experience something new every time you attend a SLO Symphony concert, especially this season," SLO Symphony Executive Director Rachel Cementina Sabalboro said. "Our guests will see a lot of newer pieces on the program alongside traditional, classic, powerful pieces."

#### **Maestro Andrew Sewell**

Now in his seventh season as the music director of the San Luis Obispo Symphony, Maestro Andrew Sewell has an extensive resume that includes tenures and performances across the globe. A native of New Zealand, he holds a Master of Music degree with Honors in Conducting from the University of Michigan.

"He is very engaging when he's on stage, and very professional as well," Sabalboro said. "Our patrons and concert-goers appreciate Maestro Andrew Sewell's creative programming. There is a definite variety in the pieces he selects, and he is not afraid to have our orchestra play newly commissioned pieces."



include a guest soloist or composer.

"This is an opportunity to learn more about the music being played, and includes time for questions and answers from the audience," Sabalboro said. "You are able to learn about the inspiration behind certain pieces, and perhaps how challenging they were to learn."

#### **Upcoming Saturday concerts**

February 23, 2024, 7:30 p.m.: The Classics III A Grand Occasion concert features solo trumpeter Andrew Balio performing Arutunian's Trumpet Concerto, and Grammy Nominated Artist and Composer Patrice Rushen's sharing her rendition of the iconic Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory.

The Youth Symphony, performing alongside the orchestra, concludes the event with Brahms' Symphony No.1 in C minor All three pieces feature exciting components, according to Sabalboro.

## No Ties Allowed dress rehearsals

Fun, casual, family-friendly, and free, the No Ties Allowed dress rehearsals take place at 11 a.m. at the Performing Arts Center on the day of each concert. Perfect for music lovers of all ages, this is a unique opportunity to see Music Director Andrew Sewell lead the orchestra in rehearsal.

"No Ties Allowed removes any barriers to attending our performances," Sabalboro said. "It's the perfect chance for parents to bring their children and introduce them to symphonic music, what it's like to be in the Performing Arts Center, and visit the Instrument Petting Zoo set up in the lobby. Because it takes place during the day, it's convenient for families and people of all ages, including those that may not want to drive at night."

## Symphonic Forays provide audience engagement

Symphonic Forays, included with each concert ticket, allow guests the opportunity to attend an engaging discussion with Maestro Andrew Sewell. Special guests may





20

March 2, 2024, 7:30 p.m.: The program on Saturday, March 2 features Arroyo Grande resident and violin virtuoso Gilles Apap performing Beethoven's Violin Concerto, and Bartok's Violin Rhapsody No.1.

"It's terrific to have a soloist of Gilles Apap's caliber in our own backyard," Sabalboro said. "He's local, well-known, and a true community member, so this is exciting for us."

May 4, 2024, 7:30 p.m.: The season finale features soloist Salome Jordania performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 and Saint Saens' mighty Organ Symphony featuring the Forbes organ, played by Paul Woodring.

"It's always a treat when we get to hear the Forbes pipe organ being played at the Performing Arts Center," Sabalboro said. "There are always a few extra surprises with our finale. This concert will include two premiere works by two local composers, Meredith Brammeier and Stephan Podell."

## Sponsors make music accessible and affordable

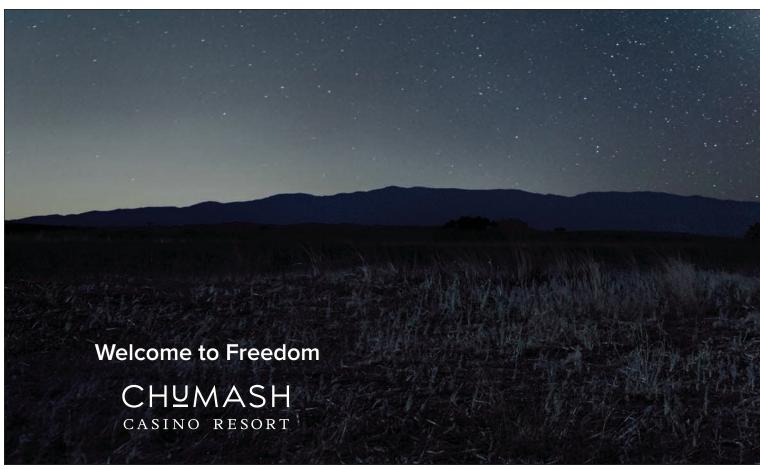
Without sponsors, the SLO Symphony would not be able to offer affordable programs and concerts to families in the community.

"The sponsors are vital to our programs," Sabalboro said. "With our Youth Symphony, scholarships made possible by our donors and sponsors enable many of our students to participate at a reduced cost."

The same holds true for No Ties Allowed events, the Instrument Petting Zoo, and Strings in Schools. Sponsors make these opportunities happen.

"We are trying to make our programs accessible for everyone, and that starts with our music education," Sabalboro said. "In reality, we wouldn't be able to listen to adults playing music if they didn't start as children. We offer lessons, instrument rentals, and more."

For tickets, and more information about concerts, programs and sponsorship opportunities visit slosymphony.org or call (805) 356-1438.



# Explore the local craft beverage scene with Be Hoppy Tours

Experience a day of laughter and tastings in the region

For tourists looking to visit some of the best craft beverage businesses in San Luis Obispo County or locals wanting to celebrate a special event or day out, Be Hoppy Tours is sure to provide an unforgettable experience.

"At Be Hoppy Tours, our most popular tours aren't just about the destinations; they're about fostering a shared and unforgettable group experience. We believe the journey itself is as important as the places



we visit. Our tours are designed to create a lively, interactive, and

fun atmosphere where our guests can connect, make memories, and

share the joy of discovery. It's about the laughter, the conversations, and the sense of camaraderie that comes from exploring the craft beverage scene in the company of fellow enthusiasts," said Susan F. Moody, who owns Be Hoppy Tours alongside friend Teresa DeHart and brother John Giffoni.

Guests can be assured that Be Hoppy Tours will expertly curate tours that fit the preferences of all involved. There are two stand-out, scheduled social tours; visit three breweries with the "Hoppy Hour" on Friday from 3 to 7 p.m., while the Saturday "Sip of SLO" explores the beer, cider and wine scene from noon to 4 p.m. More personalized tours can run every day depending on guest schedules, and in addition, Be Hoppy Tours offers team-build-



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ing tours, scenic tours, party tours and transportation-only options.

"We are a small business looking to collaborate with local craft beverage companies to create effective joint marketing campaigns that will capture the attention of locals and visitors, promoting our area and supporting our ventures. San Luis Obispo County is a growing craft beverage region with breweries, cideries and wineries and we want to bring SLO into the forefront featuring these diverse, delicious beverages," Moody said.

Be Hoppy Tours was previously known as Hop On Beer Tours, which has been in operation since 2014. When the business went up for sale, the current owners decided to purchase and rebrand in 2022. Moody and DeHart started their friendship over 20 years ago while working in Sacramento, with Moody noting that "even after we were no longer living in the same

geographical area, we have always made it a priority to travel together; our joint constants being fun, friendship and wine!"

Be Hoppy Tours has memorable tours for all who plan to explore the award-winning and delicious craft beverages in SLO County.

"With Be Hoppy Tours, guests can expect a well-planned, enjoyable and educational experience that allows you to savor the best craft beverages in the region while taking in the stunning scenery and rich culture of San Luis Obispo County. We'll handle all the planning, reservations and transportation logistics so you can enjoy your tasting experience from pick up to drop off," said Moody, adding that "fun starts here!"

Be Hoppy Tours is located in San Luis Obispo. For more information visit behoppytours.com or call (866) 234-6779.

— By Sadie Mae Mace

# World-class wines and craft beers from SLO Wine and Beer Co.

Central Coast locals with a passion for all things good

SLO Wine & Beer Co is a popular venue for wine and beer enthusiasts. Owners Scott and Kolleen Harrison showcase many of the things they are passionate about with the storefront, lounge, and Wicked Garden Cuisine.

Wandering through the store customers find a wide selection of bottles from both local and international producers. The talented staff seeks out several hard-to-find items from boutique and single vineyard producers. One of the perks of visiting the shop is taking advantage of the knowledge of the staff



sommeliers who can help you find the perfect bottle for any occasion. As an added perk, the store offers a buyer's club with members receiv-

ing a 10% discount on all items purchased in addition to a highly discounted, curated three-bottle collection twice per year, in April and October.

For those who want to sit and enjoy food and beverages, both the patio and recently remodeled chic lounge offer table service with wines by the tasting flight, half glass, glass, or bottle. To complement the beverage service, Chef Stan offers a fabulous menu from the Wicked Garden Cuisine Food Truck. The menu is offered daily with additional dinners and pairing events throughout the year. You'll find items such as jerk chicken tacos, farmer's market salad, beef sliders, crispy potato salad, and hummus plates. The menu changes seasonally based on what Chef Stan sources from the local farmers.



Come in & grab a bottle (or 6!) to take with you to enjoy during your vacation on the Central Coast. Check out our events calendar on our website to really immerse yourself in the local vibe & get the best deals on beer & wine!

Or join our **Buyer's Club** by purchasing 6 bottles of any wine totaling \$150 or more.

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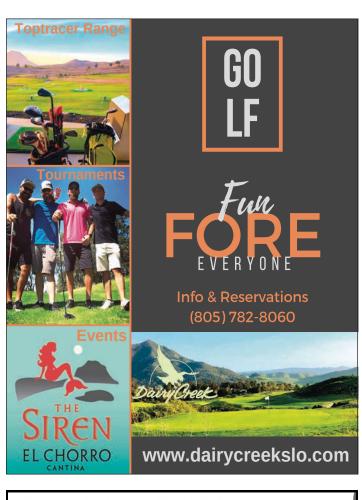
**10% off** everything you purchase in store or online, including winemaker dinners, already discounted wine & beer, merchandise, etc.

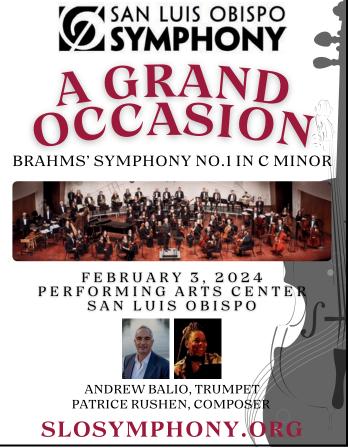
\$150 (approx.) charged in April & October for 2 reds & 1 white elite wines that are \$200+ total value (25% discount!)

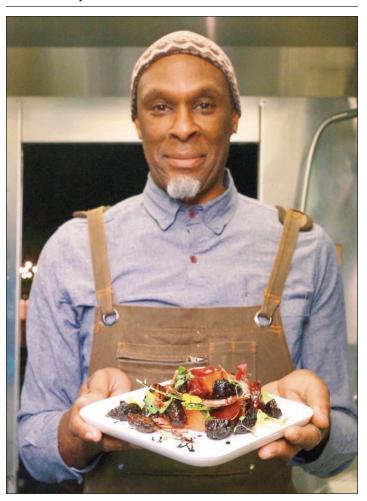
Pick up in store or have shipped for a nominal fee.

3536 S. Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 805.544.9463 slowineandbeerco.com @slowineandbeerco









Chef Stan's passion for food shines through in his menu. "I like to create food that's a reflection of the many interactions I've experienced with other people and their cultures. As a kid, I loved visiting relatives in South Carolina and knew from a young age that I'd grow up to be a chef and share my love of 'low country' foods. What's not to love about sitting at a table with friends and family, enjoying the flavors our world has to offer?"

The owners' visions create a space where guests experience the local creative community. "We are a family-owned business that truly enjoys supporting our creative community and we strive for our place to be one where everyone feels welcome and has a great time."

The events calendar is packed with live music, comedy nights, wine education, wine dinners, art workshops and all featuring local talent. A daily highlight is Bartender's choice where you have a choice from a red wine, a white wine, or 2 draft beers for only \$5.00. all day

with bartenders' specials. Another highlight is the monthly tasting exploring wine regions or varietals in depth through wine tasting and food pairings. Visit the event calendar on the website to see what is happening each month.

SLO Wine & Beer is also the perfect place for private events. The staff creates a customized experience based on the guest's desires. The staff works with individuals to create the perfect event plan, including beverage and food selections.

If you already have a venue and want to enjoy Wicked Garden Cuisine, the food truck can be booked for events within SLO County. Chef Stan is always happy to cook for a crowd!

SLO Wine & Beer Co. is located at 3536 S Higuera St in San Luis Obispo. Open Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information visit sanluisobispowineandbeercompany.com or call (805) 544-9463.

- Lisa Pretty

## **Enjoy fine wine just minutes from downtown SLO**

Sip great wine, sample apple brandy and play some bocce ball

The picturesque drive between Arroyo Grande and San Luis Obispo is the opportunity to visit some top wineries and experience the world-class wine produced in the region's AVAs.

The charming coastal Edna Valley has been producing wine since the first experimental vineyards were planted in 1968 and, in 1982, was the first AVA granted in San Luis Obispo County. The Arroyo Grande Valley AVA merges into the Edna Valley AVA at the north end of the valley. The valley attracted attention in the early 1980s when the California branch of the Champagne house Deutz, acquired land in the area. Sparkling wine is still made in the AVA.

The gentle sunshine and moderate Pacific Ocean maritime climate combine with the fertile soil come together to produce incredible wines. Bring a camera and plan on a day of adventure sipping great wine, sampling some apple brandy, having lunch and playing some bocce ball.

## Letitia Vineyard & Winery, exquisite wines from distinctive vineyards

Laetitia Vineyard & Winery has been crafting exquisite wines since 1982. Founded by an established French Champagne house, the Laetitia estate carries on the traditions of Burgundy and Champagne with a focus on small-lot Pinot Noir and sparkling wines.

The vineyard is distinct for the great diversity of soils and climate held in one small area. The wine from the estate-grown grapes is the product of one artistic vision from vine to glass, championing the exceptional character of the Arroyo Grande Valley AVA.

"Everything done in the cellar starts with what we do in the



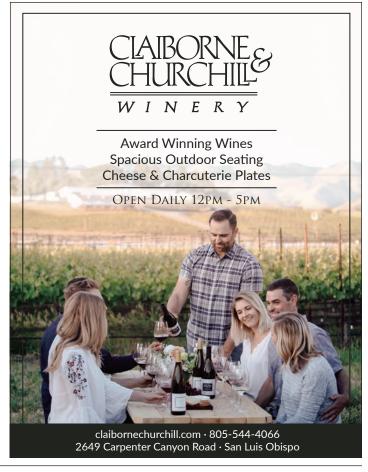
vineyard," says head winemaker Eric Hickey. "I stay eye-to-eye with our vineyard manager because the interplay between us is what determines the wines' quality."

Laetitia's approach to vineyard management and winemaking played a pivotal role in it becoming one of the pioneering SIP-certified vineyards on the Central Coast.

Enjoy a relaxing, outdoor tasting experience overlooking the vistas of vineyards and the Arroyo Grande Valley, play some bocce ball, take a stroll along the walking trail, or an ATV tour. Enjoy Wine and Music Weekends from April through October.

The winetasting experience offers the Estate Flight, the Sparkling Flight, or the Black Label Tasting, showcasing select Pinot Noir. Reservations are recommended.

Laetitia is located at 453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive, Arroyo Grande. Open daily 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For reservations or more information visit laetitiawine.com or call (805) 481-1772.



## Stephen Ross Cellars, 29 years on the Central Coast

Stephen Ross Dooley's curiosity about wine started as a teen making rhubarb and apple wine in his family's Minnesota basement, and after a degree at UC Davis and 17 years of making wine for others, he launched Stephen Ross Wine Cellars with his wife, Paula, in 1994. In the years leading up to his own winery, Stephen worked as a winemaker in Napa Valley, Edna Valley, South Africa and Australia.

Stephen Ross Cellars produces five or six single vineyard pinot noirs plus other varietals that flourish in the coastal climate such as chardonnay, grenache and albariño, and a Blanc de Noir sparkling.

"The energy that our wines derive from our proximity to the Pacific Ocean is unique and unequaled," said Paula Dooley.

The couple owns the 10-acre Stone Corral Vineyard in Edna Valley, which they planted exclusively with pinot noir clones and rootstocks in 2001. The Stone Corral Pinot Noir is their top seller. Another



favorite is the winery's 2021 Pinot Noir Arête. The Dooleys promote sustainable vineyard management and winemaking practices, only sourcing grapes from SIP-certified vineyards. Enjoy a visit to the tasting room located in the winery and experience these amazing wines with guidance from knowledgeable staff. Winery tours are also available for tasting room guests.

Stephen Ross Wine Cellars is located at 178 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo. Tasting room hours are Fri-Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Reservations are recommended. For more information visit stephenrosswine.com or call (805) 594-1318.

## Check out Claiborne and Churchill Winery

Claiborne & Churchill Winery, still run by original owners Claiborne Thompson and Fredericka Churchill Thompson, has been producing Alsatian-style "alternative whites" in San Luis Obispo since 1983. In 1995, Clay and Fredericka built their pioneering, eco-friendly straw bale-constructed winery and opened their tasting room in the Edna Valley, and over the years they have expanded their picturesque garden area to accommodate more guests and larger parties for tastings and seasonal events.

To the delight of visitors, the upscale welcoming tasting room is located right in the barrel room, allowing the popular producer to accommodate more visitors comfortably. Reservations are available for small private events such as birthdays, anniversaries, and

graduation parties.

Their guest cottage is perfect for couples hitting the road for a weekend, for parents visiting students at Cal Poly, or for anyone just looking for a relaxing "getaway." The unit is available for vacation rental through the VRBO/Homeaway website, or by emailing elizabeth@claibornechurchill.com.

Centrally located in SLO Wine Country, Claiborne & Churchill's vacation property is only a tenminute drive from Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo, or Arroyo Grande, and a fifteen-minute drive to Cal Poly.

Visit the tasting room at 2649 Carpenter Canyon Rd., in San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley; open every day from noon to 5 p.m. (except major holidays), claibornechurchill.com, (805) 544-4066.

#### Baileyana Tasting Room offers a beautiful array of wines in a historic schoolhouse

Traveling along Orcutt Road from downtown San Luis Obispo, the Baileyana Tasting Room is the first you encounter as you enter the Edna Valley. Housed in the historic Independence Schoolhouse built in 1909, the tasting room is the home of Baileyana, Tangent, True Myth and Zocker brands.

Charming both inside and out, this tasting room offers wine-



Estate Wines • Luxurious Bubbles • Bocce Picnic Area • Walking Trail • ATV Tours







453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive | Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805.481.1772 | www.laetitiawine.com



tasting experiences designed to accommodate all visitors. With around 35 different white, red and rosé wines to choose from, there are wines for every palette, whether the guest is a first-time wine taster or an expert. For those willing to adventure and discover, an amazing experience awaits! With extensive picnic grounds and views, the tasting room is family-friendly and provides a memorable and fun experience for every guest.

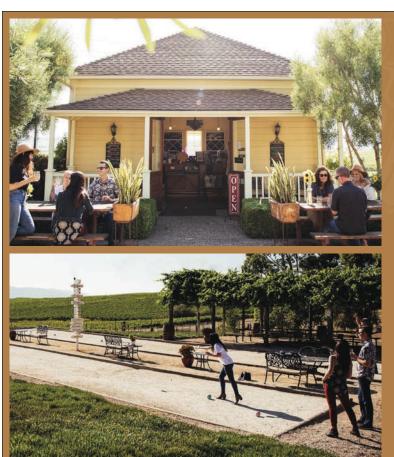
Veteran winemaker Rob Takigawa is focused on bringing elegant chardonnays, aromatic whites and pinot noir wines from the cool Edna Valley and powerful reds from the warmer Paso Robles to Baileyana visitors. These wines are rich in story, and those stories are well told by the engaging tasting room team.

The Baileyana Tasting Room is located at 5828 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo. It is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, excluding major holidays. Reservations are required. Please book on Tock or call (805) 269-8200.

## Wine, grappa, and apple brandy at Autry Cellars

Nestled in the heart of Edna Valley, overlooking rows of vine-yards and a 40-mile stretch of the Santa Lucia mountain range is Autry Cellars. Owner and artisan winemaker Steve Autry and his tasting room staff pour wine varietals, brandy, and grappa borne from some of the best grapes selected from across the region, along with his signature apple brandy.

Autry Cellars' informal, unpretentious tasting room is, "decorated in early American warehouse" style, jokes Autry. However, don't be deceived by the modest décor. In this



## BAILEYANA

WINERY-

#### **Discover Uncharted California**

Escape to the rolling hills of San Luis Obispo to find our charming tasting room in the heart of Edna Valley. Housed in the historic Independence Schoolhouse, this space is the perfect spot to soak in sweeping vineyard views while discovering the unique excellence of our award-winning wines.



#### OPEN DAILY BY RESERVATION

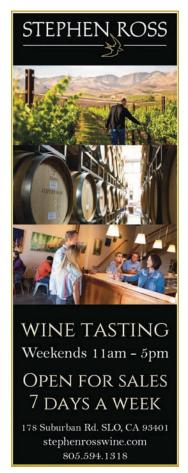
10:00 am - 5:00 pm 805.269.8200 Scan QR code to make your reservation today or visit Baileyana.com

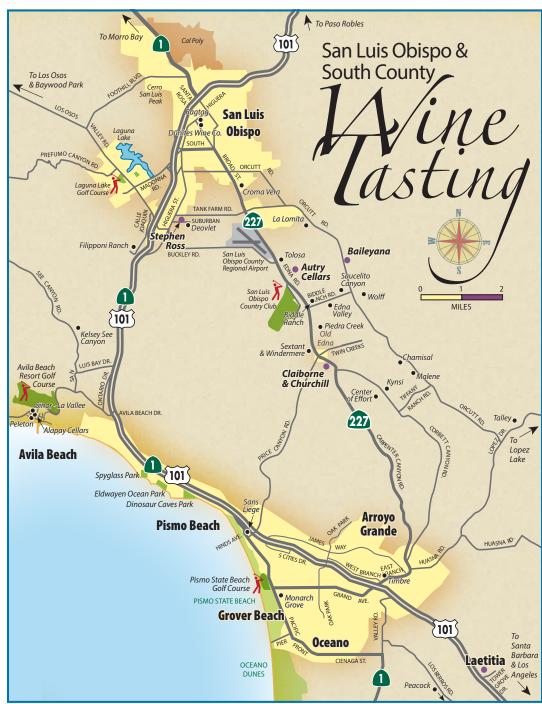
#### San Luis Obispo & South County Wine Tasting

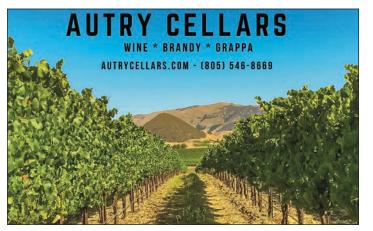
tasting room, visitors can experience superb wine varietals ranging from best-selling petite Sirah to malbec and viognier. In addition, you can taste the gold medal best-in-class grappa and silver medal-winning American oak and Hungarian oak brandies, awarded by the California Mid-State Fair.

Inspired by a spectacular zinfandel tasting experience Autry became a full-time artisan winemaker in 2001 and a fully licensed brandy distiller in 2012. A visit to Autry Cellars is about discovery. He says people who visit his tasting room, "come for the wine and discover the brandy." At Autry Cellars, visitors gain access to impressive wines and brandies that are available exclusively in the tasting room. Every wine is unique, and each is produced only in small quantities.

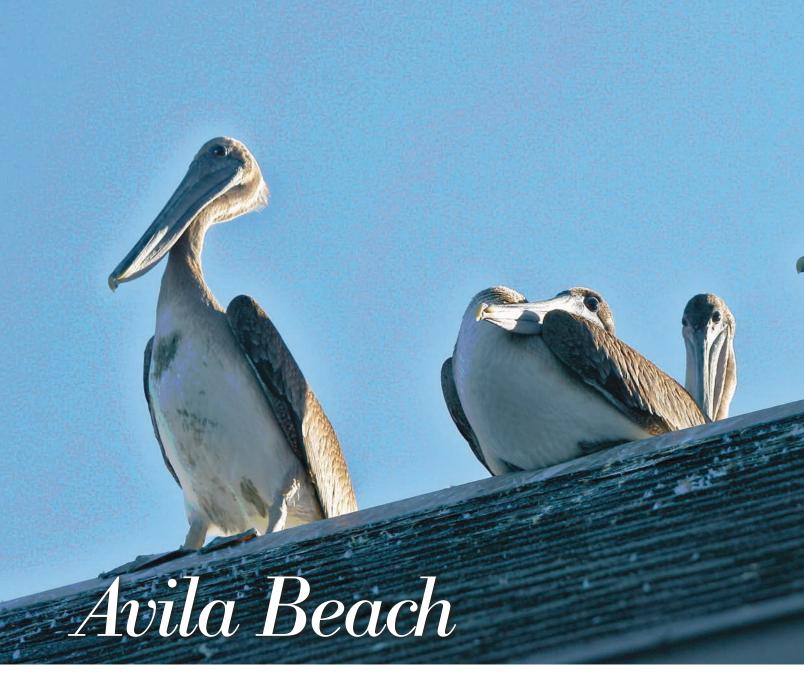
Visit Autry Cellars tasting room at 5450-B Edna Road in San Luis Obispo; open 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday (last appointment at 4 p.m.) and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday (last appointment at 3 p.m.), autrycellars.com, (805) 546-8669.











ake a drive away from the beaten Take a drive away from the paths of Hwy. 101 and Hwy. 1 and discover the quiet paradise of Avila Beach. The oceanside community offers something for every interest and all ages from quiet romantic weekends to beaches, hiking trails, kid and pet friendly parks, shopping, great food, golfing and hot springs. Choose from the many hotels and enjoy family meals or a sunset dinner at an oceanfront restaurant. This delightful small town rests at the edge of San Luis Obispo Bay. The San Luis Obispo Creek empties into the bay at Avila Beach providing views of native wildlife along with the region's unique marine life. The nearby Avila Beach Bird Sanctuary is great for bird watching any time of year and especially during bird migrations.

#### **Attractions**

#### Piers in Avila Beach

Avila Beach boasts three piers, two historic piers and a private pier that houses the California Polytechnic State University's Center for Marine Sciences. The Harford Pier, built in 1873, was used for shipping before the railroad arrived. The pier also has a romantic history as a liquor smuggling hotspot during the 1920s. Today, the pier is occupied by commercial fishing and restaurants and is open to pier-fishing.

Avila Beach Pier was built in 1908 and was important for fishing and ocean-bound passenger transportation. It has been partially closed to foot traffic since 2015 due to storm damage.

For information about the piers, call

For information about the piers, call (805) 595-5400.

#### **Fishing**

Personal boats and kayaks can be launched from Olde Port Beach, a public hoist at Harford Pier and two additional hoists are made accessible to the public by the Port San Luis Harbor District. To arrange use of either the trailer boat launch for boats up to 28' feet, or the mobile hoist for larger boats call the harbor district at (805) 595-7895.

#### Hiking

The Bob Jones Trail starts at the trailhead on Ontario Road and wanders along the San Luis Obispo Creek. The paved trail, about three miles from trailhead to downtown Avila Beach, is a mostly smooth hike or bike ride with benches along the way.

## **Hotels & Lodging**

## Seven Sisters Vacation Rentals

Offers beautiful and unique luxury vacation homes along the Central Coast. Their coastal and wine country homes are known for idyllic settings, designer furnishings, and exceptional amenities. Their guest service team consistently receives 5-Star reviews for offering an ultimate vacation rental experience. 7svr.com (805) 900-6000.



## The Central Coast Aquarium — a local resource for marine science education and fun!

### Come see what lies beneath the ocean's surface

¬he Central Coast Aquarium is a non-profit marine science education center located just steps from the beach. Visitors are treated to daily educational talks, and opportunities to explore touch tanks and see over 50 different species of wildlife. From shark and ray exhibits to rocky intertidal displays filled with unique local fish and crabs, there is something for everyone.

Experience touch tanks with sea stars, urchins and chitons to name a few. Come enjoy the public feedings and educational presentations throughout the day. The Swell

30



Shark Encounters are a fan favorite. Learn more about this species and take advantage of the opportunity to pet one!

Other local varieties in the 16 exhibits include moon jellies, rockfish, three species of sharks, California's marine state fish, the Garibaldi, anemones, octopus and more! Volunteer docents are eager to share their knowledge with each guest.

The aquarium is committed to providing opportunities that offer fun and handson experiences that encourage the preservation of our oceans. Educational programs provide unique experiences to schools in and

beyond SLO County. Field trips are arranged and tailored for grades K-12. The exhibit hall serves as a teaching tool to enhance learning and evoke understanding through touch and sight. Floating labs take groups on boats into the bay to learn about the ecosystem and conduct experiments where students enjoy being "marine biologists" for the day. Discovery Labs offer fascinating activities such as squid dissections. It is especially rewarding to work with students as they engage with sea animals and learn to care for the environment. The aquarium's mission is to cultivate a community dedicated to ocean stewardship through education, engagement and action.

#### Programs and opportunities include:

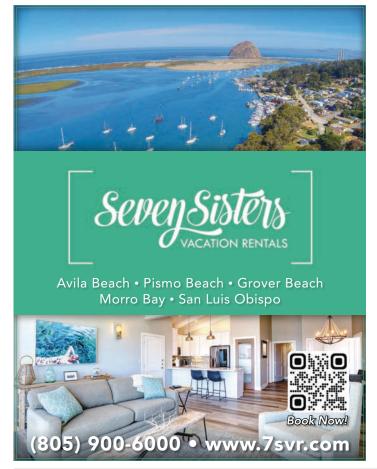
- · Science After Dark: Beginning in January, this lecture series features local experts on the last Tuesday of each month from 6 – 8 p.m. Registration is required.
- Big Fish Little Fish: A Mommy and Me program tailored to children ages 2-5 on the first Monday of each month. Registration is required.
- Beach Clean Up materials are available upon request
- Private Tours of the Exhibit Hall. Registration is required.
- Facility Rentals for birthday parties for any age, weddings, receptions, retirement parties, meetings, graduations, and corporate

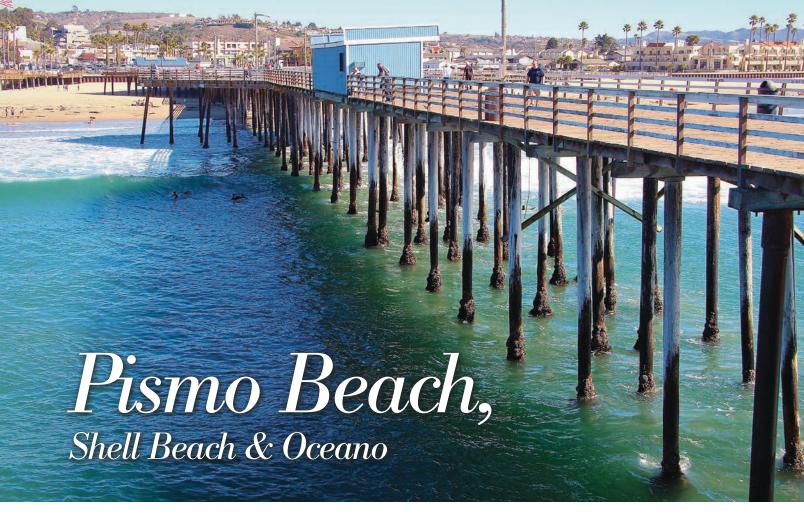
events. Schedule a tour today and check out both indoor and outdoor

opportunities are available. Previous marine science experience is not required. Come on over to Avila Beach and

facilities Volunteer visit!

The Central Coast Aquarium is located at 50 San Juan Street in Avila Beach. Hours are Friday 12-3 p.m., and weekends 10 a.m.-4 p.m. General admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for children 2-13 years old, \$6 for seniors and military (with ID), and free for children ages 2 and under. All proceeds go directly towards marine science education. For more information or to donate, visit centralcoastaquarium.org or call (805) 457-5357.





he beach cities of Pismo Beach, Shell Beach and Oceano join Grover Beach to offer a 15-mile stretch of beach for long walks, watching shore birds and marine life, enjoying tide pools or just sitting on the sand and feeling the breeze and sun. Enjoy views of the historic Pismo Beach Pier and take advantage of a variety of water sports like kayaking and surfing. Green spaces with trails and panoramic ocean views include Dinosaur Caves Park, Chumash Park featuring coastal wetlands, Margo Dodd Park, and the Pismo Preserve. Millions of Monarch butterflies migrate to the Monarch Butterfly Grove in the cool months.

Pismo Beach and its companion communities provide lodging for every budget. Enjoy the iconic wholesome food and fine wines that are hallmarks for San Luis Obispo County. Gifts, original art, clothes, jewelry and décor can all be found tucked away in the many galleries and shops. A day or more exploring Pismo Beach gives a lifetime of memories.

#### **Attractions**

#### **Dinosaur Caves Park**

Located at the corner of Cliff Street and Shell Beach Road, this 11-acre park is popular with walkers, photographers, dog lovers, joggers and fishing enthusiasts. Observe dolphins, whales, sea otters and other sea life as well as sea and shore birds such as gulls, cormorants, and Peregrine falcons. Reservations may be required for group events. Visit pismobeach.org/288/Dinosaur-Caves-Park for more information.

#### **Oceano Dunes**

Thousands flock to the Oceano Dunes State Recreational Park to camp along the ocean in tents and RVs every week. You can rent and ride dune buggies and ATVs on the beach and enjoy riding for the entire afternoon. There is a small cost per vehicle to drive on the beach and it is recommended you have a larger vehicle before attempting to drive on the dry sand; you don't want to get stuck in the dunes.

#### **Ocean views**

Pismo Beach is home to several parks with beautiful, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and birds and marine life that live and migrate through the Central Coast. A few of the most popular parks with exquisite views, trails, places to rest, picnic and enjoy the scenery include:

• Chumash Park covers 38-acres of

wetlands, willows, oaks and is home to a rich variety of birds and wildlife. Bring a camera. Leashed dogs are welcome.

- Eldwayen Ocean Park meanders over a mile along the bluffs and has stairs down to the beach and the tidepools. Check a tide chart to visit during low tide to explore the tidepools.
- Margo Dodd Park, located on a bluff above the ocean includes breathtaking panoramas of the ocean, beaches and surrounding areas. Bring binoculars and a camera. Walk the sandy beach to a tidepool at the end of Pier Street.

## Hiking and scenic walks at the Pismo Preserve

The preserve provides over 11 miles of trails wandering through 880-acres of oak woodlands and coastal ridges and some of the most stunning panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding land and beaches. Trails are marked for the direction of travel. Park is open weekdays from sunup to sunset.

#### **Price Historical Park**

This four-acre park and open space provides hiking trails and a class 1 bike trail. The park incorporates a self-guided history



#### Pismo Beach, Shell Beach & Oceano

walk recognizing Chumash culture and the history of missions and Pismo Beach. The gated Meherin House and Price Anniversary House, built by Pismo Beach founder, John Michael Price, are also located in this park. Visit 365 days a year during daylight. For additional information call Pismo Beach Recreation Division (805) 773-7039.

#### **Pismo Beach Pier**

This 1,200-foot pier is a major fishing attraction. For serious recreation, try kayaking, surfing, or scuba diving. For a more relaxed afternoon walk the pier and then head to the downtown area for shopping.

#### **Attractions & Tours**

## The Great American Melodrama

Live entertainment for the whole family, featuring hilarious comedies and Vaudeville-style musical revues. Professional actors, food, drinks, beer & wine, and good old-fashioned fun add up to a unique and memorable experience that's been thrilling audiences since 1975. 1863 Front St., Oceano, americanmelodrama.com, (805) 489-2499

### **Dining & Drinks**

#### **Ada's Fish House**

A family-owned establishment with a full cocktail bar, boasting fresh fish and seafood in a relaxed atmosphere. Offering classic coastal dishes with East Coast influence like steamed clams and lobster rolls with mouthwatering specialties like Pacific Coast Halibut and grilled swordfish. adasfishhouse.com, 558 Price St, (805) 556-3077

#### **Brad's Restaurant**

Award-winning clam chowder, best tri-tip sandwiches in SLO County, BBQ Buffalo Clams. Dine inside or on the patio. 1 block from the ocean. 209 Pomeroy, Downtown Pismo Beach, (805) 773-6165

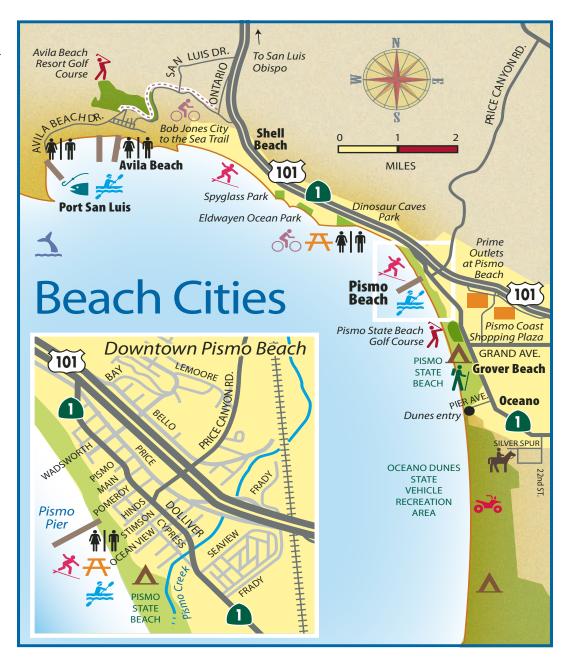
#### **Cracked Crab**

Cracked Crab serves the finest seafood available, in a most casual style. Located at 751 Price St, Pismo Beach, opened Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. CrackedCrab.com, (805) 773-CRAB

#### Splash Café

32

Splash Café is one of the longest standing restaurants on the Central Coast. A popular destination since 1989, serving OVER 40,000 gallons of Clam Chowder per year! Splash



Café is a certified landmark that truly represents Classic California. 197 Pomeroy Ave, Pismo Beach, SplashCafe.com, (805) 773-4653

#### **RV** Resorts

#### Pismo Coast Village RV Resort

Pismo Coast Village RV Resort is an award winning vacation getaway. Swimming pool, arcade, laundromat, bicycle rentals, playgrounds, mini golf and many courts and games, not to mention a beautiful beachfront location. Bring your RV and enjoy all the fun they have to offer! 165 S Dolliver, Pismo Beach, 888-RVBEACH, pismocoastvillage.com



### Shopping

#### Ashtie's Beach Shack

Ashtie's Beach Shack on Pomeroy in Pismo Beach is a gift, souvenir and clothing shop for the whole family. There's an assortment of trendy beach clothes, bathing suits (perfect since it's just up from the beach), sandals (dressy and flip flops) and loads of fun sparkly baubles. Come on in and see for yourself what Ashtie's has for you! 240 Pomeroy Avenue, Pismo Beach, (805) 295-5055

#### **California Fresh Market**

California Fresh Market provides groceries to the local community. Organic, Specialty, and Gourmet products. Full Service Deli & Bakery, Full Service Meat & Seafood, Specialty Wines & Cheeses, Unique Gifts and so much more! californiafreshmarket. com, 555 Five Cities Dr., Pismo Beach, CA 93449, (805) 295-7162; 771 Foothill Blvd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405, (805) 250-1425

#### **Thomas Kinkade Gallery**

A showcase of Thomas Kinkade's famous works both new and classic. Ask to see his lesser known pieces as well. Experience the many beautiful styles of Kinkade's artwork. 500 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, (805) 773-9424











## Proudly Serving the Central Coast Since 1966

#### California Fresh Market

555 Five Cities Drive Pismo Beach CA 93449 Phone: (805) 295-7162 771 E. Foothill Boulevard San Luis Obispo CA 93405 Phone: (805) 250-1425

#### El Rancho Marketplace

2886 Mission Drive Solvang CA 93463 Phone: (805) 688-4300

All stores are open daily from 6 am to 10 pm

Tag us on Facebook & Instagram @californiafreshmarkets @elranchomarket





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Local, Independent..



You can find us online at CaliforniaFreshMarket.com

## Pismo Coast Village RV Resort: Gateway to a serene beachside getaway

estled just steps from the pristine shores of Pismo Beach, the Pismo Coast Village RV Resort is an iconic haven for vacationers seeking the perfect blend of relaxation and adventure. Since its inception in the mid-1970s, this resort has captivated travelers, earning accolades and high rankings, and has remained a cherished home base for enthusiasts of coastal getaways.

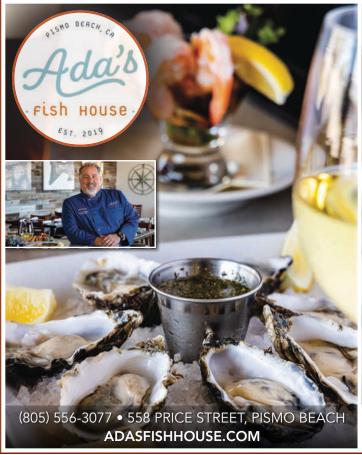
Spanning 26 meticulously landscaped acres, the resort boasts 400 spacious sites, offering a picturesque retreat. The ocean beckons a short stroll away and the resort's extensive amenities include a heated swimming pool, outdoor pickleball and basketball courts, a nostalgic miniature golf course, an arcade, and surry bicycle rentals.

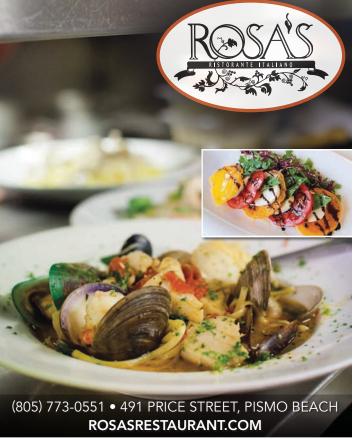


An on-site restaurant, complimentary wireless Internet access,

and a well-stocked general store catering to needs from everyday

toiletries to local wines, RV essentials, and trendy apparel fill out







the amenities. The resort's prime location has easy access to popular Pismo Beach restaurants and shopping havens, all within a leisurely stroll.

Visitors to Pismo Coast Village RV Resort find themselves immersed in a tapestry of experiences. Whether savoring the local wine-tasting scene, basking on the sun-kissed beaches, or exploring the myriad attractions in the area, there's no shortage of activities. The vicinity is a treasure trove of wonders, beckoning travelers to explore and experience before settling in for a tranquil night at the resort.

While the summer months and holidays resonate with the laughter and joy of families, the off-season beckons couples seeking a more serene escape. The resort's calendar is filled with vibrant events, including the renowned Pismo Beach Classic Car Show, the Clam Festival, PCV Halloween Lane and the much-

anticipated annual Pismo Vintage Trailer Rallies, slated for the third weekends in November and May. The unique trailer rallies feature vintage trailers towed by classic cars, with the park opening its doors for public viewing on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Pismo Coast Village RV Resort is not just about creating unforgettable vacation memories; giving back to the community resonates deeply with the resort's ethos. The dedicated staff contributes to various local and Central Valley charity events by donating free camp nights, fostering a spirit of goodwill and community support.

For travelers seeking a coastal retreat filled with joy, relaxation and a touch of community spirit, Pismo Coast Village RV Resort beckons with open arms, promising an unforgettable stay amidst the beauty of Pismo Beach.

Pismo Coast Village RV Resort is located at 165 S. Dolliver St. in Pismo Beach. For reservations or more information call (888) 782-3224 or visit pismocoastvillage.com.



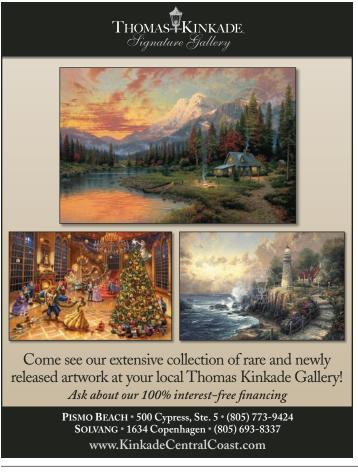
## Beachwear, blankets, sweatshirts, souvenirs and more — Ashtie's Beach Shack has it

A shop that locals and tourists appreciate

For the past 15 years, Ashtie's Beach Shack in Pismo Beach has supplied tourists and locals with necessary beach-themed items, boutique clothing, souvenirs, and more. Ownership of the shop changed in early 2017, and the new owners have carried on the tradition of providing quality merchandise to the Central Coast community.

"Our prices are some of the best in town... the quality is very good, and customer service is very high on our list," said Bob Wexler, who owns the beach shack along with his wife, Cat Wexler.





Popular and inexpensive items at the store include sweatshirts in multiple sizes to suit each customer, Baja shirts, blankets, sandals, and swimsuits. Kids items are also for sale, such as shirts and onesies. Many of the products pay homage to the local area, with graphic t-shirts displaying Pismo Beach in lettering and sweatshirts with the California bear displayed. Hats are

displayed. Hats ar also available, ranging from baseball caps to straw widebrim hats. The products are affordable, so the whole family can stock up on fun goodies and clothing for a good price.

Ashtie's Beach Shack also stocks the Earthly Body brand, which has products such as hand and body lotion, miracle oil and CBD drops.

While tourism is a big draw to Ashtie's Beach Shack, there are plenty of high-end items that will satisfy the local community. Tourists from all around the world travel to the Central Coast and visit the shack, including guests from Australia, France, England, Germany, Canada, Dubai and more. The beach shack is also conveniently located close to the Pismo Beach pier for beachgoers to stroll over to the shop and towards the

beach. In addition, there are multiple stores and res-

taurants near Ashtie's
Beach Shack for
an enjoyable day
exploring the
community of
Pismo Beach.
Ashtie's
Beach Shack
is a shop that
tourists and
locals will appreciate for the friendly

affordable merchandise, and overall fun atmosphere.

customer service,

Ashtie's Beach Shack is located at 240 Pomeroy Avenue in Pismo Beach. For more information call (805) 295-5055 or visit their Facebook page at Ashtie's Beach Shack.

-Sadie Mae Mace

# Brad's Restaurant delivers a wholesome family experience

The passion for appetizing food shines through

For delicious meals, a spacious patio, and service that will make guests feel like family, look no further than Brad's Restaurant. Located one block from the Pismo Pier, the beautiful patio will attract shoppers and beachgoers to enjoy delicious seafood dishes and American fare.

Brad's Restaurant was opened in 1956 by Brad and Helen Philips, focusing on breakfast food. The Philips had previously owned The Hut, which featured delectable hamburgers until it was destroyed by a fire in 1955.

Afterward, Brad's Restaurant officially opened for business in the same location. The Philips family has been involved with

"We just try to

create a dining

enjoyable and

makes people

want to come

- Debra Rivera

back,"

experience that's

quality food that

managing the restaurant since its opening, meaning the passion for delivering a welcoming experience is always present. The restaurant has been a favorite of locals and tourists, especially during the summer months, for nearly 70 years.

"We just try to create a dining experience that's enjoyable and quality

food that makes people want to come back," said Debra Rivera, the office manager and family member of Brad's Restaurant.

There are plenty of breakfast dishes to start the day off right. Popular choices include omelets, pancakes, bacon and eggs, breakfast burritos and more. The



highlight of the breakfast menu is the chicken fried steak and eggs for a protein-filled morning.

The lunch and dinner menu offers seafood appetizers, including coconut shrimp and steamed

clams. Salads, sandwiches, wraps, burgers, seafood, and more polish off the extensive lunch and dinner options. Many of the recipes were handed down the family line, including the awardwinning clam chowder in a bread bowl and freshly made tartar sauce. Popular lunch and dinner dishes include tri-tip sandwiches cooked

on the oak-pit BBQ and fish and chips. Local wine and beers will make a perfect addition to a meal. Make sure to indulge in the dessert menu at Brad's Restaurant, where brownie sundaes, carrot cake, and mud pie are delicious options.

While every seat is a great spot to enjoy their classic fare, the patio is high in demand due to the ideal



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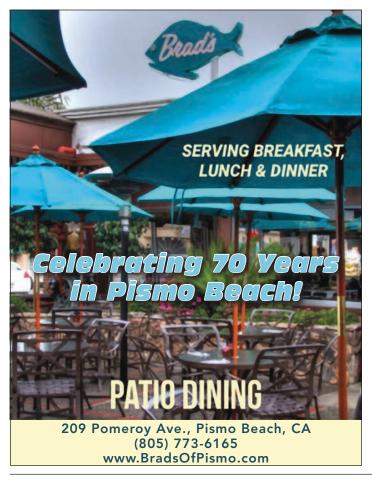


weather and beautiful atmosphere. The patio has been the biggest among Pismo Beach restaurants since 1983.

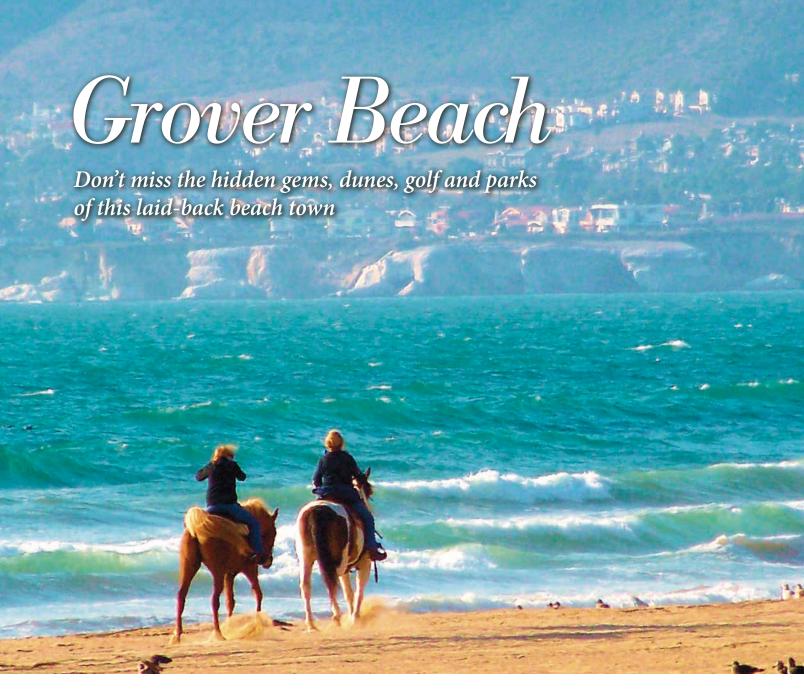
For a mouthwatering bite of

fresh seafood, stellar service, and a restaurant steeped in history and passion, Brad's Restaurant in Pismo Beach is the way to go. Brad's Restaurant is located at 209 Pomeroy Avenue in Pismo Beach. Open Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (805) 773-6165 or visit bradsofpismo.com.

—Sadie Mae Mace







Grover Beach is an outdoor lover's dream with access to wide expanses of beach and nearby parks and hiking. The town resting between Pismo Beach, Oceano and Arroyo Grande is one of the area's gateways to the many experiences and memories that add up to a relaxing break in the regular routine. Exploring nature, the many open spaces and parks, shops, restaurants and activities, including nearby golf courses, are only a few of the attractions that bring visitors back to Grover Beach.

# **Attractions**

# **Skating**

The South County Skate Park, operated by the City of Grover Beach,

is located at 1750 Ramona Ave. The park is open to skateboarders and inline skaters. Helmets and knee and elbow pads are required. Call (805) 473-4568 for more information.

### Hiking and beaches

Grover Beach shares one of the longest stretches of beaches in the area with Pismo Beach. Close to 15 miles of open beach is available for long beach walks, jogging, or exploring the beach and surrounding landscapes.

Grover Beach is also a gateway to the many outdoor activities that are available. The Grover Beach Recreation Department provides online trail maps to just about every open space in San Luis Obispo County. Visit grover.org to download the maps.

### Golf

Fifteen golf courses are located within 20 miles of Grover Beach. A few of the most popular include:

- Pismo Beach Golf Course. This ocean front, nine-hole, par 27 course is located just one mile from downtown Grover Beach on LaSage Drive. Visit pismobeachgolf.com.
- Cypress Ridge Golf Course is an 18-hold, par 72 course located just four miles from the center of Grover Beach in Arroyo Grande. Visit cypressridge.com for tee times and more information.
- Blacklake Golf Resort. Play a choice of courses on these Nipomo links, or practice on the 275 yard driving range. Visit blacklake.com for more information.

# Shopping

# **Natural Healing Center**

Premier cannabis retailer in Grover Beach, Morro Bay and SLO. Focusing on education and providing state of the art facilities with expert 1-on-1 service, NHC offers a comprehensive selection of top-quality products in an inclusive atmosphere. 998 Huston St. GB, 495 Morro Bay Blvd. MB, nhcdispensaries.com, (805) 201-1498



# Central Coast Casino celebrates 25 years of welcoming guests to Grover Beach

Visit the card room 'where visitors feel like locals and locals feel like guests'

Spend a few minutes inside
Central Coast Casino and you'll
discover what the locals already
know – it's one of the friendliest
places around. Celebrating 25 years
of success in Grover Beach, owner
Dave Stearns and his team invite
everyone to stop by and see what
the buzz is all about.

"We are known for our friendly atmosphere and we invite visitors and locals alike to come enjoy a game of poker in a special, unique setting," Owner Dave Stearns says. "Our goal is always to create a special experience where professionalism and small-town charm meet. It's an opportunity for locals and visitors to mix and for everybody to have a good time."

With the motto of, "Where visitors feel like locals and locals feel like guests," Central Coast Casino is home to friendly, professional dealers and a slew of regular players that Stearns refers to as, "a big cast of characters" united by a love for poker. On any given day, folks in the card room include everyone from ditch diggers to doctors, professional athletes, firefighters, and professors.

# Upgrades include shared space with Rib Line by the

Sharing a 7000-square foot building with Rib Line by the Beach, a family-friendly restaurant run by Brian and Krystal Appiano has elevated the overall experience at Central Coast



"We are known for our friendly atmosphere and we invite visitors and locals alike to come enjoy a game of poker in a special, unique setting," Owner Dave Stearns says. "Our goal is always to create a special experience where professionalism and small-town charm meet. It's an opportunity for locals and visitors to mix and for everybody to have a good time."

- Owner Dave Stearns

Casino, according to Stearns. The entire premises have been completely remodeled, resulting in a stunning ambiance.

"I can't say enough about the Appiano Family and what they have done to improve the overall quality, safety, security, and friendly atmosphere of this facility," Stearns says. "They are doing a great job, and they have been a welcome addition to the area." The card room features new gaming equipment and tables, comfy leather chairs, and additional seating. Regulars can be found gathering around the card tables on a near-nightly basis engaging in three of the card room's most popular games – Big O Hi-Lo Split, Texas Hold 'Em, and Omaha.

# Poker lessons and a lifetime of experience

Stearns offers complimentary lessons daily with an emphasis on responsible card playing. He starts every lesson with: "Poker is for two kinds of people, kings and fools – which one are you?" His point is simple – don't play with money you can't afford to lose.

"Poker is one of America's favorite pastimes," he says. "We want people to appreciate the excitement of a good, competitive game but we also want to educate them on the dangers of losing control."

Stearns holds a Bachelor's Degree in marketing and entrepreneurship. He spent many years in Los Angeles-based casinos, working his way up from dealer to house player to casino manager. He opened Central Coast Casino in 1998



fifth in the World Series of Poker, recognized as the biggest poker tournament in the world. He also won the "Rags to Riches" tournament at the Commerce Casino, earning the state's biggest payout at the time. Most recently, Stearns made it to the Final Table for the Seniors Event at the World Series of Poker 2023.

# 25 years of success and community support

Stearns credits the success of Central Coast Casino not only to his background but also to the loyalty of his employees and customers.

"We have the best dealers floor people anywhere right here in this little hometown card room," says Stearns. "As for our customers, I can't say enough, without their support, we'd have nothing."

Doing their part to help

team at Central Coast Casino support local, state, and worldwide charities.

others,

Stearns

and his

"We believe in supporting the community that supports us," he says, "and we have a social re-



# Food, fun, and friendly card room atmosphere

ferent levels."

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contribute

at several dif-

As if the dealers, the games, and the clean, welcoming atmosphere weren't enough, Central Coast Casino offers a choice of delicious meal options prepared with an Asian or Hawaiian flare by Stearns' wife, Theresa. Steak, roast beef, chicken, lasagna, salads, and sandwiches are featured menu items, as well as pastries,

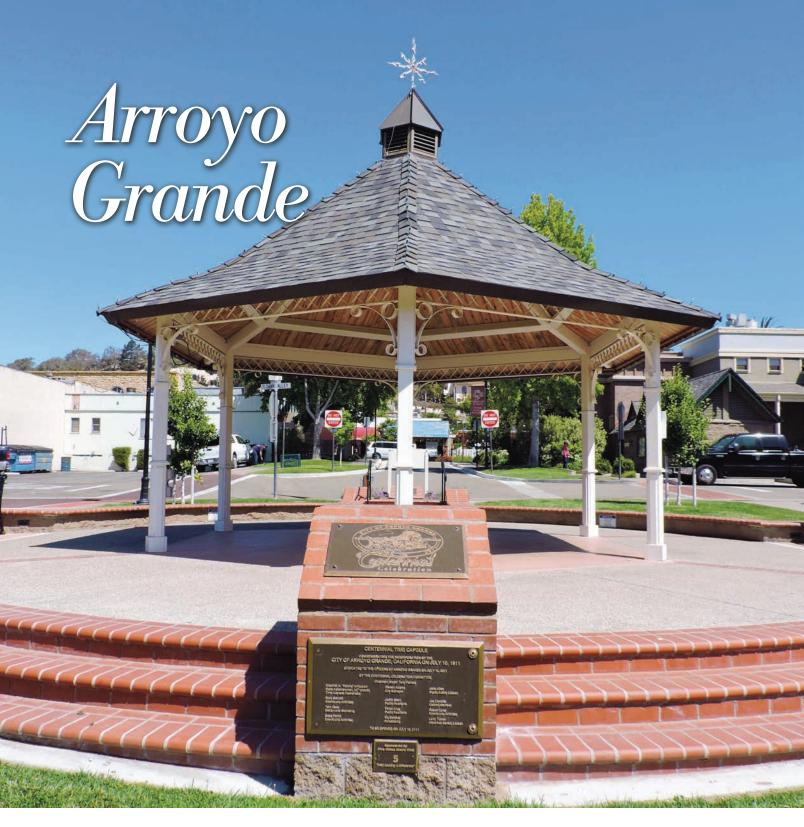
serts.

In addition, \$6 dinner specials are available from Rib Line by the Beach. Delicious and convenient, the meals prepared by the friendly staff next door may be enjoyed right at your gaming table.

With a crowd of all different ages and backgrounds, from beginners to the more experienced players, everyone is welcome at Central Coast Casino. It's sort of a social club, according to the regulars - stop by today and be welcomed into the mix.

Central Coast Casino Is located at 4th and Grand Ave. in Grover Beach, next to Rib Line by the Beach. Open Mon 10 a.m. to close, Tue-Thu 4 p.m. to close, Fri-Sat 10 a.m. to close. Closed Sun. For more information visit slo-poker.com, call (805) 474-8500, or follow Central Coast Casino on Facebook.

—Meagan Friberg



The charming village of Arroyo Grande showcases its history through the variety of buildings and historical landmarks that line the streets, many housing restaurants, shops and museums. The shops include antiques, specialty boutique goods and gifts. Restaurants range from bakeries, cozy cafes and coffee houses, to family dining for every food preference.

# **Attractions**

# **The Swinging Bridge**

The Swinging Bridge in the Village of Arroyo Grande, spanning the Arroyo Grande Creek, is the only remaining bridge of its kind in California. Originally built in 1875, the bridge was reconstructed in 1995 after it was destroyed by a fallen tree.

# Open-air historical experiences

- •The Santa Manuela School House, a one-room school that held classes from 1901 until 1957
- The Paulding History House, a registered California Historic Resource at 551 Crown Hill Road, was built in 1889.

Visit the South County Historical

Society at southcountyhistory.org more information about the Heritage House Museum, the Barn Museum, the IOOF Historic Hall and other Arroyo Grande historical resources.

### Farm fresh foods

The town is surrounded by agricultural land and small farms that grow fresh, farm-to-fork, fruits and vegetables. Many of these essential

farms offer produce and fresh farm goods at roadside stands.

### Farmer's market

If you're in town on Wednesday, don't miss the Farmer's Market at 1464 East Grand Avenue. Take your pick of fresh local farm fare, vegetables, fruit, fish, flowers and more. If you missed out on the local farm fresh roadside stands, the chances are the same farmers are at the Arroyo Grande Farmer's Market.

## **Lopez Lake Recreation Area**

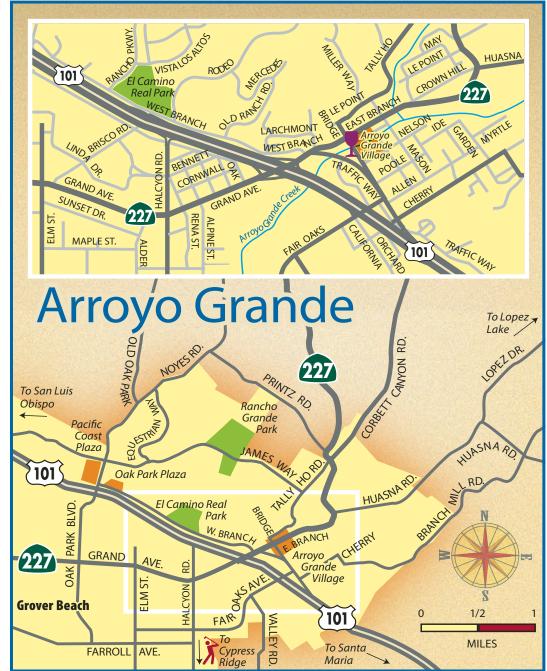
Located just 10 miles east of Arroyo Grande, Lopez Lake has close to 1000 acres of lake surface for boating, fishing, canoeing and windsurfing. The lake has a launch ramp, tackle shop, and many other amenities for water sport enthusiasts. The oak tree studded open space offers hiking and equestrian trails and is home to more than 175 species of flowering plants, more than 150 species of birds and all of the wildlife that calls the region home. Quagga mussel inspections are in force. Call (805) 781-5930 for more information about Quagga mussel inspections, camping, boat launching and horse trailer parking.

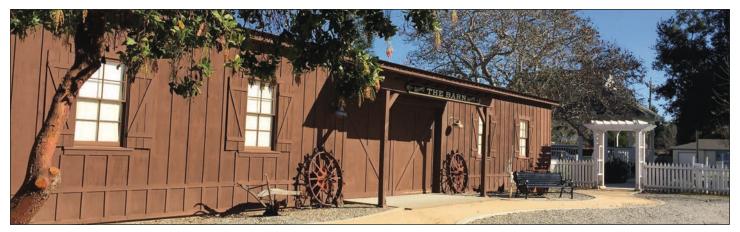
# **Dining & Drinks**

### Klondike Pizza

The owners have been serving award-winning pizza in a cozy Alaskan atmosphere since 1988. Munch on peanuts and toss your shells on the floor. Try the Reindeer Sausage! They also have a gluten-free crust option. Sun-Thurs: 11-9 p.m. / Fri & Sat: till 10 p.m., 104 Bridge St., Arroyo Grande, klondikepizza.com, (805) 481-5288









# Cozy, Alaskan Atmosphere

Beer and Wine • Retro Video Games
BIG HEATED PATIO

PIZZA • SALADS • BURGERS • GRILLED SANDWICHES
BAKED n' COLD SANDWICHES • PIZZA

Vegetarian, Vegan, and Gluten-Free Options

In-House Dining • Take-Out • Curbside Delivery
Cafe Runner Home Delivery



# See Our Full Menu at Klondikepizza.com or scan the QR Code

### DENAL

Pepperoni, Salami, Sausage, Mushrooms, Black Olives, Bell Peppers, Onions.

### VEGGIE

Mushrooms, Zucchini, Black Olives, Tomatoes, Bell Peppers and Onions.

### ROADKILL

Reindeer Sausage, Pepperoni, Salami, Italian Sausage and Canadian Bacon.

# **GARLIC CHICKEN**

Garlic Sauce, Minced Garlic, Grilled Chicken Breast, Red Onion and Parsley.

104 Bridge Street · Arroyo Grande Village 805-481-5288



# Much to do in the Village

# Adventures in food, fun, and tall tales

Roosters, history, museums, pizza, wine, beer, ghosts, farms, theater, festivals, and the gateway to adventure, all of this and more is awaiting in Arroyo Grande, known as the Village to locals.

Some places are successful in retaining that old-time flavor of days gone by and still offer modern-day amenities and fun. Arroyo Grande is one of those towns.

This charming village is filled with one-of-a-kind shops with antique and vintage items, collectibles, clothing, sporting goods, gifts and more.

# Pizza, a swinging bridge, history, concerts and roosters

Hungry after shopping? Stop in for a little piece of Alaska at Klondike Pizza. Specialty pizzas are on the menu and locals say the place is haunted.

As you walk around the village be sure to walk over the Swinging Bridge, the only one of its kind in California. The bridge is 171 feet long and swings 40 feet above the stream. Originally the bridge had no sides, but they were added in 1902. The bridge was donated to the city in 1911, destroyed by a storm in 1995, but since reconstructed.

Visit historic buildings dating from the late 1800s and early 1900s in Heritage Park. Concerts in the park offer live bands, dance troupes and other performances.

Centennial Park hosts the weekly Farmer's Market and is home to a troupe of free-ranging roosters.

# Festivals, Festivals

Arroyo Grande hosts festivals for just about every occasion and season. From the Holidays on into the new year, celebrating spring, summer and the fall harvest, Arroyo Grande is the place for families to enjoy outdoor music, vendors, and lots of tasty food, beer and wine.

Learn more about what's going on in the village at visitarroyogrande.org.

# Visit the farm

Just outside town Windmill Farms on North Thompson Avenue is a great place to take the kids, Visit the Critter Corral and feed the sheep, goats, pigs, donkeys, turkeys, geese and miniature horse. In the barn find gourmet foods, gifts, pottery, garden art, succulents and more.

### **Adventures at Lopez Lake**

A short drive east brings you to Lopez Lake for camping, hiking, boating, water-skiing, fishing and swimming. Exercise your outdoor adventure skills at Vista Lago Adventure Park and Mustang Waterpark for zip lining, waterslides and more.

-Ruth Ann Angus



Nipomo is a small town on the mesa in the southern area of San Luis Obispo County that is known for its stands of eucalyptus trees, expansive golf courses and special outdoor and nature experiences.

Nipomo preserves a spirit of true frontier land even while modern businesses thrive in its commercial areas. Standing on the wet sand of the shore of the Pacific, looking out over the sprawling Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes toward the rich, riparian woods, creeks, fresh water lakes and the Santa Maria River, one imagines seeing the same views that the original Chumash saw while going about their daily activities. The word "nipomo" means "base of the hills" in the Chumash language.

Bostonian sea captain, Captain William G. Dana acquired a land grant in 1837, and settled the 37,888-acre Rancho Nipomo. His adobe house still stands near the 101 Freeway.

# **Attractions**

# **Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes**

The 3,400-acre Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve is one of the largest remaining coastal dune systems in the nation and is a mustsee excursion for hikers, naturalists and bird-watchers. Catch glimpses of more than 200 varieties of birds and view more than 120 imperiled plants and animals within the preserve's National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding dune habitat.

# **Nipomo Native Gardens**

A forest of native plants and trees are maintained by volunteers from the Nipomo Native Gardens Society. The Nipomo Native Garden is a 12-acre site located between Pomeroy, Camino Caballo and Osage, nipomonativegarden.org.

### **Nipomo Swap Meet**

The huge Nipomo Swap Meet and Flea market is on the grounds adjacent to the 101 Freeway at the Teft Street off-ramp. The Nipomo Swap Meet & Flea market combines great family entertainment with old school swap meet atmosphere. It is the largest swap meet on California's Central Coast and is open Sat - Sun 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. \$3 parking on Sun. No dogs. Visit nipomoswapmeets.com or call (805) 929-7000 for more information.

# Dana Adobe Historical Landmark and Cultural Center

The mission of the Dana Adobe Cultural Center is to engage visitors with the stories of California's Rancho Era History, connecting them with the peoples, the land and its resources to foster environmental stewardship and cultural understanding. The Dana Adobe is located at 671 Oakglen Ave, Nipomo, CA. Be sure to visit danaadobe.org before arriving for the most recent information.

# The Luffa Farm

Come and see how luffas grow at the Luffa Farm. These natural sponges grow like squash. Take a free tour and see all their products at the gift shop. Open Wed. to Sun. from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 1457 Willow Road., theluffafarm.com, (805) 343-0883



# The Luffa Farm in Nipomo — where luffas come from

Learn how a gourd becomes a luffa, enjoy the beautiful grounds and shop

Discovering luffas are plants and not sea creatures is surprising to many. Deanne Coon, owner of The Luffa Farm in Nipomo, is often asked, "They're sponges, right?"

"A luffa is a plant with an attitude, not unlike an orchid," Deanne said. "You know how it is with orchids – they don't do what you expect." It seems luffas are like that as well.





Deanne's introduction to luffas came when she received a bunch of seeds many years ago; she took them but had no idea what they were. "I thought they might be watermelon seeds. I went to the library and looked through books to try and find out what they were."

Finally deciding that the seeds were some Chinese cucumber, Deanne planted the seeds in her garden against the fencing. As they grew, she attached a fishing line to the fence, the vines took off and gourds began to form. As time passed, she finally checked on the plants and found that the gourds had turned brown, dried out, and appeared dead. She picked one, heard the seeds rattling inside, peeled off the outer skin and behold! There was a luffa. Thus began her long journey as a luffa farmer.

Nowadays Deane grows her plants in pots in three large greenhouses. "I tried growing them in the ground but the gophers attacked them," she says, "then when the afternoon winds came up, as they do in Nipomo, the blossoms blew right off the plants. No blossoms, no luffas."

# Take a tour, visit the gift shop

The luffa gourd develops at the base of the flower and grows downward at about one inch daily, and more than one gourd grows on a vine. When some magical moment occurs inside the gourd, it stops growing, changing from bright green to yellow and, finally, to brown. When it's hard and dry shake it! The seeds inside will rattle and then it's picking time.

The Luffa Farm is one of the few growers of luffa in the United States and is a "must-visit." A tour of the Luffa Farm begins with a comparison of commercial luffas imported from other countries; these other plants are chemically handled, causing the luffas to become stiff and abrasive. Deanne's luffas, however, are essentially non-abrasive when wet

"You can use them to wash the most sensitive skin if you want to," she says. "Our luffas won't give you raw skin, just a good clean feeling." They can be used on the car and dishes, cleaned in the dishwasher or washing machine, and air-dried. After about a year of use, when they are worn out, luffas are biodegradable!

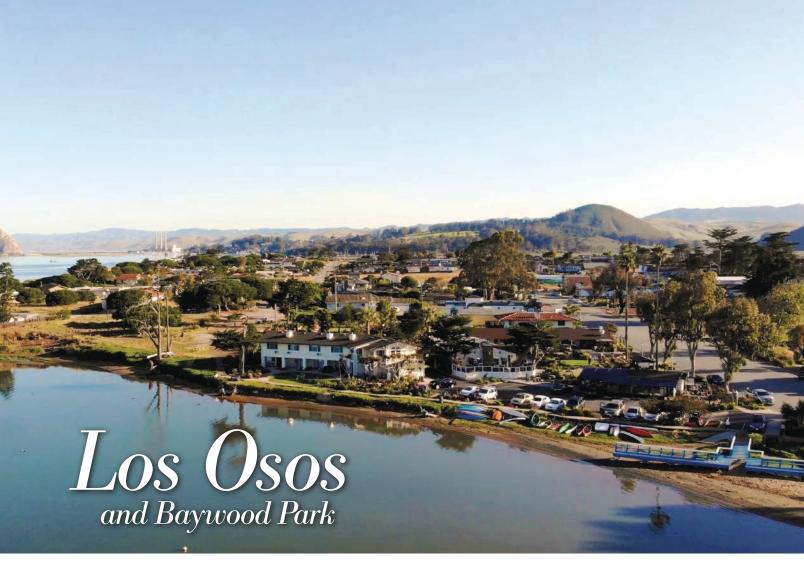
Throughout history, many cultures have used luffas in a variety of ways. They are commonly eaten as summer squash and processed for a variety of medicinal applications, and of course, the dried fibers are very useful for scrubbing.

After a tour, stop by the gift shop. Deanne also grows a variety of aromatic and healing herbs, using them in products such as bath teas, coasters, and neck wraps. She also specializes in glycerine soaps and lotions, and a variety of other unique natural bath products.

Tours for 12 or more are recommended to ensure proper staffing.

The Luffa Farm, located at 1457 Willow Road in Nipomo, is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Call (805) 343-0883. Luffa Farm products are available online at theluffafarm.com.





os Osos, Spanish for "Valley of the Bears", is off the beaten path and the gateway to Montana de Oro, an amazing state park along the ocean. The town has many quaint places of interest for visitors to stop on their way to and from the state park. Try one of the many restaurants or grab something to take with you for a picnic at the beach or one of the nearby forests.

# Montana de Oro

The park is well-used with daily visitors throughout the year who go there to hike, picnic, fish, camp, surf, take a dip in the ocean or visit the tide pools. The park's visitor center is located at Spooner's Ranch House Museum above Spooner's Cove. The park is free to enter. (805) 528-0513. For camping call (800) 444-7275.

### **Elfin Forest**

The forest has nearly 200 species of plants, more than 100 varieties of birds, and many species of mammals and reptiles and amphibians. The

forest includes a 1-mile boardwalk that is wheelchair accessible at the north end of 16th Street. Guided tours are given on the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 am starting at the north end of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel. (805) 528-0392.

# **Baywood Pier**

The pier, at the intersection of 2nd Street and El Morro Ave., overlooks the shores of the back bay of Morro Bay. The Los Osos Oaks State Reserve Half-mile east of South Bay Boulevard on the south side of Los Osos Valley Road. The reserve has an easy one-mile trail through the "Pygmy Oaks", which are dwarfed coast live oaks. The low canopy reserve is on the site where Chumash once lived.

# **Los Osos Community Park**

Located at the corner of Los Osos Valley Road and Palisades Avenue, the park includes a 17,000-square-foot skate park, three tennis courts, playgrounds and restrooms. The park is ideal for walking or picnicking and is the site of the Los Osos Valley School, one of five original one-room schoolhouses between San Luis Obispo and the coast. Of those five, only two still exist today, both in Los Osos.

# Sweet Springs Nature Preserve

Located on the north end of Ramona Avenue between Broderon and 4th Street, the park is open from dawn to dusk and has trails that wander through the Monterey cypress and eucalyptus trees around two freshwater ponds and a salt marsh to the edge of Morro Bay.

# Baywood Park Farmers' Market

On Santa Maria Avenue between 2nd and 3rd streets. The market takes place every Monday from 2-4:30 p.m. (805) 748-1109.

### Bear statues

On your way into Los Osos notice the large grizzlies stationed as guards into the town at South Bay Boulevard and Los Osos Valley Road. The statues were created by local artist Paula Zima.

# **Dining & Drinks**

## **Foggy Bottom Distillery**

A small-batch craft distillery located in Los Osos on Los Osos Valley Road, specializing in bourbon, whiskeys, gin, and spiced rum. Come visit and meet the distiller. 905 Los Osos Valley Road, fbdistillery.com, (805) 795-1727





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# Visit Foggy Bottom Distillery in the coastal village of Los Osos

Small but mighty distillery produces an array of corn whiskeys, bourbons, rye's, gins, and spiced rums

Winer Todd Adams opened Foggy Bottom Distillery in the often-foggy coastal village of Los Osos in March of 2017. The small but mighty distillery produces a wide array of spirits including corn whiskeys, bourbons, rye's, gins, and spiced rums.

Adams says he enjoys creating new variations of spirits, "Distilling is a very good fit for my personality and lifestyle," he says. "I enjoy using the tasting room as a social outlet. I am normally a very private person," he says. "Plus I have a captive audience and they have to laugh at all my jokes and wild stories."

Adams loves to give distillery tours to his patrons, who often will ask incredulously, "You make everything in here?" His reply is, "Yes, all 35 plus spirits were made in here! That is when they are really blown away; seeing that the distillery is the size of a small walkin closet."



Finding a location for his distillery was no easy feat, according to Adams. He says that being a distillery was a deterrent for many leasing agents. Adams also works as a county building inspector and said that one day on the job he was inspecting the building that houses Martin's restaurant for a remodel when he said jokingly that there was an unusual condition on the permit: that 100-square feet be dedicated to a craft distiller. After some convincing and a whiskey tasting, the owners agreed to let

Adams open his distillery in a small 100-square-foot room. They would later alter the plans for the distillery to add a deck for the tasting room. Adams also has an off-site barrel room for aging.

Adams is a busy man; inspecting during the week and giving tastings every weekend. You may even find him running the still, which he says he did often up until the CO-VID-19 pandemic hit. During the pandemic, Adams joined several other local distillers in making an immediate pivot to producing hand sanitizer. Foggy Bottom sold half of it and gave the other half away, "I just wanted to make my money back on it." Adams said.

# The future of Foggy

Adams has big plans for the future of Foggy Bottom. He says he plans on retiring from the county building department in about 3 years, after which he will be able to devote more time to growing the business. He says he can have three locations with his current license, and if he adds a restaurant he can have a full bar. "My little brother is

working on having a location near his home in Roseville California," he says. He has big plans for the restaurant, he says, "but I don't want to give up those secrets yet."

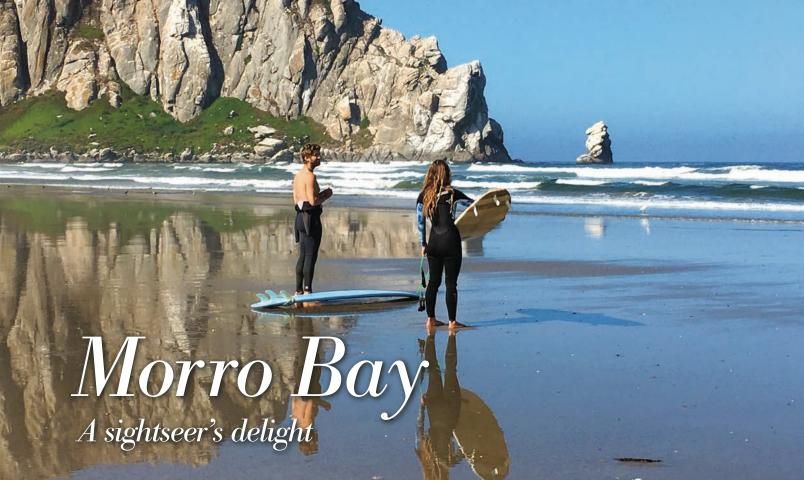
Foggy Bottom is open for tastings on Saturdays from 12 - 7 p.m. and Sundays from 12 - 6 p.m. "If you come for a tasting, you will be entertained by my telling of the Foggy Bottom story," says Adams. Drinks and entertainment? Sign me up!

Foggy Bottom is located at 905 Los Osos Valley Rd., Suite B, in Los Osos. For more information about their spirits and tasting room location, visit https://www.fbdistillery. com/ or call 805-795-1727.

—Skye Pratt







Explore the natural beauty of Morro Bay, a town famous for its fog and fishing. Whether for a day or a week, this small town by the Rock has something for everyone.

Morro Bay is bursting with exciting activities to try. There's deep sea fishing, whale watching, world-class surfing, hiking, biking, and kayaking.

When it comes to birdwatching, there's little doubt that Morro Bay provides the best chance for observing a great variety of species. It's an incredible birding spectacle. There are also harbor seals, sea lions, and sea otters.

Looking to take a slower pace? Stroll down the Embarcadero and browse gift shops and art galleries. Explore the local cuisine and dine on fresh caught fish. Sit on a bench in Tidelands Park and watch the boats leaving the harbor or take a walk on the beach and watch the waves. Walk out the harbor boardwalk to Morro Rock, the 576-foot volcanic plug that looms over the bay and seashore. Keep an eye out for sea otters that rest in the kelp beds near the shore.



# **Attractions**

# **Morro Bay Maritime Museum**

This museum has been preserving and interpreting the maritime history, especially that of California since 1995. The current fleet on exhibit includes the tug boat "Alma" that rescued sailors from the December 1941 Japanese attack on a Union Oil tanker off the coast of Morro Bay and the "Avalon," one of two Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles (DSRV) submarines designed to rescue crews of downed submarines. The museum is located at 1210 Embarcadero in Morro Bay. For hours visit morrobaymaritime.org.

### **Morro Bay State Park**

Morro Bay State Park, located at 60 State Park Rd. Morro Bay, features lagoon and bay habitat, all in view of Morro Rock. The park has opportunities for sailing, fishing, hiking and bird watching and features a marina and an 18-hole golf course. The Morro Bay Golf Course is located at 201 State Park Rd. Call (805) 772-1923 for hours and tee times.

The park is a California state park, visit parks.ca.gov for information about parking, hours and other attractions.

# Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History

The Museum of Natural History is a fun place to explore, discover, and learn about habitats of the area and impacts of natural and human forces through hands-on displays, activities, and events. This destination museum is located in the heart of Morro Bay. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$3 adults; free for children 17 and under. 20 State Park Rd., Morro Bay. centralcoastparks.org. (805) 548-0391

### **North Point Natural Area**

Operated by the City of Morro Bay, the North Point Natural Area has a stairway that leads down to the beach. Once on the beach, people can walk north to Cayucos or south to Morro Rock. The beach has one of the best tidepool areas. In the spring, the meadow is full of blooming wildflowers. The entry is located on Toro Lane in Morro Bay.

# **Black Hill Trail**

Located at Main St and Parkview Dr., this 2.5 mile trail is a moderate hike. The trail is a favorite spot for nature walks and birdwatching. Leashed dogs are welcome.

# Giant chessboard at Centennial Parkway

According to the United States Chess Federation, the Giant Chessboard at Centennial Parkway, 806 Embarcadero, is only one of two outdoor chessboards in the United States. The other is located in New York City. The Morro Bay Chess Club installed chess tables and benches adjacent to the Giant Chessboard. The Giant Chessboard is available for reservations, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., through the Morro Bay Recreation Services for a small fee. Visitors are always welcomed to join the Morro Bay Chess Club on Saturdays beginning at noon. For more information call (805) 772-6278

# **Art Center Morro Bay**

The Gallery has become a hub for fine art. They offer many opportunities to purchase beautiful, local drawings, prints, sculpture, jewelry, cards and more through an array of venues, as well as networking and educational opportunities for artists to further their craft. artcentermorrobay.org, Morro Bay Art Center 835 Main St., (805) 772-2504

### **Chablis Cruises**

Treat yourself to a delicious meal and incredible vistas of Morro Bay Harbor aboard Chablis Cruises. Featuring weekly chowder and sightseeing cruises. Check our website for wine tasting and special events! Private charters available. Reservations highly recommended. Across from the stacks in Morro Bay, Chabliscruises.com, (805) 772-2128

# **Art Galleries**

# **David J Rogers Fine Art**

Visit the gallery and working studio of local artist, David J Rogers. He offers original paintings, giclée prints, cards, gifts and live watercolor workshops. Located in downtown Morro Bay, 407 Morro Bay Blvd., open daily 10 am - 5 pm, Sundays 11 am - 4 pm, davidjrogersart.com, (805) 225-5077

# **Dining & Drinks**

# **Bayside Cafe**

Located at the State Park Marina it's the best kept secret on the Central Coast. Seafood dinners, such as fresh fish, steamers and fish and chips. Meatloaf served Thursday nights. Lunch daily starting at 11 a.m., dinner Thursday-Sunday 4 - 8:30 p.m. Located across the street from the State Park Campground entrance, (805) 772-1465

# **Hotels & Lodging**

# **Salty Sister Boutique Hotel**

Salty Sister a boutique hotel is Morro Bay's newest hotel and closest lodging to Morro Rock. With a stunning panoramic view of the bay, this boutique hotel | vacation rental is a popular addition to the Morro Bay waterfront. Rent the full complex (six private suites) or choose a 1, 2 or 3 bedroom suite layout, 7svr.com, (805) 900-60008

# Shopping

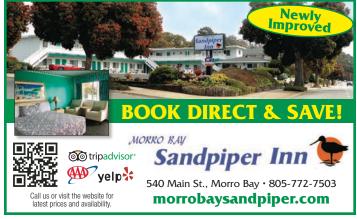
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# **Beads By The Bay**

The only Bead and Garden store on the Central Coast! Old-town charm with a hidden nursery behind. Beads from around the world, charms, findings, tools and repairs. Tillandsias, succulents, miniature garden accessories and more! Open Wed-Mon. 333 Morro Bay Blvd., (805) 772-3338







# Morro Bay Bird Festival flying high again

Over 200 events at the 2024 Morro Bay Bird Festival

A re you a birder? Then Morro Bay is the place for you on January 11-15, 2024, when you can join hundreds of fellow birders at the best yearly event on the Central Coast, the Morro Bay Bird Festival.

The 2024 festival offers over 200 events for beginning birdwatchers to the most seasoned. Events include guided field trips, destination field trips to Carrizo Plain, Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Oso Flaco and Point Buchon, birding by bike, bay cruises and kayaking, master classes, building owl and bird boxes, journaling and sketching and more.

There are the Big Days of Birding where you can join a leader



with the possibility of rapid identification of over 100 species at hot spots throughout San Luis Obispo County. There are also Casual Big Days at a slower pace for beginning and intermediate birders. A special effort is made to sight regional

specialties and rarities. There are many opportunities for up-close observations.

Kayaking is a wonderful way to see the variety of birds on the bay and a perfect opportunity to take photos. You may see white pelicans, brant, common loons and a host of other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Paddling will pass near the Heron Rookery, Grassy Island oyster farm, mudflats, and channels of the Back Bay. Double kayaks are used and no prior kayaking experience is needed.

You can choose to enjoy a leisurely boating tour of the bay and estuary. You will view a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, often at close range. The boat moves slowly enough for you to see details of many species that you normally see only through a scope from shore. Or choose the boating tour for photographers with an expert photographer guide and enjoy a leisurely photography-focused boating tour of the bay on the catamaran.

Pelagic trips will take you out on the ocean where you might even see whales and dolphins as well as albatross, shearwaters, kittiwakes, alcids, and jaegers. Other inland









# Beads by the Bay and Garden Shop



333 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay, CA 805.772.3338 morrobaybeads.com

# The ONLY **Bead & Garden Shop** on the Central Coast!

OPEN WED-MON!

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO BEAD** 

as well as a huge selection of succulents, air plants and miniature garden accessories



tours are to ranching and oak woodlands will offer sightings of various raptors, including golden eagles, meadowlarks, bluebirds, woodpeckers, and more.

### Meet the VIPs

There is an opening reception on Friday at the Morro Bay Community Center and the keynote speaker for Saturday is Jennifer Ackerman.

A birdwatcher since the age of seven, Ackerman has been writing about science and nature for more than three decades. Her previous book, The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think, was selected as a Best Science Book by NPR's "Science Friday" and was a finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. Her New York Times bestselling book, The Genius of Birds, has been translated into 25 languages and was named one of the best nonfiction books of 2016 by the Wall Street Journal and a Nature Book of the Year by the London Sunday Times, Her most recent book, What an Owl Knows:

The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds, was an instant New York Times best seller.

John Muir Laws is a trained wildlife biologist and has illustrated and written multiple books on field drawings. John will be teaching a master class, leading field studies and delivering a keynote address on Sunday night at the Madonna Inn banquet.

Jon Dunn, the chief consultant for the first five editions of National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, leads birdwatching expeditions every day of the festival.

Benny Jacob-Schwartz, Fiona Gillogly, Lara Tseng and Sharon Lovejoy leading birdwatching tours and workshops.

The 2024 schedule is packed with not-to-be-missed activities. Registration is open now! Events and activities fill up quickly for this popular event. To register and for more information visit morrobaybirdfestival.org.

-Ruth Ann Angus



# Explore the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay State Park

Bring the family and learn about the natural history of Morro Bay

A trip to California's Central Coast is not complete without visiting the Museum of Natural History. Visitors experience a deep dive into Morro Bay's natural history through educational and interactive displays. There is much to learn about the region including the variety of natural habitats, the bountiful wildlife and the Chumash and Salinan cultures.

In the 1950s, the Department of Parks and Recreation developed plans to open regional museums throughout the state. The Morro Bay Museum of Natural History opened in 1962 and is the only natural history museum in the California State Park system.

The museum serves as both an educational and exhibit space and a research center. More than 50,000 people visit the museum annually, including thousands of students participating in the free State Park Interpreter school group programs and distance learning programs. These field trips meet California's required science and social studies standards.

The young and young at heart learn about Chumash and Salinan culture and participate in activities found nowhere else on the Central Coast. Adults can enjoy one of the many lectures, displays, videos, or events. Each visit reveals something new and the hands-on activities change monthly. Rotating exhibits are featured seasonally in the auditorium.

"The staff of the museum provides engaging and informative programs that highlight and celebrate the natural wonders of the Central Coast. It is an incredibly valuable resource for our community," says Robyn Chase, California



State Parks Interpretive Program Manager.

"Join the staff for a nature walk, ask questions and discover more about Morro Rock, the dunes, the estuary, or the Heron Rookery Natural Preserve," invites Chase.

"Visitors to the museum love to browse the well-stocked gift shop," says Kristin Howland, Executive Director of the Central Coast State Parks Association. "The Central Coast State Parks Association takes pride in the selection of merchandise in the museum store, which benefits the park's educational programs. Find a unique offering of books, gifts, and apparel all featuring the wonders of Morro Bay State Park that make for great shopping choices for any occasion."

# Albatross: Life on the Wind exhibit

Albatross: Life on the Wind runs from late December 2023 through April 2024. Explore albatross biology and their conservation with colorful art and engaging, informative text. Albatrosses soar effortlessly over the churning sea and through storms off the California coast. These ancient creatures have been misunderstood throughout history, blamed for bad weather and ridiculed for their clumsy gait on land. But what is life really

like for an albatross? Discover the albatross at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History.

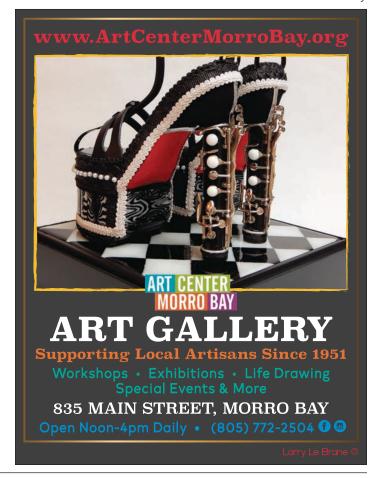
### Visit the museum

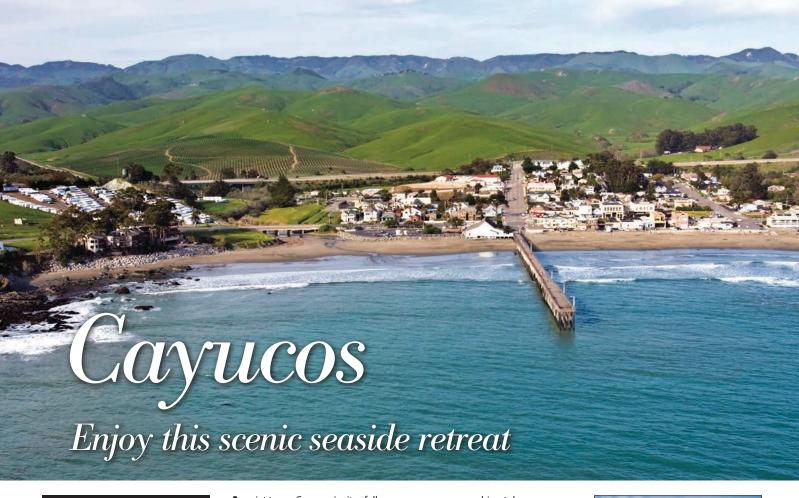
There is a \$3 entry fee for anyone 18 or over. The California State Park Adventure Pass provides free entry for 4th graders and their families to 19 amazing parks, including the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History!

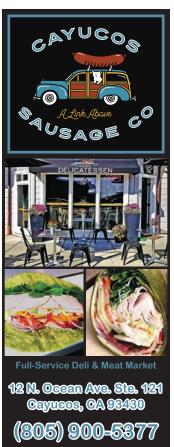
The museum's programs, including lectures, interpretive events, exhibits, and hands-on explorations. are funded by the Central Coast State Parks Association.

The Museum of Natural History at Morro Bay State Park is located at 20 State Park Rd., Morro Bay. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information, call (805) 772-2694 or visit centralcoastparks.org.

—Cassandra Frey







CavucosSausage.com

54

A quiet town, Cayucos invites folks to slow down, smell the ocean air, pick up sea glass, and never take life for granted. The broad main street recalls the days of stagecoaches and cowboys, and some of the buildings there date back to that bye-gone era.

Cayucos is the number one destination on the Central Coast for antique shoppers and a great place to just cool down and get away from the heat. It is the perfect beachside town for renting a beach house and enjoying a week of sand castles, sunsets and relaxation.

# **Attractions**

### **Public art**

Cayucos has a number of public murals and sculptures on display at various locations. The art includes a "Mosaic Sculpture Honoring Indigenous People," an underwater scene of the Cave of Mysteries, and more. Visit cayucos.org/muralsociety for a map of the art.

### **Explore tidepools**

Rocky areas around the pier on Cayucos State Beach are great areas to find tidepools. Estero Bluffs State Park north of Cayucos is another area with plenty of tidepools. Depending on the tide, the animals that can be seen in tidepools include small fish, shrimp, sea stars, hermit crabs, anemones,

sponges, sea urchins, tube worms, sea cucumbers and many, many more. Please leave the tidepools exactly as you found them. Tidepools are special, fragile systems and disturbing the animals and plants can cause harm.

### **Fishing**

Fishing on the pier and from the shore of Cayucos State Beach is a favorite activity for locals and visitors. No fishing license is needed. Surf fishing is also allowed but a license is needed. Deep sea fishing is also available from local commercial fishing businesses.

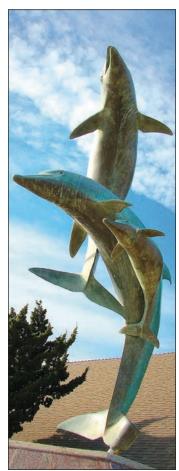
### **Beach activities**

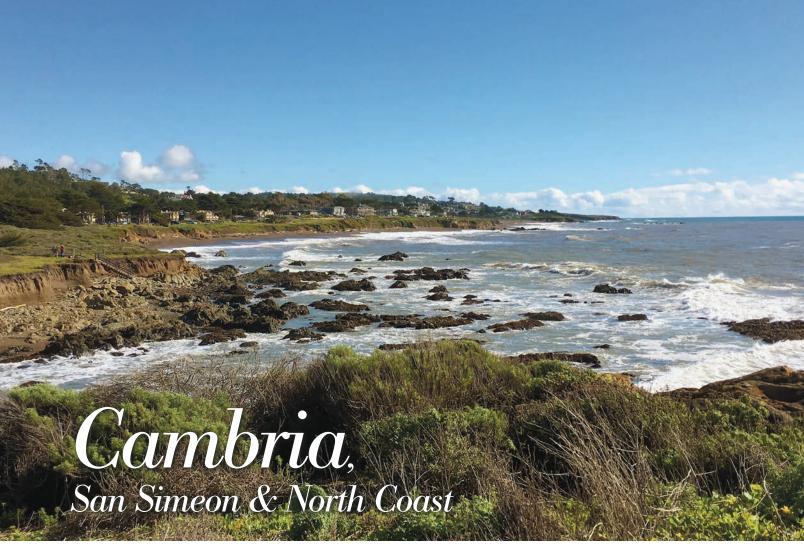
The Cayucos State Beach stretches five miles south to Morro Bay. Run, jog, or walk as far as you like. Leashed dogs are welcome. Other beach activities include surfing, boogie boarding, kayaking or sitting in the sand and building sand castles.

# **Dining & Drinks**

# **Cayucos Sausage Company**

Cayucos Sausage Company is a seaside delicatessen that makes gourmet sausages with the finest ingredients and never uses preservatives. In addition to the sausages they are an upscale full-service deli and meat market. 12 N. Ocean Avenue, Suite 121, cayucossausage.com, (805) 900-5377





The charming village of Cambria is filled with unique shops, galleries, and restaurants serving all kinds of delicious food. The shops have everything from antiques, specialty items, household gadgets, exquisite jewelry, and art from the quirky to traditional. Walking through the village, along flower-filled yards and shady trees, the well-maintained buildings, many dating from the 1800s, all come together in a sense of how life in a more tranquil time must have been.

Cambria is also known as the gateway to Hearst Castle, glorious ocean scenery along Highway 1, and during the month of October, is the heart of the Cambria Scarecrow Festival. The festival is an outdoor display of whimsical handmade scarecrows that draws visitors from all over.

# **Attractions**

# Historical walking tour

Visit the Cambria Historical Society website (cambriahistoricalsociety.com) for a map of a walking tour of Cambria's historical buildings. The self-guided tour encompasses 28 buildings and the map includes a written history of each one. Learn the fascinating history of these old buildings and how their uses evolved from the original business or residence to their current occupations. Learn a little about the people and families who shaped Cambria's early years.

## Visit the elephant seals

The elephant seal rookery extends six miles along the shoreline near Point Piedras Blancas in the Hearst San Simeon State Park. The seals may be seen all year but the largest populations are present during late January, April and October. Visit the Friends of the Elephant Seal website at elephantseal.org for information about the best viewing times and spots.

# **Attractions & Tours**

# **Covell's Clydesdales**

Covell Ranch has 50+ Clydesdale horses and 2,000 acres of pasture and forest the family lives on in Cambria. They have been raising them for nearly 40 years. They are open Mon. – Sat. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for horseback riding and at noon for vehicle tours. 5694 Bridge St, Cambria, covellsclydesdaleranch.com, (805) 975-7332

# **Dining & Drinks**

# Madelines Restaurant & Wine Tasting Room

Try some fantastic local boutique wines of the Central Coast in the wine shop. Enjoy an intimate Frenchinfluenced dinner in the restaurant. Serving only the best organic meats and produce. Dinner 5-9 p.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wine Bar open 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 788 Main St., Cambria, madelinescambria.com, (805) 927-4175

# Shopping

# **Ball & Skein & More**

A wide variety of unique yarns, knitting and crochet supplies, buttons, and kits. Something for everyone, from the beginning knitter to the serious fiber artist. Unique gifts and offerings to remember your trip to Cambria. 4210 Bridge St. entrance on Main St., cambriayarn.com, (805) 927-3280

# **Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry**

For eleven years Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry has been helping residents and visitors of the Central Coast provide their pets with top of the line pet supplies. Come see us at our beach location in Cambria or our wine country location in Templeton. 614 Main Street, Cambria, maddiemaespetpantry.com, (805) 924-1139

# Rich Man Poorman Antique Malls

Two giant locations on the Central Coast offering a nice selection of antiques and collectibles. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Located in Cambria at 2110 & 2084 Main Street. RichManPoorManAntiques.com, (805) 203-5350

# The Shops At The Garden Shed

In mid-town Cambria the quaint shops include several beautifully curated shops: Cambria Garden Shed, garden and home grown rare and exotic succulents; Lily's Coffeehouse, refreshments; Ocean Heir, woman's apparel and greeting cards; Simplistic Home, home décor and gifts; and, Cayucos Cellars Winery. cambriagardenshed.com, (805) 927-7654

# **Vacation Rentals**

# Breen Realty & Vacation Station

Specializes in ocean-front and ocean view vacation rentals and real estate sales. Serving the Central Coast from Cambria, south to San Luis, north into Big Sur, and east to include Paso Robles Wine & Ranch country. 768 Main St., Cambria, breenvacationstation.com, (805) 927-1303

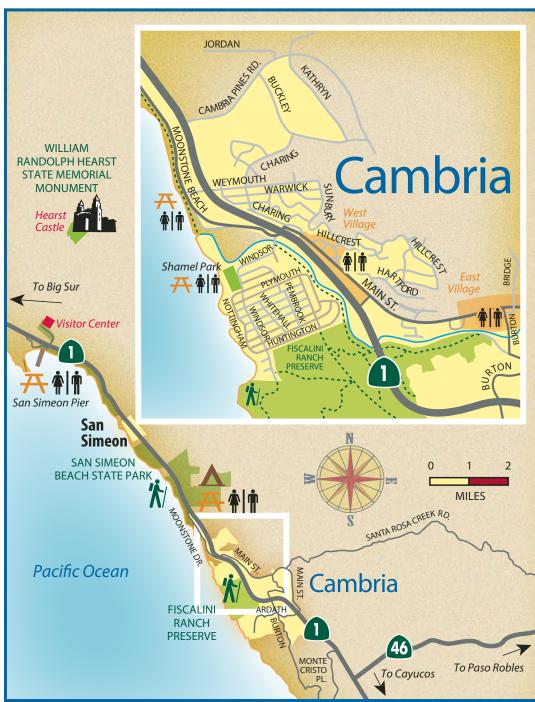
## **Cambria Vacation Rentals**

An independent property management company offering amazing vacation rental homes with ocean views and stunning sunsets. 784 Main St. in the West Village, cambriavacationrentals.com, (800) 545-5079 or (805) 927-8200

# Scenic Coast Vacation Rentals

Enchanting Cambria vacation Rentals Offering large selection of Vacation rentals from Ocean Front Homes to Cottages in the Pines. Pet Friendly Homes as well as monthly rentals. 712 Main St, ScenicCoastRentals.com, (800) 927-6163 or (805) 927-6163









# Thousands of elephant seals are heading to the beaches

# Peak viewing season arrives!

Northern elephant seals (Mirounga angustirostris) occupy the beaches along the north coast year around, but the peak times are January, April, and October when as many as 20,000 animals are on the beaches. The highest concentration is at the Piedras Blancas rookery from December to March when females (called cows) give birth. Different groups return at different times of the year, mainly to molt.

Between September and November, most of the seals on the beaches are juveniles, followed by the bulls that start arriving in November to stake out territory. The cows come ashore in mid-December to give birth and breed.

Bulls battle for mating rights through January. Fortunately, those battles are primarily dominance posturing when the bulls rise as tall as half of their 16-foot length, crashing together in bellowing, roaring, 10,000-pound chest bumps (each weighing in at around 5000 pounds). Sometimes actual bloody fights take place, resulting in the losers hauling back to sea to find a safer beach to heal their wounds and restore their dignity.

Every now and then fights break out between females who challenge each other for the spaces they hold on the beach. Pups, born within a few days after the cow arrives, weigh about 60 pounds and grow rapidly due to the cow's nutrient-rich milk. Cows nurse their pups for about 24 days, mating during the last week of nursing. After mating, she returns to the ocean, leaving her pup to learn to swim and find food. Pups are ready for their own journeys in March and April.



site between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Federal law protects elephant

Friends of the Elephant Seal are on

Federal law protects elephant seals. No one is allowed on the beach near the seals. The use of drones or model aircraft is illegal in the rookery area.

If you happen upon elephant seals while strolling along a beach, keep a respectful distance from these seemingly sleepy, sunbathing animals. They can move faster than expected despite their size. Cows will defend their pups, and who wants to be chased by a 5000-pound bull?

The Piedras Blancas visitor's center is located at 250 San Simeon Avenue, San Simeon. For more information about watching the seals, visit the Friends of the Elephant Seal website at elephantseal.org.

### **Back from near extinction**

Hunted to near extinction for blubber and oil during the 18th and 19th centuries, these fascinating animals have returned from a population of only 50 to over 150,000. The largest population is in California with breeding colonies from Baja to British Columbia, four of those in California.

Elephant seals started populating the beach of Northern Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedras Blancas as early as 1990. The only other mainland colonies of elephant seals at the time were at Ano Nuevo and Point Reyes and a small inaccessible colony at Gordo.

# **Best viewing areas**

The Piedras Blancas rookery has the largest mainland elephant seal breeding colony and the easiest access of California's viewing sites. The rookery covers 6 miles of shoreline. Viewing areas are located 5 miles north of Hearst Castle and 1.5 miles south of Point Piedras Blancas.

The viewing areas are open every day of the year, are wheelchair accessible, and free. No reservations are required. No dogs. Docents from



# Rich Man Poor Man Antique Mall is the collector's destination

Antiques, art, collectibles, memorabilia, man cave décor and dog-friendly

Rich Man Poor Man originated in Cayucos over thirty-five years ago. Back then the rage was Victorian furnishings, China, faux florals, and lots of brown furniture. "Things certainly have changed since then," said JoAnna Crebs, who co-owns the mall with her husband Myles.

In 2012 the Crebs moved to the Redwood Center in Cambria, expanding into a second location in 2015. At the end of 2023, the two stores were consolidated into one location at 2110 Main Street in Cambria.

Quality antique dealers fill the mall with estate jewelry, Native



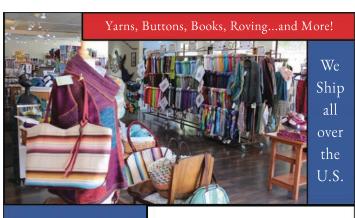
American jewelry, antique and mid-century furniture, decor

in all fashions, coins, fine art, toys, books, fine pottery, sports

memorabilia, collectible Hawaiiana including shirts, fine China and sterling silver flatware. The mall includes an outdoor area with plants, planters, and all forms of rusty treasures.

Big John's Man Cave, which has been around for many years, is a popular locale in the store for all things manly. Knives, cast iron, collectible signs, pipes, toys, sports and automotive collectibles, and specialty items can be found ready for the man cave at home.

The Creekside Restaurant and Redwood Cafe are steps away serving terrific breakfasts and lunch. Shoppers can take a break to refuel





Experience our
Cambria Showroom
featuring the
Largest Selection of
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on the Central Coast!





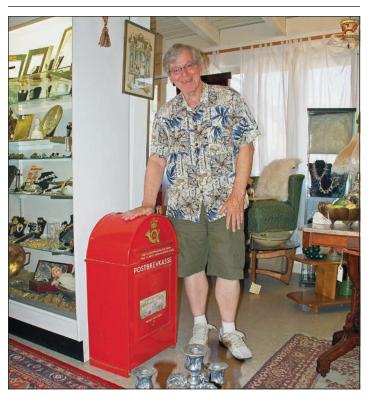
(805) 927-3280

4210 Bridge St • Cambria (entrance on Main St)





614 Main St B, Cambria • (805) 924-1139 1121 Rossi Rd, Templeton • (805) 591-7002 571 Five Cities Dr., Pismo Beach • (805) 295-5011 CambriaPetStore.com • MaddieMaesPetPantry.com



and then continue shopping. Visitors come from everywhere in the United States and many from other countries. The mall in Cambria is just a short drive to Hearst Castle and the elephant seals in San Simeon.

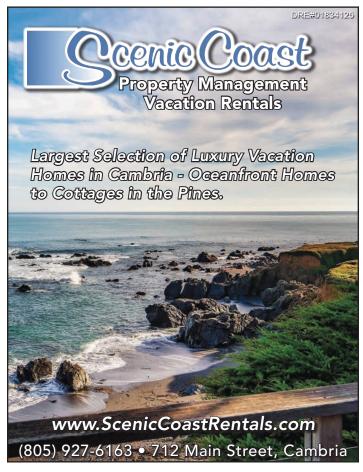
Myles and JoAnna Crebs, both retired accountants have owned Rich Man Poor Man Antique Mall since 1999. "Owning the mall has been the most fun second career we could have chosen," said Joanna. "The wonderful customers and dealers we have met over the years have been an absolute pleasure! You just don't know what the latest hot item will be, often it will be what Martha Stewart or Joanna Gaines decorates with."

The Crebs see themselves continuing to have the time of their lives at Rich Man Poor Man Antiques Mall for many years to come. Providing quality antiques, and collectibles, and superior customer service has been the primary focus of the Rich Man Poor Man since it was first opened.

The treasures are constantly changing. Visit often so you don't miss anything!

The showroom is located at 2110 Main Street in Cambria. JoAnna and Myles Crebs invite you to stop in any day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. except Christmas Day. Pets welcome! For more information visit richman-poormanantiques.com or call (805) 203-5350.







# Try a vacation rental in Cambria

If you haven't thought about staying at a vacation rental, perhaps it's time to explore the options. Vacation rentals are usually homes or condos, often located in neighborhoods. Cambria management companies offer a wide variety of rentals, some directly on the water, some nestled in the pines and some in town. Depending on how you plan your trip any choice can work well for individuals, couples and families.

There are several positive aspects to staying in a vacation rental as opposed to a motel or hotel. For one, you won't be awakened early by housekeeping. Renting a vacation home is usually the most economical for families and friends traveling together. Vacation rentals are a "home away from home," providing many of the amenities we are used to at home.



Those amenities can include a full kitchen to keep meal costs

**CAMBRIA GARDEN SHED** 805 - 927 - 7654 CAMBRIAGARDENSHED.COM ART WITH JUDY ANN 805-286-8380 ARTWITHJUDYANN.COM CAYUCOS CELLARS 805-935-9050 CAYUCOSCELLARS.COM **GROW NURSERY** 805-924-1340 **GROWNURSERY.COM** LILY'S COFFEE HOUSE 805-927-7259 805-909-9022 OCEANHEIRESTATECOMPANY.COM SIMPLISTIC HOME 559-970-5654 SIMPLISTICHOME.COM 10-5 DAILY 2024 MAIN STREET • CAMBRIA

down, a comfortable living room with and TV, fireplace, washer and dryer, free Wi-Fi, supplied linens, BBQ grill, full bathroom with walkin showers, dining room table for family meals, and some with hot tubs or even a free bottle of local wine. You will find places offering from two to five bedrooms with king and queen-sized beds and bunk beds. Many are also dog-friendly.

A discussion with the rental agent makes all the difference in finding the perfect vacation rental. The agent can provide guidance that is helpful for those who have trouble with stairs, child-safe vacation rentals, views and location.

Families with children want safety and someplace close to the beach or playground. Couples may desire that romantic spot. Do you want to wake up to views of sunrise over the ocean or enjoy a glass of wine while watching the sunset? Vacation rentals can give you just the right view.

Do you want to be within walking distance of the beach or maybe be able to take a stroll to a restaurant for dinner? Is hiking in your plans? You may want to be a short drive to parks with hiking trails. Great central locations for sightseeing, wine tasting and shopping are also available.

Renting a home in a neighborhood means you will be staying with area locals so behaving just like you would in your home neighborhood is important. You can expect to receive all the amenities listed for the home of your choice and reserving one is easy using the management company's website and checking out the photos and information and be sure to read reviews. Rental agents will also help you with guidance to outdoor activities, shopping, the best surfing and kayaking places, art galleries, restaurants for fine dining, playgrounds for children, banking, post office, and more.

Rental fees vary depending on your choice but usually include the rental, occupancy tax, cleaning fee, processing fee and pet fee if applicable. Also, ask about the cancellation policy.

# To learn more about vacation rentals visit:

- Breen Vacation Station at breenvacationstation.com.
- Scenic Coast Property Management at cambriacoastrentals.com.
- Cambria Vacation Rentals at cambriavacationrentals.com.



he city of Atascadero, originally The city of Atascaucio, original, founded by E.G. Lewis in the early 1900s as a utopian community, is a popular location for shopping, dining and strolls along the lake shore. Home to the Charles Paddock Zoo, the town has a large selection of restaurants offering a range of cuisine from rib-sticking American style to Asian, Mediterranean and more. Breweries, wine tasting, bakeries, antique stores, specialty shops, boutiques and art galleries are tucked away in locations along the main El Camino Real and on side streets around the Sunken Gardens. Popular area wineries are only a short drive from downtown and any of the town's several hotels.

# **Attractions**

# **Atascadero Lake Park**

A 1.3-mile easy walk path circles the lake in the park providing views of the lake, the many varieties of birds that frequent the lake and other visiting wildlife. Bring binoculars; more than 48 species of birds have been sighted at the lake and recorded on ebirds.org. Leashed dogs are allowed and the path is also a favorite place for cyclists. The park has restrooms, small barbecue and recreation areas. The Faces of Freedom Veterans Memorial occupies the edge of the park facing Morro Road and is well worth a visit. The park is located at 9305 Pismo Ave, Atascadero just off of Morro Road (Highway 41).

# **Charles Paddock Zoo**

The zoo is one of only 211 zoos accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, this zoo was founded in 1955 by Charles Paddock, a county park ranger who nursed injured wild animals back to health. Today, the zoo covers more than five acres. Many of the zoo residents are part of a world-wide program to

preserve animals and their habitats. Some of these rare and endangered animals include the American Alligator and endangered owls and the Greater Roadrunner native to California. The zoo is located at 9100 Morro Rd, Atascadero. For hours and more information call (805) 461-5080 or visit charlespaddockzoo.org.

# Golfing

Atascadero and North San Luis
Obispo County has several challenging
golf courses. Contact any of these
golf courses directly for tee times and
more information: Chalk Mountain
Golf Course, Links Golf Course of Paso
Robles, Paso Robles Golf Club, Hunter
Ranch Golf Course and River Oaks Golf
Course.

# **Historic City Hall**

Atascadero's historic city hall is probably the city's best known historic building. Located at 6500 Palma Ave.

and gracing the back of the Sunken Gardens, the double-domed Italian Renaissance building was originally constructed in 1914 as the Atascadero Administration Building. After founder E.G. Lewis declared bankruptcy the building was purchased in 1927 and, over the years, served as three different private schools and a bank. It became the Veterans Memorial Building when acquired by the County of San Luis Obispo in 1954, and served as a community building. When the City of Atascadero incorporated in 1979, government offices occupied the building until it suffered major damage in the 2003 San Simeon Earthquake. After years of reconstruction and restoration, Historic City Hall opened again in 2013.

# Beer

### **Wild Fields Brewhouse**

A local brewpub crafted as a comfortable space for beer lovers and families alike. Their facility includes mini-bowling lanes, arcade games, foosball, air hockey and a toddler corner. 6907 El Camino Real Suite C, Atascadero, wildfields.com, (805) 399-2337

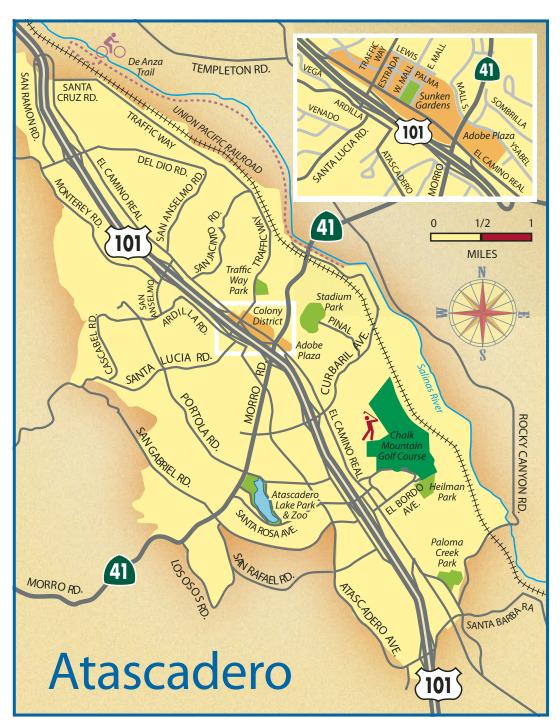
# Shopping

# **Golf And More**

Golf and More is a golf retail store handling new and used golfing equipment, clubs and balls. They also carry used soccer, baseball, soft ball and other sporting equipment for YOU! Come on in and check them out! 9965 El Camino Real, Suite E, Atascadero. golfandmore.biz, golfandmore.us, (805) 460-6900











# Don't miss Wild Fields Brewhouse for good food and award-winning craft brew

Mini-bowling, games and activities at this family-friendly brewpub

L ocated in a former bowling alley, Wild Fields Brewhouse is a local brewpub, crafted as a comfortable space for beer lovers and families alike. The original lanes are long gone; however, owners Jacque and Ryan Fields installed a few mini lanes in addition to arcade games, foosball, giant Connect Four, and a toddler corner. The games are fun for the whole family including the adults.

Jacque and Ryan were brought together by craft beer and always dreamed of starting their own brewpub. They relocated to Atascadero and made their dream a reality when they opened the doors of Wild Fields Brewhouse in 2019. With two small

children of their own, they wanted a place that offered something for everyone in the family. The timing of the opening wasn't ideal since the pandemic shutdown came a short time later. The couple got creative and kept the business going until they were once again able to open their doors.

Jacque is the mastermind of the culinary items. The food menu was developed to be "a little wilder than the typical". On the menu, you'll find many classic items that pair with beer, such as pickled eggs, pretzels, sandwiches, and hot dogs; the twist is that the flavor has been hopped up. Instead of your basic sandwiches, you'll find items like the Elote Burger, Luau Burger, Chicken Artichoke, and Blue Cheese Patty Melt. The mac and cheese is loaded with bacon and



Polish kielbasa, while the hot dog selection ranges from El Camino Street Dog to Currywurst. Vegetarians will love

the wide selection of several vegan items including the Brewhouse Bahn Mi made with a marinated grilled carrot and pickled veggies. Don't worry, if you are bringing the kiddos, there is a half-pint menu with items those 12 and under will love including a PB&J sandwich.

The main draw for adults is of course the beer. Among the 20 taps pouring house beers, there are at least two brown ales, a Mexicanstyle lager, and a Scottish-style ale. The beer has been raking in awards at competitions, including an impressive award of four gold medals at the 2022 World Beer Cup for Atascadero Beach, Pine Mountain Monolith, Magic Swirling Sip and Three Bridges Brown. The four gold medals in a single year at this prestigious competition broke a craft beer record. The latest win was

at the 40th Annual Great American Beer Festival, where Wild Fields Brewhouse was named Brewery of the Year in the 500 to 1,000 barrels of beer a year category. The award was won based on receiving three gold medals with their Magic Swirling Sip (Scottish Ale), Three Bridges (American Brown Ale), and Pine Mountain Monolith (English Brown Ale).

"Seven big medals at the biggest competitions in one year is definitely something we weren't expecting to accomplish," added Ryan. "We couldn't do it without our awesome team here and all our supporters and people that believed in us along the way even though things haven't always been easy or obvious that we were going to succeed."

Be sure to visit their website for upcoming events. You'll find family-friendly events such as "Mommy" Meetup Mondays, Trivia nights, Paint & Pint afternoons, and Pottery Workshops.

Wild Fields Brewhouse is located at 6907 El Camino Real in Atascadero and is open Thu-Mon 11 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information visit wildfields.com or call (805) 399-2337.

—Lisa Pretty





**S**anta Margarita is a taste of the old west. This settlement, easily reached from Highway 101 or Highway 58 is the gateway to Santa Margarita Lake and the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The small town quickly changes from the first impression of a sleepy western town to reveal surprising shops full of antiques, quirky garden art, plants, garden supplies, creative décor, restaurants serving up wholesome meals, and winery tasting rooms. The long history of Santa Margarita, from the ancestors of today's Chumash and Salinas people through the Spanish and Mexican land grants and early American settlers until today, is being researched and preserved by the Santa Margarita Historical Society.

# **Attractions & Tours**

# Santa Margarita Lake

Follow Highway 58 to Santa Margarita Park to find the lake located in Santa Margarita Regional Park at 4695 A Santa Margarita Lake Road. Be sure to head out with a full tank of gas. The lake and park offer boating, fishing, hiking trails and picnicking. The park is located on several thousand acres of land designated as open space. Call ahead (805) 781-5930 to verify boat launches, swimming and camping.

# The Carizzo Plains National Monument

The 250,000 acre Carrizo Plain National Monument is the largest surviving native California grasslands. The plains are reminiscent of Africa's Serengeti, providing the highest concentration of irreplaceable wildlife in California. To reach Carizzo Plain, take Highway 58 south from Santa Margarita to 17495 Soda Lake Rd.

# Santa Margarita Historical Society

The historical society takes local history online, with copies of research material held at the public library located on the corner of I & Murphy Streets. Ongoing projects include documenting a number of the

community's historic buildings and recording the stories of "old timers." santamargaritahistoricalsociety.org

# Margarita Adventures Zipline Tours

Margarita Adventures is the ultimate blast for the entire family! Here in the heart of San Luis Obispo County, you will embark on six ziplines spanning nearly 1.5 miles total, starting with a thrilling 2,800-foot tandem ride and finishing with an unforgettable 1,800-foot journey over Pinot Noir vines. To book a tour or for more information visit Margarita-Adventures.com or call (805) 438-3120

# Fun for everyone at Margarita Adventures

Located in the charming historical town of Santa Margarita, Margarita Adventures is the ideal place to create unforgettable memories. From zip lines, wildlife tours, escape rooms, wine tasting, or a customized team-building experience; there is something for everyone.

# **Famous zipline tours**

Ziplines at Margarita Adventures features six award-winning ziplines spanning more than 7,500 total feet. Each zipline is thrilling and exciting in its unique way and runs yearround, even in the rain. Experience the breathtaking beauty of stunning valleys, magnificent oak trees, and glorious mountainsides.

Most tours last about 2.5 hours, including a guided tour with information on sustainable wine growing, local wildlife and flora, and a detailed history of Santa Margarita Ranch, one of the oldest operating cattle ranches in California.



Zip and Sip, a fun wine-tasting experience with a charcuterie board at the Ancient Peaks Winery tasting room adds a little something extra to your zipline tour.

### **California Wild Nature tours**

Choose from four nature tours showcasing the diverse wildlife and ecosystems of Santa Margarita Ranch from a vintage open-air Hummer. Led by ranch naturalist, Jacqueline Redinger, guests get the benefit of her range of knowledge and experience.

# Escape at Margarita Adventures

Don't miss California's most immersive escape rooms, crafted by the ingenious mind of Frank Rodgers, Margarita Adventures' resident Mr. Gadget. With more escape rooms in the works, these captivating experiences are the result of a remarkable collaboration with SLO CAPED (Cal Poly Amusement Park Engineers and Designers).

# **Ranch hospitality**

Visit Margarita Adventures to experience history, nature, good 'ole ranch hospitality and excellent wine tasting. Gift certificates are available. Watch for fun activities for kids coming soon!

The Margarita Adventures office is located at 22719 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita. Open daily except for major holidays. For more information visit margarita-adventures.com. or call (805) 438-3120.

Experience Five-Star Adventures on the Historic Santa Margarita Ranch

- Zipline Tours Over Vineyards & Forests
- Acclaimed new ESCAPE! Room
- Insightful Nature & Wildlife Tours





Templeton is the epitome of small town charm. Originally founded in 1886 as the last station on the southbound Southern Pacific Railroad, the town hosted horse drawn stage-coaches that met the trains and gave passengers a ride to San Luis Obispo to connect with the next stagecoach to their destinations. Even after the railroad extended the rails south to Santa Margarita in 1889, Templeton remained the shipping point for local crops and

products bound eastward and to boats in shipping ports on the coast. Grain, wood, charcoal, fruit and cattle, driven from as far away as Kern County, arrived in Templeton for the next destination.

Many of the buildings from the late 1800s are still lining Main Street and housing unique shops, wineries and restaurants serving everything from hearty country breakfasts to dinner for every taste and the Templeton Historical Museum Society.

# Evech form to tel

# Fresh farm to table adventures

Templeton is an ideal starting or end-of-day spot for touring the back roads on the way to or from your favorite wineries. Small farms along oak lined winding roads have produce stands offering fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs and more.

### **Farmers market**

The Saturday morning Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Templeton Park. The park is located at 550 Crocker St. Find fresh vegetables, fruit, bakery goods, meat, fish, nuts, honey, olive oil and handmade crafts.

# **Dining & Drinks**

# Chulos Cafe & Cantina

Chulos offers an extensive menu, featuring American cuisine with a Latino touch, not to mention a wide selection of artfully created coffee beverages. The sophisticated dining experience includes Nouveau-Latin dishes and handcrafted cocktails. Truly a hidden gem. 335 Posada Lane chuloscafecantina.com, (805) 434-3044

# McPhee's Grill

Fresh seafood, wood grilled steaks, & gourmet pizzas served in a converted old saloon with contemporary country decor. 416 S. Main St., (805) 434-3204

# Pig Iron

A new restaurant serving high-end California comfort food, award winning cocktails, and a brunch most would die for. Open for lunch and dinner, come find out what all the talk is about! Follow on Instagram: @pigirontempleton. 508 S. Main St., pigirontempleton.com, (805) 400-4542

# **Templeton Market & Deli**

Hometown deli with delicious homemade salads, sandwiches and fried chicken. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Huge selection of snacks and beverages, including local wines. Open daily 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. 390 S Main St., Templeton, (805) 434-2345



# **Templeton Market and Deli serves up** fresh food made from scratch

Locals thrive on their menu of excellent homestyle cooking

empleton is the Central L Coast's epicenter of all things agriculture, and smack dab in the middle of town, on Main Street, is Templeton Market & Deli. This spot isn't your usual gas and go with prepackaged faire.

This hometown favorite gets along well with everyone and serves up fresh food made from scratch in their deli. Besides having a fair amount of grocery items and other odds and ends, this popular location has thick, juicy, amazing made-toorder sandwiches and burgers. In the mood for all-American favorites like fried chicken, mojos and salads? These folks do it right and for extremely reasonable prices. Savor each bite of homemade perfection in the simple comfort of their indoor and outdoor dining areas. Gas up your vehicle or try out the self-serve car wash.

Run by manager Abby Allen, Templeton Market & Deli opened in Nov 1999. When first started, it was the brainchild of Gary and Jan Davis from the Templeton Livestock Market. Allen had been working for the brothers for a long time and developed the deli as partners. She worked at the sales yard throughout high school and college and knew the Davis's very well, even her mother worked there. Allen has been the full-time manager of Templeton Market since its opening.

Allen said, "We try to accom-

modate our local customers, business people, youth and their needs. Many of Temple-

ton's local kids have

worked for us over the years, and we love having that connection to our community. It is all about Templeton for us." The market is part of the fabric of Templeton.

Templeton Market and Deli is known for its popular breakfast specials, fried foods, salads, sandwiches, wraps, juicy burgers and catering. They provide platters, trays, salads and appetizers for weddings, office parties, memorials, and on-site barbecues or full-service catering for any special

Allen said, "Everything we sell is house-made made from the dressings to the salads. Nothing is out of a box or bucket. We even make our own croutons, which is not typical of delis."

"We love serving our customers and we love giving back to the community that supports us." Allen is active in the community, was

named Citizen of the Year in 2020, served as Homecoming Grand Marshal, and is co-founder of the Nightmare on Main Street haunted house, a local nonprofit that has given back over \$90 thousand to the community. The Market also sponsors Concerts in the Park, local Templeton youth sports teams, the Templeton High School FFA, Relay for Life, the Templeton 4th of July parade, the Wine and Roses Bike Ride, The Templeton Easter Egg Hunt, the Farm Supply Quiz Jam at the Mid State Fair for FFA and 4-H.

Central Coast Honor Flight and the Templeton Community Library, as well as many other organizations and activities. Allen also has served as a THS Mock Rock judge and on the Save Templeton Fire committee as well as past board member of Templeton Recreation Foundation.

The Templeton Market & Deli is located at 390 S. Main St., in Templeton, Calif. Open 7 days a week from 6 a.m.- 8 p.m. For more information, call (805) 434-2345 or visit them on Facebook.

—Cassandra Frey



slovisitorsquide.com **WINTER 2023** 







Oak grilled USDA prime steaks, seasonal seafood, natural grown chicken, pork, lamb, and fresh seasonal menus supporting local growers.

Featuring local wines and beer



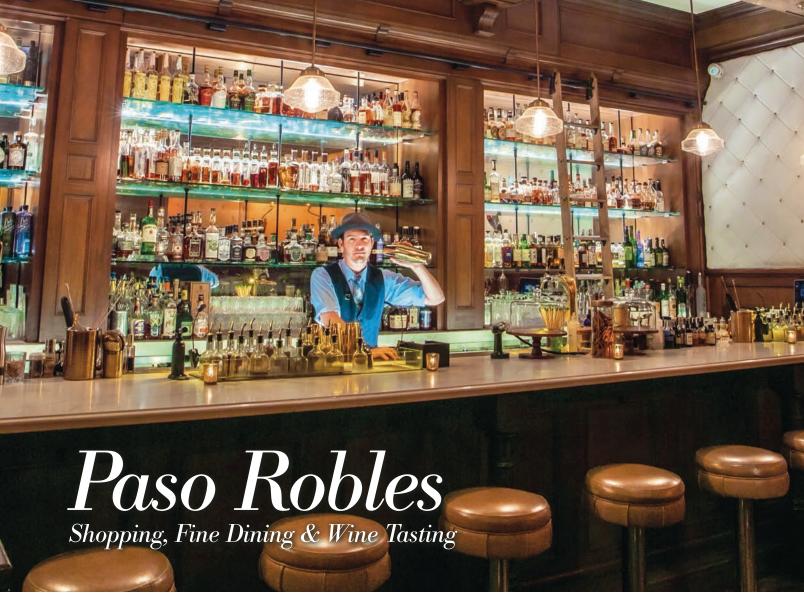
416 S. main street, templeton 805 | 434 | 3204 ★ www.mcpheesgrill.com Wed-Sun dinner starting at 5pm



"dedicated to great food and great service"







Paso Robles is known worldwide as the place for award winning wines, but the wine is just one of the reasons to spend some time here. Easy access to lakes and the coast makes the town a perfect central location for boating, fishing or beach time.

Browse the many boutiques, antique and specialty shops for unique gifts, jewelry, home décor, books and one-of-a-kind items, often created by local artisans, that you know you need. Visit art galleries and museums. Order lunch or dinner and dine outside in the beautiful shady Downtown City Park.

Several winery tasting rooms are located within easy walking distance in downtown Paso Robles. There are more than 200 wineries in the region around Paso Robles. One of the fastest growing American Viticultural Areas in California with 26,000 acres planted, Paso Robles wine country has one of the longest and most consistent growing seasons for wine grapes in California.

# **Attractions**

# **Redwings Horse Sanctuary**

This sanctuary rescues horses that have been abandoned, neglected or abused. Its mission is to eliminate the causes of equine suffering through education and community outreach programs. Located at 6875 Union Rd. Paso Robles. The sanctuary is open for visitors from Tuesday- Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., (805) 237-3751

# **Antique Shops**

# **Vineyard Antiques**

Underpriced treasures is the reputation in the 10,000 sq.ft. antiques mall. Antique furniture from primitive to elegant. Old tools, glassware, pottery, artifacts, toys, wine accessories, jewelry, railroad items, oil and gas, law enforcement and more. Garden art in out 2,000 sq.ft. patio. Open every day 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 2320 Ramada Dr., Set. A, (805) 237-4012

# **Art Galleries**

### **Studios on the Park**

Visit the studios and meet accomplished artists at work in their studios/galleries. Watch how each artist uses their favorite medium to create decorative, functional, and wearable art. It's an art experience unlike any other! 1130 Pine St., StudiosOnThePark.org, (805) 238-9800

# **Attractions & Tours**

# Sidecar Tours Inc.

Sidecar Tours Inc. is the World's First and only tandem sidecar experience. They combine the freedom of the open road with a one-of-a-kind thrilling adventure. 6238 Orcutt Rd., San Luis Obispo, sidecartoursinc.com, (951) 840-0931

# **Dining & Drinks**

# Cane Tiki Room

Cane Tiki Room gives a tropical exotic escape to their guests, right in the heart of Paso Robles. Featuring

Polynesian small bites and delicious tiki cocktails, Cane Tiki Room is a must visit! 1240 Park St. Paso Robles, canetikiroom.com, (805) 227-7113

# The Catch Seafood Bar & Grill

Watch talented chefs cook your meal in front of you and sample delicious fresh seafood, scampi, calamari, oysters, pasta, steak and Lamb. Open 7 days a week. Come see why Chef Chico Mora has been preparing mouth-watering dishes for over 30 years. 836 11th St, catchseafoodbarandgrill.com, (805) 239-3332

# Eleven Twenty Two Speakeasy & Cocktail Lounge

1122 was named one of the Top 50 hidden bars in the world! Elegant and classy, it's like stepping back into the 1920's roaring cocktail scene. Located directly behind Pappy McGregor's Gastro Pub. Open Wed-Fri evenings. 1122 Pine St., eleven-twentytwo.com, (805) 238-4141

### Fish Gaucho

Three-time reigning "Best Restaurant in North SLO County". It should be on your short list of dining options in downtown Paso. Offering a modern twist on Mexican food with a bountiful selection of fresh seafood, shellfish, and prime meats. Don't miss out on their impressive 300+ tequilas and the best margaritas in town! 1244 Park St., FishGaucho.com, (805) 239-3333

### **Odyssey World Cafe**

Cozy, casual, comfortable! Gourmet sandwiches, salads, burgers, steaks, stir fry, desserts. Outdoor seating available. Open daily 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. (Friday & Saturday til 9 p.m.). Downtown, 1214 Pine Street, odysseyworldcafe.com, (805) 237-7516

# Pappy McGregor's Gastro Pub

Award winning gastropub adored by locals since 2006. Specializing in elevated comfort food, craft cocktails, local beers & wine. Offering lunch, dinner and late-night drinks 7 days. Pappy's is a must visit when in Paso Robles, trust us. 1122 Pine St., PappyMcGregors.com, (805) 238-7070

## **Paso Grill**

Great food and atmosphere. Come on in and feel right at home at Paso Soulfood Grill. Open Thurs.-Sun. 1 p.m. -8 p.m., 1401 Park St., Pasogrill.com, (805) 286-4636

# Paso Terra

Experience Chef Andre's artistry with flavors. The menu changes with the seasons, focusing on French cuisine and the freshest seafood. Classics are given a permanent spot. Downtown at 1032 Pine St. pasoterra.com, call for reservations, seating is limited. (805) 227-4100

### **Pine Street Saloon**

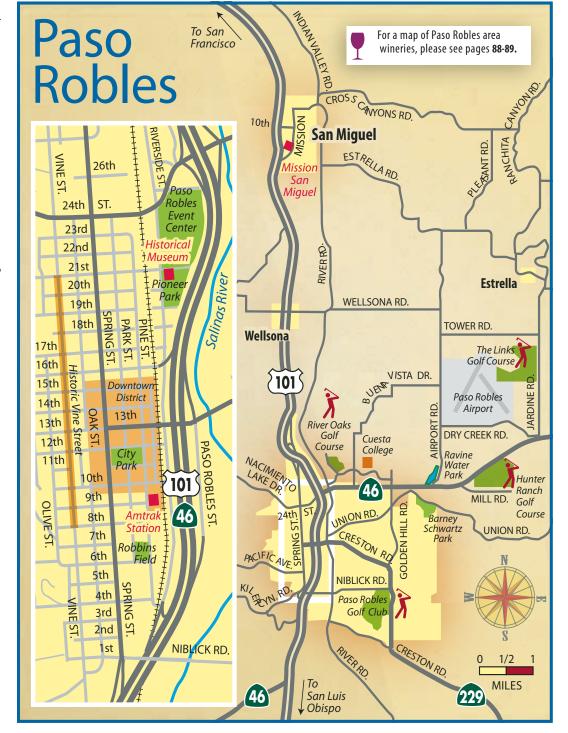
Chances are outlaws like Jesse James huddled within these walls. The saloon is one of the oldest and most unique false-front buildings in the area. Enjoy your visit to this historic saloon and raise your glasses to the spirit of Jesse James. 1234 Pine St., (805) 238-1114

# **Red Scooter Deli**

Featuring a variety of breakfast choices, salads, soups, piled high sandwiches and a full expresso/ smoothie bar. Catering menu. Delivery available 7 days a week. Red Scooter Deli – The Deli that Delivers. redscooterdeli.com, (805) 237-1780

## Spice of Life

From the moment you walk in the aroma of spices will capture your attention. Explore local ingredients, hard to find global flavors & unique products. Enjoy a plant-based menu, house made



chai, salads, avocado toasts, tea lattes, and more. At the corner of 13th & Pine St., pasospices.com, (805) 227-6000

# The Paso Market Walk

This elegant indoor marketplace showcases local favorites like The Vreamery Vegan Cheese Shop & Melt Bar, Momotaro Ramen, Joebella Coffee, Third Degree Deli, Via Caravaggio 147 Neapolitan Pizza, a bakery, a Michelin Guide restaurant, wine & beer bar, gelato & a farm stand! 1803-1835 Spring Street, pasomarketwalk.com/purveyors, (805) 423-5835

### Vivant Fine Cheese

With over 150 cheeses to choose from, expert staff will assist you with wine pairing or creating a gourmet picnic box. Charcuterie and local food products. 821 Pine St., Ste. B, (805) 226-5530

# Museums

# Estrella Warbird Museum

An aviation museum dedicated to the restoration and preservation of military aircraft, vehicles, and memorabilia. Hours: Thursday through Sunday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Banquet Hall available for rent, 4251 Dry Creek Rd, Paso Robles, CA 93446, ewarbirds.org, (805) 227-0440

# Paso Robles Children's Museum

The museum's mission is to engage children in a joyful learn-through-play environment and inspire educational curiosity. It's a favorite for a fun family afternoon. Located in the historic Paso Robles Volunteer Firehouse. See website for hours. 623 13th Street, pasokids.org, (805) 238-7432

### **Pioneer Museum**

The Pioneer Museum is fun for all ages! Get a glimpse of what local life was like in the "Good Old Days." View Paderewski memorabilia, vintage farm equipment, pioneer artifacts, a oneroom schoolhouse and much more. 2010 Riverside Ave. Open Thursday-Sunday 1p.m.-4 p.m., Free Admission, pasoroblespioneermuseum.org, (805) 239-4556

# **Outdoor Activities**

# The Photo Bloke

Do you like wildlife, nature and photography? Want to learn how to spot animals in the field with a professional photographer? Maybe you want to understand more about camera settings? Then take a ride with thephotobloke.com, (415) 308-4544

# Real Estate

# **Planatek Financial**

The Rockoff Team at Planatek Financial, Inc., is meeting with and apprising retirees on how they may optimize the longevity of their investment portfolios, by employing a Coordinated Withdrawal Strategy. rlender.net, (820) 206-8232

# Salons & Spas

# The Spa Central Coast

The #1 local spa since 2003, offering 2,200 sq. feet with 7 treatment rooms. Massage, facials, body wraps, detox, infrared saunas, health coaching and a beautiful meditation room, and 2 couples rooms. SkinCeuticals and its private organic sea based skin and body line. 617 12th St., thespacentralcoast.com, (805) 591-7157

# Shopping

# **Bijou Baby & Toddler**

An incredible selection of organic cotton and bamboo clothing, toys and gifts for newborn to toddler age. Carefully selected books, locally made plush animals and lots of whimsy from many European countries create eye candy from the moment you step inside. 815 12th St., (805) 296-3833

# **Bijou On The Park**

A beautifully curated boutique with exceptional clothing for all ages where recognizable brands hang with European lines. The owner only buys in small quantities and makes sure she knows all of her customers and what they favor so shopping is a breeze! 815 12th St. bijouonthepark.com, (805) 296-3833

### **The Blenders**

A unique women's boutique and Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio that offers latest technology in skin care and color. Life style apparel including Charlie B, French Dressing, Jess and Jane, and unique accessories to complete your vibe. Supporting the community for 47 years! 538 12th St., Paso Robles, theblenderspasorobles.com, (805) 238-5554

### Boyd's Tobacco and Elegant Gifts

The largest selection of cigars and accessories on the Central Coast. Large walk-in humidor, Italian hand-made Briar pipes and pipe tobacco. Cigar accessories including S.T. Dupont and Xikar. Unique gifts for all special occasions, including Waterford Crystal. 625 Spring St., boydstobacco.com

### **Naughty But Nice**

Flirt with style! Featuring lingerie, shoes, books, sleepwear, club wear, lotions & potions and so much more! One-stop love boutique for women and couples. Open noon- 10pm 1319 Spring St., nbnstores.com, (805) 238-2787

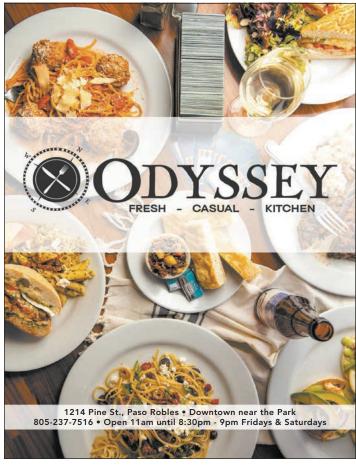
# **New With Tags**

Paso Robles newest consignment store with racks of designer clothes available at 50% to 70% off. Features designer shoes and New Sweet romance jewelry made in Los Angeles. Open 11 a.m. -5 p.m. Mon-Wed and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Thurs - Sat., 585 12th St., (805) 226-5655



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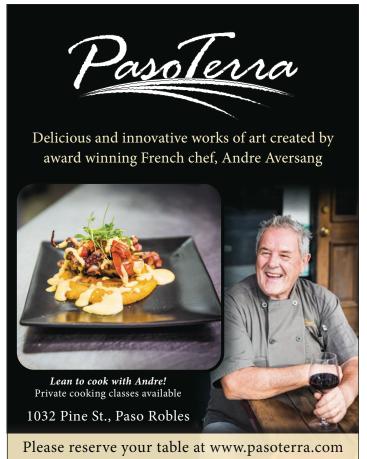
# Chef Chico works culinary magic at Catch Seafood Bar and Grill

If you haven't tried it, you don't know what you are missing

Located in downtown Paso Robles, across from the Downtown City Park, Catch Seafood Bar and Grill is a popular destination for dinner. The restaurant features an open-style kitchen allowing guests to watch the busy staff dish up beautiful plates.

Owner and chef Chico Mora holds center stage and is clearly the star of the show. He greets guests, grills, sautés, broils, plates food, pours wine, serves picture-perfect entrees, all while in constant mo-





tion. Despite the fast-paced kitchen, Chico and his staff enjoy themselves and are always smiling while chatting with guests.

Chico has been in the restaurant business for over 30 years, and many may remember his first res-

taurant, Chico's Cafe, which was a small space next to what is now Catch Seafood and Bar. Chico decided to expand to the larger and newly styled space and felt Paso Robles was ready for its first seafood restaurant. That was clearly a wise choice since the restaurant

has a fantastic

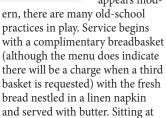
reputation, drawing in both locals and visitors.

The seafood is sourced locally, and specials can be viewed on "The Catch of the Day" chalkboard. His menu features customer favorites like calamari steak, scallops, shrimp scampi combo, cioppino, and clams

linguini. Chico's clarified butter and sauces like lemon caper or soy ginger are the perfect addition to a fish fillet. Although the menu is seafood-driven, there are plenty of pasta dishes, vegetarian options, and items for meat lovers. Beef

Stroganoff, steak dinners, and rack of lamb can all be ordered nightly. Chico even includes gluten-free options. Needless to say, being in wine country, the menu includes a nice selection of local wines.

While the venue appears mod-





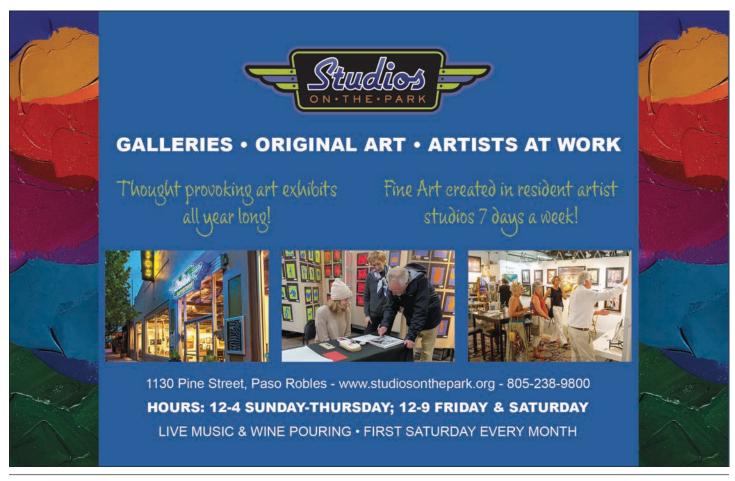
the bar, you can watch the orders being queued in the kitchen on handwritten paper tabs. In this day and age, especially with the pace at which orders are placed, that is an unusual sight. Chico said they tried automating orders from the point of sale, but felt the old-school way worked best. You may dine without a reservation if there are openings; however, reservations are highly recommended, especially on weekends. All reservations are made by phone, so be sure to call ahead to book your space.

Once you are seated, sit back, and enjoy the show. You'll see oysters and clams being shucked, hot pans darting in and out of the broiler, flames dancing from the grill with multiple pans in play at any time, pasta being tossed from the boiling water onto a plate, vibrant steamed vegetables being artfully added to entrees...and if you are lucky a little sample of something may come your way while you await your order.

According to Chico, "Whoever hasn't tired it doesn't know what they are missing."

Catch Seafood Bar and Grill is located at 836 11th St. in Paso Robles. Open daily from 4-9 p.m. For reservations and more information visit catchseafoodbarandgrill.com or call (805) 239-3332.

— Lisa Pretty



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# The Paso Robles Children's Museum is a playground full of fun

Exhibits encourage children to explore and create memories

Located in the charming Paso Robles Volunteer Firehouse, the Paso Robles Children's Museum is a celebrated location for families to explore their creative side through playful exhibits and learn about the history of firefighting in Paso Robles. Since 2007, local and visiting families have enjoyed the interactive play offered by dedicated museum volunteers.

"The Paso Robles Children's Museum is dedicated to providing a dynamic and engaging learning

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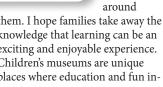
environment for children and families. It values education, creativity, and family bonding. The museum offers a wide range of interactive exhibits and activities designed to

stimulate children's curiosity and encourage handson learning. It's a place where kids can explore, experiment and discover in a fun and safe setting, operations manager Yoana Sandoval said.

With over ten exhibits for children to explore,

all focus on growing children's self-confidence, desire to learn and overall enrichment. One of the most popular exhibits is Newton's Playhouse, which contains a balllaunching cannon that is sure to excite young visitors. BEAM is an interactive projection screen with motion sensors and different games that encourage guests to move and

> "I hope children leave the museum feeling inspired, with a sense of curiosity and wonder ignited within them. The museum should stimulate their imagination and encourage them to explore and learn more about



the world them. I hope families take away the knowledge that learning can be an exciting and enjoyable experience. Children's museums are unique places where education and fun in-



tersect, fostering a love for learning that extends beyond the museum's walls," said Sandoval, adding that "by engaging in interactive exhibits and activities, children should feel encouraged to express themselves, think creatively, and problem solve in innovative ways."

Another fantastic exhibit to explore is the 1944 fire engine named Old Mack, which can also be seen in local parades. Located on the first floor, Old Mack is sure to capture the attention of young visitors, who can let their imaginations run wild by dressing up in firefighter gear and climbing on the fire engine.

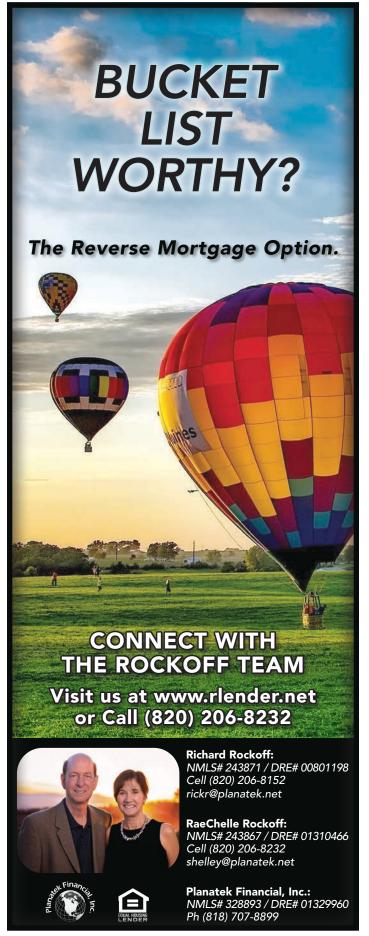
"At the Paso Robles Children's Museum, passion and dedication run deep, even with our small team of five. As a nonprofit facility, our mission is to create a magical learn-

through-play environment, sparking endless curiosity in our little learners. We also take immense pride in honoring the heritage of our volunteer firefighters, true community heroes and in being a nonprofit organization, dedicated to creating happiness and wonder for all who visit our museum," Sandoyal said.

For a day of exploration and interactive play, the Paso Robles Children's Museum holds the key to wonder.

The Paso Robles Children's Museum is located at 623 13th Street in Paso Robles. Open Monday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (805) 238-7432 or visit pasokids.org.

-By Sadie Mae Mace



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## Studios on the Park brings art to life

# Watch artists at work in their studios

hanks to artist Anne Laddon's ■ vision for an active, engaging space for artists and art lovers alike Studios on the Park in downtown Paso Robles is a major hub of the Central Coast's thriving art community. Dedicated to sharing the creative process with locals and visitors, this nonprofit organization and open studios art center has grown to include eight studios with 14 artists, four galleries and a fine craft gift shop since opening in 2009. The not-to-be-missed galleries are the Lonnie Hood Photography Gallery, Paso Robles Art Association Gallery, The Kids



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Art Smart Gallery, and the San Luis Obispo County of Education Gallery.

Local artists work in various mediums at Studios on the Park, including acrylic, charcoal, collage, mixed media, mosaic, oil, pastel, pen and ink, photography, printmaking and watercolor. Styles range from traditional

to contemporary. The unique combination of the artist's workspaces allows visitors to watch artists during their creative processes.

The heart of Studios on the Park, with artists as "professionals who inspire others to create, explore, educate and share," is based on an interactive art community Laddon had been a part of in the Washington DC area during the 1970s and 80s. Visitors are encouraged to pause, ask questions, and watch the artists as they work.

"Studios on the Park is committed to providing arts access and education in Paso Robles," Laddon said. "It is so much more than a gallery."

#### **Handcrafted for the Holidays**

The annual Handcrafted for the Holidays is back, running through December

30. The perfect opportunity to buy unique gifts made by local artists. Not only does your purchase support local artists and small businesses, but a portion of the proceeds also goes to support our mission

of bringing the arts to our community!

#### History and community connection

From its location along the treelined eastern edge of the downtown city park, Studios on the Park boasts



an array of activities for visitors and community members, as well as the opportunity for visitors to purchase and learn about art being made locally. Residing in a historic building that once housed an auto repair shop and a variety of auto showrooms, the art center has maintained the original character of the building through its repurposing. The facade, with its floor-to-ceiling windows, lets in abundant light; the sign on the front of the building was designed to mirror old-fashioned auto repair shop signs; and decorative touches throughout remind visitors of the history of the space.

A connection to the community was a part of Laddon's vision from day one - a variety of classes are offered throughout the year. With its Kids Art Smart program, the nonprofit provides free, hands-on art classes to local elementary and middle school children, more than 20,000 to date. Studios on the Park also celebrates Art After Dark Paso. a fun tradition of art, wine, and live music-filled evenings on the first Saturday of every month. As a nonprofit, its funding comes from individual donors and community grants.

With its continued presence both in the community and in its space downtown, Studios on the Park continues to make a huge impact on the arts landscape in Paso Robles and the entire Central

Studios on the Park, located at 1130 Pine St. in Paso Robles, is open Sunday-Thursday Noon – 4 p.m. with extended hours until 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Call or For current exhibits, events and classes visit studiosonthepark.org or call (805) 238-9800.

—Kate Joyce



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#### **Experience relaxation in the heart of wine country**

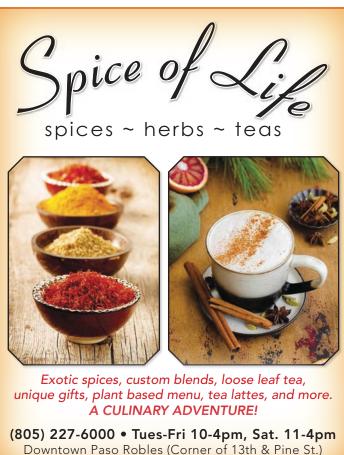
The Spa Central Coast offers multiple treatments with natural products

For the past 21 years, The Spa Central Coast has offered state-of-the-art relaxing massages, high-quality facials, and unforgettable experiences to both locals and visitors to the region. Located next to the Downtown Paso Robles Center, The Spa Central Coast will have the perfect spa treatment for everyone looking for a peaceful escape.

"You should always expect personalized care and amazing natural, ocean-based products that work. We are personally involved with every service that is booked and we offer exceptional products to enhance your service treatments. We

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have a caring staff that wants only for you and your loved ones to have the best experience and to help you reduce any stress and to help you feel and look your best," said owner and Paso Robles resident Kitty Arosteguy, who works closely with

her highly trained staff in providing treatments.

The Spa Central Coast has many different types of massages to choose from, such as the classic Swedish and deep tissue massages or the more technical Ashiatsu Therapy and Hawaiian Lomi-Lomi

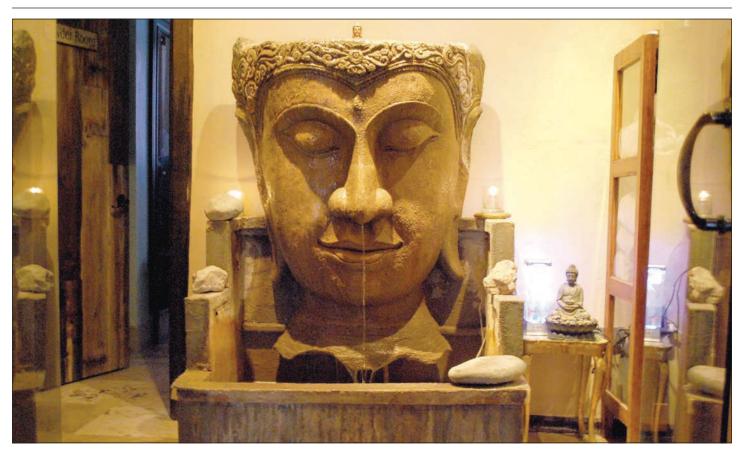
Massage. For something new, try the Sabai Herbal Ball Massage to aid with anti-inflammation. Other massages include the use of warm stones and a cryo pain relief machine. Arosteguy notes that The Spa Central Coast is "the only spa in North County offering a deep feet massage."

Skin treatments at The Spa Central Coast are often in high demand with tools such as the cryo machine helping increase the production of

collagen for anti-aging properties, microdermabrasion to smooth and soften the face, Skin-Cueticals to boost and brighten skin, and many more. For those interested in a group treatment following an afternoon wine-tasting



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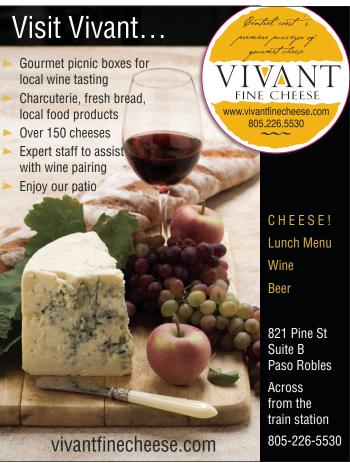
"We are celebrating our 21st vear in business and we could not have done this without our local community. we have a team of nine that are here to make you feel less stressed," said Arosteguy, adding that "we are super proud of our results with problem skin and helping reverse the signs of aging. We have a full retail area with fun take-home spa products including candles and skin and body products. We proudly carry a full line SkinCueticals and we have all your essential pharmaceutical-grade vitamins and minerals."

Whether you are looking for a small break in your day to revitalize your face with a peel and massage or spend time with friends during a self-care day, The Spa Central Coast is ready to help you relax and refresh.

The Spa Central Coast is located at 617 12th St in Paso Robles. Open Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday. For more information, visit thespacentralcoast.com or call (805) 591-7157.

-By Sadie Mae Mace





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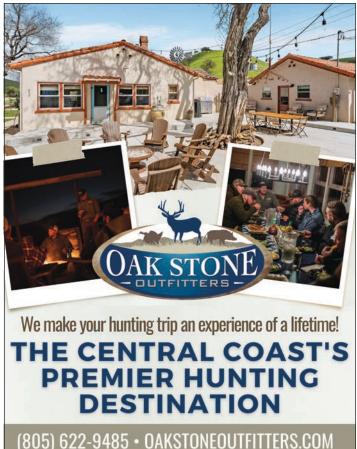
### Play disc golf at Castoro's Whale Rock Course

astoro Cellars Vineyards & Winery opened its state-of-the-art 18-hole disc golf course and informational ranch tour in the summer of 2014. "The course is played every day," and it's, "very rare a day goes by where there's not a group," said Special Projects Manager and Distiller Max Udsen. "On the weekends we get 50-75 players regularly, and more depending on the weekend."

Players can view the Whale Rock Vineyard and learn about many aspects of Castoro Cellars while they tour this two-mile loop through the vines. The course is described as, "fun for all levels yet challenging to the expert, and completely family ready."

The Paso Robles disc golf course is located near the tasting room facility, on Hwy 46 West, in Castoro's CCOF organically farmed and Sustainability In Practice (SIP) Cer-





tified Whale Rock Vineyard. This disc course suits all levels, from the, "never thrown a disc before novice" to the "long drive throwing expert."

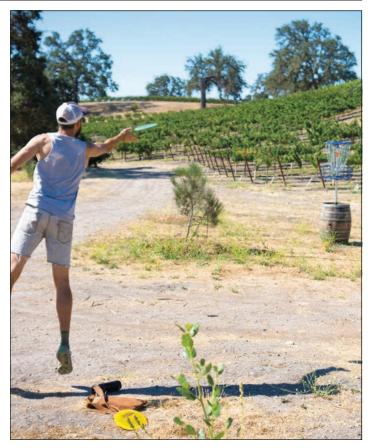
Check-in is at the tasting room and hours of operation are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. A course map, disc rental and information are available upon check-in. The course is free to wine club members, and \$5 to non-members. Baskets are rotated bimonthly, on the 1st and the 15th. The course is also available to rent out for private events.

#### What is disc golf?

Played much like traditional golf, disc golf uses a disc instead of a ball and clubs. The intent of the game is to throw a disc into an elevated metal basket. The player moves from "tee" to "hole" and terrain changes over the fairways, which provides challenging obstacles. Ultimately, the "putt" is tossed into the basket and the hole is completed. The goal of disc golf is to complete the course in the fewest number of shots.







#### Why disc golf?

The Udsen family, says that they have always been fond of low-impact outdoor activities and disc golf is just that. "Whether it be camping, backpacking, climbing, surfing, or backcountry skiing you can count us in! We feel it is very important for everyone to get in touch with the whole wine-making process and we want to spread the importance of sustainable farming practices by getting you and your family out in the vineyard! ??Go out for a round of disc golf and join the Castoro Family!"

Castoro Cellars is located at 1315 North Bethel Road in Templeton. For more information visit castorocellars.com or call (805) 238-0725.





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#### Bijou brings a classic yet eclectic style to the coast

# The boutique for statement pieces from around the world

Located just steps away from the cozy Downtown City Park, Bijou is an elegant boutique where shoppers can spend hours looking at handmade jewelry, trying on stylish clothing, or choosing a thoughtful gift.

"We celebrated seven years in business this August," said owner Camilla Burns, "and we now carry the world-famous Maileg Mice Collection."

"After being in the floral and event design business for 15 plus years, I was burned out and had a yearning to go back into retail. I had previously worked for a design-





with A-list clients and I wanted to create an extension of my wardrobe and home to other women," said Burns, who was born in Sweden and has lived in various places, such as South Africa and England, a lifestyle that influences the wide variety of items at Bijou that were created across the world.

er in London

From closet staples to true stand-out pieces, Bijou carries the latest in fashion. Just a handful of brands found at Bijou include Tart, Cosabella, Free People, Sanctuary and more, with Burns noting that "we consistently have a great selection of basics such as tees, tanks, and lingerie." In terms of accessories, there is an abundance of handbags, dainty hair clips, and shoes that are the perfect complement to any Bijou outfit. Two notable items include "hand embroidered

and jewelry made from vintage horse medallions that are incredibly unique and one-of-a-kind pieces," according to Burns.

"I'm really into packaging and

headbands

from India

"I'm really into packaging and details of how a product is presented. Our customers love coming in for the visuals of our displays and unique offerings," Burns said.

There is also a wide range of European handmade toys for children, which are a local favorite, candles, body lotion, baby clothing, decorative pillows, and more for those looking to spruce up the house or find a gift for a friend.

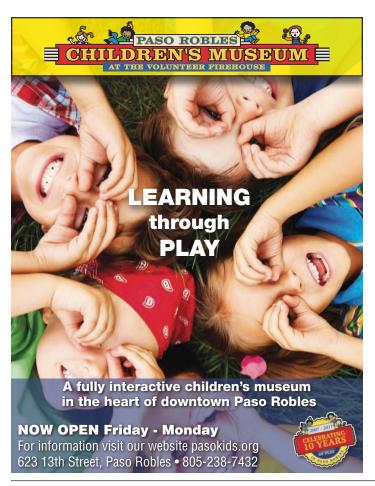
"We are really vested in the local community and make sure we can contribute to as many fundraisers as possible. This is our way of thanking everybody for supporting us and allowing us to keep our

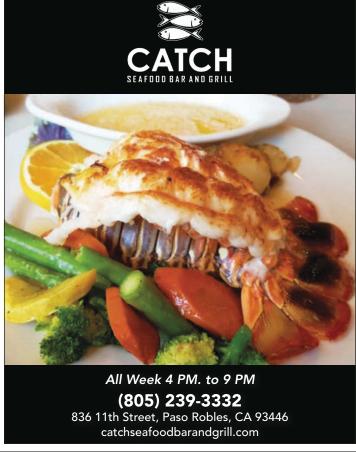


doors open!" said Burns, adding that "all the small businesses appreciate the locals and thank them for supporting us during COVID and beyond. It has been a challenging couple of years and most of us pulled through relatively unscathed."

Bijou is located at 815 12th Street in Paso Robles. Open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (805) 296 - 3833 or visit bijouonthepark.com.

—Sadie Mae Mace





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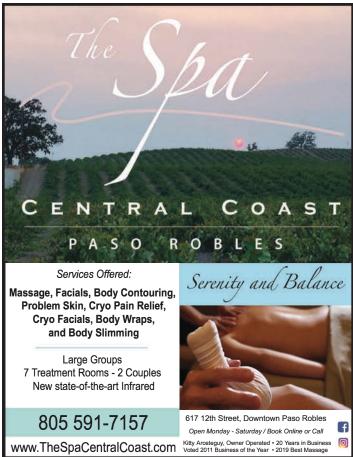
# Spice up life at Naughty But Nice

# Spicing things up has never been easier

Looking to spice things up a bit? Naughty But Nice, a "love boutique" located in downtown Paso Robles, may have just what you're looking for. From romantic to somewhat saucy, the large array of items featured at this unique boutique is sure to please everyone on your shopping list – including yourself.

"We are all about being relationship-focused," said Michelle Norton, co-owner of Naughty But Nice along with her husband, Michael. "Everything we carry is about spicing things up in the bedroom."





#### **Ever-changing inventory**

The boutique welcomes hundreds of local and out-of-town shoppers. With an ever-changing inventory featuring everything from lingerie, menswear, shoes, games and novelty items to bridal collections and bachelorette party supplies, shoppers find just about everything they are looking for in a comfortable, non-judgmental environment. Dispelling the traditional adult store image, this tastefully decorated and well-stocked shop offers a discreet option for couples and singles alike.

"Naughty But Nice is definitely a fun store to visit," says Michelle. "For those that are in the area enjoying a weekend getaway, we can help turn their stay into a romantic weekend. We have massage oils, lingerie, and all sorts of body care products for those more adventurous types."

The small staff is knowledgeable, friendly and discreet and works to ensure that each visitor who steps through the doors feels welcomed and comfortable when they stop by the largest love boutique on the Central Coast.



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"We get to know the people that visit us and we want to make sure they are comfortable telling us anything," says Michelle, adding, "This is a very nonjudgmental place and we will help you find whatever you need. This is just a really, really fun store and all of us are committed to making your visit a fun experience."

#### Gifts galore

Searching for a fun, unique gift for the holidays or for an upcoming anniversary or special occasion? See the extensive selection of gift boxes and gift baskets at Naughty But Nice. Some are filled with romantic items and games, while others may include lingerie, candles, massage oils and numerous other goodies – all are customizable and make for an easy gift option.

Check out the costume selection at Naughty But Nice including shoes, stockings, gloves, corsets, skirts, and more in sizes from small to 4X. "We are fashion consultants year-round and we carry everything you need to put your costume together," says Michelle. "We can help you choose items that will make the costume original and unique – from Alice in Wonder-

land to Sexy Vampire; we also have masks available year-round. We are all about fashion and helping women feel their sexiest."

Stop by Naughty But Nice, located at 1319 Spring St. #101 in Paso Robles. Open Sunday through Thursday from noon to 10 p.m. and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, visit nbn-stores.com. or call (805) 238-2787.





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## Savor the flavor: Taste local premium olive oils

Olive oil tasting involves smelling the aroma of an oil, and then sipping it to taste its positive attributes. Official tasters drink the oil from dark blue glasses, to ensure they can't see the color of the olive oil (and be influenced by an oil's green or gold color).

#### **Look for three qualities**

Tasters should look for these three positive attributes:

**Fruitiness:** Any positive organic smell or taste.

**Bitterness:** A sign of freshness that is usually tasted on the sides of the tongue.

**Pungency:** A peppery, burning sensation in the throat.

Not all olive oils have all three of the attributes, but some should be present. Try it for yourself!! Grab that bottle you've had in the pantry for ages, and taste it to see if it's still good. Pour some into a wine glass—about an inch or two high—cover the glass with one hand while warming the base of the glass with the other. Place your nose into the glass after a minute and breathe in. Does it smell fruity, like green apples, cut grass, or tomato leaf? Great! Or does it smell unpleasant, like paint thinner, bacon, or a musty cellar? In that case, it's probably defective and should be thrown

Next, slurp in about a quarter of a teaspoon and let it sit on your tongue while you breathe in. Finally, swallow a bit and look for any signs of pepper in the throat. If an oil has a greasy feeling on your tongue, it's probably past its prime.

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Remember, olive oil is a fresh product, much like a fruit juice. It needs to be used within 24 months of when it's made, and it needs to be used within a few months of opening the bottle.

#### Olivas De Oro

Local grower and producer of award-winning olive oil. Enjoy olive oil, vinegar and artisan-crafted food tastings and a rotating selection of cheese

& charcuterie. Located in Tin City, 2989 B Limestone Way, Paso Robles. Open Daily 11-5, Fri & Sat 11-6, olivasdeoro.com, (805) 227-4223

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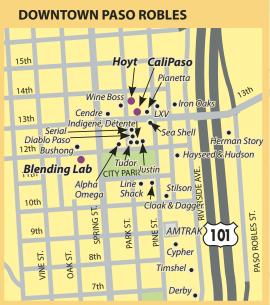
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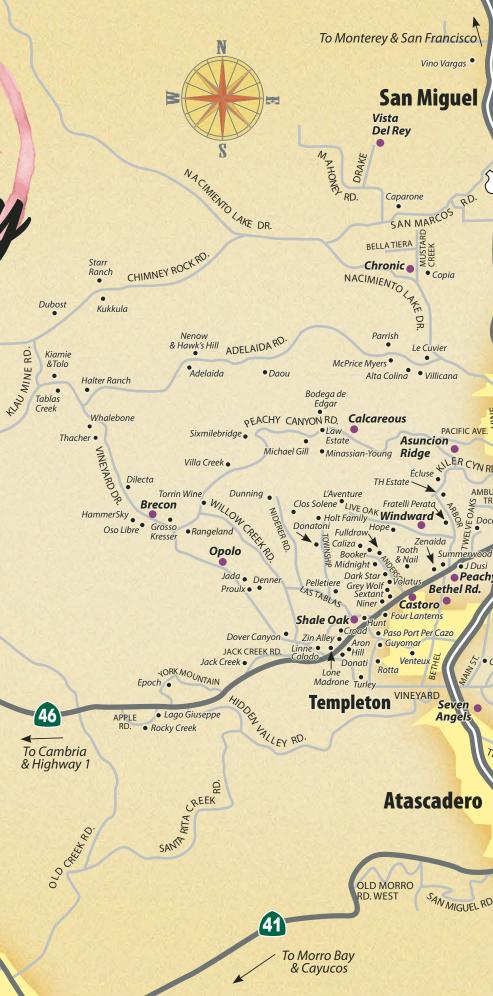
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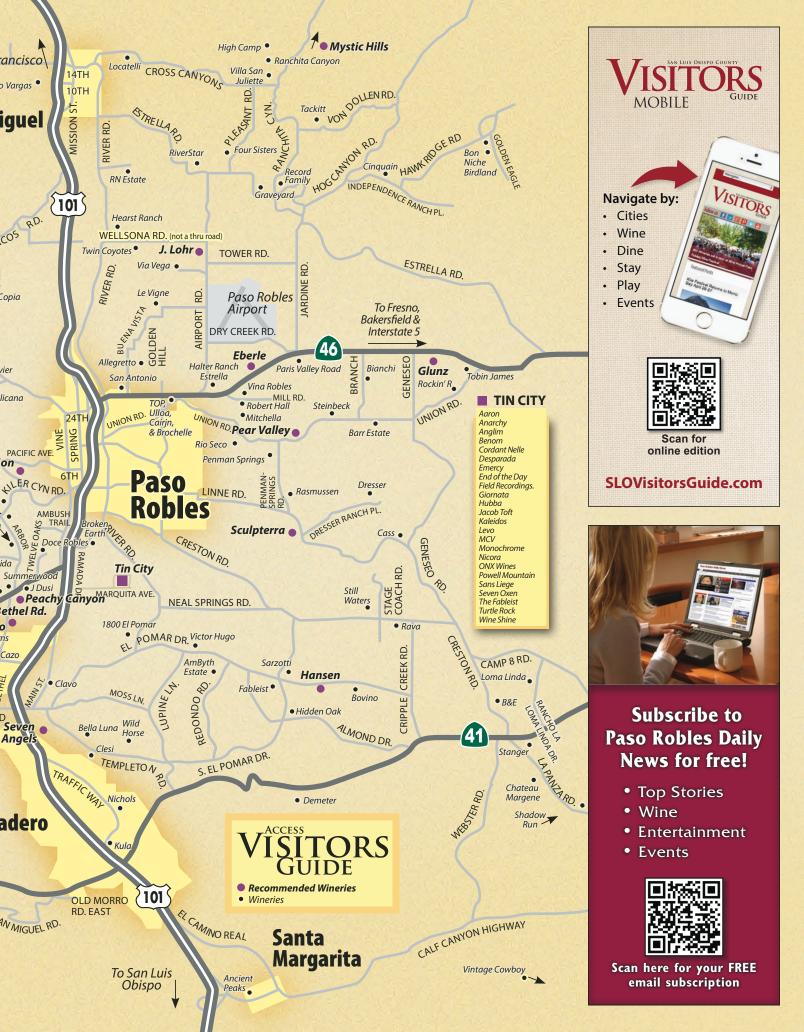
# Paso Robles Wine Towntry

Justin











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## Winery of the Year!

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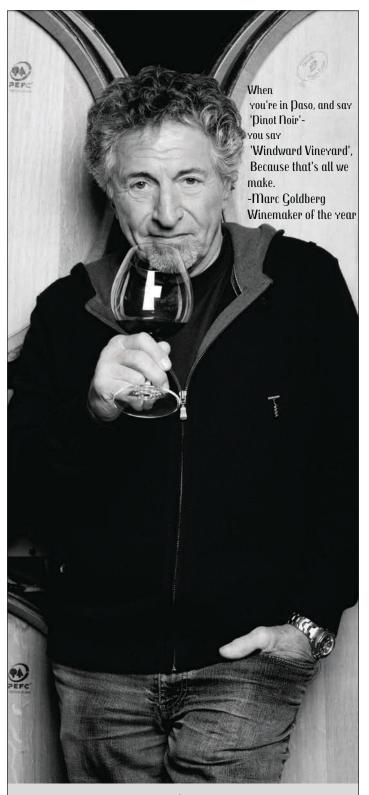








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# **Peachy Canyon** — Winery of the Year

## A Beckett family success story

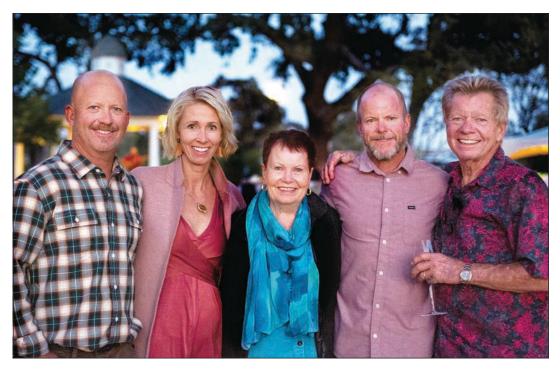
Peachy Canyon is one of the original family-owned Paso Robles wineries that got its start in the 1980s when the area was not widely known for wine production. It is somewhat unique in that it remains owned and operated by the founding family to this very day.

Doug and Nancy Beckett, both retired schoolteachers, founded Peachy Canyon in 1988. When the opportunity to purchase the old schoolhouse and surrounding property on Hwy 46 West presented itself in 1998, they knew it was the perfect place to expand their business with a tasting room and additional estate vineyards. The schoolhouse tasting room is now a busy hub for visitors with wine tasting offered daily. Guests can enjoy a view of the 30-acre vineyard surrounding the tasting room and relax while picnicking on the lawns and at the gazebo.

The winery has gained a reputation for its red wines, with zinfandel representing approximately 50% of its production. Their estate vineyards have all 18 heritage zinfandel clones, including primitivo, planted. Although zinfandel dominates the menu, guests will also have an opportunity to sample Bordeaux and Rhône Varietals, along with several blends.

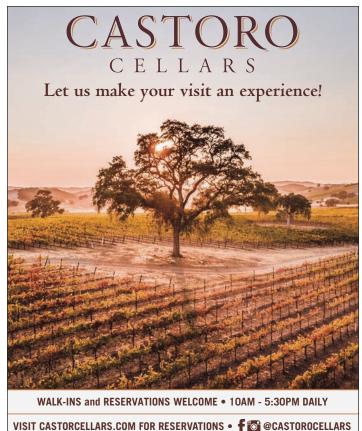
In 2019, the day-to-day operations transitioned to Josh and Jake Beckett, Doug and Nancy's sons. The boys had branched out on their own for a while and launched Chronic Cellars. Their success from that venture put them in a position with knowledge, experience, and financial stability to take over the reins from their parents at Peachy Canyon.

As the second generation, they came in with ideas for change and wanted to shape the future with the hopes that it would still be a thriving business for the third and future generations in years to come.



"We have taken our sustainable practices from the past and carried them over to an organic approach. We are looking to the future for our soil health, the history of our vineyards and what will be left for generations to come." Said Josh Beckett

Often when the next generation takes over, they think of growth and increasing production. Josh and Jake took a different approach and scaled production down while focusing on estate growing practices and the quality of the wine in the bottle. "When my parents retired, and Josh and I took over the day-to-day winery operations we set out to focus on our estate vineyards and smaller production. That was in 2019, and at that time we were making around 60,000 cases a year. For the 2020 vintage, we produced 9,000 cases and over 80% of it was from our organically farmed estate vineyards. Our goal for the future is 100% estate wines and to keep production small and ultra-premium. Our next leap will be to start replanting some vineyard blocks that need replanting and to graft a small block over to white varietals to reach our goal of 100% estate wines," said Jake.

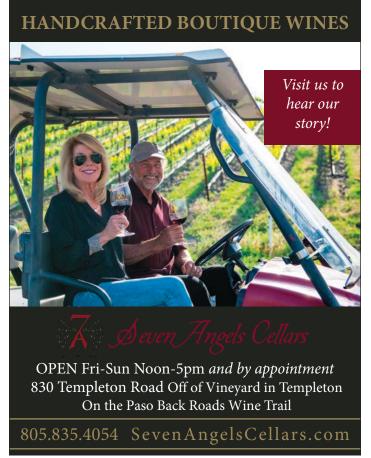


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#### Wine Tasting



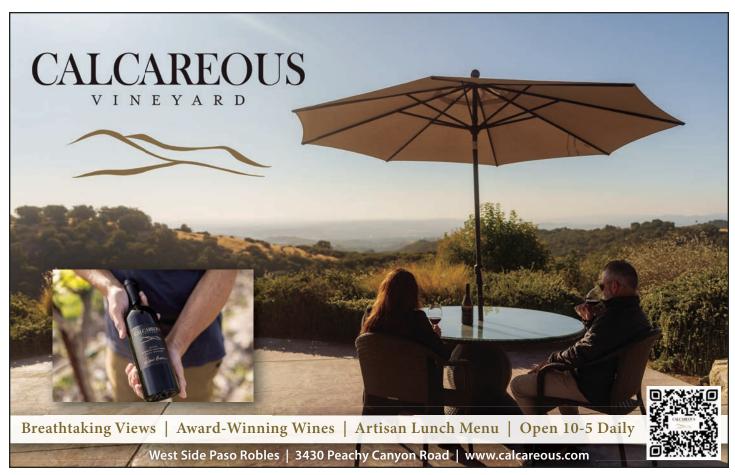


The family has made Peachy Canyon a huge success with the winery ranked in the top 100 wines in the world by Wine Spectator magazine, and its many wines have been ranked with 90-point-plus scores, often for multiple vintages. The most recent accomplishment is being named Winery of the Year at the Central Coast Wine Competition.

"Nancy and I are really proud and impressed with the continued success of Peachy Canyon Winery under the management and direction of both Josh and Jake. The wines are the best ever, supporting our selection as Winery of the Year for the Central Coast. Josh and Jake are the best," said Doug Beckett.

Peachy Canyon Winery Tasting Room is located at 1480 Bethel Road, Templeton. Open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information visit peachycanyon.com or call (805) 239-1918.

— Lisa Pretty



# Become part of the legend at Chronic Cellars of Paso Robles

The edgy and artistic winery keeps the wine flowing

Chronic Cellars, named for the "chronic" good grapes that make their wine, is known for its award-winning wines and eccentric branding. Chronic Cellars' artistic, colorful labels and quirky names "Dead Nuts," "Sofa King Bueno," "Purple Paradise" and "Spritz & Giggles" make the wines easy to spot.

Don't be fooled by the light-hearted packaging. Chronic Cellars wines truly are award-winning. The few just mentioned: Chronic Cellars Sir Real Cabernet Sauvignon 2020; Chronic Cellars Suite Petite Petite Sirah 2020; Chronic Cellars Purple Paradise Red Blend 2020 and Chronic Cellars Space Doubt Zinfandel 2020 all received their most recent medals at the 2022 Decanter World Wine Awards.

The winery partners with some of the best grape growers in Paso Robles to build an epic network that allows Winemaker, Kip Lorenzetti, to select just the right grapes he wants for all Chronic Cellar's custom blends. The area, is known for its rustic zinfandel, and the cool nights and warm days make grapes very happy! Dynamic fruit tones of strawberry, cranberry, black raspberry and mulberry fuse with alluring vanilla and clove, all of which can be discerned in Chronic Cellar wines.

Winemaker Kip Lorenzetti joined the Chronic Cellars team in 2020 bringing his decade-long winemaking career and expertise for blending wines to creating the unique Chronic Cellars blends. He kicked off his passion for wine with a hands-on experience in the cellar at Orcutt Cellars in San Luis Obispo, working with vineyards from the famed Edna Valley AVA. He honed his craft even further



as the assistant winemaker at Terravant Wine Company (now Summerland Wine Brands), working with some of the best vineyards from across California's top wine regions. Most recently, Kip was the winemaker for Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards, where he guided the winery's extra quaffable wine program that included Burgundy, Bordeaux and Rhone varietals. Lorenzetti's undeniable passion for winemaking injects his skill and sense of adventure into guiding the future of Chronic Cellar's highpersonality wines.

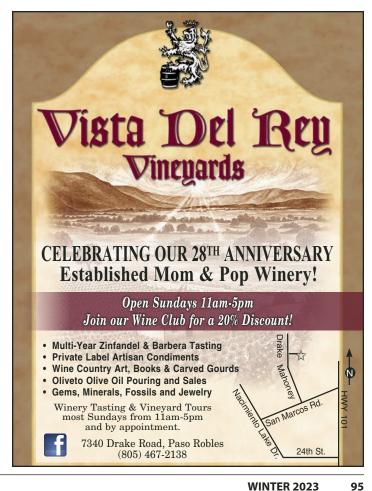
Chronic Cellars recently introduced an augmented reality (AR) experience for fans to roll the dice with Purple Paradise. Scan the QR code on a bottle of Chronic Cellars Purple Paradise and let the games begin.

"The playful tongue-in-cheek nature of the Chronic Cellars brand provided the foundation of Purple's performance, mannerisms, voice, and the over-under dice game challenge, and allowed Purple Paradise to be as engaging of a character as the wine he represents," said Patrick Johnson, CEO of Rock Paper Reality, the agency behind the AR experience.

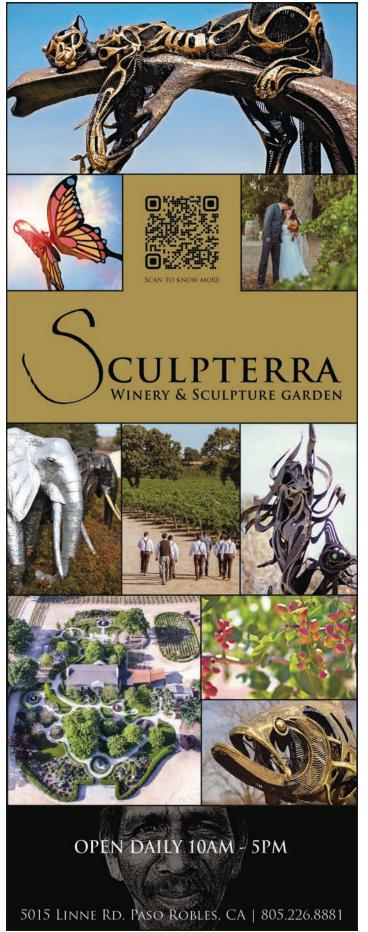
"Our characters and labels are so beloved by consumers, we

thought this would be a win/win to engage with them," says Patrick

Cramb, director of marketing for Chronic Cellars, WX Brands. "We



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hope that all wine lovers learn a bit more about our wines and characters through this experience."

Whether you choose your bottles of Chronic Cellars wine by taste or by the art or a game of dice, you will not be disappointed! Not only is the art mischievous and original, but every bottle of wine has been crafted by Lorenzetti, using grape varietals like a spice drawer to create wines "with a super dose of adventure."

Relax, have a good time and join the Chronic Connoisseurs wine club!

Chronic Cellars is located at 2020 Nacimiento Lake Drive, Paso Robles. The tasting room has a laid-back vibe that begs for Chronic fans to relax and chill out for a while. Party size is limited to 6 guests for inside tastings. For appointments, please check available times through the online booking system. Friendly and leashed pets are welcome on our patio only. For reservations, more information, or to roll the dice with Purple, visit chroniccellars.com or call (805) 237-7848.



# Shale Oak Winery gets the gold

n an unassuming road just off Highway 46 lies Shale Oak Winery. With its multicolored stained-glass windows and slanted roof, it looks like a church. However, instead of serving up sermons, they serve up high-quality wine in their SIP-certified tasting room.

At Shale Oak Winery, they've taken sustainability in practice a step further by designing their entire facility to be Gold LEED Certified. LEED stands for leadership, energy, and environmental design. According to LEED, "The LEED plaque on a building is a mark of quality and achievement in green building."

Owner Al Good dreamed of a vineyard, winery, and tasting room with very little impact on the environment. His dream became a reality. Everyone at Shale Oak is committed to the vision of sustain-



ability. Lead Winemaker, Curtis Hascall, has been with the winery from the beginning and is equally committed to Good's vision. "From the beginning, one of our goals was to get that Gold Certification; so, we worked with Studio 2G Architecture down in San Luis Obispo.

They helped guide us in that direction. We opened the production facility and did our first harvest in 2010, and then the tasting room opened in 2011."

Despite the beautiful stained glass, the tasting room was not designed to look like a church but instead to reclaim water. Both the tasting room and production facility have pitched roofs so rainwater will go down the slope of the roof. It then passes through drip chains and is filtered through the rocks. It then goes to the reclamation pond/water feature just outside the tasting room. The pond then flows into a pipe that flows directly to the catch basin that pumps the water to 5 hundred-thousand-gallon tanks. The roofs are pitched so perfectly that water beads up during a heavy fog, and, of course, that is also collected.



10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

#### **GET A TASTE OF THESE CHARACTERS**

Join us at our tasting room for a laid-back good time and experience first-hand our disruptive style that is matched only by the killer quality of our wines, made with character to match our clever and playful labels.

Make your reservation at chroniccellars.com/visit and we'll see you soon!

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"My favorite part is the water collection because that's such a big issue around here, and to capture all that clean water is beneficial for our vineyards and our landscape. It's cleaner water than the well water around here. It's not the cheapest thing to set up. It's not economically the best, but it's important."

What else makes the buildings and property so special? The whole property is set up so all rainwater will flow in the direction of the catch basin. The wood you see as you walk up to the front door is reclaimed wood from a train trestle from Vandenberg Space Force Base. The counters are recycled crushed glass. The cabinets are bamboo. The bathrooms smell like sulfur because they use reclaimed groundwater. The buildings are all solar, and they're smart. Many of the windows have motors on them, and if the temperature outside drops below the temperature inside they automatically open and fans pull the cool air inside. The building also senses when someone has left, and automatically turns the heater off. The fireplace burns denatured alcohol which only emits water vapor. Their motto is "sustainability to the forefront," and it's evident throughout the property.

The same attention to detail they put in the buildings has gone into the winemaking. According to Hascall, "Our varietals are the best of Paso. We have Rhône's. We have Bordeaux. We have Zinfandel. We have a good mix of everything that I feel grows well in the area. Everything is from Paso Robles. Everything is done in small lots. Nothing is more than a couple hundred cases produced. So, we're able to pay a lot of attention to detail and focus on the wine quality."

They have many Best-in-Class awards, but Hascall's favorite is Sunset Magazine's Double Gold, Best in Class award for their 2019 Syrah which is the perfect embodiment of a westside Paso Robles Syrah.

There's nothing pretentious at Shale Oak Winery. The vibe is cool and funky and both family and dog-friendly. Hascall states, "We want people to relax and enjoy the wine because that's what it's all about. Enjoying the wine."

Shale Oak Winery is located just off Highway 46 at 3235 Oakdale Road, Paso Robles. The tasting room is open from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday-Monday.. For reservations or more information visit shaleoakwinery.com or call (805) 239-4800

-Karen Lycan

# Vista Del Rey Vineyards: A quarter century of sustainable dry-farmed wine

#### 'Dry farming is not meant for the faint of heart'

Just up San Marcos Road, not on the typical wine trail, on a hillside with a serene view of the Santa Lucia Range, 80-year-old grandfather, local farming purist, and owner of Vista Del Rey Vineyards can be found working the silty, clay loam soils on his trusty faded orange Kubota tractor.

Dave King and his late wife, Carol De Hart King, purchased the eight-acre vineyard in 1994. After a 22-year career in the U.S. Navy and another eight years working as an engineer and program manager, Dave dusted off his Agriculture Engineering degree from Oregon State and took off on his Walter Mitty dream of operating a small, 1900sstyle, sustainably run vineyard. He's

been going ever since.

King's no-spray, pesticide-free vines are wellestablished, with bright green 'popcorn' growing on dark brown shoulders. These are the vines the region has come to know well, producing some of the appellation's most vibrant

Barberas, the bright and spicy flagship Comida Simpático Zinfandel, the popular Zin-Bera original blend, and Barbera Port.

Return visits are commonplace at this Paso Robles establishment. Oak barrels are stacked with local handmade preserves, and when in season, bowls of dry-farmed pista-



chios and walnuts from the Kings' trees are out on the table. Tasters are encouraged to try a "port sandwich" with VDRV's Barbera Dessert

Wine and 75% cacao chocolate wine wafers and picnic near a relaxing slate water fountain.

Instead of a tasting fee, visitors place donations in a carafe for the North County Humane Society, a cause close

to King's heart, confirmed by four friendly dogs greeting every tasting room visitor.

While looking towards the far-off rain clouds for some good news, Dave said, "Dry farming is not meant for economy of scale or the faint of heart, but we're still here after 26 years." Paso Robles now has about





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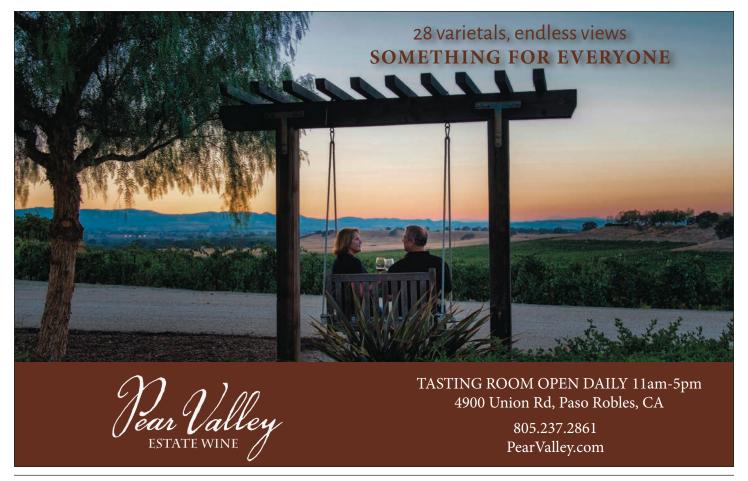
350 wineries out of 4,400 in California. Vista Del Rey has survived as one of the original 30 in Paso Robles. Despite nearly five years of extreme drought conditions, grim local harvests, and vine stress, Dave said,

"We're still ticking."

'Still ticking' translates to about 500 cases a year produced at Pacific Wine Services. Tried and true wine club members hold their allocated stashes with much gratitude.

Dave has no plans to change what has worked well for 26 years. "It's our little slice of heaven," he said.

Vista Del Rey Vineyards is located at 7340 Drake Road in Paso Robles. From Highway 101, turn west on San Marcos Road, about six miles north of Paso Robles. Drake Road is 3.5 miles from the highway. Open Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. (805) 467-2138.



# Living the wine country dream at Asuncion Ridge Vineyards

Enjoy great wine with playful names in a magical place

ver a quarter century ago, Michael Dilsaver and Philip Krumal met in Southern California through a shared interest in wine. Their friendship grew and they decided to make wine together. They established Asuncion Ridge, starting with a vineyard of Pinot Noir west of Atascadero and produced their first vintage in 2005. In the years that followed Asuncion Ridge has grown significantly: acquiring new vineyards, sourcing grapes from all around Paso; producing a broad range of varietals; winning awards and accolades from the wine community. Still, Michael and Philip have maintained a boutique,

craft style, only producing about 2000 cases per year.

They approach wine with patience and care, believing in keeping wines long in the barrel. The result pays off in exceptional wines with balanced flavor and smooth oakiness. They also have playful senses of humor, naming their Syrah 'Nefarious' and

their Rhone blends 'Salacious' and 'Lascivious.' On a less scandalous naming trend, there are also a couple of red blends named after



their dogs, Olivia and Benton. No matter the name of the wine, the quality is outstanding.

In 2020, Michael and Philip purchased an 11-acre former win-

ery, located mere minutes from the center of town. After investing substantially in rehabilitating the buildings and improving the grounds, the new property and tasting room opened at the end of 2021.

The tasting building is a repurposed barn

filled with chic furnishings. One wall is lined with black and white framed portraits of some of Paso's most influential winemakers who



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have been friends and mentors to Michael and Philip, a reminder of the collaborative spirit that infuses the local wine community. The attached patio is just one of several outdoor seating spaces. Massive oak trees magnificently shade other seating clusters. During the warmer months, they host live music and offer charcuterie plates and there is a lawn space that can also host events. They provide the opportunity to stay in the rustic farmhouse on the property in a newly remodeled two-bedroom/ two-bath house.

The feel is very country, with a sense of intimate seclusion amidst the oaks and the vineyard. Yet the location just outside of town makes for an easy trip back to a restaurant for dinner, grab a coffee, or shop for cheeses to go with your newly purchased Asuncion wines. Through this combination of quality wine, relaxed ambiance and convenience, Asuncion Ridge has created a magical space that allows everyone to share in Michael and Philip's wine country dream.

The newly renovated tasting

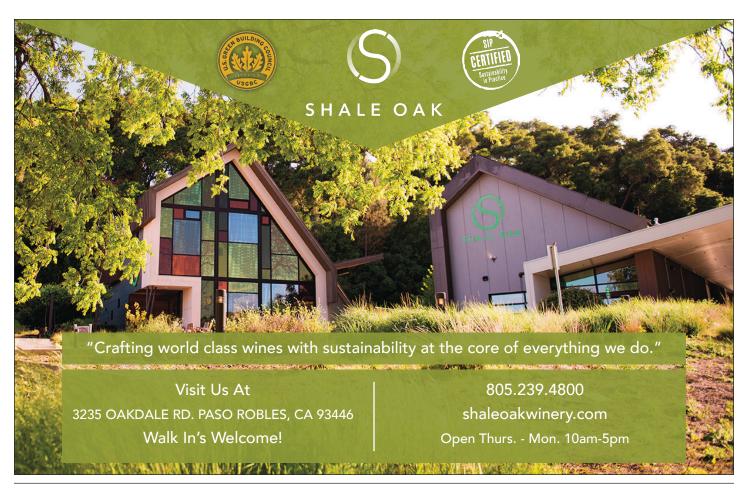


room is open 7 days a week from 11:00am to 5:00pm, is pet friendly and allows food brought in, though a charcuterie board is available.

Asuncion Ridge Vineyards is

located at 1525 Peachy Canyon Road in Paso Robles. Reservations are encouraged. Both indoor and outdoor seating are available. Closed on major holidays. For more information visit asuncionridge.com or call (805) 237-1425.

-Katherine McMahon



# **Q&A with Matthew Glunz**

I've been fortunate to know Matthew for a handful of years. It's been awesome to see them start their family winery here and watch it grow over the years. If you haven't yet been out to their winery on 46 East in Paso Robles, I recommend you check them out. The Glunz Family is an asset to our local community in many ways. Get to know a bit more about them through this Q&A. - By Matt Browne

How many cases are you producing each year?

Around 3,000

How many acres of vines do you have?

We have 40 acres, 10 planted to cabernet, petit verdot, zinfandel and primitivo.

Why do you think Paso Robles has become such a big wine destination?

I think that
there are a ton
of reasons. Wine
quality and value. Paso
wines over deliver for the
price. We have an incredible diversity of varietals that are grown here
and that winemakers are passionate
about. There is also great diversity
in experiences from the traditional
tasting room experiences to Tin
City and more tasting excursions

#### What are some of your favorite food and wine pairings?

I love zin and almost any meat off the grill. Marinated or heavily seasoned tri-tip or lamb and a fruit forward zin with some spice. Every time!

#### When you're not drinking wine, what's in your glass?

A cold ale, preferable something from Firestone or Central Coast Brewing but I won't turn down a Pliny if it's offered.



Where do you see the industry in the Paso Robles region going? Do you see any interesting new trends or directions?

I think that we will continue to see growth in tourism and diversity in plating. I also think that we are making great strides in finding out what varieties and clones do best in certain areas which will result in even better overall wine quality.

#### Favorite part about Paso Robles?

It has allowed us to bring a dream to fruition. My dad grew up in the wine retail and wholesale business and his dream was always to have his own vineyard and winery. My brother and I started the winery out here in 2013 and he and my mom moved out in 2015. I love raising my family here, it is great to be so close to the coast.

—VISIT US FOR A COMPLIMENTARY TASTING— Enjoy our winery grounds, taste our remarkable wines, picnic, play bocce or just relax in the shade.

# GLUNZ FAMILY WINERY & CELLARS





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#### Least favorite thing about Paso Robles?

I grew up in Chicago where there is a ton of ethnic diversity which also brings a ton of diversity in food. I miss going to get German, Polish, Middle Eastern and Indian food on any given night.

#### What is your first wine memory?

When I was a kid, before Sunday dinner, our dad would pull out a kit of different aromas and he would quiz us on them. Then at dinner, he would let us smell the wines and we would pick out the aromas he just quizzed us on. If we were having Rhones, he may have us smell for pepper or cherry so that we could identify them.

#### What was your first job in the industry?

On Saturdays as kids, my nine siblings and I would bottle wine at our warehouse in Illinois. My brother Steve and I were the bottle washers before they went to our siblings at the filler. We would always get in trouble for shooting the water across the room and spraying our sisters.



How many vintages have you worked?

13.

#### Where are you from originally?

I grew up on the north side of Chicago.

#### How long have you been in the Paso Robles area?

9 years.

#### What different parts of the wine industry have you worked in?

Almost all aspects. I grew up bottling wine and working on the delivery trucks and loading docks at my family's wine wholesale business. After college, my brother and I worked up in Oregon making Pinot and then we moved down to Sonoma where we made wine for 4 years. After Sonoma, I was a sales rep selling wine to restaurants and retailers for 4 years.

#### How long have you been in the industry?

I have pretty much been in the wine business as long as I have been walking. I started bottling when I was 5-years-old so I guess 40 years.

#### What is your favorite aspect of the wine business?

The people that we get to meet and the shared passion for wine. We are all very proud of what we create and we are so excited to share it with others.

#### How about least favorite?

I really don't have one. I guess it would be the travel that goes along with wine sales. I like being home with my wife and kids.

#### What's your current favorite wine/ variety/ winery to drink?

It's like picking your favorite kid. If I was pressed, I would say Zin and Grenache. If I had to pick another winery, I would say I think that McPrice Myers is making some of my favorite wines in Paso.

#### What is your favorite wine region other than Paso Robles?

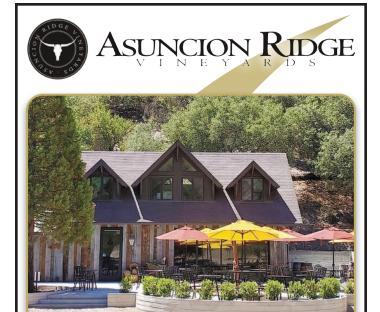
I love white Burgundy and the wines of the northern Rhone and Chateauneuf du Pape.

#### What interests/ hobbies do you have outside of the wine world?

My family. If I am not at the winery I am likely out hiking at the coast with my wife and boys or watching one of their sporting events.

#### If you weren't in the wine industry, what would you be doing?

I would likely be in politics or doing some type of public service. Politics is our other family business. I would not want to hold office but I always thought that it would be interesting to work at the State Department as a diplomat.



#### Walk-ins welcomed!

Open Daily 11am to 5pm.

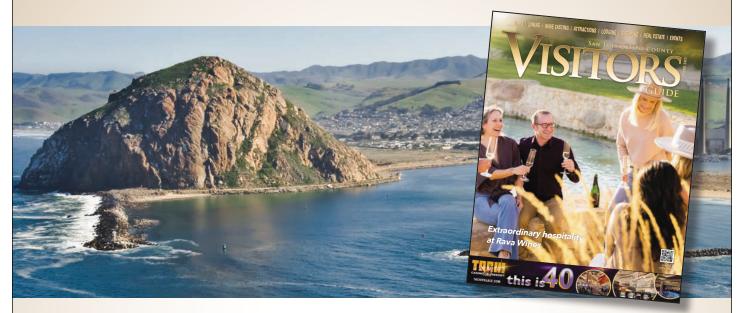
Reservations recommended for larger parties.

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#### **Farmers Markets**

Arroyo Grande—Two weekly markets on Wednesdays 8:30-11 a.m. Smart and Final parking lot at 1464 East Grand Ave. and Saturdays noon-2:30 p.m. at Olohan Alley in the Village.

- Atascadero Wednesdays
   3-6 p.m. at Atascadero Sunken
   Gardens at East Mall Ave.
- Baywood/Los Osos— Mondays 2-4:30 p.m. on Santa Maria St. between 2nd and 3rd St.
- **Cambria**—Fridays 2:30–5:30 p.m. at 1000 Main St.
- Morro Bay
   —Two weekly markets on Thursdays 2-4:30 p.m. at 2650 Main St. and Saturdays 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Main St. and Morro Bay Blvd.
- Paso Robles—Two weekly markets at 11th and Spring St. on Tuesdays 9-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. near Downtown City Park.
- San Luis Obispo—Three weekly markets on Thursdays 6-9 p.m. Downtown San Luis Obispo, on Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 p.m. 224 Tank Farm Rd, and Saturdays 8-10:45 a.m. at 325 Madonna Road, World Market and Embassy Suites parking lot.
- **Templeton**—9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at City Park, 550 Crocker St.

For more information about farmers markets in San Luis Obispo County visit northcountfarmersmarkets.com or slocountyfarmers.org.

#### New Year's Eve on Broadway

Dec 31, 7-9 p.m. — Ring in the New Year with a citywide arts celebration gala featuring some of the best Broadway, opera, and dance selections with a special tribute to Stephen Sondheim. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo. Details: pacslo.org.

#### New Year's Eve Concert and Bonfire Paso Robles

Dec 31, 7-11 p.m. — Paso Robles
Downtown City Park. Free. Rain or
shine. Food trucks, local beer, wine and
cocktails, activities for kids and dancing.
Ball drop at 9 p.m. to coincide with
midnight on the East Coast.
Details: prcity.com.

#### Carlin Soule Memorial Polar Bear Dip

Jan 1, starts at noon — Cayucos Beach, Cayucos. This is a favorite Cayucos Chamber of Commerce family-friendly event, in partnership with multiple county agencies. Free.

Details: cayucoschamber.com.

#### Avila Beach Polar Bear Plunge

Jan 1, 11:30 a.m. — Start with photo sessions on the east side of Avila Beach Pier. Free family-friendly event. No dogs, please. Details: visitavilabeach.com.

#### Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

Jan 11-15— This annual ecotourism event draws birdwatchers from all over the country. The festival features hundreds of events, field trips, workshops and master classes. Held at various locations around Morro Bay.

Details: morrobaybirdfestival.org.

#### **SLO CAL Surfing Open**

Jan 11-28 — Pismo Beach. The World Surf League (WSL), established in 1976, is dedicated to changing the world through the inspirational power of surfing. Details: surfingforhope.org.

#### **Father & Daughter Sweetheart Dance**

Feb 2 & 3, 6:30-9:30 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. — Fathers, grandfathers and uncles, bring your special girl to the Father-Daughter Dance at the Pavilion on the Lake, Atascadero for a semi-formal evening of music, dancing, refreshments, & more! A professional photographer will be on-site with affordable picture packages. Feb 2: ages 12 and under. Feb 3: ages over 12. Details: (805) 470-3360.

#### **Blendfest 2024**

Feb 22-25,—Celebrating the rulebreaking, traditional, and unconventional wine blends throughout the weekend. Hosted by the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance. Held at various locations in San Simeon and Cambria. Details: pasowine.com.

#### **SLO Craft Beer Festival**

Feb 24, 1 p.m.—Celebrate the brewers of craft beer and raise a toast to their unique and wonderful creations. Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo. Details: slocraftbeer.com.

#### **Meet the Machines**

Feb 24, 9 a.m.-noon — A family-friendly event offering children a hands-on opportunity to see, touch, learn and explore the vehicles that protect, build and serve our community. Free at Soto Sports Complex parking lot on Ash Street, Arroyo Grande. Details: arroyogrande.org.

#### **Zoo Trivia Night**

Mar 9, 5-8 p.m. — Impress the Charles Paddock Zoo keepers with your animal knowledge. Enjoy snacks, beverages and exotic animals from around the world! \$30 per ticket includes three beverages. Other food and drink are available for purchase. Details: charlespaddockzoo.org.

#### At Her Table Street Festival

Mar 9, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. — A day packed with delicious food, refreshing drinks, local vendors, and fantastic live music in celebration of Women's Week on Atascadero's Entrada Way. A free celebration of Women's Week, Mar 1-10. Details: athertable.com.

#### Annual Morro Bay City Wide Yard Sale

Mar 16 & 17, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. — Rain or shine. Multiple locations in Morro Bay offer treasures for collectors and thrifters. Details: morrobay.org.

#### **Central Coast Craft Beer Fest 2024**

Mar 23, noon- 4 p.m.—Sample over 40 local craft breweries, plus ciders, distilled spirits and wine. Live music, food trucks, vendors and lawn games. Sunken Gardens, 6505 El Camino Real, Atascadero. Details: centralcoastbrewersfest.com.

#### **Egg Hunt & Festival**

Mar 30 — Free egg hunts for all ages, including South SLO County's only adult egg hunt. Free hot dogs are provided by the Oceano/Five Cities Elks Lodge, games, bounce houses, face painting and more. Details: Arroyo Grande Recreation Services (805) 473-5474.



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