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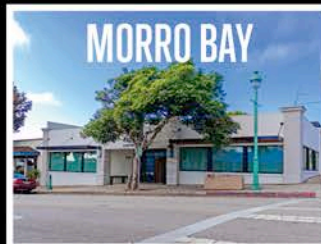
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Welcome to San Luis Obispo County. We are glad you have chosen to visit. A fixture within our community is the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). DCPP is a nuclear power plant that generates approximately 10% of California's electricity. Both PG&E and 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. This year's annual test is on Saturday, August 23.

Additional emergency planning information regarding DCPP is in the current Emergency Planning calendar, and at www.ReadySLO.org

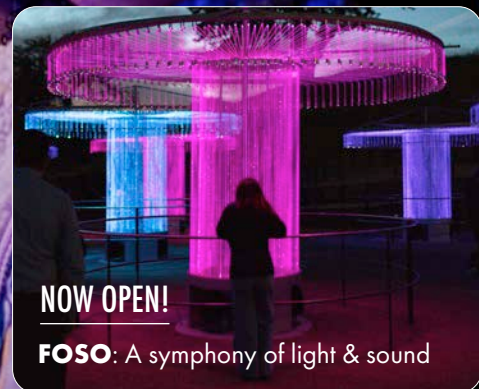




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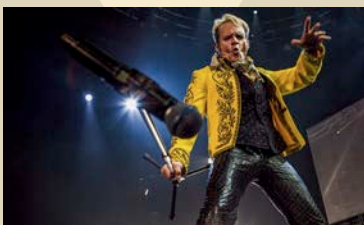
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Vista Lago Adventure Park & Mustang Waterpark are located inside the campgrounds at Lopez Lake in Arroyo Grande. They both have food & drinks to enjoy all day!



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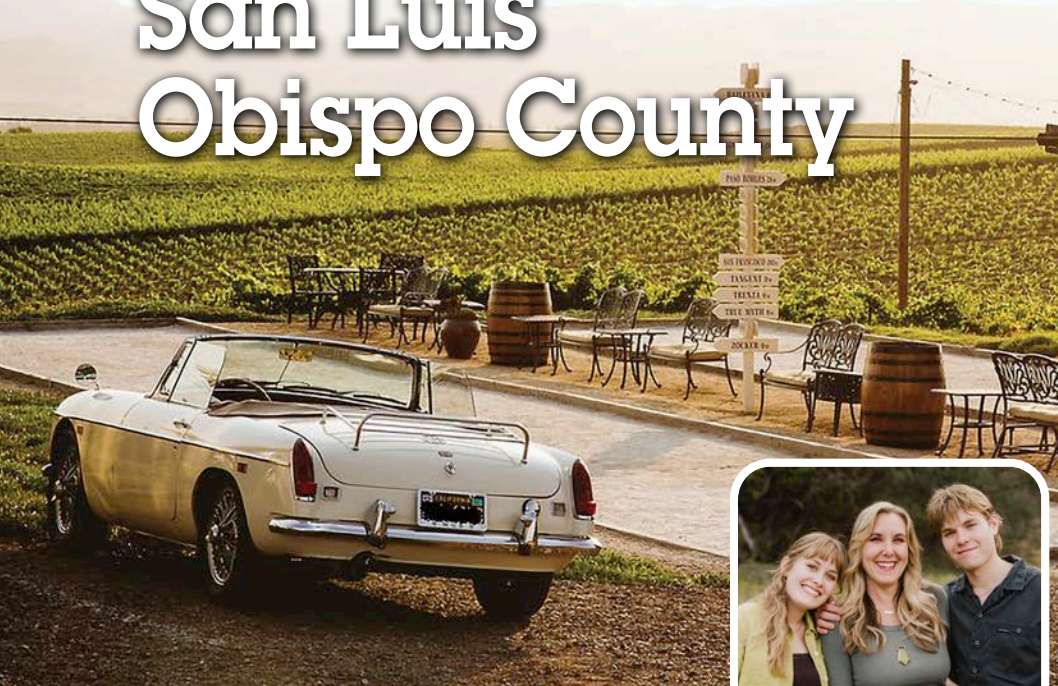
See full line-up at VinaRoblesAmphitheatre.com

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- Pier
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- Fishing charts
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- Camping
- Horse trails
- Off-road recreation
- Skydiving

Welcome to San Luis Obispo County



**Beth Brennan and her family
welcome you to San Luis
Obispo County.**

Thank you for reading this latest summer issue of the San Luis Obispo County Visitor's Guide. Discover the many opportunities for new adventures, great food, award-winning wines, and the memorable experiences that come with the area's famous hospitality.

Welcome to summer, with warm days perfect for enjoying the beaches and visiting the many landmarks throughout the area. Spend your days sightseeing, browsing, and shopping at some of the most unique shops and galleries in California.

The next several months bring crisp, sunny mornings, warm and energizing afternoons, and cool evenings—perfect for enjoying excellent wine and your favorite Central Coast activities. Enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting, followed by unwinding with a delicious dinner and a good night's rest, ready for the next day's adventures.

On these pages, you can learn what's new at some of your favorite places and be among the first to experience the newest things to do and see! And if you run out of time, remember that you are always welcome back to explore more!

Summer isn't complete without the California Mid-State Fair. Get ready, get set, and go to the 2025 California Mid-State Fair from July 16 through July 27 at the Paso Robles Event Center. There's something for everyone. This year's theme, "Off to the Races", brings the thrill of high-speed rides, friendly competition, and daring adventures.

Five stages, including the Frontier Stage and La Cantina, are included with fair admission. The famous Mid-State Fair concert series, held in the Chumash Grandstand Arena, hosts ten nights of internationally renowned artists. Don't miss out on the magical world of the carnival and the country rodeo finals, Monster Truck Madness, and the free entertainment, merchandise, gifts, food, and beverage vendors located throughout the fairgrounds.

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

Beth

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY **VISITORS** GUIDE

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To advertise, call:

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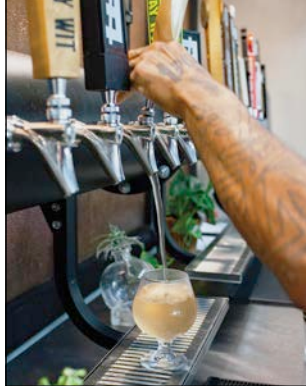
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San Luis Obispo

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 world-wide 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

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Dining & Drinks

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Golf

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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

Hotels & Motels

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Museums

Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum

A free history museum with permanent exhibits and armory room, displaying historic artifacts, photos, weapons, and recorded stories from veterans who served during WWI to modern day conflicts, honoring the experiences of Central Coast veterans and others who have served our nation. 801 Grand Avenue, Suite 102, vetmuseum.org, (805) 543-1763

Outdoor Activities

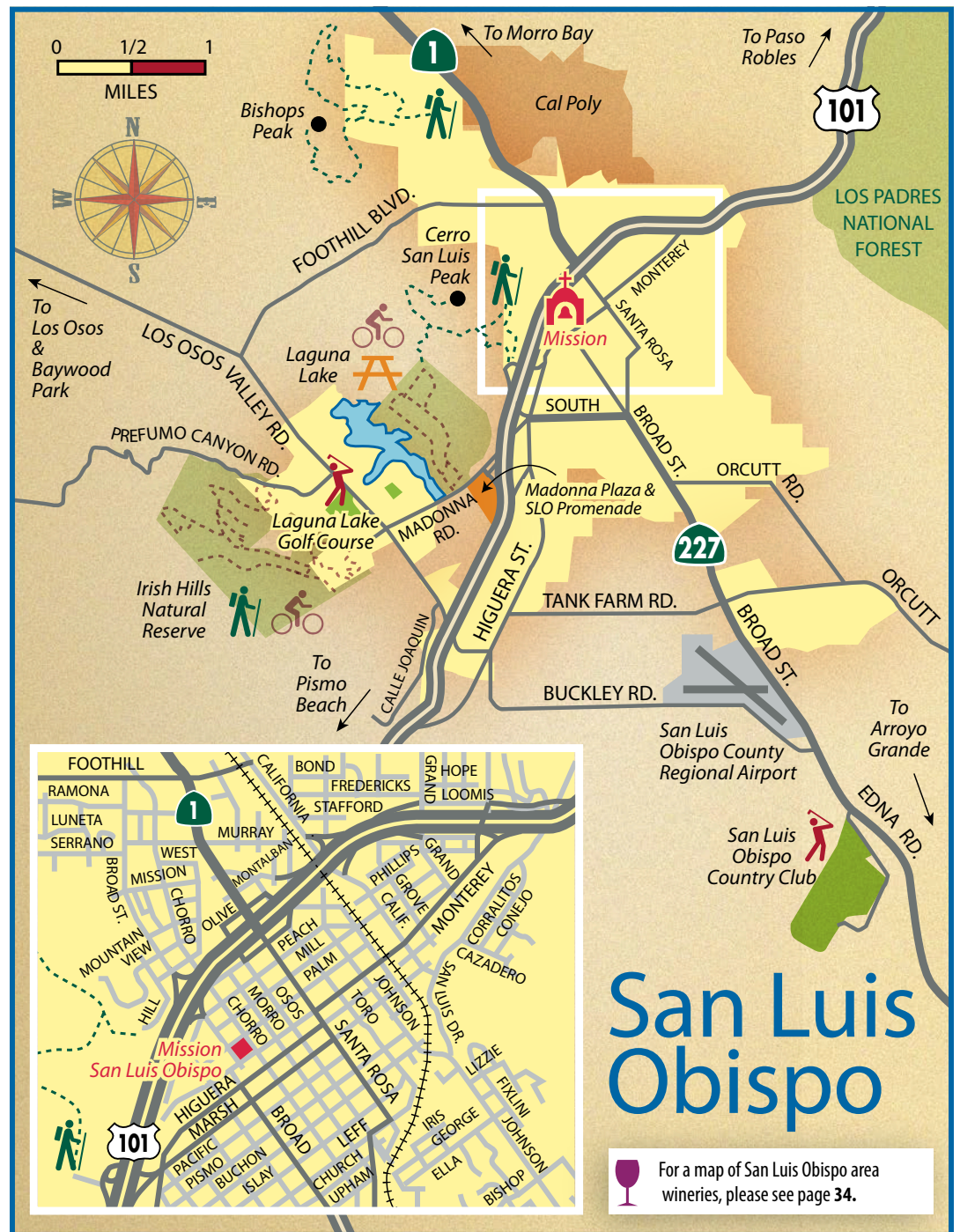
Central Coast Renaissance Festival

The festival is an annual event held in SLO County. Attendees are transported to the Renaissance era with live entertainment, costumed actors, artisans, and food vendors. The festival features armored combat, live music, falconry, dance, and period comedy shows. 504 Madonna Road SLO, CCRenFaire.com, (805) 550-9177

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SLEEP 110 uniquely decorated guest rooms. From rock waterfall showers, to enormous fire places and golden cherubs, each room has its own whimsical appeal.

EAT Enjoy an unforgettable dining experiences at: The Copper Cafe, Alex Madonna's Gold Rush Steak House, Bakery and Silver Bar Cocktail Lounge.

RELAX Escape to an unparalleled multi-sensory experience at the Spa. Specializing in personal service in an inviting, elegant setting.

SHOP Commemorate your stay with a set of signature goblets or browse our collection of gifts and souvenirs. www.shopmadonnainn.com

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Leave the stress behind and enjoy the ultimate escape at Chumash Casino

Top destination for gaming, spa treatments, fine dining, and more

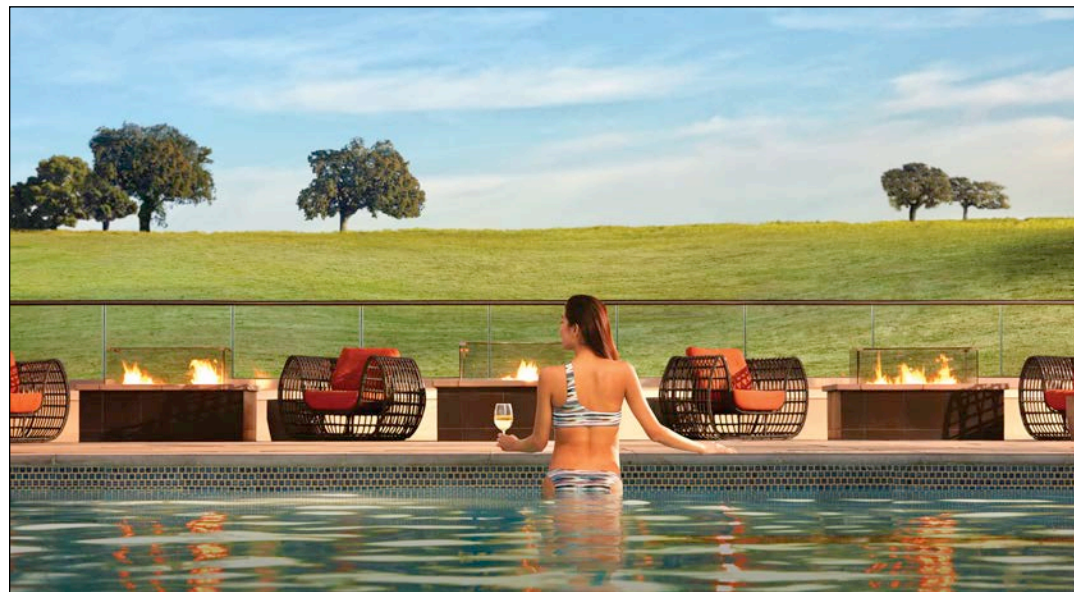
Whether you're looking for the ultimate in hotel accommodations and fine dining, a relaxing spa day, or a next-level gaming experience, the Chumash Casino Resort has it all. This destination getaway for guests looking to free themselves from the burdens of daily stress is set in the heart of the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley, an easy drive from San Luis Obispo County.

The motto "Welcome to Freedom" says it all. Chumash Casino is the perfect backdrop to leave your cares behind and simply be. The resort team members are committed to providing top-notch service and hospitality to each guest with their approach of "One.Team.Chumash."

Enjoy gaming options galore

The Chumash Casino Resort features a spacious 115,000 square foot casino floor and is perhaps best known for providing the finest gaming experience around. Guests will find 2300 of the newest, hottest slot machines, plus top gaming at The Center Bar.

The impressive 45 table games include Blackjack, Baccarat, Mystery Card Roulette, Spanish 21, Ultimate Texas Hold'em, and more. The Poker



Welcome to freedom at Chumash Casino in beautiful Santa Ynez Valley.

Room at Chumash features live cash games, plus the newest innovation in poker: Jackpot Blitz. This dealer-less electronic poker game serves nonstop multiplayer action with fast, error-free gameplay.

At Higher Limits at Chumash, high-stakes gamers enjoy a private enclave, with an all-new room scheduled to debut in late 2025.

It's set to be an expansive escape, doubling in both size and gaming offerings, fully remodeled to deliver a plush and comfortable gaming experience. Stadium Gaming delivers a next level gaming

experience, featuring fan favorites like Blackjack, Craps, Baccarat and Roulette. It is the ideal go-to game for both novice and experienced gamers.

VISITOR SHUTTLE



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If entertainment is what you're looking for, join the team for upcoming shows at Samala Show-room. Here, you'll experience the best local, regional, and national musicians and performers in the heart of California wine country.

Treat yourself at Willows, the resort's AAA Four Diamond-rated restaurant. Enter past a wine wall featuring 160 bottles showcasing the eatery's award-winning wine list and dine in an intimate setting. With a mood best described as wine country relaxation complemented with superior quality cuisine, Willows earned the 2024 Wine Spectator Award of Excellence and was honored as the 2024 OpenTable Diners' Choice.

Over at The Sports Bar, you'll find every sporting event imaginable. Grab a drink, get a bite to eat, and cheer on your favorite teams, all in the cozy confines of the only true sports bar in the Santa Ynez Valley.



If shopping is your pleasure, look no further than The Gift Shop at Chumash. Whether you're looking to treat yourself

or a special someone, you're sure to find the perfect gift. From luxury leather goods, designer handbags, and Swarovski crystal

to eyewear, watches, and fine jewelry, there's something for everyone on your list.



Must be 21 or older. Gambling problem? Call 1.800.GAMBLER. Copyright ©2025 Chumash Casino Resort.



Four Diamond-rated hotel and spa

With newly remodeled guest rooms and suites, the AAA Four Diamond-rated resort hotel

boasts bright, open accommodations that capture the serenity and beauty of the surrounding Santa Ynez Valley. Rest, relax, and recharge while enjoying luxuri-

ous amenities including a rooftop pool with lounge chairs, cabanas, fire pits, plus food and beverage offerings.

Pamper yourself with one or more of the many stress-relieving services at The Spa. Here, find wet and dry saunas, outdoor mineral pools, and relaxing treatment rooms. Unwind with holistic wellness services designed to refresh the body and mind, including restorative massage therapies, luxurious facials, replenishing IV infusions, and vitamin injections.

With so many options, from gaming, dining, and entertainment to shopping, luxurious accommodations, and spa treatments, there truly is something for everyone at the Chumash Casino Resort. Leave your cares behind and visit today!

The Chumash Casino Resort is located at 3400 East Highway 246 in Santa Ynez. For reservations, event calendar, or more information, visit chumashcasino.com or call 1-800-CHUMASH to make hotel reservations or purchase tickets to upcoming entertainment events.

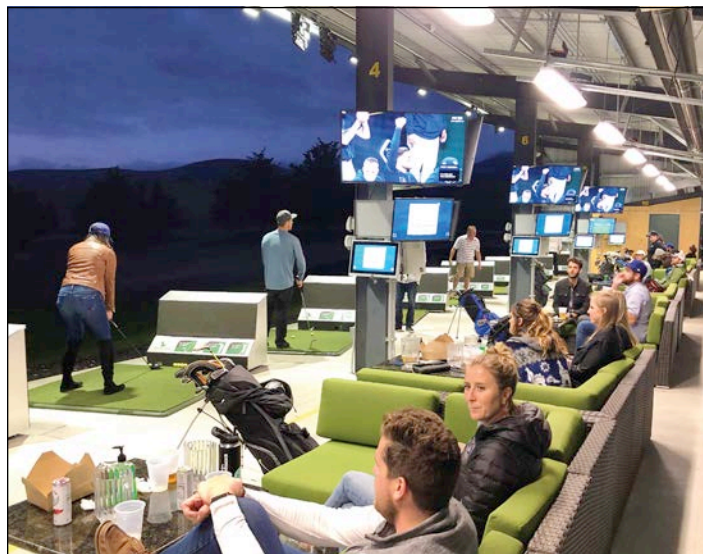
— Meagan Friberg



Dairy Creek Golf Course, pioneering golf challenges and family fun

You don't even have to like golf to have a great time

Dairy Creek Golf Course and Event Center, just a few minutes north of San Luis Obispo along the iconic Highway 1, is a unique family-friendly escape for a day or a few days. Along with a par 36, 9-hole championship golf course, this former dairy farm features a variety of golf-themed activities, plus an 18-hole disc golf course, camping, exceptional food and beverages, and a calendar full of events from music festivals to weddings. Dairy



Stay and play for golf, disc golf, kids golf, camping, and more!


Want to up your game? Improve your skills by booking a lesson with one of the accomplished instructors. Sign the kids up for the First Tee program, where they learn life skills through the game of golf. Youngsters learn core values and healthy lifestyle habits from a seamless lesson plan that is centered around personal development.

Get in the game with Swing Time! This modern entertainment venue is San Luis Obispo's version of Topgolf. The same Toptracer cameras used to track the ball flight during PGA Tour broadcasts will track your shots at Swing Time. Golfers and non-golfers alike have a blast playing a variety of games, like Angry Birds, or testing their skills at world-famous golf courses like Pebble Beach, Pinehurst, or St. Andrews. As day turns to night, the fun intensifies as the sun sets behind Hollister Peak and the glowing sky takes second stage to nine thirty-foot LED interactive targets which flash and pulsate when hit by a golf shot. Swing Time has ten bays on a single level with comfortable climate-controlled outdoor seating and over 30 TV screens.

SLO County Golf Course Superintendent, Josh Heptig, says, "Swing Time is best described as a combination of a driving range, sports bar, pinball machine, and bowling alley all wrapped into one


Creek is the Central Coast's ultimate venue for recreation, relaxation, and celebration

Your experience starts by pulling off the highway, into a property that was once a Swiss Italian dairy farm, hence the name Dairy Creek. The uber-friendly staff makes you feel like family as you enter the clubhouse and Dairy Creek's well-stocked pro shop. If you're interested in hitting the links, tee it up on the par-36, 9-hole championship golf course that features five tee box options from which to play the three par 3, three par 4, and three par 5 holes.



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place to play, eat, drink, and be merry. Rent one of our comfortable bays to hang with friends, enjoying a delicious meal while hitting shots with a glass of local wine, beer, or cocktails. Swing Time brings a unique experience to the community."

Need a break between rounds, or just want to hang out? Relax and enjoy delicious treats and creative drinks from Brick and Mortar Catering Company. A newly renovated restaurant with multiple bars is opening soon under the management of a new Australian hospitality group.

Stay and play

Dairy Creek is located within El Chorro Regional Park, with a campground a short walk or golf cart ride from the course. The park features 61 campsites (43 full hook-up sites with electricity, sewer, and water, and 18 primitive sites with water nearby). Each campsite accommodates six to eight people and either a couple of tents or a full-sized R.V. The maximum trailer length at some of the sites is 40 feet, and there are a couple of pull-through sites. Restrooms and coin-operated showers are available. Cabins are also in the plans. Make reservations up to six months in advance through slocountyparks.com.

Dairy Creek is the perfect venue for events from birthday parties to music festivals. Car shows, art and wine events, reunions, weddings, company retreats, and the renowned Shabang and Live Oak Music Festivals all have a home at Dairy Creek. "If you can dream it, we can do it" is the philosophy at these stunningly beautiful grounds.

Make reservations and discover new events at dairycreekslo.com.

In the 'fore!front' of fun

The course has been wildly successful and added a new dimension to SLO County's demand for outdoor recreation. Golf, an 18-hole disc golf course, games, great food and drink, camping, and events are just the beginning. Dairy Creek has been a great course to play since 1997 and has been celebrated as a pioneer in environmental management, inspiring conservation efforts and zero waste innovations in the county.

Return often to play and stay, and watch the grounds grow as 40+ camping structures and amenities will soon also be added to the property. The location is jaw-droppingly beautiful, the food is exceptional, and the opportunity to unwind while playing a round or two is practically guaranteed.

Dairy Creek Golf Course is located at 2990 Dairy Creek Rd in San Luis Obispo. For more information or to book a bay or golf reservation, visit dairycreekslo.com or call (805) 782-8060.



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History Museum in San Luis Obispo, est. 2002

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www.VetMuseum.org

The iconic Madonna Inn—enchanted guest rooms and pink champagne cake

Hiking, horseback riding, world-famous food and bakery, and dancing to big band music

Whether a first-time or repeat visitor to the iconic Madonna Inn, locals and visitors are always in for a special treat. Located just off Highway 101 in beautiful San Luis Obispo, it's the ideal place to stop for a meal, dessert, or an enchanted night or two.

Nostalgia is the name of the game at Madonna Inn. The unique style and ingenuity from the first 12 rooms completed in 1958 by Alex



You can't help but smile when sitting in a pink booth.

and Phyllis Madonna are reflected throughout the property.

"Over the years, returning guests share how much they enjoy that nostalgic feeling," says marketing manager Amanda Rich. "It's important for us to maintain the originality of this special place while also adding upgrades."

This originality spreads throughout the entire 1500-acre property, from Madonna's world-famous Pink Champagne Cake, the gift shops, and into the famous restrooms.

That's correct – the restrooms at Madonna Inn have personalities all their own. The men's features a waterfall urinal and clamshell sinks, the women's exhibits pink sparkly wallpaper and leather interior. "It was an ongoing joke between the

Madonnas, and he liked to remind her how famous that waterfall had become!" says Rich.

Family-run with unsurpassed hospitality

From its mom-and-pop beginning to now, the Madonna Inn has been a family-run business. Their children – Cathie Twisselman, John Madonna, Karen Twisselman, and Connie Pearce – learned the importance of hard work from an early age. Pearce is currently the general manager. Her husband, Clint, manages the Madonna properties, and their daughter, Audrey, helps with marketing.

The family's hospitality has exceeded guest expectations for nearly seven decades. Guests return year after year to their "home away from home" for special experiences and lasting memories.

Everyone is welcome to walk around and enjoy the ornate hand-carved woodwork, etched copper and brass adornments, and custom-made leaded glasswork and windows. The prevalent color pink first took off with the design of the steakhouse booths.

"If you're sitting in a pink booth, you can't help but smile!" says Rich.

No two rooms are alike

Famous for its unique accommodations, the Madonna Inn boasts 110 themed guest rooms.

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The “Caveman” has been a favorite for decades, with animal prints, a rock ceiling and floor, and a waterfall shower. Rich favors the “Mini-Maxi” and its purple sparkly wallpaper, elaborate rock fireplace, cozy sitting area, and a rock shower. Mrs. Madonna’s favorite room is “Irish Hills”, a nod to her Irish heritage. This serene semi-suite is enchanting with a natural rock shower.

“As social media has evolved, people tend to want that crazy, colorful wallpaper,” says Rich. “Three of our rooms – ‘Merry, Go, and Round’ – fit those requests with their fun, colorful designs and fun accents.”

Exceptional dining, desserts, and dancing

The dining experiences at Madonna Inn keep fans returning for more. The friendly staff at the Copper Café serves up fresh comfort food daily from breakfast to dinner. Visit the Gold Rush Steak House for dinner of steaks, seafood, chicken, and an extensive wine and dessert list. The Silver Bar Cocktail

Lounge is a cozy area to enjoy cocktails, local wines and beers, and small bites.

Desserts are made fresh daily at the Madonna Inn Bakery. Indulge in cookies, French and Danish pastries, pies, and the world-famous Pink Champagne Cake.

Enjoy live entertainment and dancing five nights a week, including Swing Night with big band music. A lineup of musicians, including the Frank Gary Band and Starlight Dream Band, keeps the dance floor hopping through the weekend.

Staycations, activities, and events

“Locals love the Madonna Inn for staycations because we have so much to offer right here on the property,” says Rich.

Scenic mountain horseback trail rides are offered daily, and hikers enjoy views from the stunning hilltops and valleys. Tennis, basketball, or pickleball courts are open on a first come first served basis.

Spa services, including massage and facials, are available by

appointment. Hotel and day spa guests may enjoy the heated Terrace Pool, fitness room, and bar featuring small bites and signature cocktails. A Tesla charging station is situated at the front entrance, and the property is set to go fully solar by next year.

With three shops offering a selection of designer fashions, gourmet snacks, chocolates, local wine, souvenirs, and toys, the Madonna Inn is the perfect place to find that special gift. Be sure to add one of the famous custom-made, hand-poured Madonna Inn goblets to your basket.

Weddings and special events

When it comes to planning and carrying out unforgettable gatherings, the banquet and events team at Madonna Inn is unsurpassed for seamless planning to ensure unforgettable moments.

Venue spaces include the semi-private Balcony Room, the intimate Round Room, the elegant Garden Room, the charming Venetian Room, the enchanting outdoor Secret Garden, an expansive dance

floor, and the Expo Center is the largest indoor event facility on the Central Coast.

Visit today

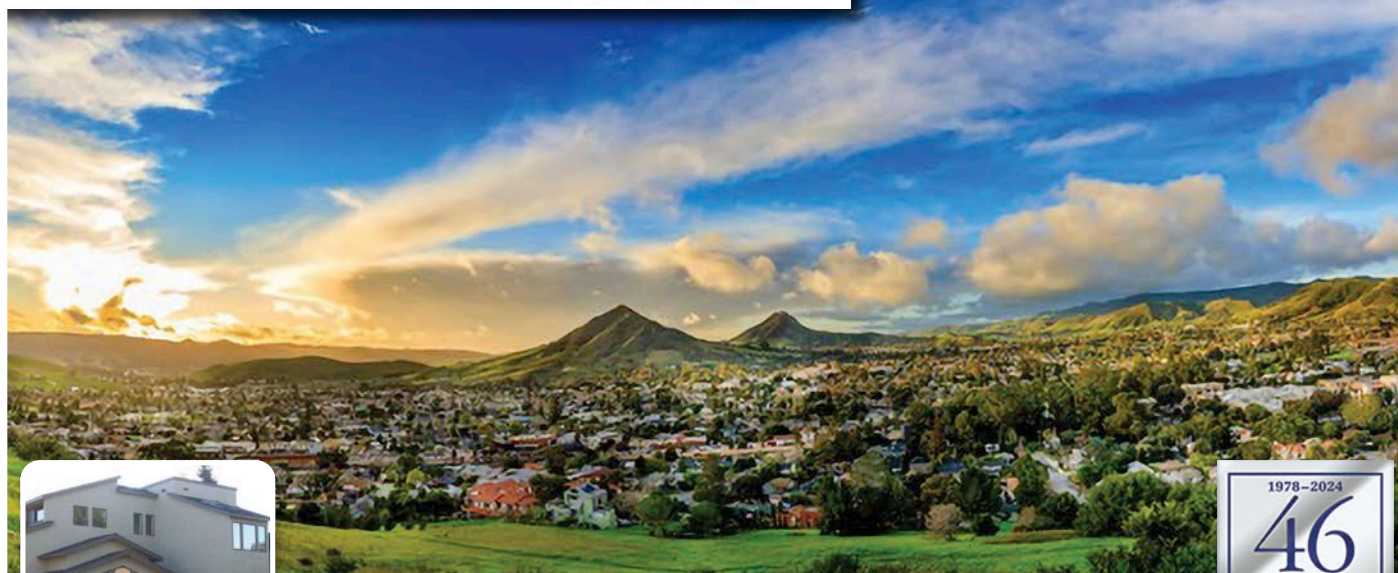
“You don’t have to stay overnight or have a meal to enjoy our hospitality,” says Rich. “The kindness and heart of the Madonna family make it extra special. It’s a very unique place, and our goal is to take care of people and make them feel welcome.”

Stop by the iconic Madonna Inn, located just off Highway 101 at 100 Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo. For more information, visit madonnainn.com, call (805) 543-3000, or follow on Facebook and Instagram.

— Meagan Friberg



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Rolling with MOM—SLO's friendly cannabis experience

San Luis Obispo's favorite women-owned, neighborhood dispensary

Megan's Organic Market, known as MOM, offers a warm and friendly welcome to guests visiting this wholesome cannabis market. MOM carries an array of high-quality cannabis products priced for all budgets. Guests can freely explore flowers, concentrates, vapes, pre-rolls, tinctures, topicals, edibles, and more, all openly displayed. This open-concept shopping experience is part of the company's commitment to normalizing the cannabis buying experience and creating an inviting and communal place where customers feel like friends.



"We love welcoming visitors into our unique space where they can safely explore cannabis and embrace its benefits," said Megan Souza, CEO and co-founder. "When it comes to our whimsical store design, guest experience, products, and team development, we set a higher standard for the industry."

Souza founded MOM in 2013 when she saw a need to better serve medical cannabis patients with verifiable, organic medicine. She created an approachable service, delivering her sustainably grown harvest to a small collective of local medical patients. Working hard to improve the health of residents, MOM quickly became

one of the most respected Prop. 215 cannabis collectives in California, and, in 2020, became the first operational storefront dispensary in San Luis Obispo.

With another location in Goleta, California, the team remains focused on contributing to the well-being of each community. MOM hosts educational events, dedicates volunteer hours, and sponsors local non-profits. Souza's heart is set on creating an environment where cannabis is destigmatized and embraced by providing access to high-quality products in a wholesome environment that promotes good health and good vibes.

Visit Megan's Organic Market at 280 Higuera Street in San Luis Obispo. Open daily from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Curbside pickup is daily from 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. For more information, visit megansorganicmarket.com, call (805) 592-1420, or follow @sayhighmom.

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Dairy Creek Golf Course | San Luis Obispo

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Discovering the diverse wines of the San Luis Obispo region

Unwind on a unique wine-tasting adventure

The San Luis Obispo region includes the Edna Valley and Arroyo Grande AVAs, two of California's leading AVAs. Edna Valley was the first AVA granted in San Luis Obispo County in 1982 and has been producing wine since 1968. The two AVAs first 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 area.



The gentle sunshine and moderate Pacific Ocean maritime climate combine with the fertile soil 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.

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Sip wine among the barrels at Claiborne and Churchill Winery

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

The upscale, welcoming tasting room is located 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.

Centrally located in SLO Wine Country, Claiborne & Churchill's vacation property is



only a ten-minute drive from Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo, or Arroyo Grande, and a fifteen-minute drive to Cal Poly. Their

guest cottage is perfect for a weekend, for visiting students at Cal Poly, or for anyone just looking for a relaxing getaway.

Rental is available through VRBO/Homeaway, or by emailing elizabeth@claiborne-churchill.com.



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— TASTING ROOM —

Located just minutes from downtown SLO, we offer warm hospitality paired with expansive vineyard views.

Join us to experience our wide array of distinctive wines, locally grown and carefully crafted to express the Edna Valley's unique cool coastal climate.

OPEN DAILY 10am - 5pm
5828 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo
baileyana.com 805-269-8200



Visit the tasting room at 2649 Carpenter Canyon Rd, in San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley; open every day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except major holidays), claibornechurchill.com, (805) 544-4066.

Baileyana Tasting Room, get a history lesson in a glass

The Baileyana Tasting Room is the first you encounter upon entering the Edna Valley from Orcutt Road and San Luis Obispo. Housed in the historic 1909 Independence Schoolhouse, the tasting room is the home of Baileyana, Tangent, True Myth, and Zocker brands.

This charming schoolhouse offers wine-tasting experiences to accommodate all visitors. With around 35 different white, red, and rosé wines to choose from, there are wines for every guest from the first-time wine taster to the expert. With extensive picnic grounds and views, the family-friendly tasting room provides a memorable and fun experience.

Veteran winemaker Rob Takigawa focuses 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 stories, 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.

Award-winning wine, grappa, and brandy at Autry Cellars

Overlooking vineyards and 40 miles of the Santa Lucia mountain range is Autry Cellars. Owner and artisan winemaker Steve Autry and his tasting room staff pour wine varietals, grappa, and his signature apple brandy from some of the best grapes selected from across the region.

Autry Cellars' unpretentious tasting room is "styled in early American warehouse," jokes Autry. But don't be deceived by the modest décor. Here is where visitors experience superb wine varietals along with gold medal best-in-class grappa and silver medal American oak and Hungarian oak brandies.

Inspired by a spectacular zinfandel tasting experience, Autry became a full-time artisan winemaker in 2001 and a fully licensed brandy distiller in 2012. He says people who visit his tasting room, "come for the wine and discover the brandy," and gain access to impressive small lot wines and brandies

that are available exclusively in the tasting room.

Visit Autry Cellars tasting

room at 5450-B Edna Road in San Luis Obispo; open 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday (last reserva-

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San Luis Obispo & South County Wine Tasting

tion at 4 p.m.) and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday (last reservation at 3 p.m.), autrycellars.com. For reservations, call (805) 546-8669.

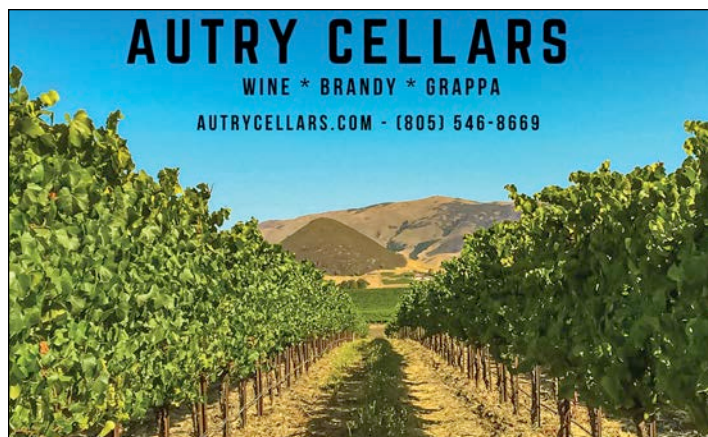
Croma Vera Wines—Spanish-inspired, locally sourced

Croma Vera Wines has carved out a niche for Spanish-inspired wines on the Central Coast. Dedicated to sustainable winemaking, Croma Vera wines showcase a distinct balance and freshness influenced by the Central Coast climate and soil that is so similar to Spain's wine regions. Wines like albariño, tempranillo, graciano, and bold red blends allow Croma Vera to offer delicious, distinctive wines that bring something unique to the region's winetasting experiences.

Produced in small, 200-cases-per-year lots, environmental stewardship is central to Croma Vera's winemaking. Grapes sourced from local SIP-certified vineyards ensure practices that protect the land and vineyard workers. Croma Vera wines respect both nature and community, and the winery continually seeks ways to reduce its environmental footprint and give back to the land that nurtures its wines.

To mark its 10th anniversary, Croma Vera launched a project with The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. Part of the co-branded 2025 Rosé proceeds are dedicated to land conservation efforts.

The kid and dog-friendly tasting room is in Duncan Alley, 3183 Duncan Road, Suite D, San Luis Obispo's newest hotspot. Open Thursday through Sunday, and some Mondays, 1-7 p.m. For more information, visit cromavera.com, social media, or call (805) 946-1685.





Avila Beach

Take a drive away from the beaten 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 (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

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Pismo Beach, Shell Beach & Oceano

The 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 pismo beach.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.



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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 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 mouth-watering 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



Pismo Fish & Chips

Renowned for its exceptional fish and chips and hearty clam chowder, it has built a legacy on serving fresh, delectable seafood dishes. With decades of tradition, it continues to offer a timeless dining experience, where quality and flavor remain paramount. 505 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, pismofishandchips.com, (805) 773-2853

Splash Café

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

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





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'East Coast meets West Coast,' the story behind Ada's Fish House

*Fresh, traditional,
coastal classics*

Welcome to Ada's Fish House in Pismo Beach, where 35 years of restaurant experience in coastal cuisine has culminated in this family-owned and operated restaurant by the sea.

The "East Coast meets West Coast" menu is known for freshness. Lobster, steamers, and sea scallops are flown in every few days. Fresh live Pacific seafood comes from local sources. Lobster rolls and fish and chips are favorites. Crisp fresh salads and a tasty clam chowder round out any meal. The clam chowder is a People's Choice and Judge's Choice winner at the Pismo Beach Clam Festival.



Chef Doug MacMillan.

Ada's has a delightful outdoor dining area. Diners are kept cozy with heat lamps when the coastal fog rolls in. Reservations are best, but walk-ins can be seated if space is available. Wine, beer, and liquor are available with meals. Take-out is available.

When destiny calls

Doug MacMillan was destined to be a chef and restaurant owner. Ada "Rosa" MacMillan started the original Rosa's Ristorante Italiano in 1961 in Visalia, California, later opening the Pismo Beach Rosa's in 1988. Doug learned the craft by working for his parents and cooking in Italy, where he apprenticed in 1992.

Ada's Fish House came about in 2019. Shannon and Doug saw

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an available space across the street from Rosa's restaurant and decided to open a much-needed fish house in Pismo Beach. "Mom was born in Bonito, Italy, and delivered by a midwife named Ada. She became known as Ada Rosa." Ada is the name Doug and his wife, Shannon, chose for Ada's Fish House.

When planning the menu for Ada's, Doug also benefited from his father, Bill's, influence. Bill hailed from Boston, where Maine lobster is king. Ada's lobster roll is most favored among the restaurant's loyal following.

After deciding to open Ada's, Shannon took over renovating and decorating. "It's her brainchild," said Doug, "everything from the decor to the menu. We work together on this."

Macmillan was instrumental in launching the culinary program at Arroyo Grande High School. Ongoing support for the program includes a scholarship program from the family restaurants and often hiring culinary program students to work at Ada's.

"I want to give these kids the tools to be successful." No matter



what the job, whether it is busing tables or washing dishes, everyone is an important part of the team. MacMillan feels it is his job to make sure his teams are successful. This requires having a good teacher and, more importantly, a good communicator. The MacMillan kids also

help out, carrying on the family business tradition.

Ada's Fish House is at 558 Price Street, Pismo Beach, CA. Open for outdoor and indoor dining Sunday-Thursday from 11:30 a.m. -9:30 p.m., and until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Seating by reservation.

Walk-ins are seated if space is available. Five or more guests are seated in the heated patio. For reservations or more information, visit adasfishhouse.com or call (805) 556-3077.

— Ruth Ann Angus





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ROSASRESTAURANT.COM

The Cracked Crab is a signature coastal dining experience

Fresh food, full buckets, and casual attire

Cracked Crab is the perfect place to relax and enjoy an easy meal, especially after a long day on the beach. It has been a one-of-a-kind restaurant on the Central Coast since first opening in 1999. The intimate, casual atmosphere welcomes everyone, and casual attire is almost a requirement!

When the original owners moved from the East Coast, it quickly became apparent that a true seafood restaurant was missing. Cultivating relations directly with local fishermen, farmers, and processors, the Cracked Crab has become one of the most successful restaurants in San Luis Obispo County.

Executive Chef Andrew Shoneff takes the best of what is in season and tailors the menu to reflect the market. Order their signature bucket, and they lay out the butcher paper to present the highest quality shellfish to dig right into. Delicious sides made with local ingredients round out the meal. General Manager Jamie Habig says, "We strive to serve the best seafood available, whether locally caught fish or Alaskan crab. Much of what we serve, especially our Alaskan king crab, is of a quality unavailable to most other restaurants."

Fresh menu choices for everyone

The ingredients used in the Cracked Crab kitchen are consistently of the highest grade. The flavors of each dish reflect those ingredients. For non-seafood lovers, there are chicken and steak entrees to please the palate. The kids' menu has plenty of options for kids' appetites. A great local wine selection is offered to pair with the food, thanks to the Cracked Crab's direct relationships with Central Coast wineries.




Every dish is made in-house and fresh!


A new menu is posted on their website daily. Chef Shoneff practices an "in season" philosophy, using local fresh catch when available, local produce, and making all of the dishes in-house and fresh daily.



Promising "The finest seafood available, served in a most casual style," the owners invest in hiring the friendliest folks they can find. The attentive servers help create excellent dining experiences and happy customers who spread the good word about the restaurant.

Visiting Pismo Beach has to include lunch or dinner at the Cracked Crab. Drop by to be seated inside or on the patio. Reservations are not necessary. The entire staff maintains high standards of health and cleanliness to ensure the safety of guests and staff.

The Cracked Crab is at 751 Price St, Pismo Beach, within walking distance of the pier. Open Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Open Fourth of July 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. To see the menu and for more information, visit crackedcrab.com or call (805) 773-2722.





Come see our extensive collection of rare and newly released artwork at your local Thomas Kinkadee Gallery!

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www.KinkadeeCentralCoast.com

Visit the Thomas Kinkade Showcase by the Sea Gallery

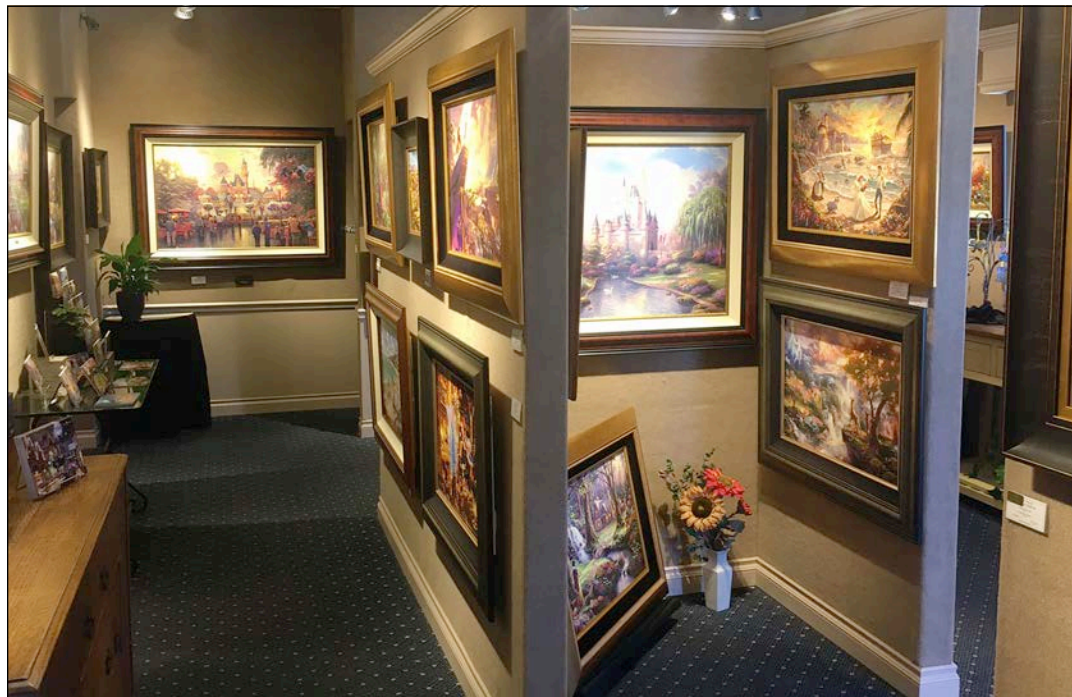
A few short blocks from the iconic Pismo Beach Pier, on the corner of Cypress Street and Stimson Avenue, stands a brick building with double doors swung wide open. As you step inside the Thomas Kinkade Showcase-By-The-Sea Gallery, the bright sunshine, salty sea air, and the tantalizing scent from Pismo Fish & Chips fade away as your eyes adjust to the dim lighting. Spotlight-illuminated paintings wink at you from every corner, eliciting hushed tones as you wander the cool, quiet gallery.

A California native, Kinkade was known as the “Painter of Light,” using techniques perfected by a distinguished group of nineteenth-century American painters, known as the Luminists.

“I try to create paintings that are a window for the imagination,” Kinkade once said. “If people look at my work and are reminded of the way things once were, or perhaps, the way they could be, then I’ve done my job.”

“Thom’s peaceful paintings reach a variety of people. Anyone is bound to fall in love with one of his many styles and scenes,” explains long-time gallery owner Ann Smith. “Thom’s paintings draw you into a place where you would like to be.”

While Kinkade’s work is most often associated with whimsical



landscapes and cozy English cottages, a stroll through the gallery will broaden your horizons with Kinkade’s interpretation of Baseball, NASCAR, and the “ever-popular Disney Collection.”

Smith and her team have done their job as well, showcasing Kinkade’s work in the best light. Dimmer switches positioned next to the paintings allow you to experience the beautiful transformation Kinkade pieces make throughout

the day – a single painting appears new at dawn, dusk, and noon.

Since it was first established in 1993, the gallery has built countless relationships with collectors and tourists alike, offering a quiet cultural reprieve from the busyness of Pismo Beach.

“Through the years, we have helped many decorate their home with what I believe is timeless, superb art,” Smith said. “We work in a most peaceful setting at the beach

and have made many wonderful friends through the years.”

“Come on in,” Smith said. The doors are open, and Kinkade’s light-filled “window for the imagination” is there for you to explore in Pismo Beach, California.

Thomas Kinkade Showcase by the Sea is located at 500 Cypress S-5 in Pismo Beach. For more information, visit showcasegalleries.com or call (805) 773-9424.

— Katie Marchetti



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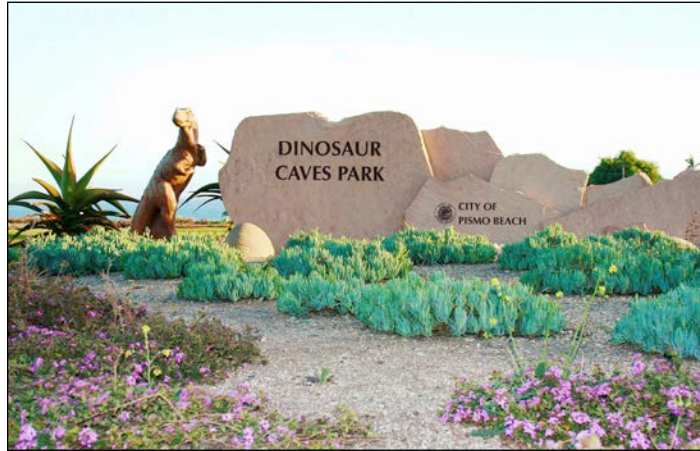
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Dinosaurs, orcas, picnics, and hiking

Dinosaur Cave Park offers breathtaking ocean views

Dinosaur Cave Park is a beautiful oceanside, all-age, and dog-friendly open space along Shell Beach. In some ways, the park continues its original attraction as a family destination, but today the attractions are the playground, the picnic area, and the trails along the bluffs instead of a huge dinosaur sculpture and cave tours featured in the 1940s.

Visible from Highway 101, this park offers exquisite views of the Pacific Ocean – an ideal place for practicing some photography, holding a wedding ceremony, and for people of all ages to enjoy. A trail running along the bluffs boasts viewing platforms and a spacious grass area – a favorite among dog owners,



A family and dog-friendly destination for picnics, to play, and to hike.

it is also a popular picnic spot and perfect for various athletic activities. An amphitheater is available to rent for events.

Picnic tables next to the play area are perfect for enjoying a snack or meal, or simply enjoying the surroundings. The bathrooms, very well kept, are located by the parking lot,

and parking is free; street parking is also available.

In the play area, several structures await visitors and add to the theme of the park, including an Orca whale, a dinosaur, and other ocean animals. Children can climb on or inside the large dinosaur eggs; a tire swing and boat promise hours of fun.

Named after a 50-foot metal and concrete brontosaurus that was constructed as a tourist attraction in the 1940s, the location of this park was the original site of a roadside business and cave attraction owned by H. Douglas Brown. The dinosaur became a target of neighborhood complaints and, in the 1960s, eventually went the way of its prehistoric cousins. The property was bought and sold several times for different uses and eventually acquired by the City of Pismo Beach. Through years of volunteer efforts, the property eventually became the Dinosaur Caves Park and was officially opened in 2003.

The park is a location for public events, including art and craft fairs, wine and food festivals, and concerts.

The park is located at the corner of Cliff Street and Shell Beach Road in Pismo Beach. For more information about activities at the park, call (805) 773-7039 or visit pismo-beach.org.



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Grover Beach

Don't miss the hidden gems, dunes, golf and parks of this laid-back beach town

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 pismoeachgolf.com.
- Cypress Ridge Golf Course is an 18-hole, 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.

Service

Cole's Linen & Laundry

The place to go when in need of laundry services. The Fluff and Fold service lets you vacation while they do your laundry, or use their machines and do it yourself. Clean, safe laundromat with attendants to help. 360 W Grand Ave, Grover Beach, JacksWashtubGroverBeach.com, (805) 489-1192

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



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360 W. Grand Ave.
Grover Beach, CA
www.jackswashtubgroverbeach.com

Arroyo Grande



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.

Attractions & Tours

Mustang Waterpark

Enjoy a fun-filled day with your family at the newly renovated waterpark. It features two 600 ft slides, a safe pool area for young children, and an exhilarating 48' half-pipe Stampede.

Relax under a shady cabana with delicious food & drinks. 6840 Lopez Drive at Lopez Lake Recreation Area, mustangwaterpark.com, (805) 489-8898

Vista Lago Adventure Park

Looking for a memory-making adventure? You'll find it here! Test your agility on the ropes course, zipline over the lake, or walk the wine barrel bridge to the 40' freefall. 6800 Lopez Drive in Lopez Lake Recreation Area, vistolagoadventurepark.com, (805) 710-7970

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

Exploring nature near Arroyo Grande

Vacations are always better with some adventure and exploring and there's no better way than experiencing nature. The Arroyo Grande countryside is some of the most beautiful in the region, and there are miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails less than 20 minutes from Arroyo Grande Village.

Lopez Lake Recreation Area is a short drive from the village and the trailheads are easily accessible from campgrounds or designated parking. Nearly 20 leashed dog-friendly trails, varying from easy to challenging, offer spectacular scenery and wildlife sightings for the entire family.

Every trail offers memorable nature experiences from strolls through meadows and the shade of oaks to brilliant and exotic wildflowers on view in the springtime. Native California grasses and plants are a delight, including fragrant salvia and artemisia shrubs. Watch for the poison oak!

Wildlife includes more than 150 species of birds, including wild turkeys, eagles, hawks, condors, deer, sightings of coyotes, foxes, rabbits, and other small mammals, lizards, and snakes, including rattlesnakes!

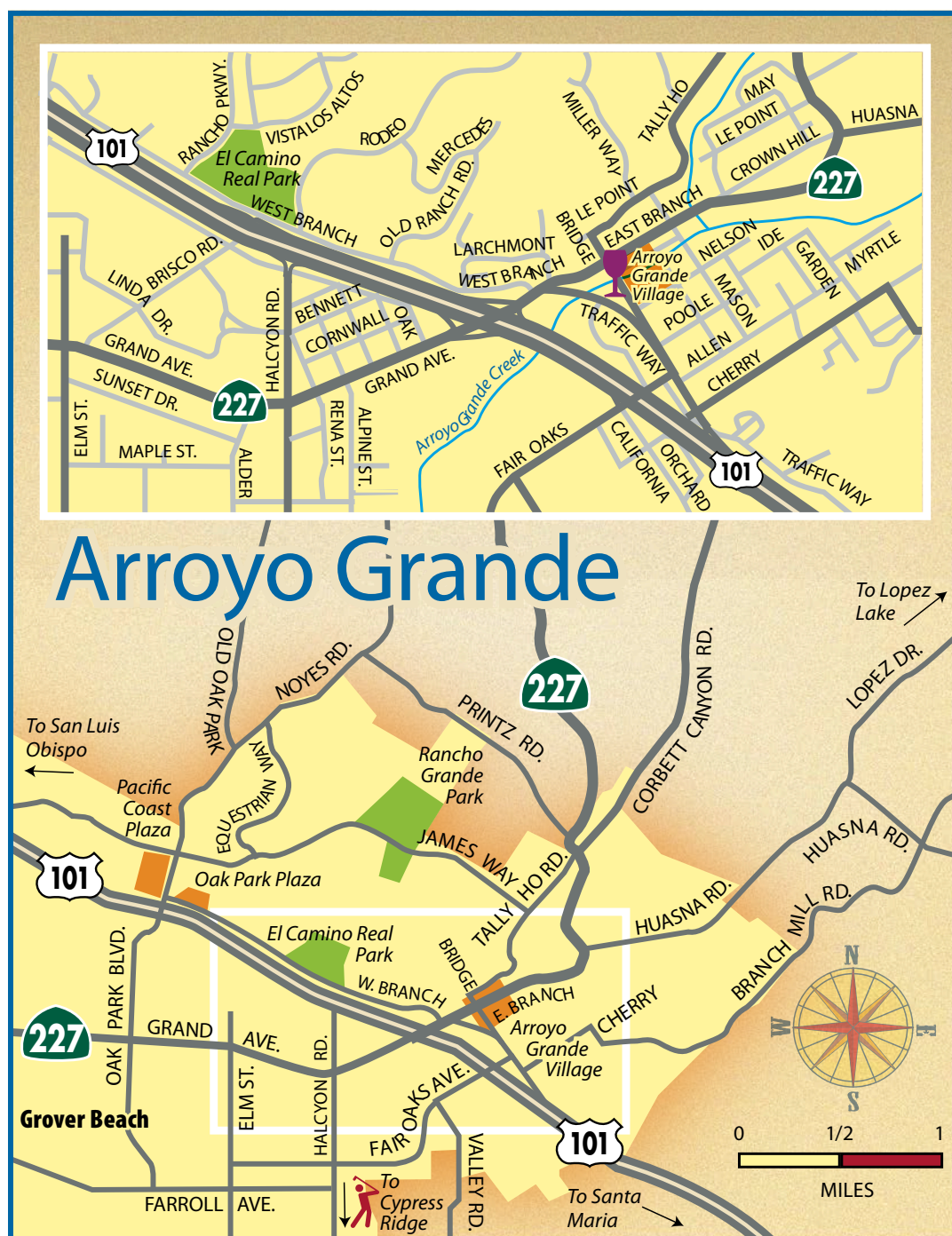
Bring your cell phone, camera, and binoculars. Climbing a trail and cresting a hill might offer views of the lake or panoramas of foothills and meadows. Each trail is an adventure and there are some easy walks near the lake.

Easy trails

- Camp French Road**—1.4 miles, hike, bike, equestrian.
- Marina Trail**—.3 mile, hike or bike.
- Rocky Point Trail**—.4 mile, hike or bike.

Moderate trails

- Blackberry Springs**—.6 mile, hike or bike.
- Bobcat Trail**—.7 mile, hike or bike.
- Connector Trail**—.3 mile, hike or bike.



Cougar Trail—.8 mile, hike or bike.

Duna Vista Spur—.7 mile, hike, bike, equestrian.

High Mountain—1.01 miles, hike, bike, equestrian.

Horse Trail Spur—.8 mile, hike, bike, equestrian.

Challenging trails

Black Bear Spur—.2 mile trail hike, bike, equestrian.

Duna Vista Loop—3.2 miles, hike, bike, equestrian.

Encinal Spur—1.08 miles hike, bike, equestrian.

Escondido Overlook—.2 mile, hike, bike, equestrian.

Escondido Trail—1.1 miles, hike or bike.

High Ridge Trail—2.7 miles, hike, bike, equestrian.

Turkey Ridge Trail—.2 mile, hiking or biking.

Getting there

From Arroyo Grande, take Huasana Road to Lopez Road and into the Lopez Lake Recreation Area. Along with hiking the recreation area offers boating, fishing, and camping, including the Black Bear

Equestrian Camp. The marina at the lake has a convenience store, restaurant, and snack bar. Marina concessions open at 7 or 8 a.m. and close between 4-6 p.m., depending on the day.

There is a day-use fee, payable at the entrance kiosk located at the campground entrance, or make day-use reservations online at slocountyparks.com.

For more information, maps, apps, and check trail conditions visit slocountyparks.com or call (805) 781-5930.

Klondike Pizza for great food and tall tales from the Tundra



Delicious food and delightful fun at Klondike Pizza.

Good times and good grub since 1988

Alaska has magnificent glaciers, the highest mountain in the U.S., over 12,000 rivers, 3 million lakes greater than 5 acres, and massive open spaces for its diverse wildlife. But does it have the best pizza? For that, you'll have to go to Klondike Pizza in the quaint Arroyo Grande Village.

Peanuts and tall tales

From the peanut shells scattered on the floor, Alaskan artifacts, and Mickey the Moose—to the framed goofy tall tales on the entrance wall about the origins of Klondike Pizza—every view is reminiscent of Alaska. Buy a bag of peanuts and toss your shells on the floor while you wait for your meal.

Delicious food, delightful fun

Award-winning pizzas are made from scratch with your choice of red or garlic sauce. Specialty pizzas include The Roadkill, The Denali, The Hot Honey Pizza, and The Chicken Cordon Bleu. They also offer gluten-free pizza and Vegan options. The menu includes burgers, grilled chicken sandwiches, baked sandwiches, and salads — including their signature Klondike Salad with mandarin oranges, almonds, and Klondike's secret sweet 'n sour dressing.

There's a huge, heated patio to enjoy our beautiful Central Coast weather. Monday nights are "Unplugged Nights." Bring in your family and choose from an array of board games. Many folks have made it their Monday night tradition.

Join the "Klondike Gold Rush Club" to get special member-only deals like free cheese bread, and be in the know for upcoming events like their popular Beer and Pizza Tastings.

The Klondike has been serving "Good Times 'n Good Grub" since 1988. The original owners, Mike and Pam, still run the restaurants with the help of their amazing crews and managers. These days, Pam writes "The Murder Blog Mysteries" series. Its locale is the Central Coast, and for some strange reason, her protagonist's favorite pizza is Klondike Pizza. Go figure.

Klondike Pizza is located at 104 Bridge Street in Arroyo Grande, (805) 481-5288, and 2059 S. Broadway in Santa Maria, (805) 348-3667. To see the menu, for hours, more information, or to join the Gold Rush Club, visit klondikepizza.com. Dine-in, take-out, curbside delivery, and delivery with Cafe Runner.

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at 11am
for
Lunch and Dinner



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Good Times 'n Good Grub
Since
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Ultimate adventures at Mustang Waterpark and Vista Lago Adventure Park

Slide, splash, and fly on 600-foot waterslides, ropes courses, and ziplines

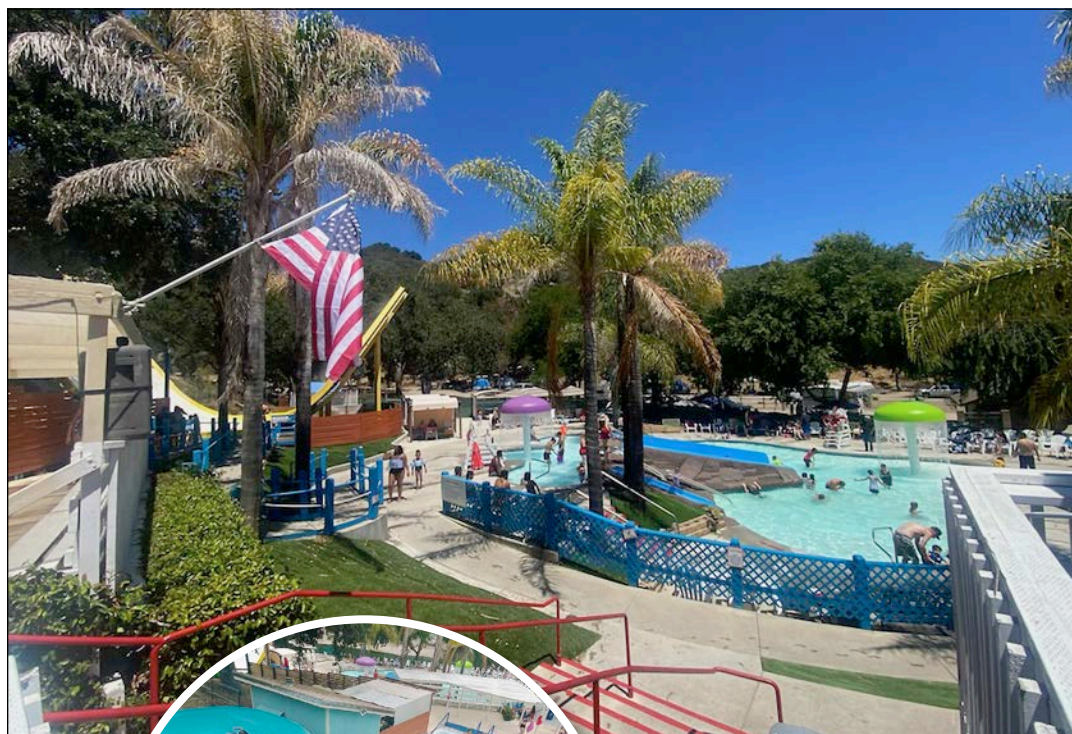
Just a short drive from Arroyo Grande or Pismo Beach is the perfect place to enjoy summer fun with family and friends. Along with the scenic Lopez Lake, marina, camping, and picnic areas, are the Vista Lago Adventure Park and Mustang Waterpark, filled with summer fun and exciting challenges for everyone.

Giant water slides, inner tube stampedes, and kiddie pools at Mustang Waterpark

Mustang Waterpark's two winding 600-foot waterslides and giant half-pipe Stampede have been popular for decades. Add in an awesome kiddie pool, gorgeous cabanas to rent while you relax, and this becomes much more than the waterpark you remember from the 80s. The park has been fully renovated and is always a fun time with certified lifeguards on duty for everyone's safety.

Start on a hilltop overlooking Lopez Lake and speed down a 600-foot waterslide. Splash down into the pools at the bottom of the slides, then do it all over again! The park has two curving waterslides for exciting rides.

Ride the Awesome Stampede, plummeting 38 feet down one side of the giant half-pipe in an inner tube and 38 feet up the other side, then repeat the wild ride backward! Take the ride yourself or go in a double tube with a buddy.



Little ones can safely slide and splash in two inviting wading pools for kids under 48 inches in height, three mini-slides, and two waterfall mushrooms. Parents can splash with their youngsters or relax in the sun on the deck while the kids have fun in the water and are safely entertained for hours.

Zipline over the lake at Vista Lago Adventure Park

Just around the corner from the waterpark is Vista Lago Adventure Park, where you can test your



agility on the ropes course and zipline over the lake!

The park features over 50 elements varying in difficulty, bringing out your secret Ninja warrior. Feel the rush of air and excitement on any of the three zip lines totaling over 1800 feet, including two high-speed zip lines over the lake, or lose your stomach on The Ledge, a 45-foot free fall Quick Jump.

Vista Lago is great for birthday parties, corporate team bonding, and a unique date! Not such a thrill seeker? Enjoy food and drinks, or

hang out and play games on the viewing deck!

Visit both parks at a discounted price

Both parks have teamed up to offer a Park Hopper Pass, providing a day at both parks for a discounted price! Whether you're planning a special event or a surprise, you will surely have a lifetime of memories!

Where are these amazing places?

Mustang Waterpark and Vista Lago Adventure Park are located in the Lopez Lake Recreation Campground Area at 6800 Lopez Drive in Arroyo Grande. For reservations, tickets, and more information, visit mustangwaterpark.com or vistalagoadventurepark.com. For information about camping at Lopez Lake, visit slocountyparks.com/camp.



Nipomo

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 must-see 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 Sunday only 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$4 Parking. 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

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our unique
farm, sponges
& gift shop



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Luffa Farm—a rare gem in wine country

A destination for 'adventurous knowledge-seekers'

We all know that San Luis Obispo County features nearly 300 wineries, but one of its hidden gems, The Luffa Farm, is also a rarity and a must-visit destination.

Owner Deanne Coon began growing luffas in the early 1980s by accident when a college friend was given some mystery seeds for a project. Deanne was known for her green thumb, so she planted the seeds in her garden. As the mystery seeds sprouted and grew, no one could identify the plant. It quickly became "that part of the garden I'll get to this weekend." for a few weekends in a row. As luck would have it, those extra weekends allowed the plants to dry out. While tearing out the dried plants and pods, Deanne and her companion heard rattling. They curiously opened a pod and behold! They discovered luffa!

A squash with a purpose

So, what is a luffa? Many people think that the luffa (or loofah) grows in the sea. However, loofa is actually a squash that's closely related to the cucumber and has been a skincare necessity for thousands of years. Most luffas sold in the United States are imported and subjected to chemical treatments. The luffas Deanne has been growing in Nipomo since 1999 are a fantastic and eco-conscious choice.

What started as a hobby grew into a business. Deanne began growing luffa to sell to local gift



Locally grown luffas since 1999.

shops and spas, but "pretty quickly, word got out around town that the 'luffa lady' lived across from the golf course, and people regularly tracked her down, knocked on her door and asked to go scuba diving for luffas with her," according to Brooklynn Gamble, gift shop manager and tour guide. People began showing up every day, and Deanne enjoyed showing them the farm.

Her husband built the gift shop, and the farm has been open to the public ever since. The Luffa Farm grows between twelve and fifteen thousand luffas each year. Most are sold in the gift shop with home-

made soaps and bath products. Guests learn about how luffas are grown on their free drop-in tours. The gift shop occasionally has luffa seeds for sale for those who want to grow their own.



How does a luffa grow?

Get ready to be patient because luffas take six to nine months until they are ready to harvest. Deanne grows them in

point, they're ready to eat, but the magic happens when left on the vine. The luffa fibers get larger and denser. The vine eventually sucks the water out of the gourd and recycles it through the rest of the plant. Gamble continues, "When it's completely brown and crisp, it's ready to harvest. We cut it off the vine, whack it to break it open, and shake the seeds out from the center. Then we peel the skin off, rinse it out, and trim it into whatever size luffa we need."

Summer and fall are perfect for visiting The Luffa Farm. Drop-in tours are offered for groups of fewer than 12 for free. For groups of 12 or more, a reservation is required along with a \$5.00 admission fee per person.

The Luffa Farm, located at 1457 Willow Road in Nipomo, is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, visit theluffafarm.com or call (805) 343-0883.

— Karen Lycan

Los Osos

and Baywood Park



Los 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

The Olde Alehouse

A family owned establishment with 20 craft beers on tap, local wine and delicious food. Both indoor and outdoor seating with fire pits. Dog friendly patio and occasional music. Perfect for a stop on your way to Montana de Oro State Park 945 Los Osos Valley Road Los Osos, theoldealehouse.com, (805) 439-1466

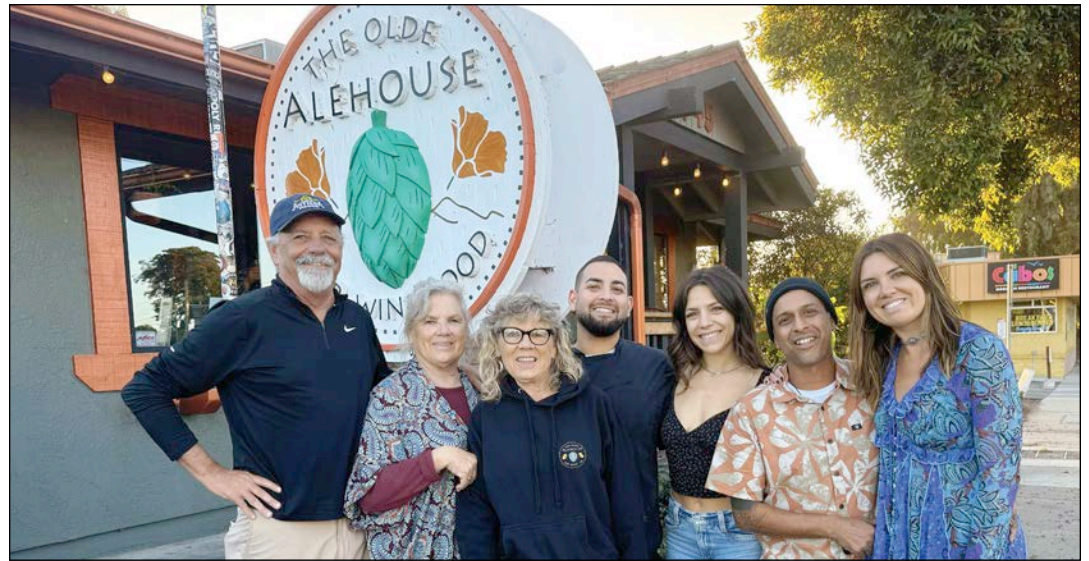
The Olde Alehouse, where glasses are raised, plates are full, and music fills the air

And 'everybody knows your name'

Right on Los Osos Road, with plenty of parking, The Olde Alehouse is where community, comfort, and craft come together. This family-owned pub welcomes locals and visitors alike with 20 rotating taps featuring everything from eclectic craft beers and ciders to kombuchas and a drink menu including local wines and non-alcoholic options. The kitchen's delivery of elevated pub classics, like their renowned smashburger and Chef John's daily smoked meat specials, keeps regulars coming back for more. Whether you're relaxing on the patio by a fire pit with live music or cozing up inside with a vinyl spinning, The Olde Alehouse offers a fun, laid-back atmosphere where everyone feels like a regular and every visit is a celebration of great food, drink, and friendship.

Although they are best known for their famous smashburger, classic pub items, including chicken wings, potato skins, and steak frites, are offered along with a selection of salads, sandwiches, and tacos. When you visit, be sure to leave room for dessert. Be prepared to have a difficult time choosing between the churro fries and the brown butter cake!

The family opened the Olde Alehouse in 2020, intending to



The Olde Alehouse—great company, great food, and great music!

create a casual place for their guests to relax with beverages, food, and music. The spacious outdoor patio, with fire pits and a stage, offers live music most weekends, while the indoor bar and seating area includes a living room with a vinyl collection for those days when being cozy inside is preferable. The vibe is fun and casual, and everyone is welcome.

Mid-week is a great time to drop in and take advantage of happy hour specials. Tuesdays are Pint Nights with \$5 refills for guests presenting the Olde Alehouse logo pint glass or mug (available for \$20 and can be brought back every Tuesday). On Wine Wednesdays, all

bottles of wine are offered at a 50% discount, and on Thursdays, happy hour deals are offered all day long.

The family recently reached a five-year milestone and is delighted that the community has helped make The Olde Alehouse the heart of the neighborhood, where glasses are raised, plates are full, and music fills the air. It wasn't always smooth sailing; however, the family overcame hurdles and modified early plans while always staying true to their vision of creating a warm, welcoming space where the community can gather to enjoy great food, drinks, and music.

"Opening our business during COVID and now going into year

five has been a huge milestone for us. When we opened, we had a vision of a local tap house and small bites. We had to adjust just to stay afloat. Fast forward five years, and we've become a staple in the community for all things food, beer, the local music scene, and most importantly community. As our regulars say, "walking into The Alehouse is a lot like Cheers, everybody knows your name," said owner Ali Marvin.

The Olde Alehouse, located at 945 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos, is open Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 10 p.m. For more information, visit theoldealehouse.com, or call (805) 439-1499.

— Lisa Pretty





Morro Bay

A sightseer's delight

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 morrobay-maritime.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.

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 Galleries

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. Morro Bay Art Center 835 Main St., artcentermorrobay.org, (805) 772-2504

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

Attractions & Tours

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

Lost Isle Adventures and Whale Watching

Offering whale watching, tiki cruises, and sunset cruises. Enjoy stunning coastal views, marine wildlife, and a one-of-a-kind adventure on the water. Relax with a tropical drink and soak in the scenery, daily departures. 845 Embarcadero Suite D, Morro Bay morrobaytikiboat.com, (805) 771-9337

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

Shopping

A-leave Antiques & Giftery

Step into a space where every item has a story. From vintage treasures to forgotten curiosities, this antique shop offers a glimpse into the past—and maybe the perfect piece for your present. 1108 Front Street, (805) 610-2966

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

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) 900-6000

Outdoor Activities

Central Coast Gondola Service

Enjoy a timeless cruise experience in a beautiful, authentic Venetian Gondola! A gondolier will row you through Morro Bay (& maybe sing), while you relax with friends & family. Dinner & Sunset cruises available. Up to 6 guests. 833 Embarcadero, Dock 1, centralcoastgondola.com, (805) 363-4363

Shopping

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

Rich Man Poorman

Antique Malls

Two giant locations on the central coast offering a unique selection of antiques and collectables. Open daily 10 am to 5 pm. Located in Morro Bay at 2200 Main Street, RichManPoorManAntiques.com, (805) 225-1400





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Fresh food and enchanting waterfront views at Bayside Café

Dessert and a kids' menu, too!

Hungry? Drop into the Bayside Café at the marina in Morro Bay. Relax over lunch while watching the sun reflecting on the water. Looking for a casual, romantic location for dinner? The Bayside Café is the place.

Dawn Borst started Bayside Café after recognizing the need for a place to grab a quick meal after coming in from a day on the water. As the restaurant grew, she remained dedicated to serving the freshest food to every customer. A favorite since it was opened in 1986 when Dawn started Bayside Café as a walk-up. She created each recipe herself, and the menu continues featuring her unique recipes for every meal.

Recipes for the perfect bite

The extensive lunch, dinner, and kids' menus have offerings to please everyone and feature Dawn's unique recipes. Each recipe is crafted out of a love for the perfect bite.

The lunch menu offers plenty of delicious options. From seafood, burgers, and pasta to Mexican specialties, the whole family eats well regardless of who wants what.

The dinner menu at Bayside Café is more romantic. Chicken Marsala, tender slow-roasted tri-tip, and blackened ahi are just a few of the choices, and the entree list is a perfect variety of both surf and turf.

The kids' menu is tailored to young appetites and comes with fries!

Want to share a few appetizers with your group? Try the shrimp cocktail and calamari strips. Or maybe you'd like a bowl of chowder, which is a meal in itself.

"Everything looks so good," is a regular comment from Bayside Café patrons. Count on having a hard time making up your mind about what to eat, but you can save a little time by checking out the menus at baysidecafe.com.



Homemade recipes for the perfect bite.

Dessert heaven

Locals have long discovered that a trip to Bayside is more than the mouthwatering main courses – the homemade desserts are must-eats. Chocolate Oblivion and Tres Leches Cake are just two of the delights that leave diners wishing for more.

Great beer, wine, and a selection of other beverages top off the meal.

Perhaps the best part about dining at Bayside Café is the feeling that even if you are just visiting the area, you are treated like a local. Smiling employees, delicious food, and a laid-back atmosphere are the perfect combination.

Low-key and relaxed

The cozy café boasts seating with perfect views of the bay. Sit inside and soak up the views through the huge glass window or bring your dog and enjoy the heated patio. Every seat offers memorable views of the bay and marina. Soaring birds, boats gently drifting at their moorings, the drifting fog, and stunning sunsets perfectly accompany your delicious meal.

Just across the street from the campground, Bayside Café is the restaurant every camper dreams about. Diners often show up in beach cover-ups and camping attire. The fact that dogs are welcome on the patio bears repeating!

Mix the delicious food, amazing views, and casual atmosphere with a large dose of relaxation, and you will have a hard time leaving, guaranteed.

Bayside Café, located at 10 State Park Road directly across the road from the Morro Bay State Park Campground, is open for lunch Monday through Wednesday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, except for 3:30 to 4 p.m. for dinner preparations. For more information, call (805) 772-1465 or visit baysidecafe.com.



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Chablis Cruises, great food, and a riverboat cruise on Morro Bay

Lunch, brunch, and more on a cruise of Morro Bay harbor

What better way to enjoy the beauty of Morro Bay than from the deck of the Chablis? Get up close and personal with the wild inhabitants of the bay, watch sea lions, harbor seals, egrets, white pelicans, and of course, those adorable furry sea otters.

Cruises run daily from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and feature lunch cruises from April through November on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. A monthly brunch cruise sails every second Sunday of the month.



Public cruises and private charters for every occasion.

There's a full bar, too!

Chablis Cruises offers public cruises and hosts private charters for all occasions. "You get to experi-

ence the beauty of Morro Bay from the water and enjoy fresh, made-from-scratch food and hand-crafted drinks," says owner Annie Clapp.

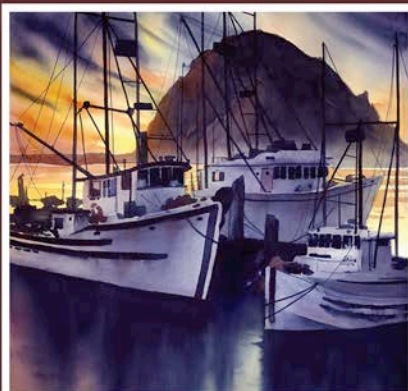
Along with farm-fresh and locally sourced food, the Chablis features a full bar with craft beer, local wine, and mixed drinks. The signature Bloody Mary comes with locally sourced and pickled vegetables.

Planning a wedding? The Chablis is the place for an exceptional and memorable event. All the details of the special day are taken care of by the Chablis planning crew. A three-hour cruise, cake, catering, officiant, photographer, DJ, black linens, and flowers, all included. You have three complete wedding packages to choose from.

The elegantly decorated interior with its panoramic windows and rooftop deck is the perfect setting for parties, business meetings, bridal showers, weddings, recep-

Featuring the unique and vibrant watercolor paintings of nationally recognized artist / instructor, David J Rogers.

DavidJRogersArt.com



David J Rogers
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407 Morro Bay Blvd
Morro Bay, CA
Open Daily



tions, and events of all kinds. Check out the website for help planning your event.

The bottom level of the boat has a spacious dining room, and the open-air upper level has a viewing deck, perfect for sightseeing or an al fresco dining experience.

A family business delivering family fun

Chablis Cruises is a woman and veteran-owned family business. Annie, her mother Patti, and sister Shasta operate the vessel, including captaining, catering, reservations, and other services.

Chablis is a unique, 50-foot, two-story flat-bottom riverboat that sails guests along the calm waters of

the harbor. In 2007, Big Rock Charters LLC purchased the Chablis and sailed her from San Francisco to Morro Bay. A cruise on the Chablis is perfect for the whole family, a wonderful way to experience the natural beauty of the area and create lasting memories.

Chablis Cruises aims to please

Chablis Cruises is located at 1204 Embarcadero, in Morro Bay between the North and South T-pier, across from the Maritime Museum. To make reservations for a cruise, lunch, brunch, a private charter, or for more information, visit chablis cruises.com, or call (805) 772-2128.

The Chablis is the perfect venue for your upcoming party!

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Gift certificates available.

Morro Bay
(805) 772-2128 Tickets Available at ChablisCruises.com

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Capturing the Central Coast—the art and inspiration of David J Rogers

Nationally recognized artist brings online art classes to the Central Coast

The unique beauty of the Central California coastline's rugged cliffs and serene ocean views has long been an inspiration for artists. It's no surprise that David Rogers chose Morro Bay to open his thriving art gallery. Along with his wife and business partner, Peggy, David established the David J Rogers Fine Art Gallery in downtown Morro Bay in 2018.



David and Peggy Rogers.

Self-taught artist

Even as a child, David never questioned his path in life as an

artist. A self-taught artist destined to take his talent to the next level, David built on his skills with a trial-and-error approach to his pencil drawings and his preferred medium, watercolor.

With 25 years of experience and expertise under his belt, David has become a highly sought-after instructor, renowned for his ability to simplify complex techniques. His "learn by doing" method allows him to share in minutes what took him years to master. This approach has earned him a loyal following from students all over the world who are eager to learn from his unique teaching style.

"Watercolor is a natural transition from drawing, which was where I started," David explained. "The two media are similar in that they are subtractive, meaning the artist is not only preserving the light but, at the same time, removing the light with shadow."

In other media, he explained, the reverse is true. It's also why watercolor has a reputation for being the toughest of all mediums, and why many find it difficult to switch from oils or acrylics to watercolor. David's ability to demystify watercolor painting has made him a beloved teacher to aspiring artists worldwide.

Workshops—inspiring a love for watercolor

David offers online watercolor workshops, enabling art enthusiasts from all over the world to capture the essence of this extraordinary coastline from the comfort of their own homes.

For many, attending a workshop is the first time picking up a paintbrush, yet they find themselves creating beautiful works of art on their first attempt. His students consistently express appreciation for the invaluable lessons learned under David's guidance, and for his patient and thorough instruction that improves their skills, demystifies complex techniques and boosts their confidence.

"Confidence comes from experience, and when your experience is successful, you gain even more confidence in yourself and your painting abilities," said David.

Sign up for watercolor classes on the davidjrogersart.com website. You can also download the free guide "12 Watercolor Hacks That Every Artist Should Know."

Commissioned artwork

What better way to own an original painting than to commission one directly from a favorite artist? Reach out to David at the studio with your idea or a photo-

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Rod R. Aszman, Noon Daylight ©



graph and become the proud owner of a David J. Rogers watercolor.

Sharing inspiration, tranquility, and community

David and Peggy warmly invite you to explore the gallery, join the

workshops, and immerse yourself in the unique charm of Morro Bay. Whether you're a seasoned art enthusiast or a curious visitor, you'll find inspiration and tranquility in the gallery's watercolor collection. The collection tries to showcase

the vibrancy that is the beauty of the Central Coast landscapes and seascapes.

"When we lived in the valley, we would visit the Central Coast and instantly fell in love with the area," David said. "Since opening

our gallery in 2018, we have been embraced by the community with open arms. The positive response to our gallery and art instruction has been overwhelming. Morro Bay is a breathtaking place to live, and the kindness and support of the locals have truly made us feel like an integral part of this remarkable community."

As a gift to the community that so warmly embraced them, David and Peggy donated a mural to the City of Morro Bay, celebrating the annual Kite Festival. This colorful artwork, proudly displayed on the side of their gallery building, has become a beloved landmark and a testament to the couple's dedication to enriching the local culture.

The David J Rogers Fine Art Gallery is located at 407 Morro Bay Boulevard, Morro Bay. For more information about the art, workshops, instructions, commissions, and gallery events, visit davidjrogersart.com, call (805) 225-5077, or follow on Facebook.

— Meagan Friberg

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From whale watching to a Tiki cruise, sail away with Lost Isle Adventures

Every trip is born from a lifelong passion for the ocean

Summer is here, and June through August is the peak humpback whale watching season. These giants of the ocean are migrating north to cooler waters from their southern wintering grounds. Lost Isle Adventures departs from Morro Bay daily at 9:30 a.m. for two to three hours of watching whales, dolphins, sea lions, pelicans, cormorants, and other sea-going wildlife.

Owner and captain, Dane Jacobs, is a local who grew up on the Central Coast. During his time at Cal Poly, His earliest dreams were of owning his own business. “After studying the world’s oceans through the Semester at Sea program, I was inspired to create a business that would showcase the beauty of my hometown and promote ocean conservation,” he said.

“Lost Isle Adventures was born out of a lifelong passion for the ocean, boating, and marine life. With a lifetime spent embracing the waves and safeguarding beachgoers as a former lifeguard, my bond with the ocean runs deep. From my earliest days, I harbored a dream of owning a business on the water — a dream now realized.”

Expect unique encounters

The whale watching tours are seasonal aboard the Angler, a 50-foot U.S. Coast Guard-inspected vessel built for safe, rugged, ocean-going adventures. The vessel offers a stable, comfortable ride designed to handle coastal waters with ease, giving guests peace of mind while enjoying incredible marine wildlife experiences. With a heated interior, a restroom, and a cocktail bar, it’s the perfect combination of adventure and relaxation.



Get up close and personal with whales on a Lost Isle Adventures tour.

What kind of encounters can guests expect? Morro Bay is a working harbor surrounded by a state marine reserve. Open ocean-bound guests usually see otters, seals, and seabirds. Once in the open water, the curious humpback whales often approach the boat and, at times, circle for over an hour. In past trips, large pods of Pacific white-sided dolphins rode the bow wake! According to Jacobs, “In the summer and fall, visitors typically see humpback whales. Winter and spring grey whales — they’re incredibly active, often breaching and tail-slapping. We’ve also seen blue whales, the largest animals on earth, and even the occasional fin whale. On some trips, we see a few whales; on exceptional days, we’ve had pods of up to 30 or more around us at once! Every day on the water is a little different, which is what makes it so exciting.”

If going onto the open ocean for up to three hours is too long of a time commitment, there’s always the 45-minute Tiki Cruise around the Morro Bay Harbor. Sit back and

relax while taking in Morro Rock, the Three Stacks, and, of course, the marine mammals, while enjoying a 1950s-style cocktail. The Tiki Boat is a retro-inspired cruiser that’s mostly enclosed and covered, offering protection from the wind. It’s perfect for any time of year!

Short on time but still want to see whales? The 90-Minute Go Fast Adventure tour is perfect for smaller groups or the time-pressed. Jacobs says, it’s, “a thrilling, fast-paced tour on the Falcon designed for the adventurous or anyone who just wants to go fast!” The Falcon is a 24-foot speedboat originally designed for the U.S. Navy. Built for stability and performance, it’s perfect for those looking for a fast-paced, adventurous ride while viewing marine wildlife both in the harbor and offshore.

Private charters for special adventures

Lost Isle Adventures also offers private charters for groups who want custom experiences, such as wildlife photography or a sunset

cruise. Summer is busy, and tours book quickly. Jacobs recommends booking one to two weeks ahead, but he’ll always try to accommodate last-minute bookings. He’s passionate about the Central Coast and loves to share his knowledge about local wildlife. His goal on every tour is to treat everyone like family and “to impart my profound affection for the Central Coast to every guest who crosses my path, ensuring they leave with cherished memories of this breathtaking locale.”

Lost Isle Adventures is located at 845 Embarcadero, Suite D, in Morro Bay. Tours can be booked online at morrobaytikiboat.com or call to make a reservation (805) 771-9337.

— Karen Lycan





Cayucos

Enjoy this scenic seaside retreat

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

Brown Butter Cookie Company

Since 2008, they have crafted signature hand-rolled cookies renowned for quality and taste. The latest offerings include cookies infused with Ghirardelli® chocolate in three flavors: White Chip, Chocolate Chip, and Dark Cocoa Chocolate Chip. Brown Butter Frozen Custard was recently

introduced, expanding the indulgent lineup! 95 N. Ocean Ave., Cayucos, brownbuttercookies.com, (805) 464-6636

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

Schooners

Newly remodelled and featuring the best outdoor beachfront dining on the Central Coast! Schooners offers fresh seafood, steaks and daily specials for the whole family. 171 N Ocean Ave, schoonerscayucos.com, (805) 995-3883



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Cayucos—The crown of vintage California coastal villages

Small town soul with a world beat

Considered by many to be one of the last California vintage surf towns, Cayucos is a surprising fusion of small-town soul with a world beat. Its village charm, vast stretches of spectacular California coastline, some of the best food and wine, family dining and shopping in the region make Cayucos a favorite for locals and visitors.

The name, Cayucos, is the Spanish word for the canoes used by the Chumash who originally inhabited the area. The town took its name from the original Mexican land grant, Rancho Moro y Cayucos.



Cayucos, where small town soul meets a world beat.

A photograph of the Schooners restaurant in Cayucos. The restaurant has a wooden deck with several tables and chairs. In the background, there is a pier extending into the ocean. The sky is blue and clear.

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Shopping, strolling, and surfing

Surfing, stand-up paddle boarding, skin diving, swimming, and boating are certainly traditions rooted in the town's relationship with the ocean.

The buildings are an eclectic collection of architecture that house local businesses, including antique shops, gift shops, candy and ice cream shops, surf shops, fine dining, and an old-world tavern. The Cayucos Pier, originally built by town founder, Captain James Cass in 1867, is a popular location for fishing, strolls, and watching surfers, dolphins, sea lions, and otters. The annual New Year's Day Polar Bear Dip is held in full view of the pier. Hundreds of people show up each year to take the icy plunge and cheer on the swimmers.

Sea glass collectors and beach walkers enjoy miles of shoreline. Serious beach walkers can hike the beach from Cayucos to Morro Bay, except at high tide. Leashed dogs are welcome along most of the beach, and there is a small section along the way known as Dog Beach, one of the few where dogs are allowed off-leash.

Kites, wind, and waves

It's not unusual to see a few kites, or more, dancing in the breezy beach sky. The breeze makes the beach a perfect place to see how high your kite can go and how many tricks you can make it do. The wind and waves create perfection for some brisk windsurfing, and the waves are known to give surfers some challenging rides.

Always something to do

Just off Highway 1, and about 30 minutes from Hearst Castle, Cayucos is a great place for a travel break or to spend a few to several days. There are a variety of hotels and accommodations, many with beachfront views, and lots of things to do and see for the entire family.

The town is also famous for many different street fairs and festivals throughout the year. Discover all there is to see and do in Cayucos by checking out the Cayucos Chamber of Commerce event calendar at cayucoschamber.com.



Cambria, San Simeon & North Coast

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.

The Hearst San Simeon State Park

The state park encompasses the Moonstone Beach, the Santa Rosa Creek Natural Preserve, the San Simeon Natural Preserve and the Pa-Nu Cultural Preserve.

- Santa Rosa Creek Preserve includes valuable riparian forests and coastal wetlands, that provide habitat for endangered Tidewater Goby.

- San Simeon Natural Preserve covers vast wetlands, riparian areas, and several undisturbed native plant communities and is a wintering site for monarch butterflies.

- The 13.7 acre Pa-nu Cultural Preserve contains an archaeological site dated to 5850 years before the present era. The site holds significant evidence of prehistoric technology and life patterns.

A 3.3 mile trail runs through parts of the San Simeon Natural Preserve, with a portion of the trail being wheelchair accessible. The trail includes scenic overlooks, rest-stop benches and interpretive panels. The park address is 500 San Simeon Creek Road, Cambria. Call (805) 927-2010 for information about days and times the park is open.

Nitt Witt Ridge

This California Registered Historical Landmark #939 is famous for the artistic use of recycled materials used in its construction. Reclusive artist Arthur Harold Beal purchased the land in 1928 and spent the next 50 years creating his own version of a castle. Building materials include beer cans, concrete, washing machines, car parts, old stoves and abalone shells. Call (805) 927-2690 to arrange a tour.

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 French-influenced 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

Cambria, San Simeon, North Coast

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 unique selection of antiques and collectables. Open daily 10 am to 5 pm. Located in Cambria at 2110 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

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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

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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

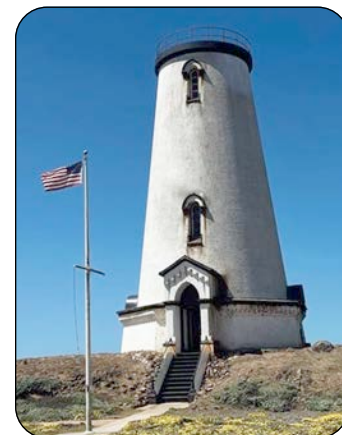


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[Visit us at www.MaddieMaesPetPantry.com](http://www.MaddieMaesPetPantry.com)



Yarn, accessories, classes, and shopping, all at Ball & Skein & More

Focusing on goods from local, woman and family-owned, small, and fair-trade businesses

Entering the Ball & Skein & More shop in Cambria is stepping into a wonderland of everything the fiber artist dreams about. The racks at Ball & Skein & More are filled with yarns, accessories, and books from over 80 vendors. Yarn enthusiasts will discover richly colored and luxuriously textured yarns ranging from domestic and imported wool to alpaca, llama, cashmere, linen, cotton, and bamboo. Inspiring samples of scarves, hats, sweaters, shawls, blankets, socks, and baby apparel are displayed among the yarn. You can also find colorful accessories like stitch markers and needle topers that bring joy to the user and make wonderful gifts.

Owner Annie Groeninger focuses on female/family-owned small businesses and fair-trade vendors, including Manos del Uruguay, Trendsetter, Urth Yarns, Smirligans, Round Mountain Fibers, JUL, Emma Ball, Binkwaffle, Katrinkles, Allstitch Studio, Maika, Cowgirlblues, Fibres of Life, Lemonwood, and Cocoknits—to name just a few! “Being a small, woman-owned business, it just seems natural to support others,” said Annie.



Ball, Skein & More—a wonderland for the fiber artist.

You can also find world-renowned brands such as Berroco, Della Q, Juniper Moon Farm, Noro, Lang, and Skacel. The shop is the largest on the Central Coast and has one of the largest collections of yarn west of the Mississippi.

Serendipity & fate & more

Ready to retire from 30 years in technology, most recently 17 years at Amazon as a senior manager building Amazon Fresh shopping features, Annie was looking for something new.

She had already fallen in love with the Central Coast during a visit in 2021. Returning in February 2023 on a “retirement recon trip,” looking for someplace with lots of sunshine, she walked into Ball & Skein. There was a sign in the window, “Do you want to buy a yarn shop?”

“Yes, I do want to buy a yarn shop,” she said to herself. Six weeks

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later, she was back in Cambria signing the contract to buy the shop! Along with Beverly, her Bernese Mountain dog, she took ownership of the shop in October 2023.

Beverly is part of the staff in this pet-friendly shop whose happy face can be seen on custom project bags and shop stickers. “She is a working dog who greets customers by leaning in and accompanies Mom to the post office to ship orders,” said Annie.

Sip & Stitch & more

Annie offers classes from introduction to knitting or crocheting to project-based classes for learning more advanced skills, such as the world-famous Butterfly Shawl (using short rows) and Doodling with Yarn (using playful stranded colorwork). All the classes are great learning and socializing opportunities for the community.

The monthly Sip & Stitch meet-up includes a choice of wines sourced from Central Coast vineyards and premium teas from Course & Wale. Course & Wale is dedicated to community and good



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cheer and inspired by a passion for knitting. Even the names of the wines reflect the company's commitment: Knit One is a Cabernet Sauvignon, Purl Two is a Chardonnay, and Tink is the Rosé.

A fitting match for Annie's commitment to supporting local, woman/family-owned, small, and fair-trade artisans, Course & Wale supports knitting non-profits that build skills, offer comfort, and provide warmth. Cheers, dears!

Annie has also dedicated space for a Cal Poly ceramics student to showcase their custom-made yarn bowls in the shop.

Great for gifts too

Ball & Skein offers a wide assortment of crafting accessories, from practical to whimsical. Cute project bags and greeting cards by Emma Ball, handy knitting lights from Lumos & Lumos, and hand-crafted wooden yarn minders by Lemonwood are among the offerings. Not just for knitting or crochet projects, colorful Maika project bags add punch to any picnic or shopping outing. For the younger set, potholder kits and the Discover series offer simplified packaged introductions

to knitting, crocheting, and weaving. For more advanced crocheters, there's a colorful assortment of amigurumi kits, including giraffes, pigs, puppies, and ballerina bears.

And you don't want to miss the Cambria-themed stitching stickers designed and made locally by Celeste Ward of Make It A Good Daisy designs, or the Moonstone Beach inspired custom-designed yarns, beanie kits, or yarn minders.

For the latest classes and news

Annie writes an engaging and informative newsletter every week or two. Be sure to sign up for the newsletter to be the first to know about new products, new classes, and events!

Check out the website for merchandise that can be purchased online and the events and class calendar.

Ball & Skein & More is located at 4210 Bridge St. in Cambria. Hours are Wednesday-Monday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed on Tuesday. For schedules or more information, visit cambriayarn.com or call (805) 927-3280.

— Jackie Iddings

Spoil your fur kids at Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry

'Where happy and healthy pets shop'

Pamper your pooches and kittens at Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry. Located along Main St. in Cambria, this boutique-style pet shop is fully stocked with all the latest and greatest in pet supplies. Adorn your furry friend with the most adorable accessories and watch them flourish with healthy treats, high-quality foods, and safe supplements. Their large selection is sure to please every breed.

Cambria is one of the most magical places to wander, with lots of unique shopping. It's full of mom-and-pop type shops, and Maddie Mae's fits right in. Established in 2009 by Chad and Christie Carroll, Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry began from a love of the area and their pets.

In 2009, the Carroll family lived in Seattle with their beloved Old English Sheepdogs, Maddie Mae and Duke. The Central Coast was a favorite vacation destination, which they both saw as their future home. Christie said, "We love the beauty and weather of the Central Coast and wanted to be a part of the community, where you know people and their animals by name." Maddie Mae's has grown to four locations. In addition to the original store in Cambria, new stores have opened in Templeton, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo in the past few years. All of the stores have been great successes, with many regular and happy customers.

Stop by Maddie Mae's for all of your grooming needs. Find products to help keep clean ears, eyes, teeth, noses, paws, and coats. Traveling? Think of pet safety with seat belt restraints, calming remedies, lights, tie-out cables, cargo covers, and more. Discover their many options for relief for common issues like itching, bladder infections, sore joints, vomiting, constipation, etc. Find comfortable beds and a wide selection of



Maddie Mae's, where happy pets shop!

toys. Make training a breeze with popular training aids like whistles, clickers, collars, harnesses, and sprays. Maddie Mae's carries only the highest quality food and treats, made in the U.S.

"We care deeply for animals and are committed to providing education and information to help our customers ensure the optimal health and well-being of their furry family members," said Christie. "We are very involved in our community by supporting and donating regularly to local non-profit organizations like The Girl Scouts, pet rescues, and disaster victims. "Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry is where the happy and healthy pets shop. If we won't give it to our furry friends, we won't give it to yours!"

Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry is located at 614 Main St. in Cambria, at 1121 Rossi Rd in Templeton, at 571 Five Cities Dr., in Pismo Beach, and 779 E Foothill Blvd., in SLO. All locations are open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information, visit maddiemaespetpantry.com or call (805) 924-1139.

— Cassandra Frey

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Zebras on the Central Coast?

Hearst Castle's unexpected savanna sight

From private zoo to wild herd, Hearst Castle's zebra story

An unexpected sight often greets travelers along Highway 1 near the town of San Simeon - a herd of zebras. No, you haven't been transported to the African savannah; the herd is made up of the descendants of the former Hearst Castle private zoo.

Built in the early 20th century, the Hearst Garden of Comparative Zoology was the largest private zoo at the time. Constructed as part of the estate between 1919 and 1947 by publishing tycoon William Randolph Hearst and architect Julia Morgan, the estate featured a col-




Wild zebras thrive at Hearst Ranch, a symbol of the enduring power of nature.

DRE#01834125

Scenic Coast

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lection of caged animals and large enclosed spaces, providing habitats for animals including grizzly bears, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, orangutans, monkeys, an elephant, as well as the now iconic zebras.

In 1937, the financial struggles that Hearst met during the Great Depression forced the dismantling of the zoo. Many of the zoo's animal residents were donated to public zoos or sold to commercial establishments in California, Oregon, and Washington. However, the zebras' story took a different turn.

The zebras remained confined within their enclosures until a winter storm hit, toppling the fences that once kept them captive. Seizing their newfound freedom, the zebras ventured forth into the vast 77,000-acre expanse of the Hearst Ranch. The animals adapted and flourished in their new environment, increasing in population.

Fast forward to the present day, and an estimated 126 zebras now roam freely across the coastal grasslands. The zebras now graze alongside Hearst Ranch Beef cattle, a grass-fed cattle operation that

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has been managed by the Hearst Ranches since 1865. While the cattle are maintained by Hearst Ranch Beef and the land is managed by Hearst's Agricultural Operations, the zebras are now considered

completely wild, meaning there is no entity managing, feeding or tracking the herd.

As they continue to thrive in the Hearst Ranch, these resilient creatures serve as a reminder of

the enduring power of nature to reclaim its space.

How to catch sight of the herd

For visitors to Hearst Castle, the journey up the winding road now

offers more than just a glimpse of opulence and history.

While a zebra spotting is likely during a visit to the ranch from the roads, there is no guarantee that visitors will see the wild herd. A savvy traveler would be wise to bring binoculars for a closer look. Visitors are reminded not to try to approach the animals or trespass on the Hearst Ranch land. The herd is said to mostly roam from the northernmost point of the Hearst Castle Visitor Center to San Simeon Creek Road to the south and is often spotted on the east side of Highway 1, looking towards Hearst Castle.

A glimpse of the zebra herd makes for a memorable addition to a trip to the castle or the quaint nearby town of San Simeon.

Hearst Castle is open daily at 9 a.m. There are a number of different tours that visitors can choose from. For more information about a visit to Hearst Castle visit its website at hearstcastle.org or call 1 (800) 444-4445.

— Skye Pratt



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Atascadero

Outdoor activities abound

The city of Atascadero, originally 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

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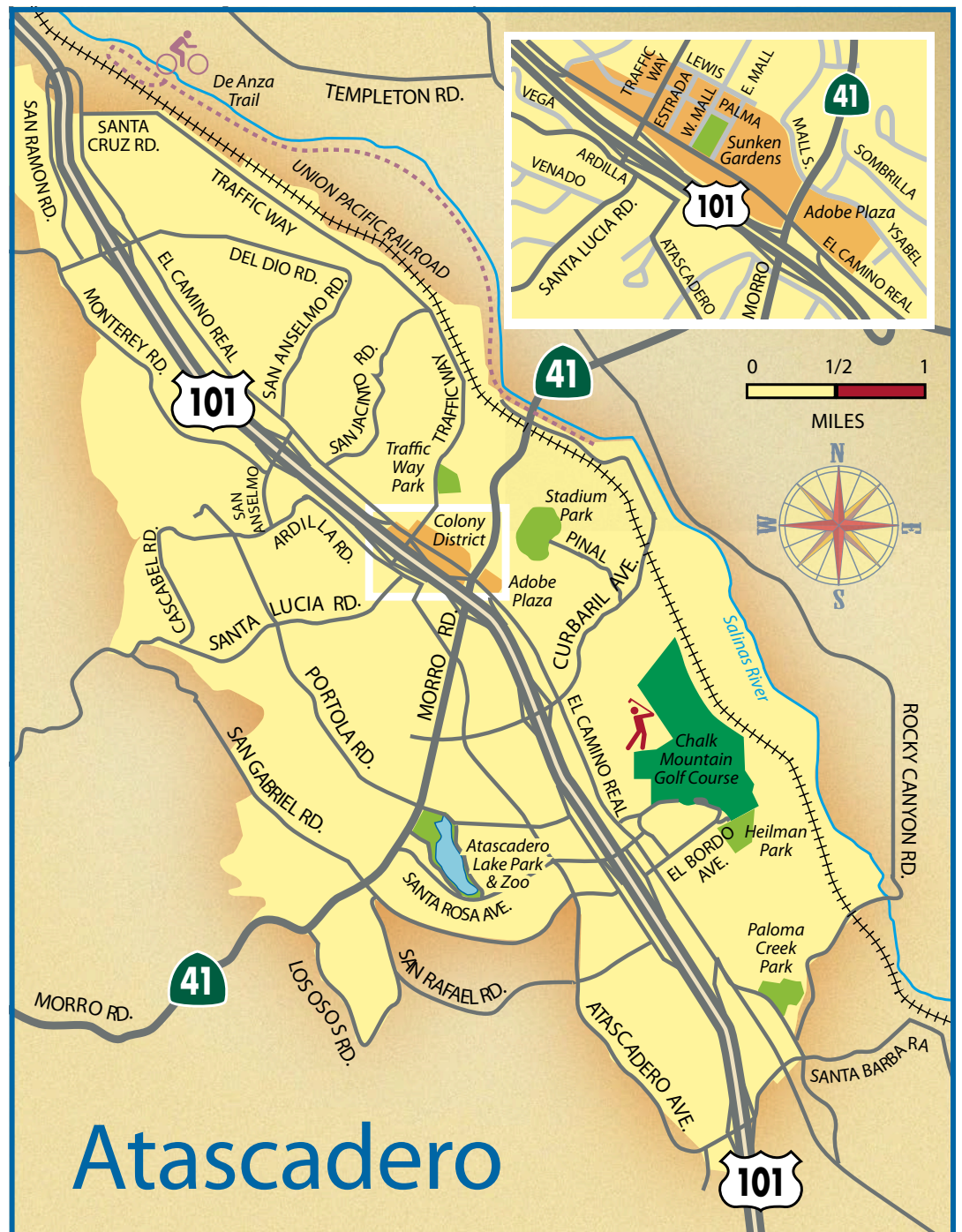
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Concerts in the park, hotrods, and dancing in the streets—summer is here

Free Saturdays in the Park Summer Concert Series


Enjoy the Sounds of Summer at the 2025 Saturdays in the Park Summer Concert Series! Concerts are held every Saturday evening from 6:30 p.m. at the Atascadero Lake Park Bandstand, through August 30. Concerts are free to the public, and end at 8:30 p.m. except for the last one, which starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a blanket, a low-back chair, and the entire family to relish the warm summer evenings at Atascadero





Cruisin' Weekend kicks off on Friday, August 15 at 6:30 p.m.

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Concert line-up

- June 28, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Rockin' Bs Band (rock/country & more!).
- July 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.—Garden Party (classic soft rock).
- July 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.—Josh Rosenblum Band (pop/rock blues).
- July 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.—The Platinum Beat (high energy hits from across decades and genres).
- August 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.—Ghost Monster (feel good rock from all eras).
- August 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.—The JD Project (rock, blues, and country).
- August 30, 6:00-9 p.m.—End of Summer “Blues Bash!” featuring blues by The Cinders Blues Band, and Motown soulful blues and R&B by Leslie Rogers and the Soul Shakers.

The excitement of Cruisin' Weekend makes people dance in the streets

The free weekend kicks off with the 32nd Annual Hot El Camino Cruise Nite on Friday, August 15, at 6:30 p.m. The popular event continues on Saturday, with the 34th Annual Mid-State Cruisers Car Show

at Atascadero Lake Park, followed by the 9th Annual Dancing in the Streets in Downtown Atascadero.

Don't be late! The entire Cruisin' Weekend is one of the largest and most anticipated annual events in San Luis Obispo County.



On Friday evening, 350 cruisers from the 1950s and 1960s come to Atascadero from across California. These beautifully restored vintage cars cruise El Camino Real on Friday, between 6:30 and 8:30 pm. Over the years, Cruise Nite has



grown into a fun, anticipated weekend event for locals and visitors.

Following the Cruise Nite festivities is the Mid-State Cruizers Car

Show at Atascadero Lake Park on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. This is when you get to check out the variety of antique and vintage

cars close-up. For more information on Mid-State Cruizers Car Show, visit midstatecruizers.org.

Dancing is recommended

The 9th Annual Dancing in the Streets kicks off at 5 p.m. on Saturday in the Sunken Gardens.

Enjoy your favorite local bands, community entertainment, food trucks, beer, wine/cider, and distillery vendors who are ready to celebrate a fun evening of music and dancing! The evening promises a variety of music for everyone's enjoyment.

Dancing isn't required, but highly recommended. Not a dancer? No worries. There's plenty to enjoy! In addition, the downtown merchants and restaurants are open for browsing, shopping, and enjoying your favorite food and drink.

The weekend is free. Food and drink are available for purchase from vendors.

Concerts in the Park and Crusin' Weekend are organized by the City of Atascadero and community sponsors. Atascadero Lake Park is located at 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero. For more information about these and other Atascadero events, go to visitatascadero.com/events.

Summer's Here! in Atascadero

Atascadero offers a variety of events to enjoy! From our Summer Concert Series to Ice Cream Zoofari to Movies in the Gardens to Crusin' Weekend! There's always something happening!

Many outdoor activities await!



Summer Concert Series



Ice Cream Zoofari



Cruise Nite

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From lakeside walks to mountain summits, explore Atascadero's hidden trails

Family friendly, dog friendly, equestrian trails, and mountain biking

One of the better-kept local secrets is a trail system spread throughout the city of Atascadero that offers pleasantly surprising outdoor adventures. The trails range from easy strolls around the Atascadero Lake to a challenging four-hour trek that climbs to 1700 feet.

The terrain includes oak-covered foothills, cottonwood and willow-lined waterways, grassy open spaces, and mountain and valley views. A variety of wildlife frequents the trail areas. Native California plants are plentiful.

There is a small parking fee for the Cerro Alto trails. The rest are free. Horses and dogs are allowed on most of the trails, as are bicycles. Trail etiquette and leash requirements ensure everyone's enjoyment.

Stadium Park Trails

Just under two miles, this easy-to-difficult trail is open to equestrians, hikers, joggers, cyclists, and dogs. The trail passes through hills and native oak trees.

Directions: Exit to Morro Road (Highway 41) and head east to Capistrano Avenue. Turn left onto Capistrano Avenue, then right at the stop sign. The entrance is



on the right, just under the overpass.

Las Lomas Trail

A moderately difficult trail with two routes less than a mile long, travels through hillsides covered with native grasses, oak, and pine trees. The trail is open to hikers, joggers, cyclists, and dogs.

Directions: Exit at Santa Barbara Road. Head east, then left onto Alondra Road. The trailhead is on the left.

Jim Green Trail

This moderately difficult 1.5-mile trail is open to equestrians, hikers, joggers, cyclists, and dogs. The trail overlooks Heilmann Park, follows the golf course then loops back through the oak forest.

Directions: Exit at Curbaril Avenue and drive east. Turn right onto Cortez Avenue to the parking lot.

Cerro Alto Trails

Two moderately difficult trails starting from the Cerro Alto Campground parking are open to equestrians, hikers, joggers, cyclists, and dogs. Each trail takes about 4 hours.

Directions: Entrance to Cerro Alto Campground is located on Highway 41, eight miles east of Morro Bay and 12 miles west of Atascadero.

Juan Bautista de Anza Trail—North

Almost six miles of easy-to-modern difficulty trails are accessible from multiple trailheads. Easy-to-find trail markers provide directions. Open to equestrians, hikers, joggers, cyclists, and dogs.

Directions: Exit at Del Rio Road; head east and turn left at Potrero Road to Traffic Way. Trailheads are located along Traffic Way and Ferro Carril Road.

Juan Bautista de Anza Trail—South

An easy 1.7-mile trail provides abundant views of wildlife and native California vegetation. Open to equestrians, hikers, joggers, cyclists, and dogs.

Directions: Exit at Curbaril Avenue. Head east and turn right into the parking lot on Cortez Avenue.

Atascadero Lake Park Trail

An easy walk around Atascadero Lake that is open to hikers, bicyclists, joggers, and dogs. The trail has access to park facilities.

Directions: Exit at Morro Road (Highway 41). Head west on Morro Road 1.3 miles to the public parking on the left.

Learn more

For more information about the City of Atascadero trails, visit visitatascadero.com/things-to-do/hiking-and-cycling/, or call (805) 470-3148.



Santa Margarita

Santa 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 Carrizo 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 Carrizo 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

Margarita Adventures—setting the standard for unforgettable excitement

Calling all fun lovers! Margarita Adventures invites you to experience the Central Coast's ultimate playground with a variety of five-star adventures for all ages and interests.

Epic zipline tours

Margarita Adventures zipline tours offer a uniquely thrilling perspective of the historic Santa Margarita Ranch. Six distinct ziplines span more than 7500 linear feet for the biggest five-star thrills in wine country. Start with an epic 2,800-foot tandem-line thrill ride and finish with an 1800-foot journey over vineyards.

Scenic vineyard eBike tours

Wine tasting was never this exciting! Take an eBike ride into Margarita Vineyard and experience



the rare beauty of the historic Santa Margarita Ranch. Sample wine grown in the vineyards, learn about the ranch's rich history, sustainable winegrowing practices, and more. Optionally, cap off the day with lunch at the Ancient Peaks tasting room and café.

Acclaimed escape rooms

ESCAPE! at Margarita Adventures offers two escape rooms with unique storylines to test your wits, imagination, and ingenuity. Experience a unique blend of classic escape room motifs and interactive

special effects. An escape room is a "locked" space in which guests work together to solve interactive puzzles within a specific time frame to "escape."

Awe-inspiring nature tours

Explore the diverse wildlife and ecosystems of scenic Santa Margarita Ranch. Ranch naturalist Jacqueline Redinger, illuminates eagle tours, foraging tours, and nature adventure tours with insights that will last a lifetime.

Sign the kids up for seasonal Kids Camps offering fun nature education through creative and outdoor experiences.

For reservations and more information, visit margarita-adventures.com, call (805) 438-3120, or visit the office at 22719 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita. Follow on social media.



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Templeton

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 stagecoaches 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.

Attractions

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 hand-made 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 pasta 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

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Satisfy your gourmet taste buds at McPhee's Grill

A Templeton tradition for great food and service

McPhee's Grill Chef-Owner Ian McPhee and his wife June have been serving customers in their downtown Templeton restaurant since 1994. McPhee attributes his success in reaching this milestone to the growth of the surrounding wine country, tourism, and the loyalty of his local customers. McPhee recalls that when the couple first opened their restaurant, there were about 20 wineries in the surrounding area; today, more than 250 fill the countryside.

Start with a basket of bread and a pickled vegetable plate, and add extra starters such as warm goat cheese and roasted garlic on olive oil toast, crispy tempura shrimp, or kung fu pork baby back ribs with secret Asian BBQ sauce.

The menu offers soups, salads, and delicious entrees including USDA prime top sirloin, filet mignon with wild mushroom sauce, macadamia nut and panko-crusted halibut, burger, chicken, and more. There is a choice of desserts to top off each perfect



Chef Ian McPhee

meal. Check out the menu on the restaurant website mcpheesgrill.com.

Over 40 years of serving the Central Coast

After operating Ian's Restaurant in Cambria in 1983 for 10 years, the McPhees and their partners purchased the current building in Templeton, spent four months remodeling the building, and opened McPhee's Grill.

Family-owned and operated, the restaurant has employed all four of the couple's children, with two still working there today.

"We have customers from the first week we opened our restaurant in Cambria in 1983 who still come to our restaurant in Templeton regularly to this day," McPhee said. "It's an amazing thing. We love being supported by the community. It's truly the most rewarding part of my job."

Over the last 20-plus years, McPhee's menu has maintained house favorites while seasonal, farm-fresh ingredients inspire a revolving selection of new menu items. "This is not a job to me – it's part of my

life and lifestyle," McPhee said. "I am so happy to be here, and I love what I do."

"The dining experience here, at McPhee's Grill, is due to the talented and caring staff," said McPhee. "The creativity and hard work from kitchen to table, and welcoming patrons, is what keeps people coming back!"

McPhee's Grill is located at 416 Main Street in Templeton. Dinner is served Wed-Sun from 5-9 p.m. Reservations are suggested. For more information, call (805) 434-3204 or visit mcpheesgrill.com.



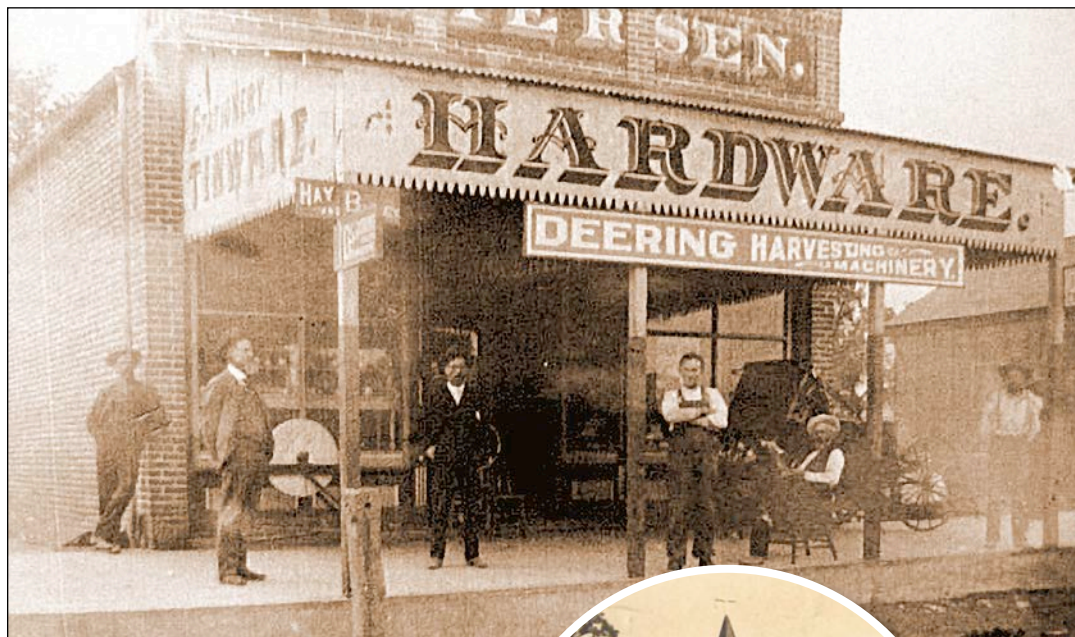
Templeton—a small town with a big history

Templeton is a quaint, sleepy village these days, but at one time, the town was a busy center for travelers and commerce. In the 1800s, the arrival of the railroad turned small towns into economic hubs, and Templeton was no exception to that prosperity.

Spain and the mission padres were the first to introduce agriculture to California, displacing the original Salinan people in the process. When Spain was driven out, the Mexican government sold or granted the Spanish ranchos to loyal friends and supporters. That's how brothers Daniel and James Blackburn, along with Lazard Godchaux, came into possession of the land in 1857.

The founding of Templeton in 1886 coincided with the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Templeton was the last station headed south. Passengers traveling elsewhere boarded stagecoaches that took them to San Luis Obispo to catch another outbound stagecoach.

Reports are that within 90 days, the town added three hotels, three general stores, a drug store, two blacksmith shops, five saloons, a billiard parlor, a lumber yard, two barber shops, a public hall, a post office, and around 30 homes.



In 1889, Southern Pacific extended the railroad south to Santa Margarita and moved the railroad station. Templeton remained a shipping center for grain, wood, charcoal, fruit, and cattle to be transported by train to markets across the nation.

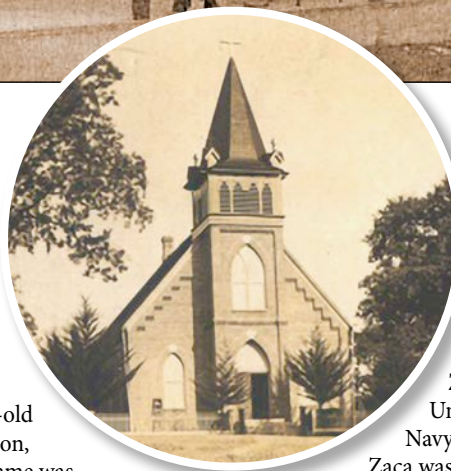
Why the name 'Templeton'?

Someone suggested naming the town Crocker after Charles F.

Crocker, the Vice President of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Crocker chose the name Templeton after his two-year-old son. Templeton, whose full name was Charles Templeton Crocker, became quite well known.

Templeton was responsible for establishing the California Historical Society as a permanent organization in 1922. He also wrote the first American opera to be produced in Europe, "The Land of Happiness" or "Fey-Yen-Fah," and is credited with popularizing Art Deco in America.

Templeton funded expeditions with academic institutions aboard his personal yacht, the Zaca. In 1930, he sailed around the world,



memorializing the adventure in his book, "The Cruise of the Zaca." He sold the Zaca to the United States

Navy in 1940. The Zaca was later purchased by Errol Flynn, who released a documentary with the same title as Crocker's book about a 1946 collection trip taken with his father, marine biologist Professor Theodore Flynn.

Preserving history

Templeton area history is researched and preserved by the Templeton Historical Museum Society. For more information about the museum and hours of operation, visit templetonmuseum.com.

— Jackie Iddings

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Paso Robles

Shopping, Fine Dining & Wine Tasting

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.

Antique Shops

Reminisce Antiques

Browse this village of shops for a selection of fabulous antiques and treasures for everyone. Vintage, home decor, western, gifts, jewelry, accessories and everything inspirational. Open Mon. to Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wed. 'till 6 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. In downtown at 1344 Pine St., reminiscepasorobles.com, (805) 239-1001

Attractions & Tours

ArtSocial 805

A vibrant painting, drawing and pottery studio. Whether you're a sprightly 5-year-old or a seasoned 105-year-old, this is your creative playground to splash some color, sketch your heart out, craft away, and have fun! Book a private party or join a workshop, 631 Spring St., artsocial805.com, (805) 400-9107

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

Sensorio

Where your moments glow: walk easy paths through more than 100,000 glowing bulbs, like bioluminescent flowers from a jewel-toned fantasy land. Explore several solar-powered exhibits that merge light and music technology with dreamy color in a sensory experience you have to see to understand. 4380 Highway 46 E, Paso Robles, sensoriopaso.com, (805) 226-4287

Vina Robles Amphitheatre

Vina Robles Amphitheatre is one of the largest outdoor concert venues in SLO County. Featuring a style reminiscent of

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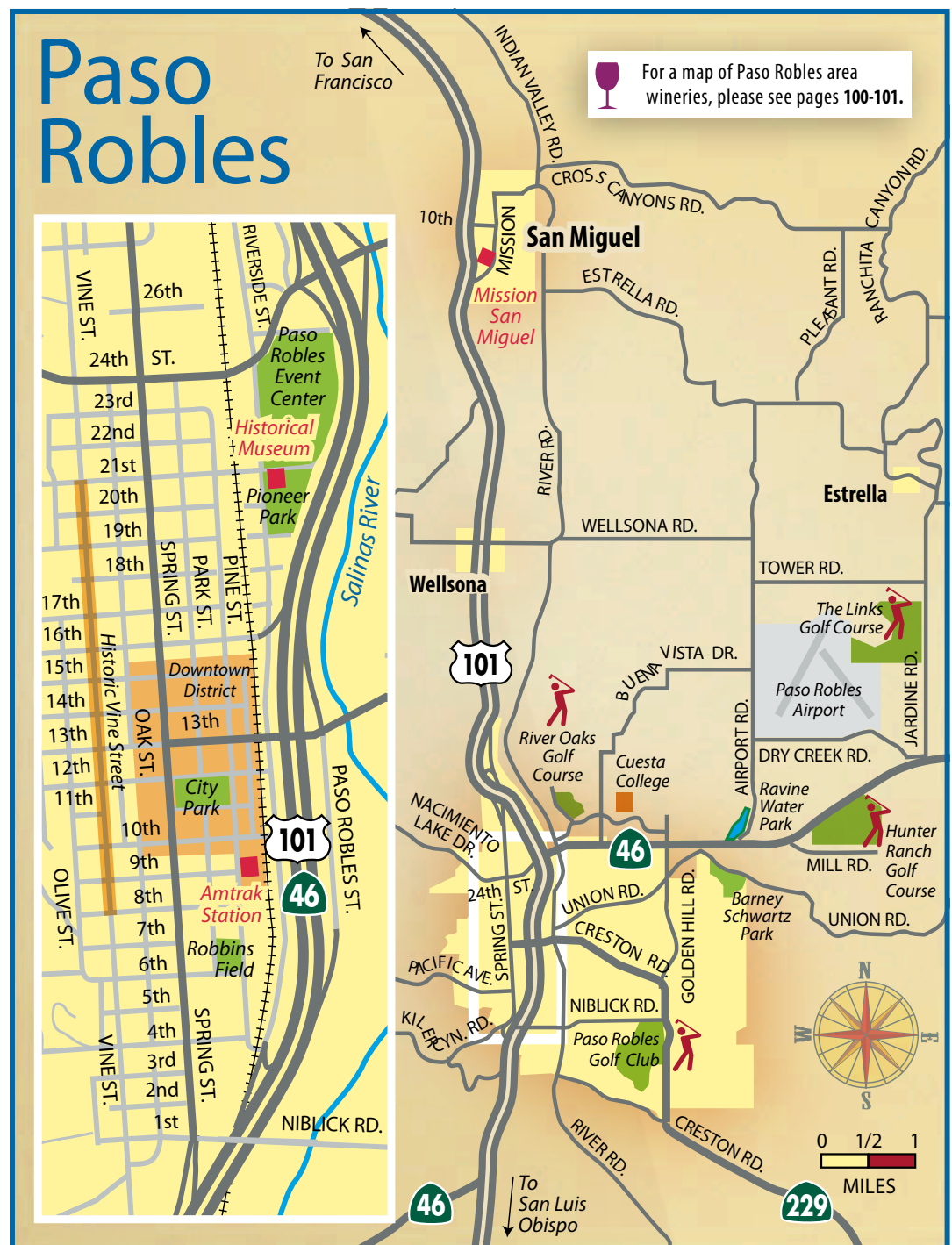
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Paso Robles Children's Museum

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 one-room schoolhouse

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We're off to the races at the 2025 California Mid-State Fair

Top-name entertainment, exhibits, competitions, carnival, and fun for the entire family

The 2025 California Mid-State Fair is the place to be this summer. Starting July 16, the fair brings 12 days of exhibits, competitions, concerts, and good old-fashioned fun to town. There's a special vibe at the fair, and its many different zones create unique experiences for all attendees.

"We are all about the fun, and our fair is almost like a reunion," fair CEO Colleen Bojorquez says. "There are some people who don't see each other all year until the fair comes around, and it's a time to catch up and have a great time together."

This year's theme is Off to the Races! Bojorquez explained that the theme is a nod to the history of fairs and horse racing. "Fairs have a long-standing tie to horse racing, and our 2025 theme gives off derby vibes. Organized horse racing in California started at fairs in the 1850s. In the 1930s, fairs supported legislation



to legalize horse racing and in return received funding from wagering which, although our fair no longer receives any of this, it is still a funding source at many other fairs."

Rodeo, livestock, and top-tier entertainment

The Country Rodeo Finals brings rodeo lovers from all around the country to Paso Robles. Enjoy performances from dozens of local cowboys and cowgirls, many of whom are top tier in the state.

"Attending the rodeo is a way for SLO County residents to connect to our rural roots and be proud of our heritage, and it's become a favorite for out-of-towners as well," she added. "The junior gymkhana events are great for the younger crowds."

Local 4-H and FFA exhibitors take over the livestock area, learning from each other and interacting with the public. Raising and attending to their animals in the months leading up to the fair teaches students about responsibility, animal care, communication, teamwork, mentorship, record keeping, financial and public speaking skills, sportsmanship, market dynamics, and more.

"The Livestock Area is the heart of every fair," Bojorquez said. "Ours is covered and a fun place to stroll, even if you just want to see cute animals. The livestock auctions take place here, and it's where almost every fair kid's memories are made."

every fair kid's memories are made."

The Chumash Grandstand Arena brings talented musicians and performers to the fair year after year. The fair upped the fun factor in recent years by adding a hospital-

ity tent, where a limited number of concertgoers can purchase a wristband to gain access to an air-conditioned tent with a private bar, restroom, and lounge space. Along with entertainers appearing



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and island cocktail bar, is the ideal people-watching spot.

The center of the fair, just inside the Main Gate, is the Quad area, Maynard's Mountain and Waterfall, and Mulberry Park, and is a great spot to meet up if family members or friends get separated. The Commercial Areas provide quiet spaces to stroll through, and one never knows what gem they may stumble upon. From hand-tooled leather goods to hot tubs and tractors, there is a plethora of choices.

Kids of all ages flock to The Midway, where a lineup of concessionaires offer all of the magical fair food you've been craving all year. Whether it's local barbeque, crepes, cinnamon rolls, churros, funnel cakes, corn dogs, or a wide variety of ethnic food, there's something to satisfy every appetite.

"Our fairgoers are anywhere from 0-100 years of age, and we hope that we are the best deal in town as far as entertainment," Bojorquez said. "Whether watching the world go by while listening to the sounds of the waterfall in the

on the Headliner Stage, there is free nightly entertainment as well. Find these acts on the Frontier, Silo, Island, and Mission Square stages.

"It kind of goes without saying that the entertainment areas are exciting places," Bojorquez said. "Sitting in a concert, in an audience of 100 or 15,000 people, gives you a feeling of community unlike any other."

Exhibits, agriculture, and carnival fun

Over in the exhibits buildings, Farm Alley and the SLO Farm Bureau showcase the top commodities of SLO County, and a "Wide Open Spaces" exhibit celebrates many of the county's beautiful ranches. Be sure to check out the Farmer's Olympics, where locals compete in 'good ole fashioned' fair fun.

"Agriculture is really the main point of the fair and always has been since the inception of fairs in general," Bojorquez said. "We want to make sure people understand that California, especially, has this mecca of agriculture. Our little part of that is having the ability to educate our fairgoers while they're having fun. The exhibits

and competitions give local clubs and individuals a platform to show off what they're good at and what they've been working on. Industrial arts exhibitors use trade skills to build and create amazing exhibits, and the auctions for these exhibits are thrilling!"

Visit exotic animals with Pacific Animal Productions, and head over to Frontier Town with its stage made of cabin logs and the consistently popular Kiddie Carnival for the tiniest fair-goers. The main carnival is one of the best in the state for kids of all ages, and rides are free on the fair's opening day, making it one of the most popular days for families to visit and have fun together.

Fair food, drink, and fun for everyone

For the adults, The Silo features a variety of wine and beer options. Over at La Cantina, fair-goers party to live Latin music and a DJ nightly. In the Mission Square, there's a bar, live music, and a lounge set up by KRUSH radio. Jimmy's Watering Hole is home to the nightly KJUG Barn Dance. The Island Bar, with its laid-back vibe, reggae band,

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**Downtown
Paso Robles**

JULY

**10th, 17th & 31st
Concerts in The Park**

Thursdays 6:00PM to 8:00PM (Music)



**California
Mid-State Fair**

July 16th to July 27th

24th • FREE Pancake Breakfast

Thurs. 7/24: 7:30AM-10:30AM, City Park (Free Admission)

AUGUST

**7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
Concerts in The Park**

Thursdays 6:00PM to 8:00PM, (Music)



**Sat. 23rd • Let's Make A Deal, Paso!
(Trading Day) & PR Comic Book Expo
- Kids' Flea Market**

Saturday, August 23rd, 10:00AM to 4:00PM,
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SEPTEMBER

7th • Pajama Party Movie

Sun. 9/7, 7:00PM

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Park Cinemas, Tickets: ParkCinemas.com
Pajama Costume Contest (Optional) - Awards!

20th, Taste of Downtown - (26th Annual)

Saturday, 9/20: 11:00AM to 4:00PM
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Taste Tickets \$30: My805Tix.com



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The California Mid-State Fair is located at 2198 Riverside Ave, Paso Robles. For more information, tickets, performances, and activities, visit midstatefair.com, or call (805) 239-0655, or follow on social media.

— Meagan Friberg



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Don't miss the hot summer lineup at Vina Robles Amphitheatre

One of the hottest music venues on the Central Coast

Summer means one thing at Vina Robles Amphitheatre in Paso Robles—one of the hottest music lineups on the Central Coast is here! Vina Robles is the premier outdoor music venue for a reason. Each year, some of the best performers come to Paso Robles, and this year showcases even more top talent. The experience is casual, fun, and most importantly, an incredible season of music!

On stage and not to be missed!

July 5—Primus with special guest Ty Segall. Funk/metal band Primus returns with the Onward & Upward Tour and new drummer, John Hoffman. The band chronicled their search for a new drummer in the YouTube series, *Interstellar Drum Derby*, which gave fans an inside look at the band's journey to whittle down 6,200 global applicants to the perfect drummer.

July 13—Happy Together Tour. Featuring chart-topping hits from the 1960s and 1970s, hosted by the Turtles. Joining the Turtles are Jay & the Americans, Little Anthony, The Vogues, Gary Puckett & the Union Gap, and the Cowsills.



August 1—Joe Bonamassa. Living legend and prolific writer, Joe Bonamassa is a four-time Grammy-nominated, four-time Blues Music Award winner. Of his 50 released albums, 28 have reached number one.

August 2—Anjelah Johnson-Reyes' Family Reunion tour. Comedian Anjelah Johnson-Reyes brings her family-friendly tour to town. Since her "Nail Salon" stand-up debut that went viral over a decade ago, she has had six hit comedy specials. "The Family Reunion" shares her views of motherhood in her forties and, of course, stories about her family.

August 3—Lee Brice. Country singer-songwriter Lee Brice has over 10 billion career streams of

his hits such as "Memory I Don't Mess With," "One of Them Girls," "I Hope You're Happy Now" with

Carly Pearce, and "Rumor." When he's not writing songs, collecting awards, or selling out arenas, he's hanging out with his wife, Sara, and their kids.

August 7—Melissa Etheridge with the Indigo Girls. Grammy Award-winning folk-rock duo, Indigo Girls, and Grammy Award-winning rock icon, Melissa Etheridge, are reuniting their talents once again for their 2025 Yes We Are co-headline tour. The musical team is contributing \$2.00 from each ticket sold to benefit their nonprofit charitable organizations: The Etheridge Foundation and First Peoples Fund.

August 15—Michael Franti & Spearhead. Musician, humanitarian, and activist, Michael Franti, is known for turning hardship into

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hope. Known for his hits, "Sound of Sunshine," "Say Hey (I Love You)," and "I Got You," Franti's music is both joyful and uplifting. His Welcome to the Family Tour will include his classics as well as songs from his new album, "Welcome to the Family."

August 29—Lost 80s Live. Fans of 1980s music won't want to miss this longest-running retro tour. Enjoy covers of some of the 1980s hottest talent, including A Flock of Seagulls, General Public, Big Country, The Vapors, The Icicle Works, Jose Cotton, The Polecats, and more.

Music, food, and drink for a perfect evening

There's plenty of room for everyone because Vina Robles holds up to 3,000 people. Get dinner before or enjoy delicious food during the concert from food kiosks located throughout the venue. Food and beverage options include burgers, sandwiches, wraps, pizzas, appetizers, desserts, domestic beers, non-alcoholic refreshments, and, of course, wine. The Terrace Club,

reserved for Premium Seat patrons, offers a chef-prepared menu, lighter fare, and small desserts, all seasonally inspired from local ingredients."

Vina Robles Amphitheatre is located at 3800 Mill Road in Paso Robles. For more concert information or to purchase tickets, visit vinaroblesamphitheatre.com.

— Karen Lycan





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FOSO, the newest installation at Sensorio, combines light, music, technology, and nature

An enchanting fiber optic symphonic orchestra

Sensorio debuted a new experiential art installation in early April 2025. Created by UK artist Bruce Munro, FOSO combines light, music, technology, and nature in an immersive experience. Visitors can experience a walk through a symphony of light and sound created by 32 fiber optic columns of light synchronized to an original score by award-winning composer Nainita Desai.

FOSO joins previous installations that are illuminating the venue's 35 acres for a complete sensory immersion experience. This latest installation promises to be as enchanting as all of the installations at Sensorio.

Dimensions by Hybycozo

Sensorio commemorated its fifth anniversary in May 2024 with the debut of the Dimensions immersive art exhibition. This exhibit, in development for three years by Los Angeles-based artists Hybycozo, is a collaborative venture between Serge Beaulieu and Yelena Filipchuk, renowned worldwide for creating monumental geometric metal sculptures. The exhibit showcases expansive geometric metal sculptures for visitors to explore as they are enveloped by shifting lights and music in a continuous 33-minute spectacle.

"Dimensions at Sensorio represents our exploration of the relationship between light and music, shadow and pattern, environment and form," the artists elucidate. "This installation orchestrates an interplay of geometry and space, designed to engage observers in an immersive experience."

Featuring sculptures large enough to traverse and others adorned with interactive elements, visitors are encouraged to observe how their movements influence the



FOSO—the newest installation at Sensorio.

surrounding light and shadows. The artists collaborated with globally acclaimed musician Alen Hulse to compose the 33-minute musical accompaniment.

Field of Light

Sensorio debuted in 2019 with its Field of Light exhibit, which featured tens of thousands of solar-powered fiber optic stems adorning the landscape. Sensorio, initially conceived as a temporary attraction, has evolved into a permanent fixture.

Propelled by demand, the owners opted to enhance the experience, incorporating new exhibits that fuse light technology with innovative materials such as wine bottles and fishing poles, all crafted by pioneering artist Bruce Munro.

Since its inception, Sensorio has hosted over half a million visitors, earning accolades from Travel + Leisure as a "pilgrimage-worthy art escape," further cementing its status as a must-visit destination in wine country.

More to come

"Our time in Paso Robles has been incredible, and as we reflect on the changes, the prospects that propel us into exciting new realms with geometric shapes and novel materials. We eagerly anticipate

sharing it with both returning and new visitors," said General Manager Ryan Hopple.

Sensorio plans include expanding the terrace area for private gatherings and developing an on-site hotel and conference center.

From magical family moments to unforgettable date nights, visitors stroll easy paths to explore solar-powered exhibits merging light, color, music, and technology. Delicious food and beverages are available for purchase at Sensorio's full-service Mercado restaurant and bar. Airstream Bars at various locations around the venue offer local beer, wine, distilled spirits, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Sensorio is located at 4380 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles. For the schedule, hours, and more information, or to purchase tickets, visit sensoriopaso.com or call (805) 226-4287.





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Satisfy your cravings at Odyssey World Café, the local favorite downtown hotspot

What do you want to eat? Odyssey World Café has it!

Every appetite is satisfied from salad, soup, and gourmet sides, tacos, stir fry bowls, burgers, sandwiches, wraps, and gyros, to steak, chicken, seafood, and pasta. Owners Carmelo and Anna Rodriguez offer some of the freshest and finest food selections in town. Everything is prepared fresh under Carmelo's guidance.

"Our menu boasts a favorite for every customer. We are proud of our grilled salmon salad and chicken piccata. Each of our taco options offers a unique, not-to-be-missed salsa, and we have vegetarian options," said



Anna. "One of our popular items is the blackened tofu taco, combining some of our already-loved flavors in

a new way. Spicy peanut sauce, fresh pineapple, and pickled onions add the perfect balance and bite for vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike."

Desserts are not overlooked, either, along with coffee, wine, beer, and other beverages. Odyssey is very popular for filling those mid-afternoon cravings. Downtown business leaders, shoppers, and friends often gather for dessert and coffee, or a glass of wine with a savory snack for an afternoon pick-me-up and good conversation. Locals meet at Odyssey for birthday parties, bridal showers, book groups, and business lunches, and it's a popular spot for first dates!

Odyssey World Cafe has been a local Paso Robles favorite hotspot for lunch and dinner for close to 30 years. The spacious, inviting interior has plenty of seating, and there's street-side and patio seating for those who prefer al fresco dining. Anna and Carmelo purchased the café from the founders, Dawn Gregory and John Hawley, in 2021. Carmelo was already a veteran of the Odyssey team, serving as chef and kitchen manager for ten years before he and Anna took the reins.

Bringing over 20 years of experience in the restaurant and hospitality industry, Carmelo continues to perfect the café's diverse menu and make every item a new favorite.

"We are honored to see our treasured locals and regulars on a daily and weekly basis. I hope to have exceeded their expectations in consistency, quality, and service. I could never have anticipated how many new friends I have made these past few years," said Anna.

Artisan food and local art

While enjoying a delicious meal and good conversation, guests have the opportunity to view work by local artists throughout the restaurant. "Our partnership with the Paso Robles Art Association is a fun way to highlight local artists while keeping our walls fresh and beautiful," said Anna. "We enjoy watching customers peruse our gallery, and take a painting by a local artist home to their personal collection."

The Rodriguez family's touches on small details keep the Odyssey World Café a unique and popular restaurant. Improving the quaint back patio and increasing outdoor seating so guests can enjoy the beautiful Central Coast weather are just a few of the special touches that have been added.

"Carmelo and I both love serving quality, home-cooked meals and sharing our home with those we love. We want our children to witness the fruition of hard work and to also be active players in this family dream," said Anna.

Odyssey World Café also provides catering. Check the website for the event schedule. Call the restaurant between 9-11 a.m. or 2-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday to discuss your catering needs (805) 237-7516.

Odyssey World Cafe is located at 1214 Pine Street in downtown Paso Robles. The café opens at 11 a.m. daily and is open until 8:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and until 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. To view the menu, order online, or for more information, visit odysseyworldcafe.com or call (805) 237-7516.

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Meet ghosts, horses, and maybe your favorite celebrity at Paso Robles' quirkiest watering hole

The Pine Street Saloon is rooted in Paso Robles' history

Before “Beer for My Horses” hit the country music charts, the Pine Street Saloon was already serving horses and their riders. The Pioneer Day parade, held annually in October, unofficially ends at the Pine Street Saloon, where, for the past 40-some years, horses are ridden right up to the bar. Saloon owner Ron French said, “People get a real kick out of it, and how often do you get to have a beer with a horse?”

Sharing a beer with a horse isn't the only thing that sets this bar apart. You might find yourself bending an elbow with a ghost. Regulars talk about noises and things moving. “I don't believe in ghosts,” said French. “It's an old, creaky, wooden building.” Nevertheless, he set up night-vision cameras and has video footage of glowing “supercharged dust particles” zipping through glass and around the room, and lamps and a vacuum cleaner moving across the floor. A few years ago, the rumors of hauntings earned the Pine Street Saloon an episode on the Travel Channel's hit show, *The Dead Files*. The Travel Channel returned to film a new episode for *Ghost Adventures* that was released around the end of 2021.

The saloon has been in the family since it was purchased by French's mother, Pat, in 1971. Built around 1857, the saloon had a reputation as a bordello and visits by Jesse James. Drury James, one of Paso Robles' founders, was Frank and Jesse's uncle. The Pine Street Saloon has been voted the “Best North County Bar” in the *New Times* Best of SLO County.

No-nonsense drinks, live music, entertainment, and safe rides home

“We have daily drink specials and serve lots of beer, Jack and Coke,” said French. “We can make foo-foo drinks, but they're not very popular here.”



Ron French surveys his kingdom.

The saloon is cash-only, but there's an ATM. The décor is rustic. There are pool tables, and the jukebox plays two kinds of music: country and western. A food trailer serves on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

Karaoke, Open Mic, and live music guarantee a good time. “About 10 local bands play here on a rotating schedule. Once in a while, we mix in out-of-town acts, and sometimes we are just surprised!” said French. “Pink has dropped in to sing Karaoke. Merle Haggard was a regular, even recorded a commercial for us a few months before he died. I haven't aired it out of respect.”

The saloon has attracted Paula Nelson (Willie's daughter), Kacey Musgraves, Kenny Lee Lewis, Travis Howard, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Louie Ortega, actors Gary Busey and Robert Carradine, Jason Lee, and Benedict Cumberbatch.

Live music, karaoke, open mic, or other entertainment starts at 9 p.m. on various nights throughout the week. Call (805) 238-1114 for more information.

The saloon's limo offers free safe rides on Friday and Saturday nights anywhere in the city limits. Tips for the driver, please! “If you don't have a designated driver and can't afford

a cab, we want to make sure you get safely home,” said French.

Pine Street Saloon is located at 1234 Pine Street, Paso Robles. For more information, call (805) 238-1114 or visit PineStreetSaloon.com.

A legend walks on

The team at San Luis Obispo Visitors Guide and Access Publishing is saddened by Ron French's passing in mid-May. Our deepest condolences to his family and friends. Ron was much more than the owner of the Pine Street Saloon—he was a true legend.

Ron's commitment to the community went beyond good times. He took pride in preserving the saloon's unique character, celebrating its storied history, and making everyone feel welcome. He made Pine Street Saloon a living piece of Paso Robles history and a gathering place for generations. **You are missed Ron.**

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Reminisce Antiques—a village for treasure hunters in downtown Paso Robles

Where 30-plus vendors offer everything from antiques to new items

Add Reminisce Antiques to your list next time you are shopping for a gift, including for yourself! A step into Reminisce Antiques at the corner of Pine Street and 14th is a visual treat to collectors and shoppers looking for unique items. Antiques, vintage items, and collectibles make wonderful gifts for any occasion. And, there's no better place to find those



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unique, special-touch décor items to personalize your home or office.

Whimsical overhead street signs point shoppers to “Front Street” and “Main Street” and into the intrigue of treasure hunting in a village of shops. Jeannie Bork, the genius behind the old world feeling of winding alleys and magical shops, has owned the store since April Fools Day, 2006. “We have everything, antiques, vintage, new items and gifts,” said Bork. Reminisce has a loyal following that includes locals and visitors from all over California. “Our

customers bring their friends, and those friends come back and bring their friends. We are blessed with the best customers who are like family.”

Featuring between 30 and 35 vendors and artisans, Reminisce provides unusually roomy space for each vendor’s shop. Bork said she looks for “the passion in the eyes to decorate and create,” when she selects vendors for her village. Each shop is designed and decorated by the vendor to best showcase that person’s passions and show off the merchandise.

New with Tags

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Sharing the passion

Before purchasing Reminisce when the previous owner retired, Bork was a vendor. "Quite a few of the vendors have been here for as long as I have," said Bork. "There are several more who are also long-time vendors."

Since taking over the business, Bork has transformed Reminisce from a traditional antique mall with around 35 vendors into a special village of shops offering a wide range of merchandise. "We like to think of ourselves as a one-stop-

shop for our customers," said Bork. Customers can browse the 30-plus shops and find a variety of antique, vintage, and collectibles from many eras, new gifts, candles, apparel, jewelry and accessories, hand-refurbished furnishings, and a

specialty shop for toddlers offering stuffed toys, clothing made from sustainable bamboo fabric, and cuddly blankets.

The vendors share Bork's passion about people and family. Any day's visit might treat the shopper to an experience of a family team working together to rearrange or repaint a shop, yet still taking the time to chat and help find the perfect item. When vendors are not working inside their shops, they are helping out at the store's sales counter. "Our vendors know each others merchandise and styles and can help our customers find exactly what they are looking for," said Bork. "I am so blessed to have the opportunity to do what I love."

Reminisce Antiques is located at 1344 Pine Street, Paso Robles. The hours are Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed on major Holidays. For more information, follow Reminisce on Facebook at Keeping up with Reminisce! or call (805) 239-1001.

— Jackie Iddings




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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 out.

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.



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

SLO Olive

San Luis Obispo's only olive oil tasting room. Award winning, locally sourced olive oils, Italian Balsamic vinegar's and artisan specialty foods. Come in for a complimentary tasting experience. 958 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, sloolive.com, (805) 439-2455

We Olive

A retail shop & tasting spot at 1311 Park St., Paso Robles. Huge selection and friendly knowledgeable staff. weolive.com, (805) 239-7667

Sunshine Olive Oil

This olive oil tasting room and home goods store transports you to the south of France. Their award winning EVOO's are made from olives planted on local sunny slopes. The olives are hand harvested in organically certified groves to ensure the best quality oil. 1244 Pine Street #106A, sunshineoliveoil.com, (805) 221-5344



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Taste the gold and discover the flavors and charm of Sunshine Olive Oil

Award-winning olive oil, personal attention, and an elegant tasting room and shop

A visit to Sunshine Olive Oil in downtown Paso Robles is a must. Featuring a selection of local, premium, award-winning California extra virgin olive oils (EVOO), a wide variety of home goods, and décor, this family-owned business has earned a stellar reputation for providing outstanding service and exceptional products.

This year, Sunshine Olive Oil won awards from the Los Angeles International Olive Oil Competition, the California State Fair, the Central Coast Olive Competition, and the New York International Olive Oil Competition. The company also entered competitions in Japan and Greece, and is waiting for the results.

Sunshine Olive Oil won four Gold awards at the New York competition. Not only did Sunshine Olive Oil win Best Producer of the Year at the 2025 Central Coast Olive Oil Competition, but the 11 entries walked away with 10 Gold and 1 Silver awards. The Organic Miller Blend won a Gold and the Organic Tuscan Blend a Silver at the Los Angeles International Olive Oil Competition.

Sunshine Olive Oil led the field at the California State Fair with Best in Show, Best in Class, and Best in California Gold awards. The winners are:

- Flavored Chili Oil received Best in Show and Double-Gold.
- Organic Miller Blend received Best in Class Gold.
- Organic Tuscan Blend received Best in Class Gold.
- Organic Bosana received Best in Class Gold.



The Millers, Alex, Chloe, Catherine, and Gary, with Chihuahuas Diva and Lilly.

- Organic Spanish Oaks Picual Best in California Gold.

Sample these and many other exquisitely crafted organic olive oils at the Paso Robles tasting room. Receive a regular supply of Sunshine EVOO delivered right to your door three times a year by joining the Sunshine Olive Oil club.

Elegant tasting room and shop

The ambiance of the Sunshine Olive Oil tasting room and home goods store in downtown Paso Robles is unsurpassed. The tasting room delivers a unique tasting experience of fabulous and healthy olive oils bursting with polyphenols and antioxidants.

Featuring stamped ceilings, 100-year-plus hardwood floors, and a marble tasting bar made of English Pine, the store definitely has what owner Catherine Miller refers to as “a little French Je ne sais quoi.”

Crystal chandeliers sparkle above treasures for the home and garden, including tea towels and tablecloths from France and Denmark, olive wood products, jams, soaps, gift baskets, and more.

Tastings start off with a lighter oil, then move

on to one with a heavier, spicy, pungent flavor. Many people like to taste vinegar as well, including balsamic and local, wine-based offerings.

Topping the list of customer favorites is the Tuscan Blend. Made from a mix of frantoio, leccino, moraiolo, and pendolino olives, the oil is dark green and delicately balanced with a flavor profile of green olives, freshly cut grass, almond, artichoke, and black pepper.

For those wanting a more delicate oil, Sunshine's 100% Leccino California EVOO is a favorite. With a flavor profile of sweet, freshly cut grass, almond, and pepper, it may be used for cooking, salad dressings, and baking. Their award-winning Miller Blend California EVOO, with flavors of green tea, nettle, and black pepper, is a must-try.

The success of dedication and passion

Sunshine Olive Oil is the result of Catherine's childhood filled with olive orchards and lavender fields in the south of France, and visiting Templeton with her husband, Gary. The couple fell in love with the area during visits with their son at Cal Poly and purchased 10 acres.





The Millers started with planting olive trees with the aid of Richard and Linda Delahanty. When Richard introduced the Millers to mobile milling, they

made a batch of olive oil from their first harvest in 2018.

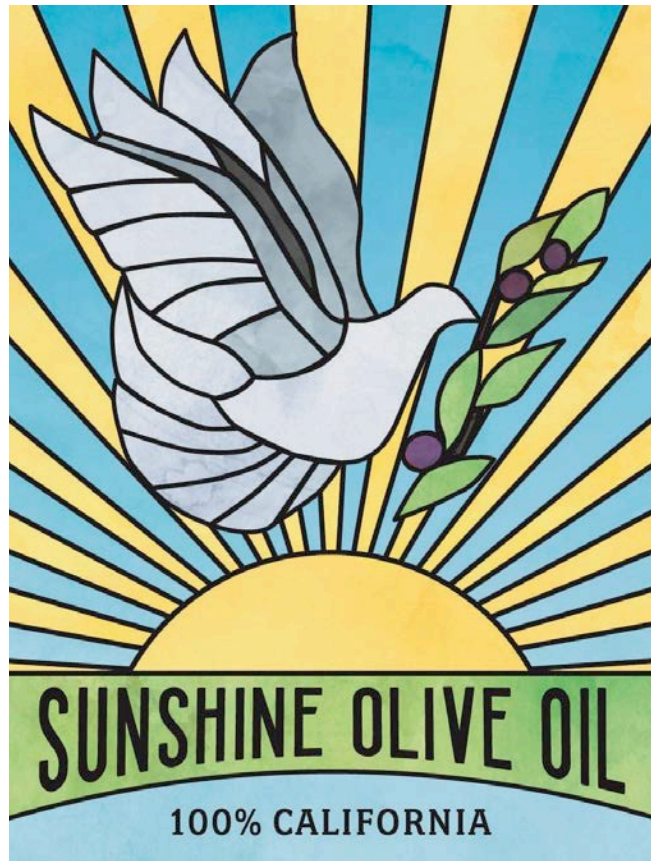
The first year, the Millers gave their olive oil to friends for a blind tasting against some of the

most well-known and expensive olive oils. Upon learning that their friends preferred their oils, what started as a hobby soon blossomed into a passion.

Since then, the farm has grown to 50 acres of Certified Organic groves, and includes varieties such as bosana from Sardinia and hojiblanca from Spain. Every tree is planted, cared for, and picked by hand. The Millers are passionate about environmentally-conscious farming, refrain from using toxic pesticides or fertilizers, practice beekeeping, and also grow lavender. Expanding the olive trees from 5000 to 20,000 is also in the plans.

The Millers credit their amazing team for the success of Sunshine Olive Oil. From managing the farm, to producing the oils, and managing the business, tasting room, and shop, the entire team is essential for every step.

The Sunshine Olive Oil tasting room & shop, located at 1244 Pine St. Suite 106A in downtown Paso Robles, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit sunshineoliveoil.com, call (805) 221-5344, or check social media.



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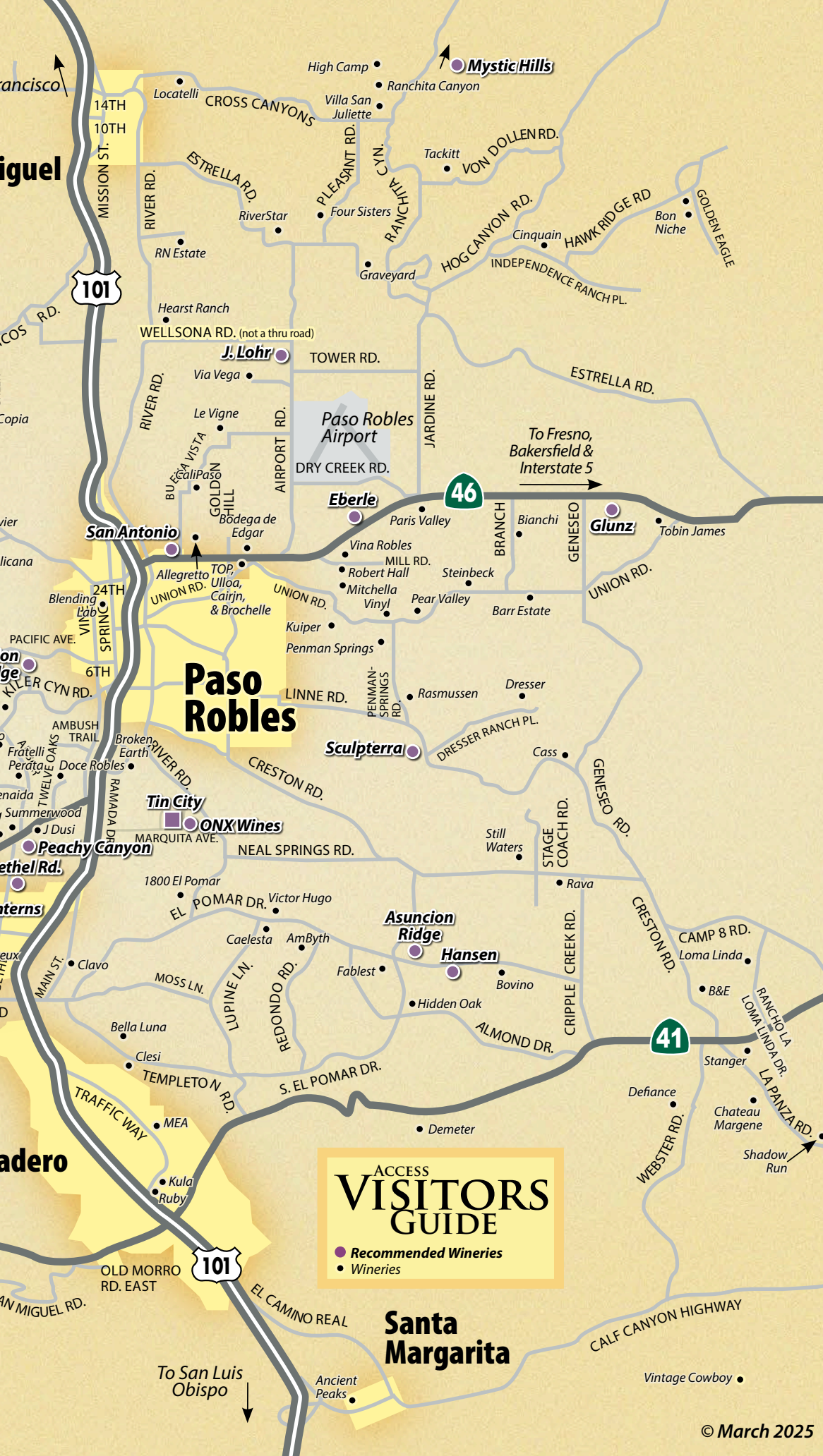
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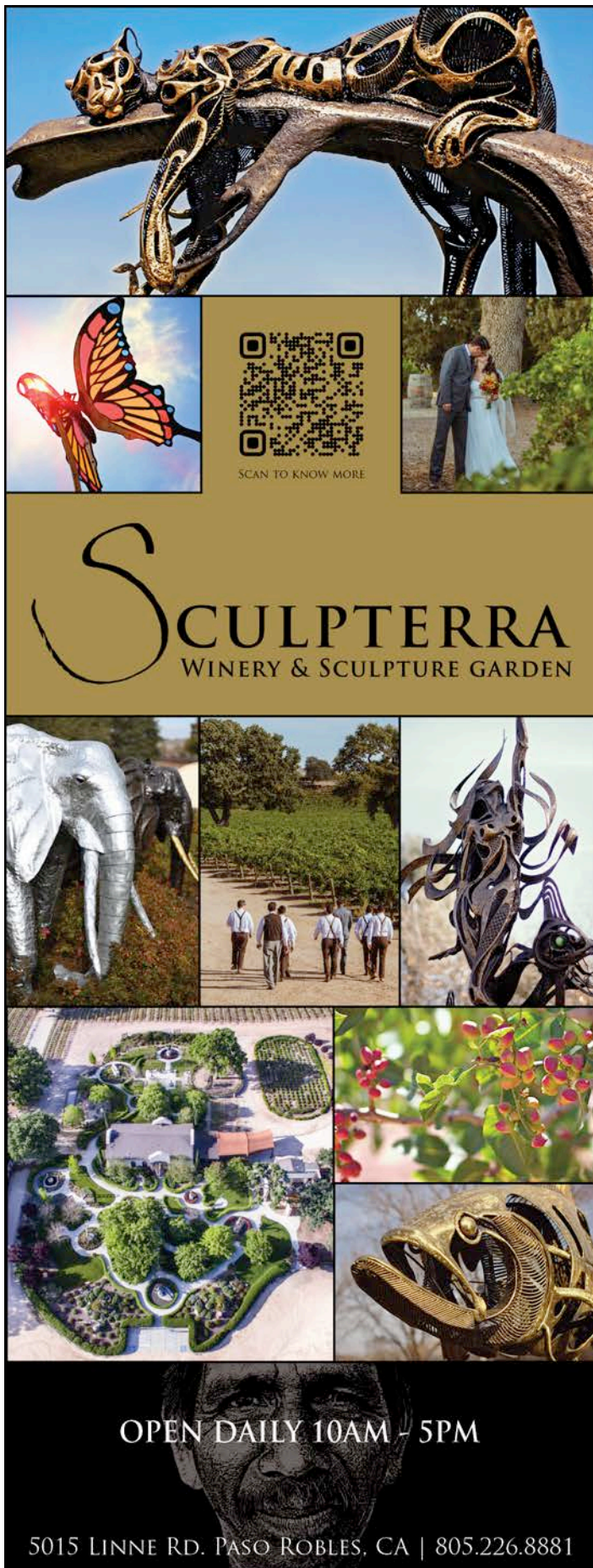


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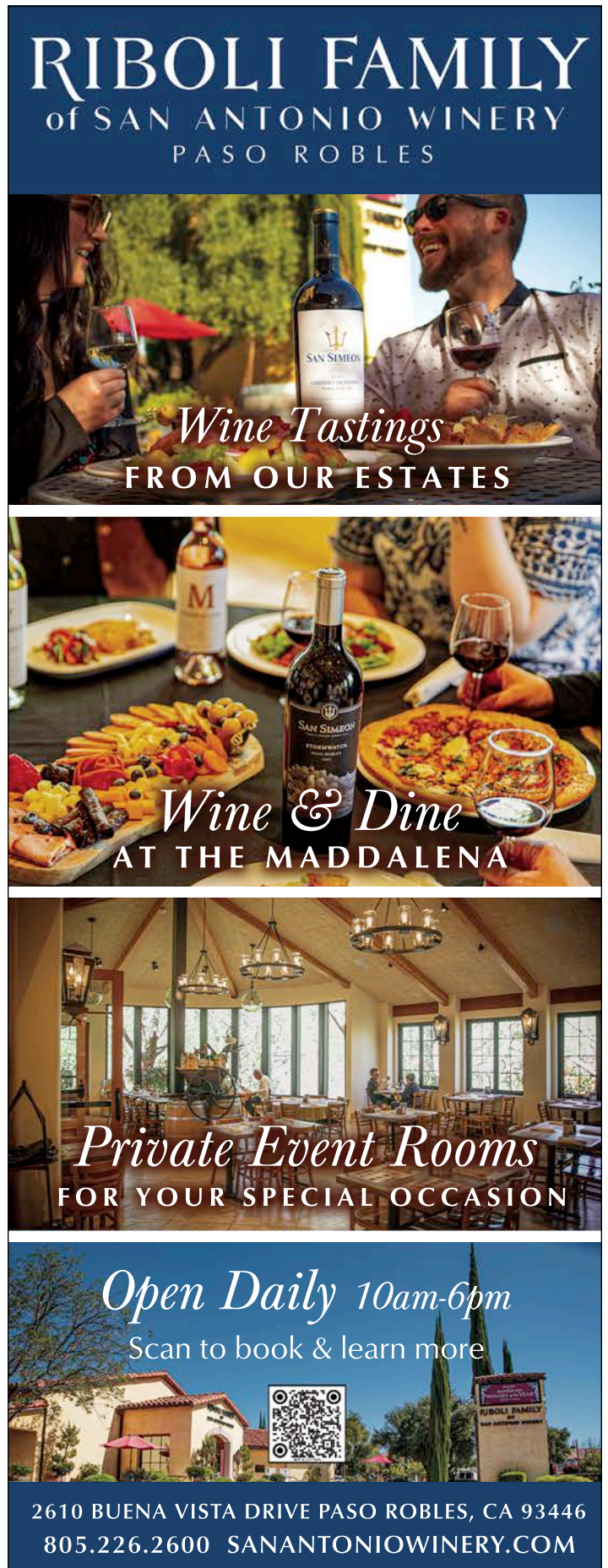
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Brecon Estate vineyard is recognized as a 'visionary planting'

Cave-exploring background influenced the owner's winemaking

When they first toured the location, Damian and Amanda Grindley recognized something special about the vineyards that would eventually become Brecon Estate. Originally established in 1971 by wine pioneer Art Norman, the vineyard is now regarded as a visionary planting and was recently certified as "Historic" by the Historic Vineyard Society (HVS). This exclusive designation for preserving California's oldest vines includes vineyards such as Chalone, Dusi, HMR, and Pesenti, along with Macdonald, Ridge, and Monte Bello in the northern part of the state.

Established in 2011, HVS works to preserve California's historic vineyards. Brecon Estate is proud to be the steward of one of the few historic vineyards in Paso Robles.

Grindley brought over 25 years of experience from wine-making regions in Australia, Europe, and the United States to Brecon Estate. When it came to naming the winery, he and his wife, Amanda, chose to venerate the Brecon Beacons in Grindley's native Wales. "Before I got into the wine industry, I explored, mapped, and discovered quite a few caves in the Brecon Beacons of the wild, windswept Brecon Beacons National Park, which is underlain by a big band of limestone." Caving is how Damian and Amanda met.



Before settling in the area, the Grindleys looked long and hard for their ideal property. "Being a cave explorer, I couldn't buy a winery that wasn't on calcareous soil," Grindley said. "When I return to the caves of my youth, I literally get a tingling down my neck from the limestone. I get the same feeling here. Plus, I have cool British blood, so we were trying to get as close to the ocean as possible for that cooling influ-

ence of the fog with our roots in a south-facing slope in calcareous soil. Some of the best regions in the world are planted on calcareous soil.

If you like wines from calcareous soil, the minerality, the great acids, and the aging ability, Paso is ground zero."

With the help of friends, Simon and Anna Hackett of Australia, the Grindleys started Brecon Estate in 2012.



Celebrating recognition with a limited-edition release

When Brecon's old-vine cabernet sauvignon crossed the 50-year mark, it became eligible for recognition by the Historic Vineyard Society. In celebration of the recognition, Brecon Estate has released its most recent vintage from these historic vines. Only 235 cases of the 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon were produced, and this limited-edition wine is available at Brecon's Paso Robles tasting room.

The 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon joins the long list of Brecon Estate award-winning wines. Awards include Best of Show at the Sunset International Wine Competition, Boston Wine Competition, and the International Women's Wine Competi-

Wine Tasting

tion, and Forbes' list of top 25 wineries of the year.

"The trick," said Grindley, "is having everything you make be good across the board, and that's harder than making one great wine. It's also about not growing too quickly, and keeping those small, interesting parcels."

For that reason, guests will likely find a different lineup of wines at each tasting room visit. Grindley makes 12-14 small parcel wines per year. "We always have new releases," he said. "The tasting lineup changes at least once a month."

Sold exclusively through the tasting room, wine club, or website

Visit Brecon Estate and experience Brecon's exclusive, small-lot wines with the knowledgeable and friendly tasting room staff. Relax on the patio and enjoy views of the old vines and oak trees.

The Brecon Estate Wine Club offers three wine shipments



yearly, discounts on purchases, complimentary tastings, and invitations to exclusive Brecon Estate events.

The Brecon Estate tasting room is located at 7450 Vineyard Drive in Paso Robles. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; reservations

preferred. For more information, visit breconestate.com or call (805) 239-2200.



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Discover the Riboli Family wine legacy at San Antonio Winery

Generations of excellence and timeless hospitality at the Paso Robles tasting room, bistro, and gift shop

It's always a great time to visit Paso Robles and the surrounding areas, but there's just something about summer that makes this time of year even more special. And there's no better destination to visit than the beautiful and conveniently located bistro at the Riboli Family of San Antonio Winery.

Family-owned, with the third and fourth generations currently overseeing the everyday operations, it's one of the most highly awarded wineries in California. And the Paso Robles tasting room? With outdoor patio seating, an indoor bistro, and the gift shop, this is the place to be! The décor is stunning, timeless, and elegant, and yet the ambiance throughout is warm, approachable, and inviting.

"We've always specialized in the consumer, and our approach is very comfortable yet educational. We want people to learn," fourth-generation winemaker Anthony Riboli said. "We want everyone to feel welcomed, and that's why we offer many styles and types of wines, from a big, bold cabernet to a light sparkling semi-sweet wine. Our selection, our ability to cater to anyone and please all of the different palates, sets us apart. The bottom line is, we want our guests to feel comfortable and have a great time. That's our philosophy – it's been our philosophy for 108 years, and it will continue to be our philosophy."

Invested in the Paso Robles area for more than three decades, community is important to the Riboli Family. Over the years, they have

had many accomplishments with their vineyards and winery, including attaining organic vineyard certifications for their Jada Winery and Vineyard, and sustainable vineyard and winery certifications through the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance.

"We are all about being good neighbors, using water wisely, and being part of the Paso Robles community, Riboli said. "This is our second home, and the longer we've been involved in the area, the

more we've invested not only in resources but our time." This sense of community was established by Santo Cambianica when he first started San Antonio Winery in Los Angeles more than 108 years ago. His nephew Stefano Riboli and his bride, Maddalena, later owned the winery and passed the family work ethic on to their three children – Santo, Cathy, and Steve. Today, the fourth generation includes Anthony Riboli (head winemaker), Chris Riboli, Dante

Riboli Colombatti, Jennifer Riboli Converse, Blake Anderson, and David Riboli, who hold various positions within the company. Stefano and Maddalena have both passed on, leaving a legacy that will endure for several more generations.

"Stefano was our family patriarch, and we raise a toast to his 97 years of a great life," Riboli said. "We all miss him, but we are honored to carry on his incredible legacy." Maddalena passed away shortly after her 102nd birthday.

The science and art of winemaking

As a winemaker, Anthony Riboli puts a lot of heart and history into every batch of wine he produces.

"What I've always loved about winemaking is the combination of science and art," he said. "That combination is what got me hooked. Every winemaker has a dif-



ferent approach, just like a painter or sculptor, and I find that to be truly amazing.”

Riboli, a former pre-med student, works alongside winemaker Marty Spate. The Riboli Family estate vineyards in Paso Robles include Maddalena, Stefano, Stefano II, and Pretty Penny vineyards in the El Pomar District AVA, Creston Highlands and Riboli Creston vineyards in the Creston District AVA, and newly acquired Jada Vineyards and Winery and Riboli Willow Creek vineyard (AL) in the Willow Creek District AVA. They also have four vineyard properties in the Arroyo Seco and Santa Lucia Highlands AVAs of Monterey and the Rutherford appellation of Napa Valley.

“What I like most about having our own vineyards is learning about the individual vineyards each year,” he said. “I can have a better experiential factor in the winemaking, which I believe is important. The longer we work with these vineyards, the more we know them, and that’s really exciting.”



Wine pairings

Riboli shared some tips on pairing his family wines with a variety of popular food items.

“My go-to wine is our San Simeon Pinot Noir. Whether served with turkey, ham, prime rib, or salmon, it’s just so versatile,” Riboli said. “For people who want a bigger, bolder red wine

with prime rib, the San Simeon Cabernet Sauvignon is fantastic. The Opaque Darkness, our red blend, is so smooth on the palette.”

Lighter foods and appetizers pair with the San Simeon Sauvignon Blanc, according to Riboli, so be sure to pick up a few bottles of this bright, refreshing wine.

“Rosé is very popular right now and there’s a lot of flexibility to pair these wines with many different foods,” Riboli said. “Our Maddalena Rosé is a nice blend, and our San Simeon Grenache Rosé is quite popular. Both of these wines go well with shrimp and other appetizers, and lighter entrees, including salmon and turkey. Our La Quinta Syrah Port is just fantastic with a flourless chocolate cake,” he said. “The sparkling red, semi-sweet Stella Rosa Rosso Lux, from our Italian import label, is a blend of barbera and brachetto, and just an incredible dessert wine. If your palate likes a sweeter style of wine, it also pairs well with turkey, ham, and lighter dishes.”

Visit the Riboli Family of San Antonio Winery tasting room in Paso Robles at 2610 Buena Vista Drive, at the intersection with Highway 46 East; open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more bistro hours and information, visit sanantoniowinery.com or call (805) 226-2600.

— Meagan Friberg

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Bruce Hansen and the wine roadshow that put Paso Robles on the map

‘We loaded our wine in the trunk of the car, and off we went’

There was a time back in the 1990s when few people outside of the area knew about Paso Robles wine. “So a bunch of us decided to take our wines on the road and introduce them to the rest of the country,” said Bruce Hansen, founder and winemaker of Hansen Vineyards. “We picked an area, found someplace where we could pour wine like a hotel or some event, loaded the wine in the trunk of the car, and off we’d go.”

The group made three or four trips a year between 2003 and 2009 to locations in California, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Dallas, and the East Coast. “Sometimes we flew, but most of the time we drove,” Bruce said.

Rich Hartnberger, founder and winemaker of Midnight Cellars, Doug Kruse of Jack Creek Cellars, Danny Panico of Dover Canyon Winery, and Joe Barton of Grey Wolf Barton Family Wines, came immediately to Bruce’s mind when talking about the wine roadshow.

Rich Hartenberger reports, “These trips were critical to spread the word. Paso was virtually unknown back then, and people were very open to learning about this new, exciting wine region!” He adds, “Of course, Justin Baldwin, Tobin James, Gary Eberle, and Art Norman, among many others, led the way for all of us newcomers.”

Building wineries and creating wine

Traveling for wine was nothing new to Bruce. Before starting Hansen Vineyards, he made a living building winery and vineyard buildings. “I must have built around



Owner and winemaker Bruce Hansen pouring for a barrel tasting.

500 different buildings for wineries from California up into Oregon,” he said. “Yes. I built everything here, too, from our home to the Cab House, and the rest.”

Bruce Hansen’s personal history with winemaking goes back to his childhood in Michigan. “Dad made wine at home and I helped him, which didn’t make Mom happy,” he reports. As an adult, he picked up winemaking tips and lessons from the various winemakers he worked with when constructing their winery buildings.

The friendships he made during his construction years helped launch Hansen Vineyards & Winery. When the time came for him to make wine, he bought a former almond orchard in 1992. After ripping out the old trees, he started planting rootstock, which has become 30 acres of 10 to 20-year-old vines growing mostly cabernet sauvignon grapes. Hansen Vineyards 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon was his first release.

“I had some great mentors,” said Bruce as he listed off names including Gary Eberle, Craig Reed, now at Castoro Cellars, Alan Kinne,

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Wine Tasting

winemaker at Martin & Weyrich, and Christian Roguenant, now at Lightpost Winery in Morgan Hill.

Since its first release, Hansen Vineyard & Winery has become known for excellent, award-winning wines. Bruce oversees everything with precise detail, from planting, growing, and harvesting to barrels, fermentation, and bottling.

The vines grow in soil consisting mainly of nutrient-rich black adobe with an abundance of shale and limestone. The wines are aged in 100% French Oak barrels for two and a half to four and a half years, accounting for the amazing results and the reason the wine is so drinkable shortly after being bottled. He produces around 1500 cases a year.

Hansen wines were awarded gold and silver medals at the 2024 American Fine Wine Competition. The Hansen Cab House 2019 Cabernet Franc and the Hansen Cab House 2021 Cabernet Franc both won gold medals. The Hansen Cab House 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon and Hansen Cab House 2018 Cab-



ernet Sauvignon both won silver medals.

Visit the winery and experience some serious wine. Chat with Bruce. Learn more about his wine-making, hear some tales from the

wine roadshow, and maybe get a hot tip on when the Cab Challenge is returning!

Visit the Hansen Vineyards and Winery tasting room at 5575 El Pomar Dr. in Templeton; open

Friday- Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for major holidays. For more information, visit hansenwines.com or call (805)-239-8412.

— Jackie Iddings

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Introducing the Bella Tasting Lounge at Asuncion Ridge Vineyards

Be among the first to initiate this new, modern tasting room

Exquisite wines from Asuncion Ridge Vineyards are now to be enjoyed at the Bella Tasting Lounge, located along the Backroads Wine Trail in Paso Robles Wine Country. This new location, surrounded by vineyards, offers spacious outdoor seating areas and a modern tasting room with comfortable lounge areas and modern art. Large windows and glass doors allow guests to enjoy the view with a bright, airy vibe.



Owners Michael Dilsaver and Philip Krumal, with Marco Patson and John Teeling.

A Santa Maria-style grill is the centerpiece on the patio, bringing a delicious Central Coast tradition

to select events and enhancing the wine and food pairing experience. Guests can relax in ample shaded

seating—ideal for warm Paso afternoons—while enjoying panoramic vineyard views. Whether savoring grilled bites with one of Asuncion Ridge's bold reds or lounging with a tasting experience, the setting invites guests to linger, unwind, and fully embrace the laid-back wine country scene.

The winery has enhanced its experience with a selection of curated wine tasting flights. The Classic Tasting features wines from the "White Label", offering a selection of the approachable whites, reds, and blends. The Reserve Tasting features premium wines from the "Black Label," which are typically limited in production and focus on specific varietals. Black label wines include (Barrel Select) Pinot Noir, Mourvèdre, Nefarious (Syrah with a

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Wine Tasting

touch of Grenache), and Inception (Cabernet Sauvignon with a kiss of Syrah).

The Asuncion Ridge brand was launched with the 2005 vintage, which focused on pinot noir. The winery continues to spotlight this varietal with a third tasting option of five wines made exclusively from pinot noir, including a rosé and select bottles from Windward Vineyards.

Director of Hospitality John Teeling sees a lot of potential for expansion. "We're very excited about this new location. It's a beautiful property, and we can't wait to harvest our first cabernet and syrah grapes from this vineyard. The added space opens the door to more events and growth. There are so many possibilities here."

Starting in June, the winery hosts a First Friday Live Music night every month from 5:30-8 p.m. The patio features local musicians, and food is available for purchase along with wine by the glass and bottle. First Fridays are free for club members.

Another wine club perk at the new location is a dedicated members-only area. On busy weekends, VIP guests can enjoy exclusive lounge access while savoring their wine.

As Asuncion Ridge continues to evolve, its people and commitment to hospitality remain unchanged. Guests are still welcomed by familiar faces, and the owners often mingle with guests during events and weekends.

John is also looking forward to getting to know his winery neighbors better. "The local wineries on the Backroads Wine Trail have made us feel incredibly welcome. There's a special sense of community here, and we're thrilled to be part of it."

Asuncion Ridge, located at 180 Bella Ranch Road, Templeton, is open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. First Friday hours are 5:30-8 p.m. For more information, visit asuncionridge.com or call (805) 237-1424.

— Lisa Pretty



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From villainess to vintner, how Carol Hoyt became an accidental winemaker

Where 'wine pairs best with friends'

When Carol and Stephen Hoyt were just married, a stay at a working vineyard inspired them to have a vineyard of their own. At the time, Carol was a working model and actress, best known for her popular character, the Villainous Divatox, in the Power Rangers series. Upon starting a family, Carol took a break from performing, and she and Stephen moved to Malibu. There they planted their first vineyard – in their backyard! Having no idea of what they were getting themselves into, Carol soon discovered they would have a lot of fruit, and quickly learned to make her first wine in their kitchen.

Long gone are the days of making wine at home. Carol now makes wine and grows all her grapes in the heart of Paso Robles. Nestled in the renowned Willow Creek District, Hoyt Family Vineyards is a gem among local wineries.

Hoyt Family Vineyards Ranch is a unique experience. "We are in the heart of some of the best wineries, just a hop, skip, and a jump from nearby vineyards and tasting rooms. You can have the experience of going downtown to their tasting room or book a vineyard tour right there on the ranch," said Carol, who is the owner and winemaker of Hoyt Family Vineyards.



The vineyard tour is like Mr. Toad's wild ride! Join the host, and Co-pilot Riley, the winery dog, on an ATV tour around the 130 acres, learning about viticulture and what it takes to grow grapes. You never know what wildlife you will encounter, from quail, hawks, turkey vultures, owls even bobcats! Along with feeding goats and picking farm-fresh eggs, it's a one-of-a-kind experience!

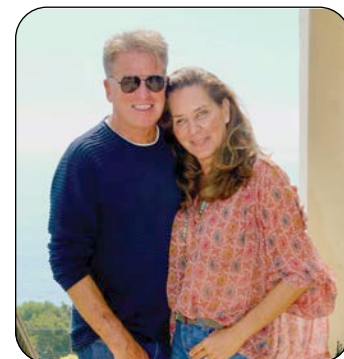
"The views around Paso are pretty spectacular, and we feel lucky to have some that rival the best! Truly amazing," said Carol.

The downtown Paso Robles tasting room offers a beachy, laid-back feel for guests. Chillax, enjoy its cool vibe and sip impressive wines by the flight, the glass, or the bottle. Make sure to try all their award-winning wines, including their most recent Gold Medal winners. Recent Gold Medal winners from the 2025 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition include the 2022 Zinfandel and the 2022 Grenache. If you favor Chardonnay, check out the 2021 and 2022 Hoyt Vineyard Chardonnays, both taking Gold Medals at the 2024 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition.

"We like to say 'Our Wines Pair Best With Friends' and we look forward to when people come visit us at the tasting room or the ranch. We want them to feel like family," Carol said.

Hoyt Family Vineyard Downtown Tasting Room is located at 1322 Park St. in Paso Robles. Open Thurs-Sat, from noon- 8 p.m., Sun noon- 5 p.m. Hoyt Family Vineyards Ranch is located at 2015 Township Rd. in Paso Robles. For more information, visit hoytfamilyvineyards.com or call (805) 369-1092.

— Sadie Mae Mace



Stephen and Carol Hoyt.

ONX Wines, where you learn what happens in the vineyard ends up in your glass

*In the tasting room,
at home, or in
the vineyards—
choose your tasting
experience*

Whether you are just starting to get into the wine scene, a more advanced oenophile, or a dirt geek interested in understanding more about terroir-driven wines showing a sense of place, ONX is a must-visit. Visit their Tin City tasting room and be welcomed into a best friend's comfortable living room, or sign up for their Vineyard Tour and Tasting experience. This is the ONX experience: Fine wine, a relaxed setting, education, humor, and great hospitality.



ONX Production team: Sam Carlson, Phoebe Bartoldus, Lauren Fessenden, Drew Nenow, and Matt Siegrist.

Put an ONX visit and tasting experience on your Paso Robles destination list.

Sip, learn, enjoy

A visit to the ONX tasting room exposes you to award-winning wines, hand-crafted under the profes-

sional guidance of Drew Nenow, head winemaker since 2018. Drew has wine in his veins—being the nephew of the owners/winemakers of Napa's Behrens & Hitchcock (Behrens Family) boutique winery.

During your tasting, enjoy a variety of their current releases. Depending on availability, it may also include a library wine or two. Drew's only rule in making fine wines is that there are no rules. Every year and every vintage are different, so get ready because each tasting of his creations will be different from the previous.

ONX is primarily a blend house, but don't overlook their single varietals, especially the Fiery Nights Syrah and Black Orchid Petite Syrah. All except two wines are estate-grown.

Due to the Templeton Gap's uniqueness, ONX grows over twenty grape varietals, including



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Rhone, Bordeaux, and Iberian grapes. Additionally, due to the terroir, microclimates, geography, and geology, ONX also grows several whites, including viognier and picpoul blanc. There are approximately 127 planted acres, producing 18 varietals; with the addition of the Willow Creek Vineyard, there are an additional three varietals. A certified sustainable winery, ONX is working on converting all of its vineyard operations to fully organic.

As you sip the wines, your host explains the grape and its characteristics and flavor profiles, including growing and harvesting practices. Jeff Streckas, director of wine growing, has been working with ONX since 2012 and led the way, focusing on creative blending, whether it was a Rhone blend, a Rhone/Bordeaux blend, or even a Rhone/Bordeaux/Iberian varietal blend. Paso Robles and ONX stand out because they weave a tapestry of grapes showing off expressions from various terroirs, creating unique, masterful, exciting, and interesting wines.

Jeff oversees all the vineyard and grape-growing activities. Starting his career as a biochemical engineer, he has an encyclopedic mind and an artistic and creative bend. Good luck if you ever get into a trivia contest with him about any subject! Jeff is part of an integral team, and each person brings unique attributes to create the final boutique product, ONX.

Experience ONX your way

ONX experiences fit anyone's interest level. Sit back and enjoy your tasting in a comfortable, relaxed setting, or explore a deep dive with vineyard tours or even in-home tastings. To get your wine salivary glands working, here are just a few of the options that await you in your wine journey:

- Tin City Winery/Tasting Room experience: Sample various current-release ONX wines (which may include some library selections) in the comfortable tasting room. Relax indoors or outdoors as your wine host guides you through the current tasting menu while explaining the ONX story and philosophy.

- Cellar'd Tasting: Consider booking this private winery and cellar tour for a deep dive into ONX wines and winemaking. Learn more about the details, intricacies, and the hows and whys of winemaking. During this special tour and tasting, you are treated to ONX's small production and library wines, paired with an artisanal charcuterie platter that will make your senses sing.

- Vineyard Tour and Tasting experience: Awaken your inner wine geek with this simply astonishing tour. For \$45 per person, you are treated to a selection of wines while touring the vineyard, and learning about soil, canopy, sustainability, organic growing techniques, and the harvest. Touring the vineyard, sipping, and enjoying the natural surroundings is captivating and deepens your appreciation of what goes into the wine.

- In-home experiences: ONX offers two different in-home experiences: a virtual tasting with pre-delivered wines or tasting ONX in the comfort of your own home, on your schedule, with an ONX host who will come to you!

While enjoying the ONX experience, keep an eye out for announcements about the team's newly launched venture, Kiler Canyon Vineyard.

The ONX Tin City tasting room is located at 2910 Limestone Way, Paso Robles. Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., last tasting at 4:00 p.m. For reservations, vineyard experiences, or more information, visit onxwines.com, or call (805) 400-0956.

— Don Sonderling.

Don Sonderling is a freelance writer covering California's unique lifestyle culture of wine, food, and adventure from Southern California through Napa and beyond. He may be reached at: donsonderling@gmail.com.



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Calendar of Events — see more at slovisitorsguide.com

Saturdays in the Park Atascadero Summer Concert Series

Every Saturday until Aug 30. 6:30-8:30 p.m.—Bring blankets, low-backed chairs, and a picnic. Free. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave, Atascadero. Visit visitatascadero.com/events.

Concerts in the Park, Paso Robles

Thursdays from June 12-Aug 28, 6-8 p.m.—Food and music at Downtown City Park, Paso Robles. Free. Visit prcity.com/concertsinthepark for more information.

By the Sea + Central Coast Printmakers

June 26-Aug 4, reception Sun, June 29, 2-4 p.m.—Artwork featuring members of the Central Coast Printmakers. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay. Free admission. For more upcoming exhibits, visit artcentermorrobay.org.

Fourth of July celebrations Atascadero Fourth of July Music Festival

July 4, 2-8 p.m. Free. Atascadero Lake Park, 9100 Morro Road, Atascadero. For more information, visit atascadero4thofjuly.org.

Cayucos—July 4, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. The sand sculpture contest starts at 4 a.m., street fair, BBQ, fireworks at the pier, and more. For more information, visit cayucoschamber.com.

Paso Robles—July 4, 2-10 p.m. Children's activities, live music, food trucks, fireworks. Free. Barney Schwartz Park, 2970 Union Road, Paso Robles. For more information, visit prcity.com.

Templeton—July 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Parade at 10 a.m., followed by live music, food trucks, and activities at Templeton Park until 3 p.m. For more information, visit templetonrotaryclub.com.

Arroyo Grande Concerts in the Park

The first concert is July 4, then weekly every Sunday until September 22, 1-3 p.m. Free. Historic Heritage Square Park, Arroyo Grande. For more information, visit arroyogrande.org.

Morro Bay Art in the Park

July 4-6 and Aug 30-Sept 1—Hundreds of art and craft vendors, food, and more. Morro Bay Park, on the corner of Morro Bay Blvd and Harbor Drive. For more information, visit morrobayartinthepark.com.

Grover Beach Summer Concert Series

Every Sunday from July 13-Aug 17, 3-6 p.m.—Great music, food trucks, beer and wine. 16th Street Park, Grover Beach. Free admission. Visit groverbeach.org.

California Mid-State Fair

July 16-27—4-H and FFA exhibitors, rodeo, horse shows, carnival rides, exhibits, food, shopping, and live music. Headliners include Flo Rida, Keith Urban, and more. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles. For tickets and more information, visit midstatefair.com.

39th Annual Central Coast Renaissance Festival

July 19-20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.—History comes alive with thrilling battles, lively performances, and vibrant marketplaces. Laguna Lake Park, 504 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. For tickets and more information, visit ccrenfaire.com.

Free Pancake Breakfast

July 24, 7:30-10:30 a.m.—Downtown City Park, Paso Robles. For more information, visit pasoroblesdowntown.org.

Paso Robles Rotary Winemakers' Cook-off

Aug 9, 6-9 p.m.—Enjoy local wine and excellent food, music, and a great time. Supports local youth scholarships. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles. For tickets and more information, visit winemakerscookoff.com.

Atascadero Lake Car Show and Dancing in the Streets

Sat, Aug 15-16, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.—The Mid-State Cruisers Car Show will be at Atascadero Lake Park from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Check out various antique and vintage cars, followed by Dancing in the Streets. Free. More information at visitatascadero.com.

Trading Day

Sat, Aug 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.—Arts, crafts, collectibles. Free. Downtown City Park, Paso Robles. For more information, visit pasoroblesdowntown.org.

Stone Soup Music Festival

Sat & Sun, Aug 23-24, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.—Music, food, and vendors at this free event. Ramona and 9th, Grover Beach. For more information, visit clarkcenter.org.

Brew at the Zoo

Sat, Sept 6, 5-8 p.m. 21+ Party with a Purpose fundraising event to support wildlife conservation. Live entertainment, dance, and hula hoop contests, food available for purchase. Supports Charles Paddock Zoo. For tickets and more information, visit charlespaddockzoo.org.

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.

Avila Beach—Fridays 4-8 p.m. at the Avila Promenade and Front St.

Baywood/Los Osos—Mondays 2-4:30 p.m. on Santa Maria St. between 2nd and 3rd St.

Cambria—Fridays 2:30-5 p.m. at 1000 Main St.

Cayucos—Fridays 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. until August 30 at Ocean Ave. and D St. Market.

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.

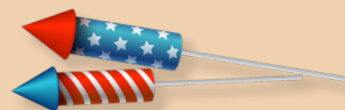
Paso Robles—Two weekly markets at 11th and Spring St. on Tuesdays, 9-11:30 a.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. near Downtown City Park.

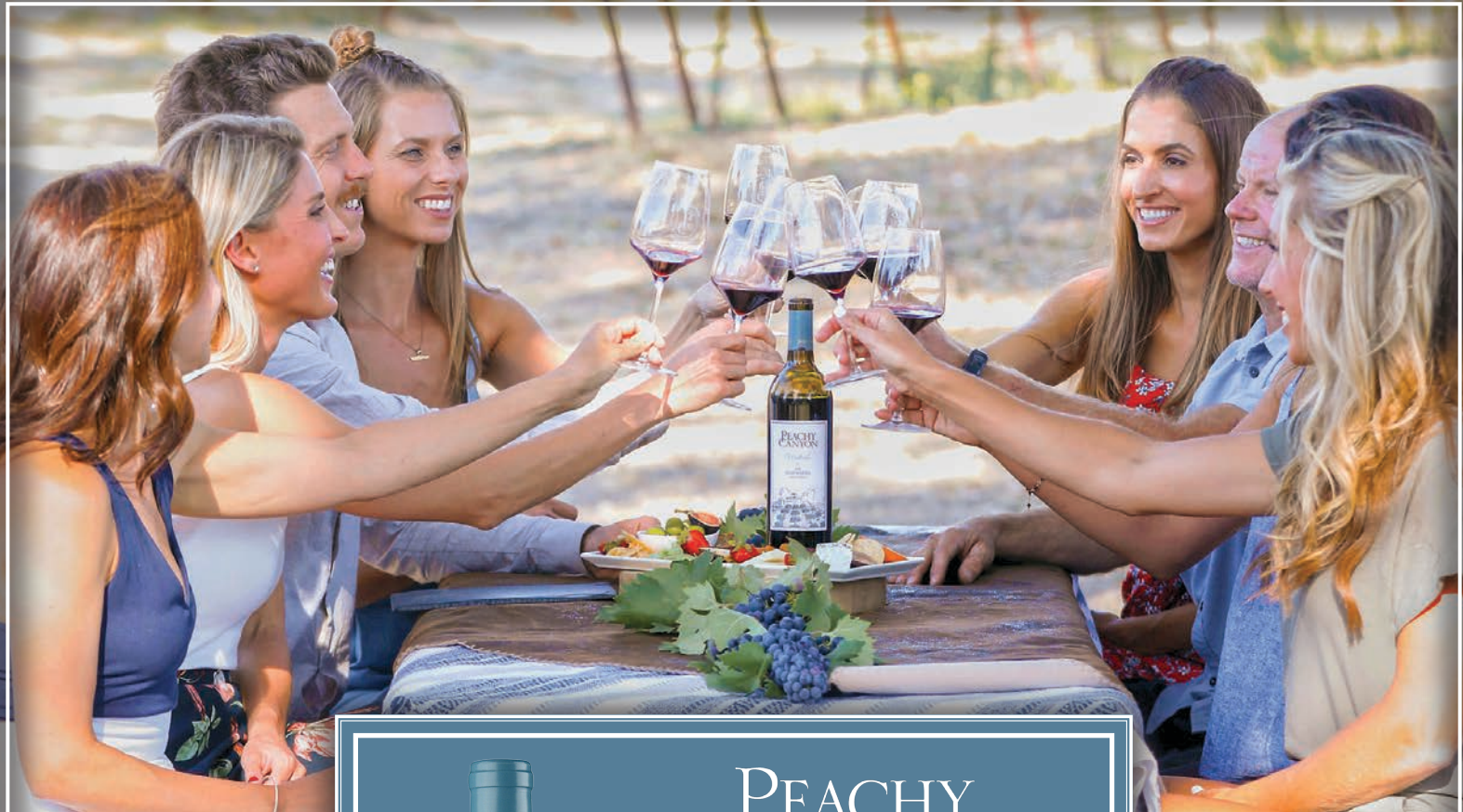
Pismo Beach—Wednesdays 4-7 p.m. on the Pier Promenade.

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.

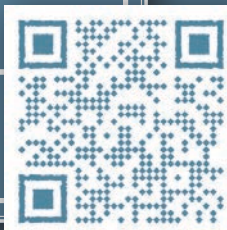




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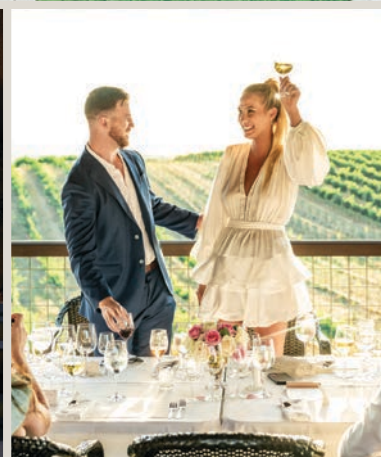
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