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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

VISITORS GUIDE

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Additional emergency planning information regarding DCPP is available at **www.ReadySLO.org**.

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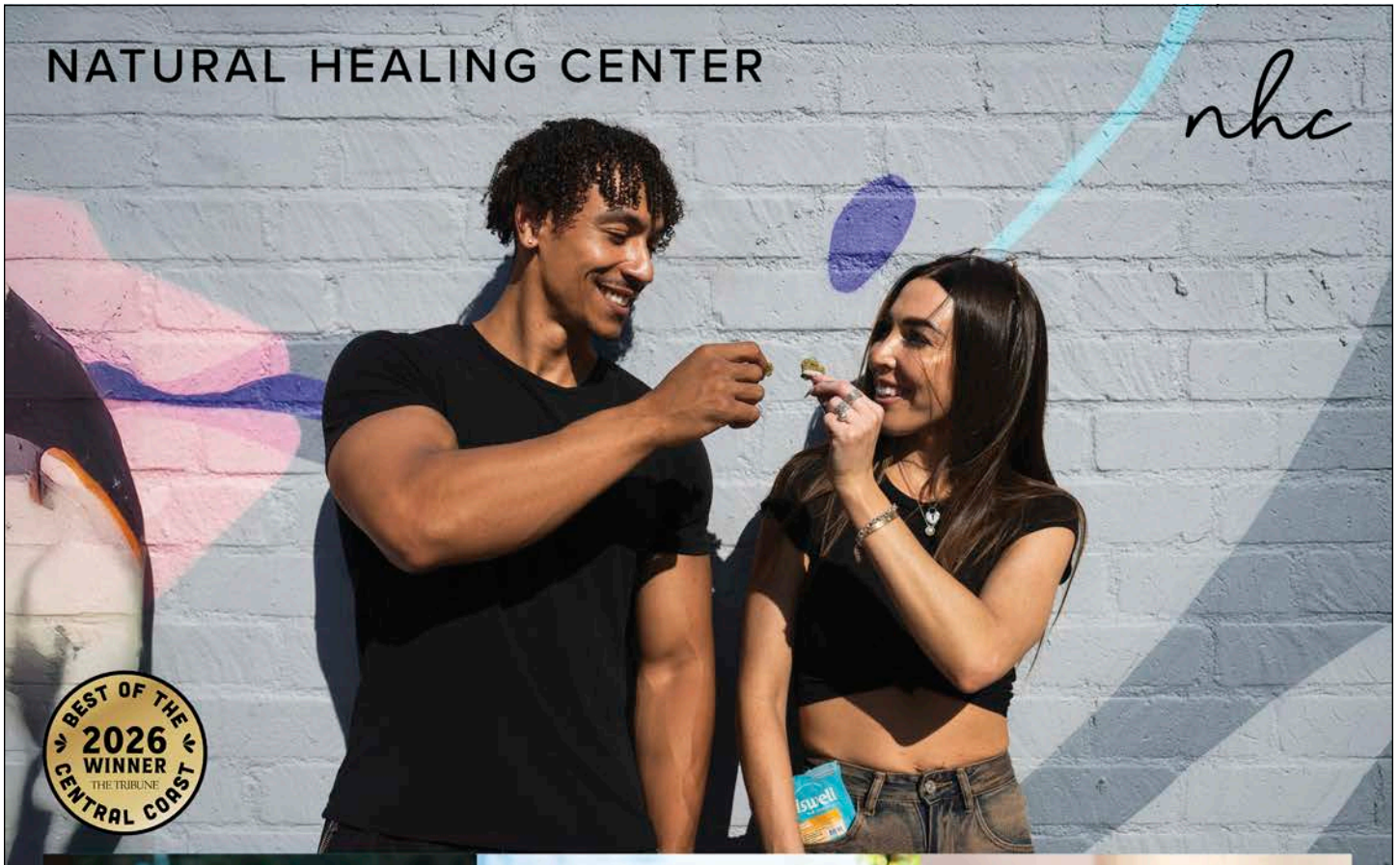

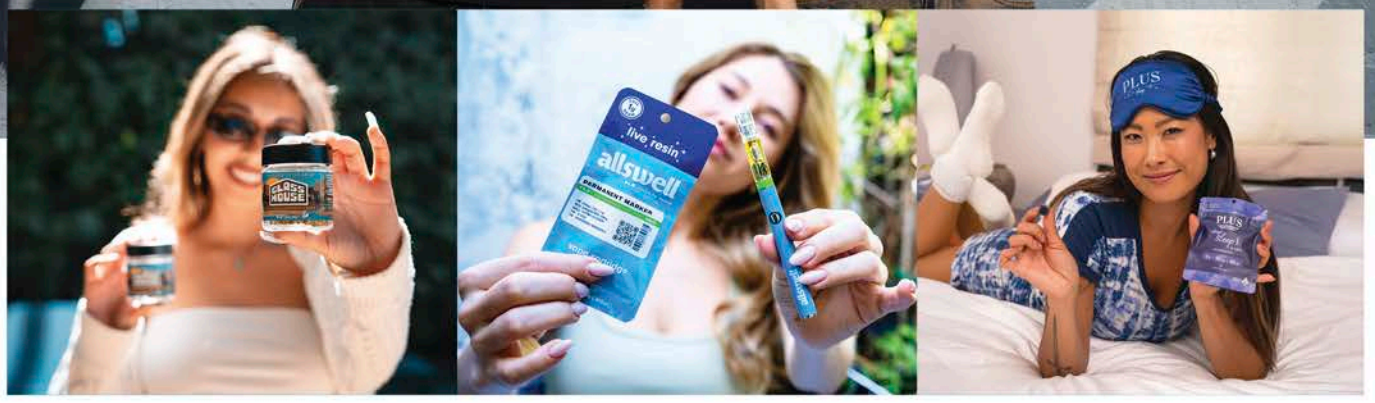

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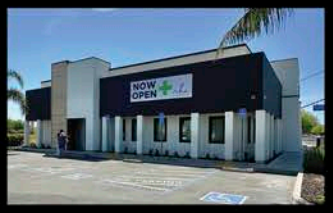

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Welcome to

San Luis Obispo County

Find a map of things to do and see!

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Welcome to San Luis Obispo County

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

Welcome to California's scenic Central Coast, where the arrival of fall brings crisp, refreshing weather. Thank you for picking up this newest edition of the San Luis Obispo County Visitor's Guide!

There is no shortage of places to explore and experiences to enjoy throughout the Central Coast. As temperatures begin to ease, fall is an ideal season for spending time outdoors while discovering local landmarks, dining destinations, wineries, boutiques, and one-of-a-kind shops. With the holidays approaching, everyone begins planning holiday activities and making special shopping lists.

Holiday shopping becomes even more memorable at the annual Cambria Christmas Market at Cambria Pines Lodge. Bring the family to wander among 3 million sparkling lights, visit Santa, browse handcrafted gifts, and enjoy the season's magic. Learn more about the Christmas Market in this issue, then add it to your holiday plans.

Fall also marks a lively season for anticipated community events, festivals, and harvest celebrations. These gatherings highlight the work of local artists, makers, chefs, and winemakers, while honoring the abundance produced by the region's farms and vineyards. During harvest season, area wineries welcome guests into their tasting rooms to enjoy favorite award-winning pours.

Inside these pages, you'll find helpful ideas for experiencing SLO County wineries, restaurants, boutiques, museums, trails, beaches, outdoor recreation, and welcoming places to stay. Every page offers new ways to make the most of your visit, with options the entire family can enjoy.

From all of us on the staff, welcome to San Luis Obispo County. We hope your time on the Central Coast is truly enjoyable!

Beth

San Luis Obispo County VISITORS Guide

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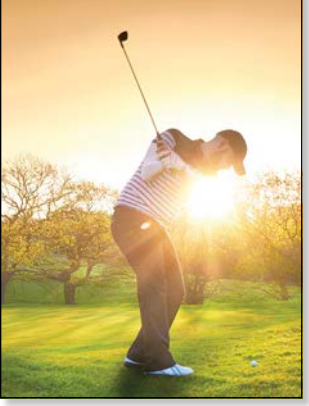

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San Luis Obispo

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 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

Coast to Vine Adventures

Discover the Central Coast with a boutique tour service offering custom, small-group wine and coastal excursions. From Edna Valley to Paso Robles, every detail is handled so guests can relax, sip, and savor every moment. Coasttovine.com, (805) 254-4297

Ride-On Transportation

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Mistura Restaurant

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Nicola Restaurant
Chef Nicola Allegretta has now created a new concept restaurant experience that combines both Italian and Peruvian traditional techniques and ingredients. This fusion is called "Bachiche" in Peru. Discover this new trend for yourself and enjoy the beautiful interior ambiance. 11560 Los Osos Valley Road, #190, SLO, nicolaslo.com, (805) 439-0262

Golf

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

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

Real Estate

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Shopping

Cal Poly Mustang Shop
The perfect spot for students, parents, and alumni to find jackets, hoodies, shirts, gifts, campus living and school supplies, and student-made products. Two San Luis Obispo locations: on campus at 1 Grande Avenue (805) 457-9652, and downtown at 1144 Chorro St. (805) 853-2062. Visit bkstr.com/calpolystore/home

Central Coast Surfboards
Authentic surf culture, offering surf and skate gear, apparel, expert advice, and gear for every wave rider, beginner or pro. Stop by for local knowledge, equipment, and a good time. Mon-Sun 10 a.m.-6 p.m., 855 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, ccsurf.com, (805) 541-1129

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

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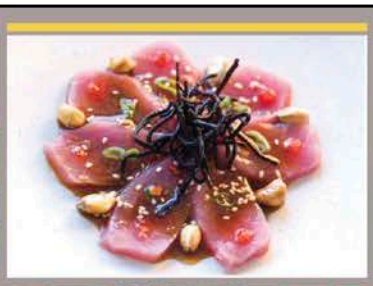

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Cal Poly Mustang Shop reopens bigger and better than ever!

A part of downtown San Luis Obispo since 1993

The Cal Poly Mustang shop reopened in June 2026 at a new location in Downtown San Luis Obispo. Despite moving multiple times over the decades, Cal Poly has had a downtown store location since 1993.

When asked what is exciting about this new location, Store Manager Ian Rodarte responds, "Location, location, location. The traffic we see from people traveling to and from the adjacent parking structure is much greater than the traffic at our old location. Our new location is larger than our previous one on Higuera. It features abundant natural light and high ceilings. This helps create a welcoming environment for visitors to shop and also helps to highlight our products."

Unique, student-made products from candy to sauces, spices, and jam.

Cal Poly's first shop was the El Corral Bookstore, which opened in 1933 in the basement of the Clocktower adjacent to Dexter Lawn. In 1970, the bookstore moved to the University Union Building, where it is today.

The Cal Poly Downtown Store opened in 1993 near the corner of Morro and Higuera streets. In 2012, the store was rebranded as the Cal Poly University Store. In 2016, it moved to the corner of Garden and

Higuera streets, doubling the store's size and providing a modern, inviting retail environment for shoppers. Recent years, 2021 and 2022, saw an extensive remodel of the campus store. In 2022, both the campus and downtown stores were rebranded as the Cal Poly Mustang Shop.

Unique student-made products

The downtown location offers items that you can't get anywhere else, from Champion hooded sweatshirts, Cal Poly license plate frames, student-made jams, chocolate, olive oil, ice cream, and other unique gifts. "These products are favorites among alumni, students, and visitors looking for distinctive Cal Poly merchandise and locally inspired gifts," Rodarte adds.

The Cal Poly Mustang Shop also highlights student entrepreneurs by selling their items and supporting their business endeavors through the school's Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) Program. Shopping downtown is an opportunity to support CIE students.

Cal Poly-branded golf equipment makes great gifts.

"We are very excited to share space with CIE. This only adds to the customer base we built at our previous location and adds the ability to collaborate on connected events," he says.

Mornings seem to be the busiest time for shopping, and downtown events, such as the Thursday Farmers Market, bring in more customers. Cal Poly merchandise is popular with families and alumni. And the variety of products makes the store a great place for gift and souvenir shopping.

While textbooks are not sold at the downtown store, it is a pickup location for online orders. Students can conveniently order books and course materials online and choose any Cal Poly Mustang Shop location for in-store pickup.

The Cal Poly Mustang Shop is located at 1144 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo. Open daily, Monday –Saturday 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and until 8 p.m. on Thursday, and Sunday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information, visit bkrstr.com/cal-polystore/home or call (805) 853-2062.

— Maylia Baird

Central Coast Surfboards, a California cool tradition for first-time surfers to pros

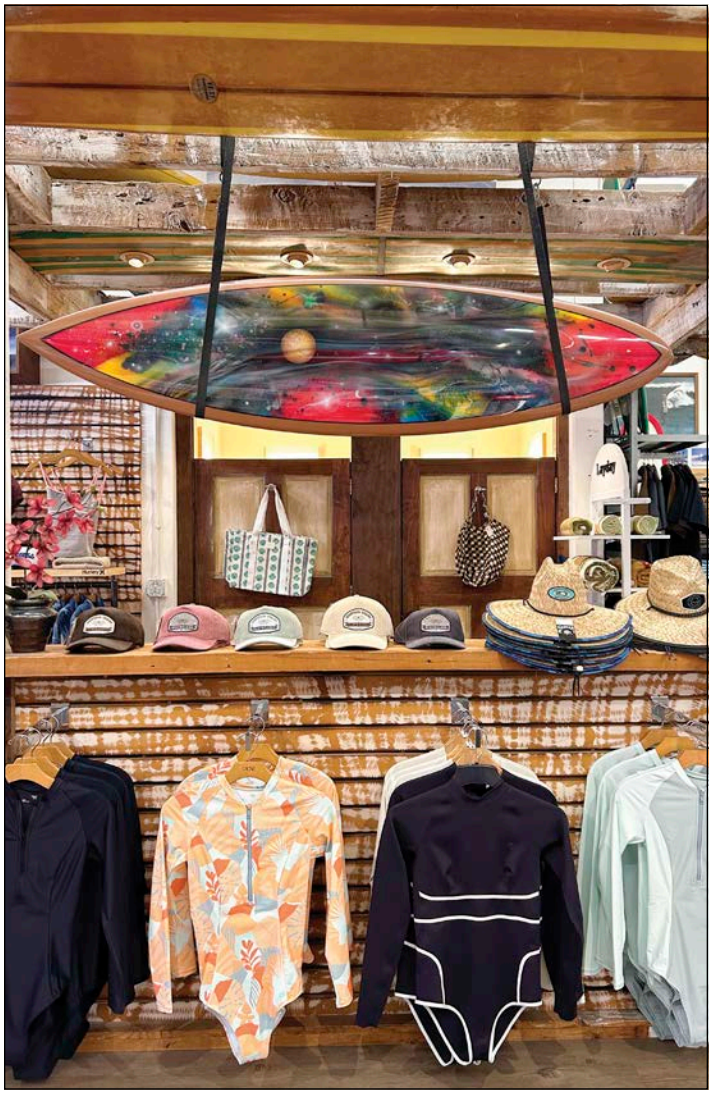
Serving generations for over 50 years

In 1991, Scott Smith walked into Central Coast Surfboards and thought, "This is my shop." He had just moved to San Luis Obispo, and walking into the shop felt like home. Over 25 years later, in 2017, he bought it and is on a mission to preserve the business so everyone can feel that same sense of belonging.

Since taking over Central Coast Surfboards, Smith has been determined to preserve the shop. "It's been here over 50 years, and there have been thousands of employees and customers, generations of people who have shopped at this store. So, my whole job is to preserve the business. Everyone who has walked through the door in the past 50 years is honored here. That's the basis of everything. That's what gets me here every day."

Meet the Central Coast Surfboard staff. Left to right, Stephen Ruiz, Drew Miller, and owner Scott Smith.

Growing up in Cupertino meant that surfing was a weekend escape for Smith. However, once he could drive, surfing became an obsession. In 1991, at 22 years old, he moved to San Luis Obispo, hoping to get into Cal Poly. "They wouldn't have me," he says casually, but that worked out for the best because his love of water and wind sports led him to a job



It's easy to be stylish at Central Coast Surfboards.

at Hind Sporting, which was a manufacturer in town. There, he got an education in sports retail and became a triathlete.

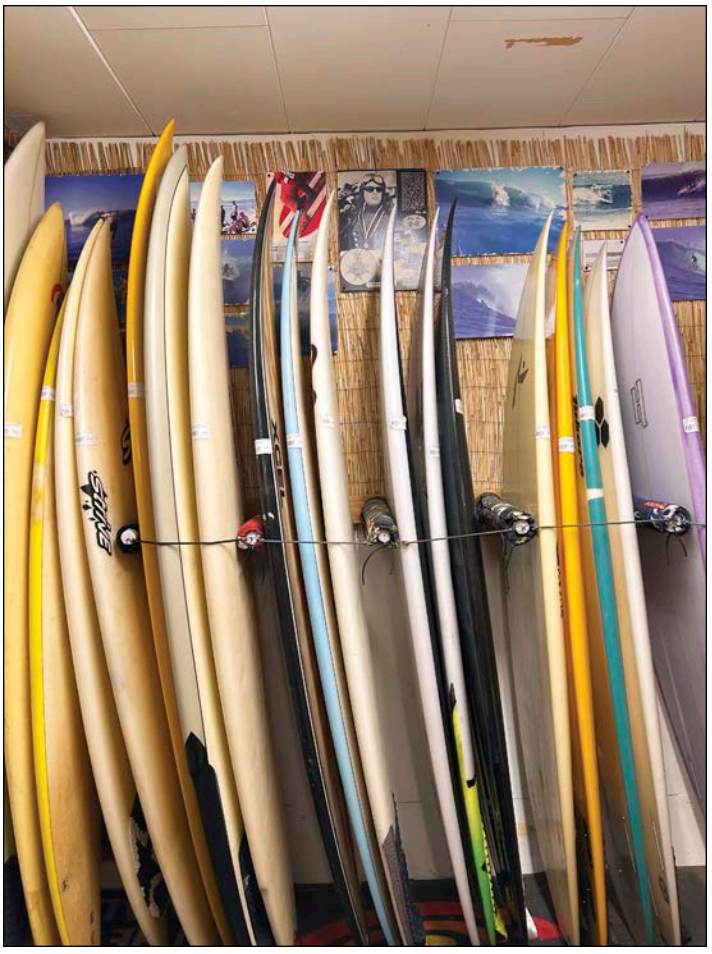
"I started in triathlons in the early 90s, and that was a big part of my identity through the 90s. That sport kind of became my education instead of going to Poly. That sounds ridiculous, but I learned how to get stuff done. Coming here was kind of like coming back home to surfing."

The determination and endurance he learned in triathlons led him to become a part-owner of Art's Cyclery for 16 years. He has spent his whole life in surf shops, windsports, and cycling. "It's been fun," he says, "Brief moments of boring jobs to get me to the next step, but I've been fortunate to be in this world."

Gear for those first waves to pro-level

Central Coast Surfboards is the premier shop on the Central Coast with the largest selection of surf gear. Smith says, "I'm an equipment dork. I want the gear. I want people to come in here and feel like they don't have to go anywhere else."

Whether you're an absolute beginner or a championship tour pro, they have what you need. They sell surf gear, boards, wetsuits, leashes, essentially everything you need to surf. They also have men's, women's, and children's apparel. Of course, they also sell skateboards. Smith says, "You can build the fanciest skateboard or the simplest board you want here. It's a one-stop



New and used surfboards for every budget.

shop. We have the top brands of surfboards and wetsuits. You can compare. If we don't have it, we can get it. The goal is to have something for everybody."

There's also something for everyone in each price point. There's a whole room of used surfboards for people who want to surf, but don't want to spend a lot. Smith wants the shop to feel like a home away from home for everyone. When you step inside, it's hard not to get caught up in the California cool aesthetic of surfboards, skateboards, and casual clothing.

Central Coast Surfboards is located at 855 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo. Open daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, visit ccsurf.com or call (805) 541-1129.

— Karen Lycan

Remembering and honoring local veterans

The Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum is open to all

Memorabilia donated by the family of Seaman Second Class Clifton Scroggins, US Navy, 1918-1919.

Step into history at the Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum (CCVMM) and learn about the military artifacts on display. Experienced and knowledgeable docents are present to provide historical details. Visitors can expect to see artifacts from wars dating back to World War I and gain a greater understanding of military history.

"We are a free, all-volunteer museum that honors and remembers our veterans, with a special emphasis on Central Coast veterans. We are an educational facility giving a voice to veterans' stories. We feature authors and historians for our speaker series and conduct outreach throughout the Central Coast. We are the only Central Coast partners with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. This project records and preserves veterans' stories," President and Director Bart Topham said.

History on display

Founded in 2002, the Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum has collected artifacts from the local and national community. The displays include uniforms from World War II, recruitment signs, a military communications unit, and more. One special item is a piece from the U.S.S. Arizona, which was destroyed during the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

Be sure to stop by the armory, which displays over 100 weapons from the Vietnam War, World War II, and others. There are multiple opportunities to interact with history through videos and kiosks. Displays are changed twice a year, so there is always something new to discover with each visit. Group tours are available, and guests can approach any friendly docent with questions about the exhibits.

"As a result of our schools teaching less and less about our conflict history, our military, and our veterans and their contributions, it has become even more essential for the Central Coast community to visit and support their veterans' museum. It's important to bring our young people to learn more about what has been done on their behalf, and what it means to be an American," Topham said.

The Veteran's History Project

CCVMM is the only Central Coast site in California certified by the Library of Congress for recording interviews for the Veterans History Project. So far, CCVMM has recorded over 500 stories.

The Veterans History Project is an important part of the museum's mission, with the website noting that they "believe every veteran's story of service is worthy of preservation, whether they served during peacetime or wartime, regardless of what job they performed. Their service and sacrifices will not be forgotten."

This history project is a free service for every veteran, whether serving during peacetime or wartime. Every story matters and deserves to be recorded. Contact CCVMM to learn more.

"We rely on the Central Coast community for support, donations, and input. We are your Central Coast Veterans Museum," Topham said.

The Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum is located at 801 Grand Avenue, Suite 102, in San Luis Obispo. Open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit vetmuseum.org or call (805) 543-1763.

— Sadie Mae Mace

A taste of SLO wine country, from barrel rooms to bocce courts

Savor wine from some of the region's earliest AVAs

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. Sparkling wine is still made in the area.

Plan a day of adventure, sipping great wine, sampling apple brandy, and playing some bocce ball.

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

Sip wine among the barrels at Claiborne and Churchill Winery

Claiborne & Churchill Winery, operated 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.

BAILEYANA
TANGENT & TRUE MYTH
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

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, a family-friendly tasting room, and a bocce ball court, a visit is a truly memorable experience.

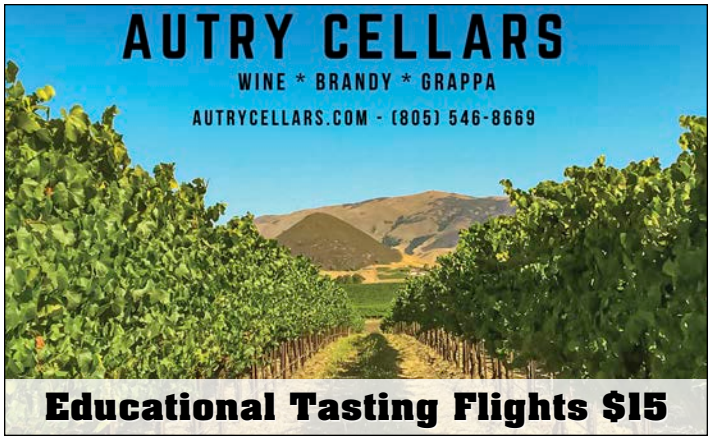
Veteran winemaker Rob Takigawa focuses on bringing elegant chardonnays, aromatic whites, and pinot noir wines from the cool Edna Valley and powerful reds from the warmer Paso Robles to Baileyana visitors. These wines are rich in stories, well told by the engaging tasting room team.

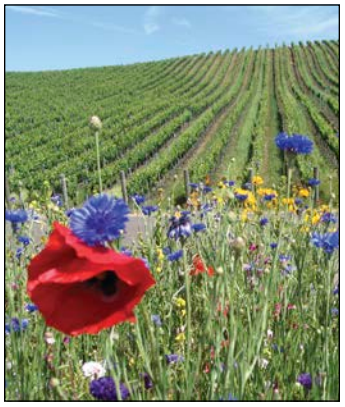
Over the years, they have expanded their picturesque garden area to accommodate more guests and larger parties for tastings and seasonal events.

The upscale, welcoming tasting room is in the barrel room. 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.

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.





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. For more information, visit baileyana.com.

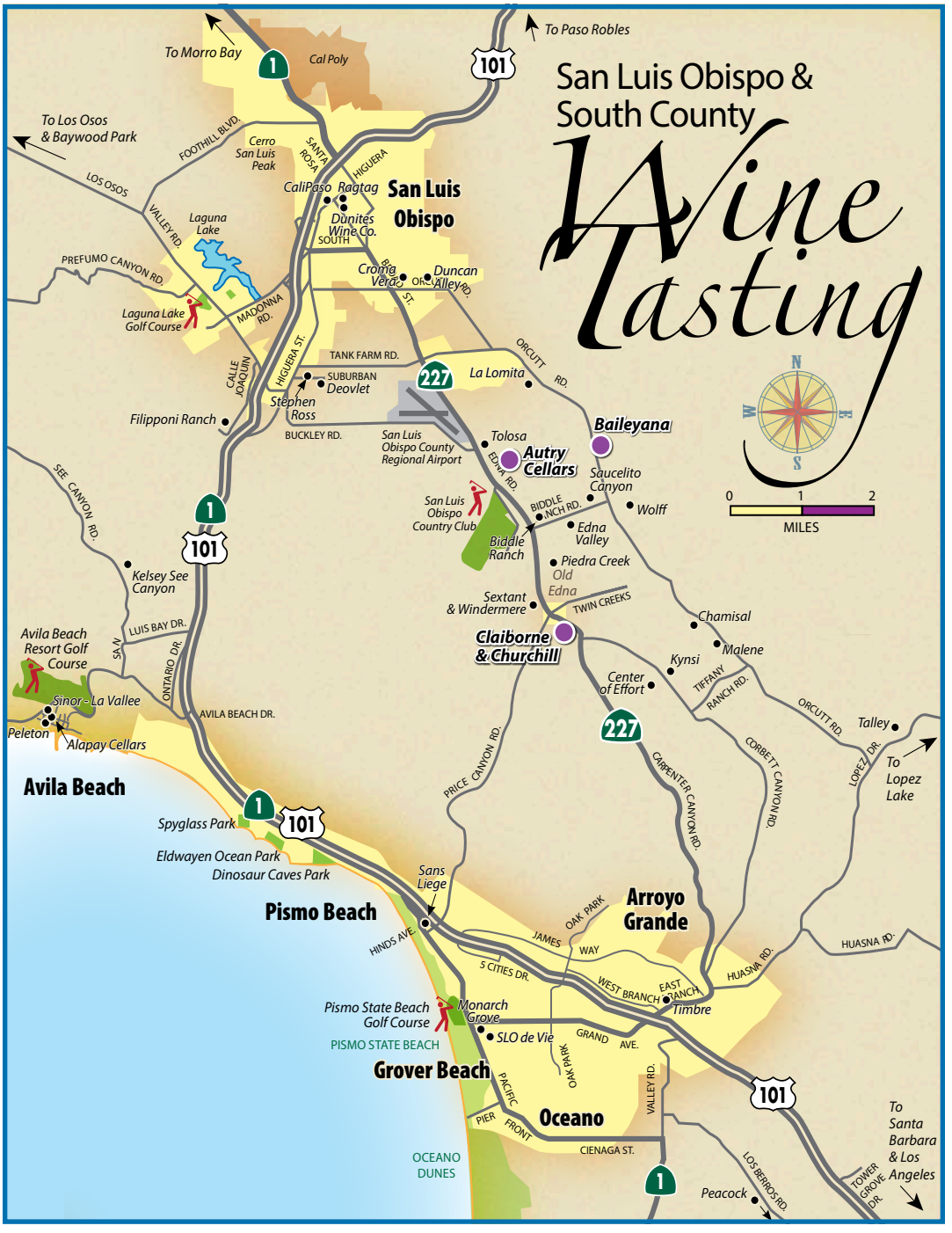
Award-winning wine, grappa, and brandy at Autry Cellars

Autry Cellars overlooks vineyards and a 40-mile view of the Santa Lucia mountain range. 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 reservation 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.



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.

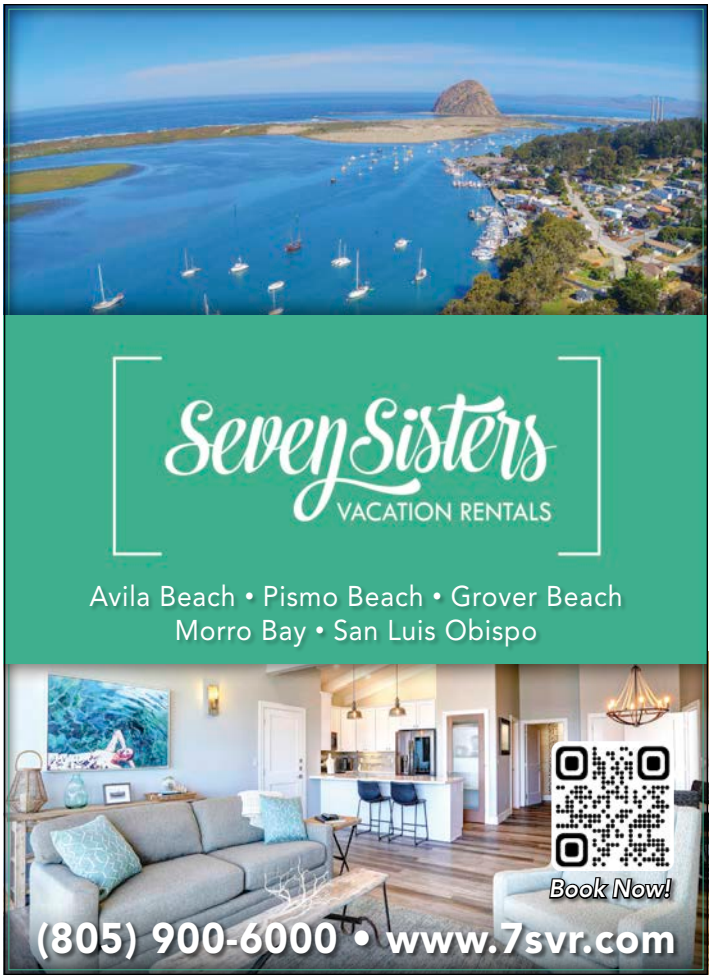
Hiking

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

Seven Sisters Vacation Rentals

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



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 pismobeach.org/288/Dinosaur-Caves-Park for more information.

Oceano Dunes

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

Ocean views

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

- Chumash Park covers 38-acres of wetlands, willows, oaks and is home to a rich variety of birds and wildlife. Bring a camera. Leashed dogs are welcome.
- Eldwayen Ocean Park meanders over a mile along the bluffs and has stairs down to the beach and the tidepools. Check a tide chart to visit during low tide to explore the tidepools.
- Margo Dodd Park, located on a bluff above the ocean includes breathtaking panoramas of the ocean, beaches and surrounding areas. Bring binoculars and a camera. Walk the sandy beach to a tidepool at the end of Pier Street.

Hiking and scenic walks at the Pismo Preserve

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

Price Historical Park

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

Rock & Roll Diner
Greek, Mexican, all-American food, barbecue, and award-winning clam chowder. Dine in 1950s-styled authentic train cars for great food, nostalgic music, and a family-friendly experience. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. 1300 Railroad St., Oceano, rockandrolldiner.com, (805) 473-2040

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

The Boardroom Sports Bar and Pub
Go from pier to beer in seconds, where the Central Coast parties! Along with a hand-picked selection of the finest beer, the pub offers Central Coast wines and an extensive menu of delicious food. 160 Hinds Ave, Ste 101, Pismo Beach, (805) 295-6222, boardroompismobeach.com

RV Resorts

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

Shopping

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

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

Pismo Fish and Chips—where original customers now bring their grandkids

Awarded the Best Seafood Restaurant by the 2026 Tribune Best of the Central Coast

No trip to the beach is complete without a bowl of clam chowder or a plate of fresh fish and chips. Pismo Fish and Chips has been providing delicious clam chowder, hearty fresh meals, and award-winning seafood since the early 1960s. The restaurant became a local tradition during the more than 50 years that the founding Zechner family owned it.

The place to go when you're in the mood for lobster and steak.

When Karishma and Arpan Smith purchased it in 2014, they committed to honoring the restaurant's rich heritage and its importance to generations of customers.

"Every day we hear stories from our customers about how they have been coming here since the 60s or 70s, and now they bring in their grandkids. It has become a family tradition to come here every time they are in Pismo, and they have so many memories built in this place over the years," said Karishma.

Little has changed inside the restaurant since 1963. The large mural of Holland is still on the wall, and diners sit in cozy booths. Many of the employees have been there for decades, and the meals that people lined up for in the 1960s are still on the menu, made from the same recipes.

Pismo Fish and Chips, the best clam chowder and shrimp bowls in town!

Enjoy traditional menu favorites, new specials, and cocktails!

Over time, the Smiths have added new specials offered alongside the traditional menu. "We are known for our wild-caught Alaskan Cod Fish and Chips. Each order is hand-cut and hand-dipped in our signature tempura-style batter and made fresh per order," said Karishma.

Of course, the menu has more than just fish and chips. Diners can order a bowl of chowder, a hamburger, a salad, grilled fish, or even crab legs and lobster, seasonal specials that change every few months, and a variety of other choices. Check out the menu on the website (pismofishandchips.com), and order online, too.

Cocktails and local wine are also served. Favorites include Margarita, Paloma, Bloody Mary, Barrel-aged Old Fashioned, Lemon Drop, and Pismo Spritz.

From Holland to creating a Pismo Beach tradition

Pismo Fish and Chips became a true success story beginning when the Zechner family immigrated to America from Holland in 1959. They did odd jobs around town and even received help from a local church. With $500, Ann Zechner opened a fresh fish market across from the restaurant's current location. She had no experience running a fish market, but that didn't matter. It was a success!

Her husband, Jack Zechner, who was helping in the market, found a wallet nearby with $900 inside (for context, the minimum wage was $1.00 per hour in 1962). He immediately called the man who had lost his wallet. Of course, the man was grateful and offered a large reward, but Jack refused. The man turned out to be the local bank president, and he told Jack to call if he ever needed help.

Well, the Zechners wanted to open a restaurant, but couldn't raise the money they needed. They tried everything with no success. Then, Jack contacted the bank president, who gave them the loan even though they didn't qualify for it. Jack's good deed paid off because they opened Pismo Fish and Chips in 1963 with that loan, and the rest is history.

Stop by and taste a bit of Pismo Beach history on your next trip!

Pismo Fish and Chips, located at 505 Cypress Street in Pismo Beach, is open Tuesday-Sunday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information or to order online, visit pismofishandchips.com or call (805) 773-2853.

All aboard the Rock & Roll Diner for classic American and Greek food

2026 Silver Best Diner by the Tribune's Best of the Central Coast

The Rock & Roll Diner in Oceano is more than a restaurant; it's an experience inside vintage railroad dining cars. Walk through the doors and be transported back to a simpler time, surrounded by classic Americana, nostalgic décor, and timeless music. The entire experience blends beautifully to create an atmosphere unlike anywhere else on the Central Coast.

Owned and operated by Marios Pouyioukkas, who also owns Pismo Coast Village Grill, the restaurant has become a destination for locals and visitors, including international travelers. The combination of award-winning food, authentic railroad history, and genuine hospitality has made Rock & Roll Diner a San Luis Obispo County favorite for nearly three decades.

"Hospitality has always been more than a business to me," said Marios. "It's a passion rooted in my Greek heritage and in the belief that every guest should be welcomed like family. We believe great restaurants are about more than food. They're about making people feel welcome, creating memories, and giving guests a reason to come back. Our goal is simple: serve great food, provide outstanding service, and make every guest feel like part of our family."

Menu choices include traditional Greek dishes.

Housed inside beautifully restored vintage railroad dining cars that preserve an important piece of American history, the vibe at Rock & Roll Diner is warm, relaxed, welcoming, nostalgic, and family-friendly. Inside, find classic railroad memorabilia, vintage signs, nostalgic Americana, and rock & roll influences that celebrate both music and the golden era of rail travel. Outside, enjoy patio dining while taking advantage of the beautiful Central Coast weather.

"Many first-time visitors spend almost as much time taking pictures as they do enjoying their meals, because there's something interesting to see around every corner," Marios adds.

More like home than a restaurant

Marios is eager to sing his staff's praises. Whether guests choose to dine in, order takeout, or have the Rock & Roll team cater an event, the goal is always to serve quality food with genuine hospitality.

"Our staff is truly the heart of Rock & Roll Diner," he said. "Many of our team have been with us for years and know the menu inside and out. Our staff is passionate about helping guests choose dishes they'll enjoy, explaining ingredients, making recommendations, and accommodating dietary requests whenever possible. Everyone works hard to preserve one of California's most iconic diners while continually improving the food, service, and the overall guest experience."

Regular customers and the staff all know each other's names. Maintaining those personal relationships is just one more way that makes Rock & Roll Diner feel more like home than just like another restaurant. Appreciation for loyal customers is evident daily.

"Without their support, none of these accomplishments, including our Best of the Central Coast 2026 award, would have been possible," Marios said. "As for our staff, the dedication, hard work, and genuine care for our guests are what make this restaurant successful every single day."

Every meal is prepared as if for your own family

The Rock & Roll Diner chefs focus on creating food that brings people together. Whether it's a family celebrating a birthday, someone discovering the diner for the first time, or longtime regulars returning for their favorite breakfast, every plate is another opportunity to create a memory.

Marios adds that the kitchen is built around one simple philosophy, "cook every meal as if you're preparing it for your own family."

The diverse menu features classic American diner traditions and authentic Greek family recipes. On any given day, the team is busy preparing comfort food, fresh seafood, slow-smoked barbecue, homemade soups, authentic Greek specialties, and big portion breakfast favorites.

"Here, you'll discover a unique dining experience you won't find anywhere else," continues Marios. "I especially enjoy introducing guests to our authentic Greek dishes. Many people are pleasantly surprised to discover traditional Mediterranean cuisine inside a classic American diner!"

Not-to-be-missed food at Rock & Roll Diner includes the homemade clam chowder, recognized with the 2024 Pismo Beach Clam Festival Judges' Award. Other guest favorites include the chicken-fried steak, barbecue tri-tip, barbecue beef or pork baby back ribs, Rock & Roll burger, homemade meatloaf, and breakfast Benedict.

Be sure to try traditional offerings such as the Greek gyros, slow-braised lamb shank, filet mignon, or chicken souvlaki kebabs, moussaka, and spanakopita. Don't forget to save room for dessert! Pies and other homemade desserts are prepared fresh daily.

Happy hour, fresh specials, and community

Happy Hour at Rock & Roll Diner features a variety of food and drink specials in a relaxed atmosphere, Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m.

Daily lunch and dinner specials are offered throughout the week, with the chefs constantly developing new specials while keeping the classic favorites guests have loved for decades. They also enjoy creating seasonal dishes using fresh ingredients whenever possible, and holidays bring opportunities to introduce unique family-style meals and seasonal desserts.

Deeply committed to the local community, the Rock & Roll Diner team strives to give back as they participate in numerous events throughout the year and support many local organizations through charitable giving, sponsorships, and fundraisers. They also serve as a major sponsor of the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Greek Festivals.

Mario invites everyone to come experience Rock & Roll Diner for themselves. "Whether it's your first visit or your hundredth, we'll be here with a warm welcome, generous portions, and a dining experience you'll remember long after the meal is over."

Rock & Roll Diner is located at 1300 Railroad St. in Oceano. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more information and to view the menu, visit rockandrolldiner.com or call (805) 473-4040, or follow on Facebook and Instagram.

—Meagan Friberg

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www.PismoCoastVillage.com rv@visitpcv.com

The best-dressed beachgoers shop at Ashtie's Beach Shack

Beachwear, blankets, sweatshirts, souvenirs, and more

Hand-painted piggy banks are a fun way to save for the future.

Ashtie's Beach Shack in Pismo Beach supplies tourists and locals alike with everything beach-themed. From boutique clothing, souvenirs, blankets, sandals, swimsuits, and more, it can be found at Ashtie's.

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

Stock up for the whole family

Popular and affordable items at the store include sweatshirts in sizes to suit everyone, Baja shirts, blankets, sandals, and swimsuits. Bring the kids, because Ashtie's has what beach kids need and want!

Graphic t-shirts and sweatshirts pay homage to the local area, and make great gifts, too! Hats and caps, from baseball caps to wide-brimmed fashion statements, top off the perfect beach look.

Ashtie's Beach Shack also stocks the Earthly Body brand of personal care products, which includes hand and body lotion, miracle oil, and CBD cream.

Everything is affordable, so the whole family can stock up on fun goodies and clothing at a good price.

A local favorite with an international vibe

Ashtie's Beach Shack is a big draw for visitors to the area, and it's a favorite for local shoppers. There are plenty of affordable high-end items for both personal use and gifts. Tourists from around the world visit The Shack while on the Central Coast, including guests from Australia, France, England, Germany, Canada, Dubai, and more.

The varied selection of affordable merchandise offers something for everyone. The vibe is fun and welcoming, and the quality of merchandise, the pricing, and friendly customer service get rave reviews on Yelp!

Ashtie's Beach Shack is conveniently located close to the Pismo Beach pier and an easy stroll to the beach. There are many other shops and restaurants nearby, offering an enjoyable day exploring the community of Pismo Beach.

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

—Sadie Mae Mace

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

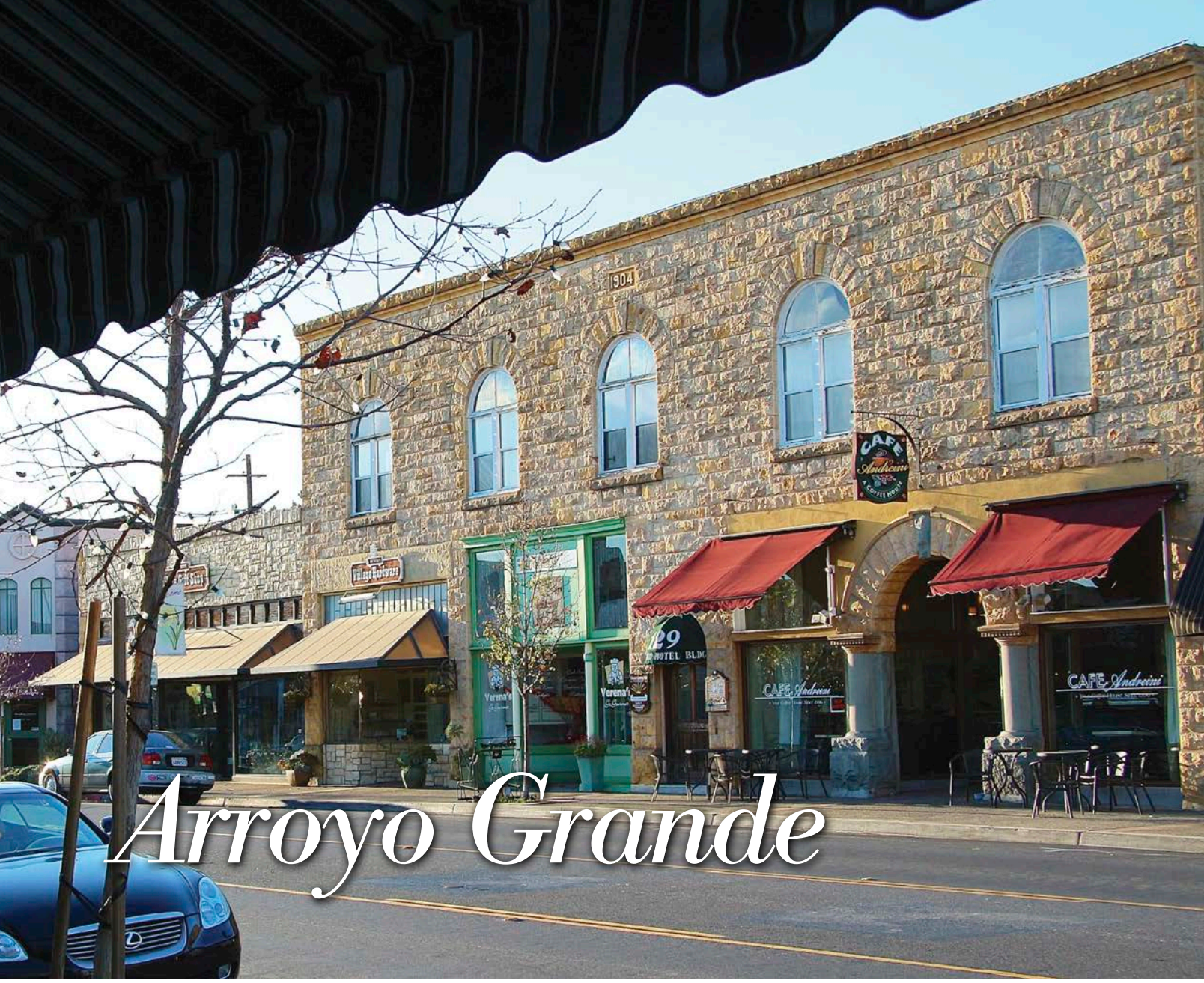
Fifteen golf courses are located within 20 miles of Grover Beach. A few of the most popular include:

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

Shopping

Natural Healing Center

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



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.

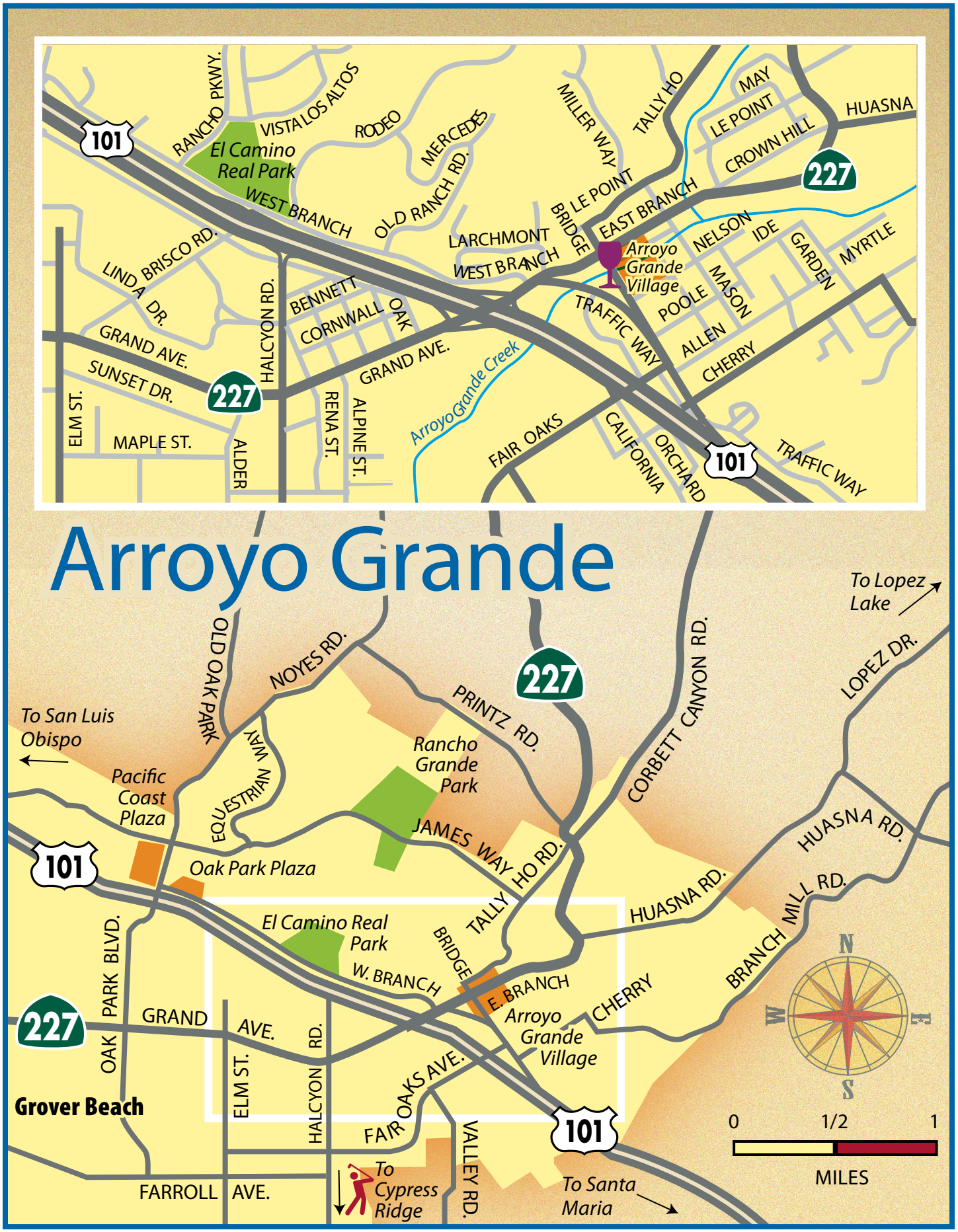
Lopez Lake Recreation Area

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.

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


Arroyo Grande
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VISTA LOS ALTOS
El Camino Real Park
WEST BRANCH
RODEO
MERCEDES
OLD RANCH RD.
MILLER WAY
TALLY HO
MAY
LE POINT
CROWN HILL
HUASNA
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EAST BRANCH
LARCHMONT
WEST BRANCH
Arroyo Grande Village
NELSON
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GARDEN
MYRTLE
LINDA BRISCO RD.
LINDA DR.
BENNETT
CORNWALL OAK
HALCYON RD.
GRAND AVE.
SUNSET DR.
TRAFFIC WAY
POOLE
MASON
ALLEN
CHERRY
ELM ST.
MAPLE ST.
ALDER
RENA ST.
ALPINE ST.
Arroyo Grande Creek
FAIR OAKS
CALIFORNIA
ORCHARD
TRAFFIC WAY
To Lopez Lake
LOPEZ DR.
OLD OAK PARK
NOYES RD.
PRINTZ RD.
CORBETT CANYON RD.
To San Luis Obispo
Pacific Coast Plaza
EQUESTRIAN WAY
Rancho Grande Park
JAMES WAY
TALLY HO RD.
HUASNA RD.
MILL RD.
BRANCH
Oak Park Plaza
El Camino Real Park
W. BRANCH
BRIDGE
E. BRANCH
Arroyo Grande Village
CHERRY
PARK BLVD.
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Much to do in the Village

Roosters, history, museums, pizza, wine, beer, ghosts, farms, theater, and festivals, and more await in Arroyo Grande, known as the Village to locals. Arroyo Grande is one of those towns that has kept the old-time feel of days gone by, while offering modern-day amenities and fun.

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

Pizza, a swinging bridge, history, and the farmers' market

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

As you walk around the village, don't miss the Swinging Bridge, the only one of its kind in California. The bridge is 171 feet long and swings 40 feet above the stream. Originally, the bridge had no sides, but they were added in 1902. The bridge was donated to the city in 1911, destroyed by a storm in 1995, but since reconstructed.

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

Centennial Park hosts the weekly farmers' market and is home to a troop of free-ranging roosters and hens. Their population fluctuates from time to time, but on a good day, they can be seen foraging and clucking around the park.

Concerts and festivals

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

- The Harvest Festival, a tribute to agriculture, is held the last weekend in September. The activities include a parade, toe-tapping entertainment, agricultural exhibits, food, games, and arts and crafts vendors.
- Free summer concerts are held in Heritage Square Park every Sunday through September 22 from 1-3 p.m. Bring a picnic, lawn chairs, and blankets to enjoy a variety of musical themes.

Parks and open spaces

Among the many parks, including one of the few off-leash dog parks within miles, visitors can find some unique and interesting places to spend time:

- Fire Resistive Landscaping Demonstration Garden: Stroll around this garden at the corner of Traffic and Station Way and learn about fire-resistant plants.
- Health Fitness Park at 834 Fair Oaks Avenue has jogging trails, exercise stations, and a heart check station.
- The James Way Oak Habitat is a 73-acre oak preserve with equestrian, walking, and jogging trails winding through majestic oaks. Enjoy the birds and wildlife that frequent the area. Open from 7 a.m. to sunset.

Learn more about village events at arroyogrande.org.

Open Daily at 11am for Lunch and Dinner

Serving Good Times 'n Good Grub Since 1988

KLONDIKE PIZZA

Cozy, Alaskan Atmosphere

Beer and Wine • Retro Video Games
BIG HEATED PATIO

PIZZA • SALADS • BURGERS • GRILLED SANDWICHES
BAKED n' COLD SANDWICHES • PIZZA
Vegetarian, Vegan, and Gluten-Free Options

In-House Dining • Patio • Take-Out • Curbside Delivery
Home Delivery (see QR Code) • https://order.klondikepizza.com

Join the KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH CLUB at klondikepizza.com or scan the code to learn about upcoming events

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

2059 S. Broadway • Santa Maria • 348-3667

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

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

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

ROADKILL
Pepperoni, Ground Beef, Salami, Italian Sausage and Canadian Bacon.

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

One of the Klondike owners is a mystery writer! Check out Pam's series on Amazon!

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

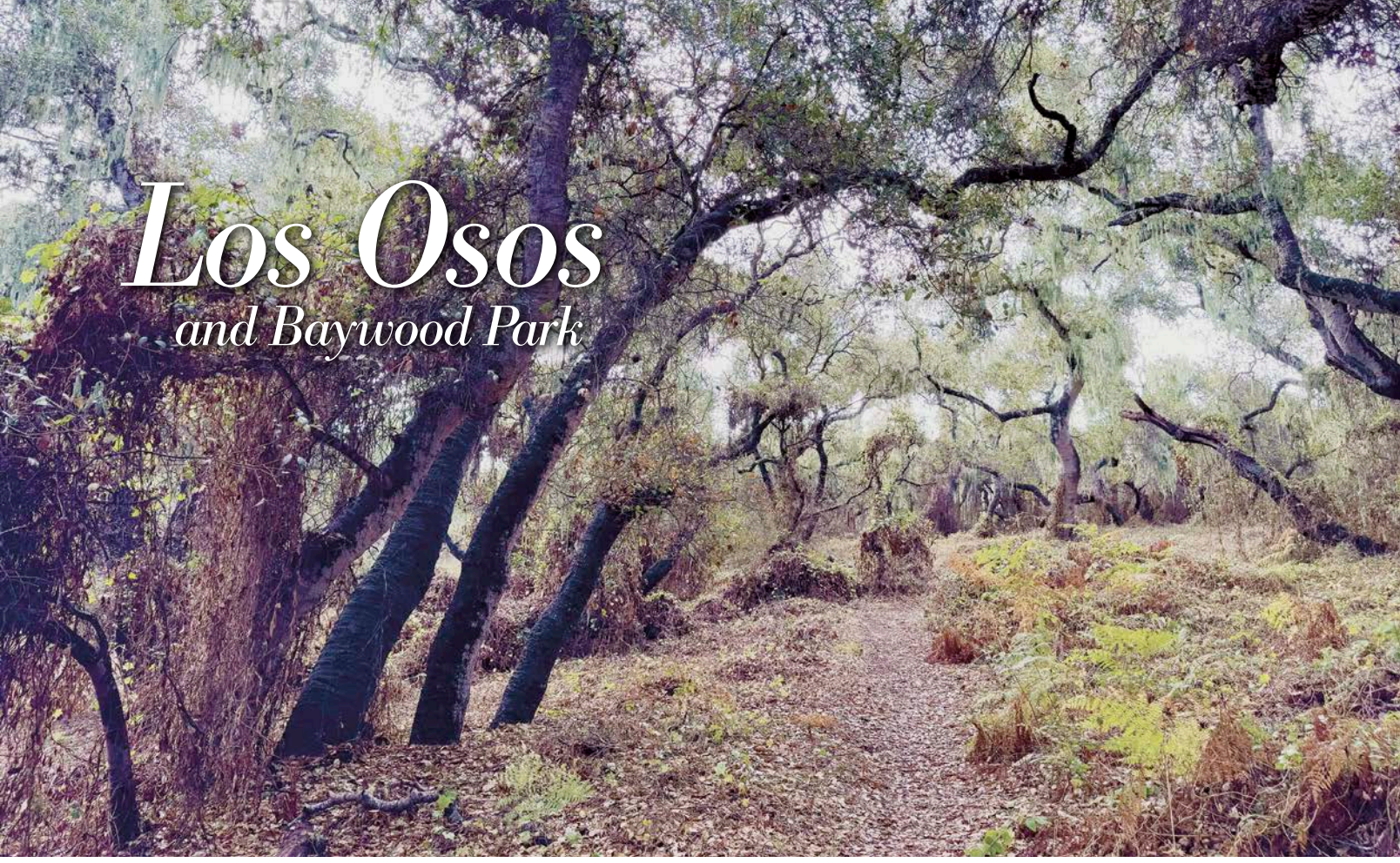
The huge Nipomo Swap Meet and Flea market is on the grounds adjacent to the 101 Freeway at the Teft Street off-ramp. The Nipomo Swap Meet & Flea market combines great family entertainment with old school swap meet atmosphere. It is the largest swap meet on California's Central Coast and is open Sunday 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



Los Osos
and Baywood Park

Los Osos, Spanish for "the bears", is off the beaten path and the gateway to Montana de Oro, an amazing state park along the ocean. Ranch Cañada de Los Osos, meaning "Valley of the Bears," was a Mexican land grant initially granted to Victor Linares in 1842 by Governor Juan B. Alvarado. The town of Los Osos 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.

Montaña de Oro State Park

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 open from 6 a.m.-10 p.m. and is free to enter. Details: (805) 772-6101, or parks.ca.gov.

El Moro Elfin Forest

El Moro Elfin Forest in Los Osos is a 90-acre natural area in the San Luis Obispo County Parks and California State Parks systems. Its plant communities include coastal brackish marsh, riparian woodland fringe, pygmy oak woodland, maritime chaparral, and coastal dune scrub. The Elfin Forest supports more than 200 species of plants, as well as 110 kinds of birds, 22 species of mammals, and 13 species of reptiles and amphibians. It is home to rare plants, butterflies, snails, and birds. Chumash middens occur throughout the forest. There is a short, wheelchair accessible boardwalk loop that also protects sensitive habitat. Guided walks are conducted every third Saturday, reservations required. The forest is managed by the Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest. Details: elfinforest.org, (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

Vacation Rentals

Baywood Casita

A cozy, family and dog-friendly Los Osos retreat near the Elfin Forest, Cal Poly, Morro Bay, and coastal outdoor adventures. This fully stocked two-bedroom home features rustic Alaskan charm, a hot tub, fenced yard, outdoor dining, and baby gear. baywoodcasita.com, (760)427-2472

Sweet Springs Nature Reserve—a birdwatching paradise

Adding a different experience to hiking, beach strolls, and family time

Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos is one of the top birdwatching locations in SLO County. With 464 species of birds recorded in SLO County, birdwatching is the perfect outdoor activity for families and another reason for hiking and beach strolls. Individual birds number in the thousands, and at certain times of the year, include migrating birds not normally seen in the area. The Central Coast is one of the four main migration routes for birds in the Americas.

Birds that can be seen at Sweet Springs Nature Preserve include a rich variety of water birds and shore birds, bald eagles, ospreys, hawks, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and many bird species some of us may have never seen before.

Spring and summer are nesting seasons when birders look forward to returning birds that have been gone all winter. Along with Central Coast birds that don't migrate, nesting season is an excellent opportunity to watch and learn. Species you might see during nesting season include the hooded oriole, Bullock's oriole, black-headed grosbeak, cliff swallow, tree swallow, and Allen's hummingbird.

The mountain bluebird (Silia currucoides), is a frequent Central Coast visitor.

According to Susie Reddy, outreach coordinator for the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) and the Morro Bay Bird Festival, SLO County has some excellent locations for bird watching. Pack up the kids, binoculars, cameras, a picnic, and head out!

Birdwatching on the coast

For easy-to-reach locations in addition to the Sweet Springs Preserve, check out Oso Flaco Lake in Oceano. Favorite spots in Morro Bay are the marina boardwalk and Morro Rock. Farther north, visit Estero Bluffs State Park in Cayucos, the Harmony Headlands in San Simeon, and the Fiscalni Ranch Preserve near Cambria.

Birdwatching inland

For great inland locations, check out Meadow Park, El Chorro Park, or Laguna Lake in San Luis Obispo. The Bob Jones Trail at Avila Beach and Atascadero Lake in Atascadero are also easy to get to locations.

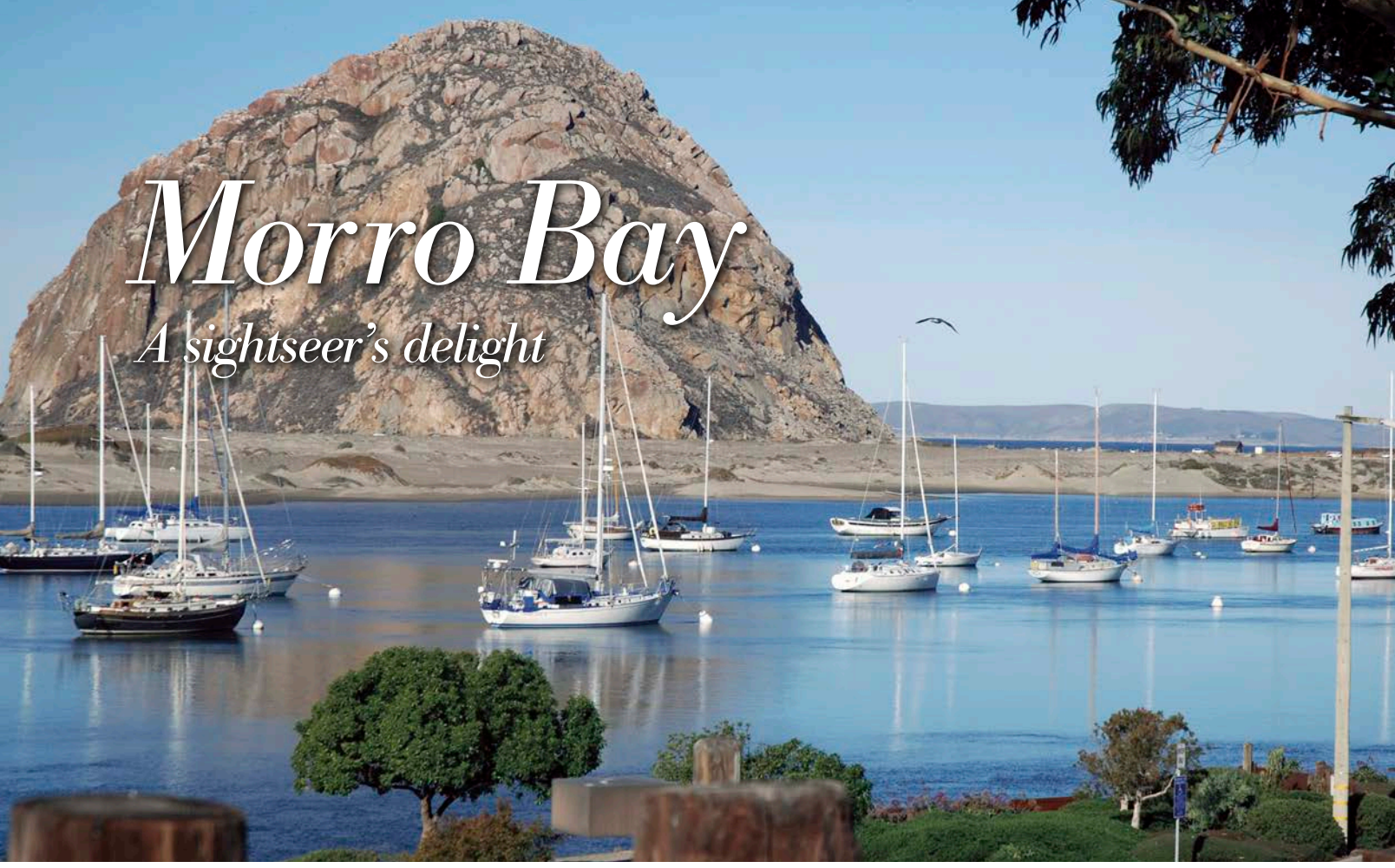
Getting to know the birds

Learning to identify each unique species can range from curiosity about what's in your backyard, to day trips, and vacations to observe many different birds in their natural habitats. "The easiest way to get started is to look out your windows," says Reddy. "You don't even need binoculars. You might be surprised at what you see and hear, birds are all around us!"

Joining a group is a family-fun way to learn and make new friends. The MCAS offers several monthly bird walks, beginner workshops, and in-depth learning classes.

The Sweet Springs Nature Preserve is located in Los Osos off Ramona Avenue and has been owned and managed by MCAS since 1989. The preserve offers hiking trails, beautiful views of Morro Bay and Morro Rock, and excellent birding opportunities. No pets please! For more information about birdwatching locations, membership, and programs, visit morrocoastaudubon.org.

—By Jackie Iddings



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 morrobaymaritime.org.

Morro Bay State Park

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

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

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

Bay Cruisers

Offers a variety of fun water activities including electric boat rides, kayak rentals and sailing lessons on the bay. Contact us today to schedule your next boating adventure. We're on the waterfront! 845 Embarcadero, #11 Morro Bay BayCruisers.com, (805) 771-9339

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

Morro Bay Jewelers

Certified master jeweler offering one-of-a-kind fine jewelry designs, diamonds, gems, and antique selections. Original work, repairs, restorations. Open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 898 Main St., Ste A, Morro Bay, (805) 772-1878

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

Morro Bay SandPiper Inn

Enjoy colorful, comfortable rooms with modern amenities, ocean or bay views, complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and pet-friendly accommodations. Located near beaches, parks, shopping, restaurants, and attractions. 540 Main St., Morro Bay, morrobaysandpiper.com, (805) 772-7503

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 Poor Man 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

Beads, gardens, and inspiration at Beads by the Bay

'A beautiful spot in the middle of town'

So many choices from the garden shop.

Step into a magical space of color and creativity at Beads by the Bay! Walls and counters are covered with beads waiting for your inspiration! Wander through the tiny two-room shop into the secret garden and discover a tranquil oasis in the center of downtown Morro Bay, full of easy-to-grow plants and miniature garden accessories.

Even if you've never beaded, you will want to try your hand at a simple bracelet or necklace, or collect some unique beads for conversation pieces or later projects. A free-spirited (dirt-free!) air plant or charmingly potted succulent may turn out to be exactly what that empty space in your garden, studio, or living room needs.

The bead selections include semi-precious stones, Czech glass, seed beads, pearls, and trade beads from many countries in Africa and around the world. Beads by the Bay also has charms, tools, stringing materials, and findings; everything you need to create your own jewelry and accessories. There are plenty of handmade earrings, bracelets, and necklaces to take home as gifts for friends and family or a treat for yourself. We also do jewelry repairs!

The garden offers succulents, air plants, staghorn ferns, pottery, whimsical garden art, and fairy garden supplies. Spend some quiet meditative time at the goldfish pond or pot your plant at the potting bench and create a miniature garden to take home!

Susan's son-in-law, Brennan, and daughter, Lily, have joined the business, and you'll see them at the shop! We will soon be adding classes and workshops. "It's just a beautiful little spot in the middle of town," said Susan Stewart, who has owned and operated the shop since 2006.

Beads by the Bay is located at 333 Morro Bay Boulevard in Morro Bay. Open Monday, Wednesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesday. For more information, visit morrobaybeads.com, follow on Facebook, or call (805) 772-3338.

Venetian romance in Morro Bay—no passport required

Family and pet-friendly sunsets, food, and messages in bottles

Take a romantic sunset cruise with Central Coast Gondola. Photograph by Tom Vardon.

You don't have to be in Venice to experience a spectacular cruise in a gondola. Stefano Anastasia grew up on the Central Coast of California. While he attended college in Southern California, he rowed for several gondola service companies.

He told the previous owner of the Gianna, his wedding gondola, that he planned to purchase the boat one day and launch his own company. Fifteen years later, on Valentine's Day 2023, Stefano did just that. The Gianna is one of only five authentic Venetian wedding gondolas in the United States, and guests can now enjoy year-round cruises in Morro Bay. The company recently celebrated its third anniversary and offers a variety of cruises with its small fleet of Venetian boats.

Stefano has over 26 years of experience rowing gondolas, and he was delighted to bring his passion for Italian culture, Venetian boats, and romance to the Central Coast. A former champion of the US Gondola Nationals, he is an expert gondolier and is happy to share stories and history with guests. He dresses in a traditional striped shirt and maneuvers the gondola around the bay using a single oar while standing.

Enjoy a three-course meal or bring a picnic

Central Coast Gondola Service offers 60 to 90-minute cruises for up to six people. They also offer a two-hour Elegant Dinner Cruise for up to four people, with a prix fixe three-course

meal crafted specifically for the gondola by Kickers in Morro Bay. Guests can book custom add-on services such as flowers, charcuterie, and even a message in a bottle. A custom message is printed on parchment and placed in a clear, corked wine bottle that mysteriously appears in the water for guests to find.

Although the cruises can be very romantic, especially at sunset and after dark, children and pets are also welcome aboard. Stefano has witnessed proposals, hosted weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birthdays, and rowed for memorial ash scatterings in the bay. Gondola cruises are perfect for special occasions or can just be a great way to get out on the bay and enjoy the ocean air, creating lasting memories.

Guests may also bring their own food and alcohol on board. Stefano recommends neighboring businesses for those who want to purchase items just before boarding. Wine from Absolution Cellars and a Champagne/chocolate pairing from Kickers are popular items to bring along.

Anytime is the best time for a gondola cruise

Stefano indicates the fall is an ideal time for a cruise, "During the fall season, there tends to be less wind and fog, and also, the sun sets earlier. While the sunset cruises are always in demand, Stefano actually prefers after-dark cruises, where the guests can marvel at the harbor lights reflecting off the water, a rare and breathtak-

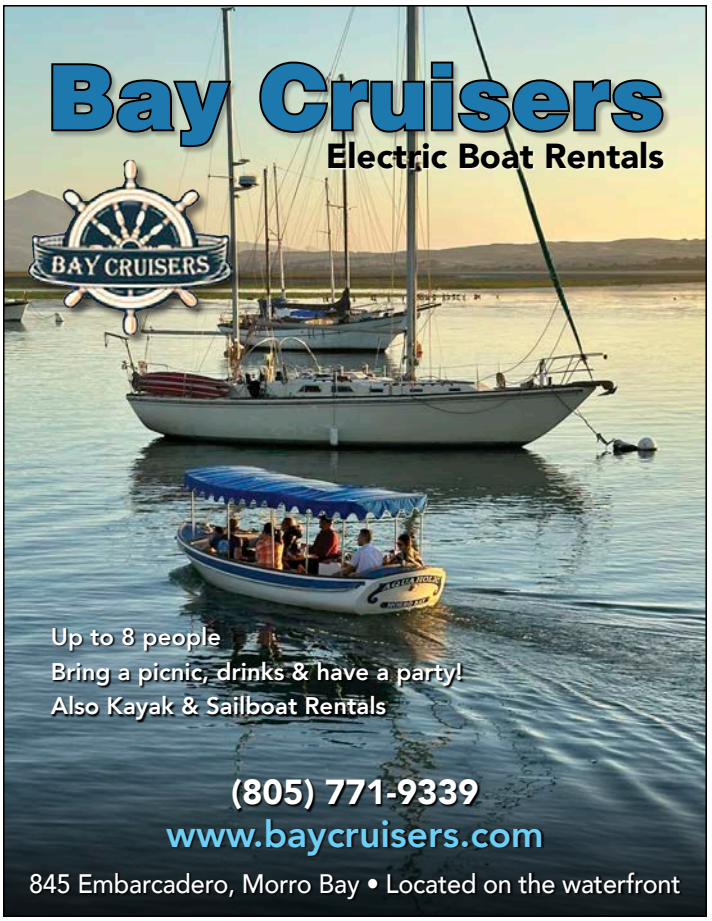
ing view of Morro Bay. Book a cruise, come out, and have some fun with us! If you have any special needs or want to arrange surprises, just let us know, and we will make all the arrangements. We can even arrange a romantic serenade by the gondolier."

Stefano is already thinking ahead to winter when he offers cookies and hot chocolate for the season and plans to have a gondola decorated with lights for the annual Christmas boat parade.

People are fascinated by the beauty and history of Venetian gondolas. The boats can be decorated and rented as props for parties or other events that don't involve launching. Each boat has a unique story that generates good conversations.

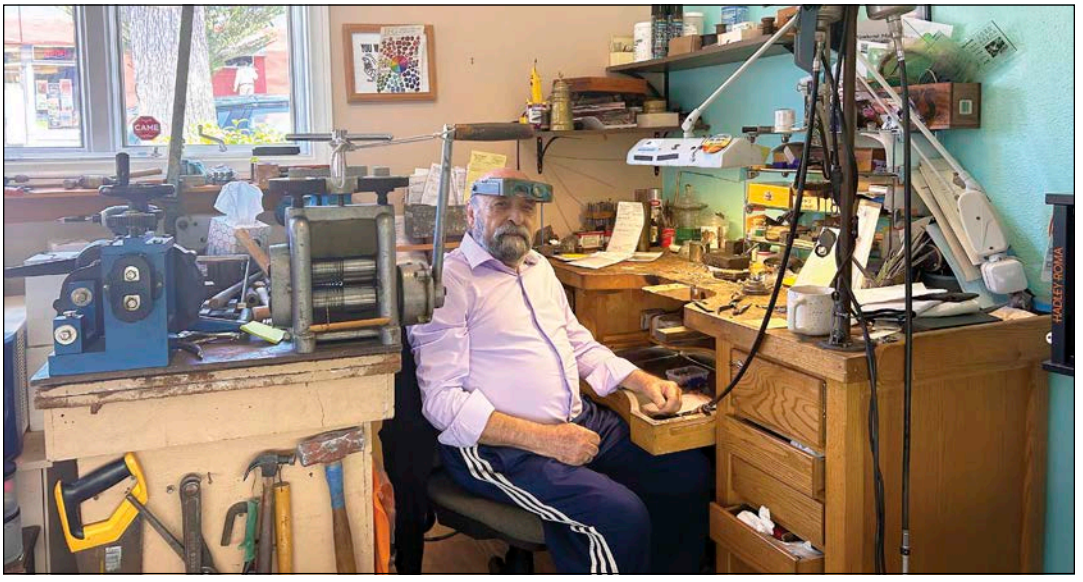
Central Coast Gondola is located at 833 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. For reservations and more information, visit centralcoastgondola.com or call (805) 363-4363.

—Lisa Pretty



Experience a master jeweler's timeless craft at Morro Bay Jewelry

Handcrafted traditions and old-world mentoring live on



Certified Master Jeweler Ali Atari at work.

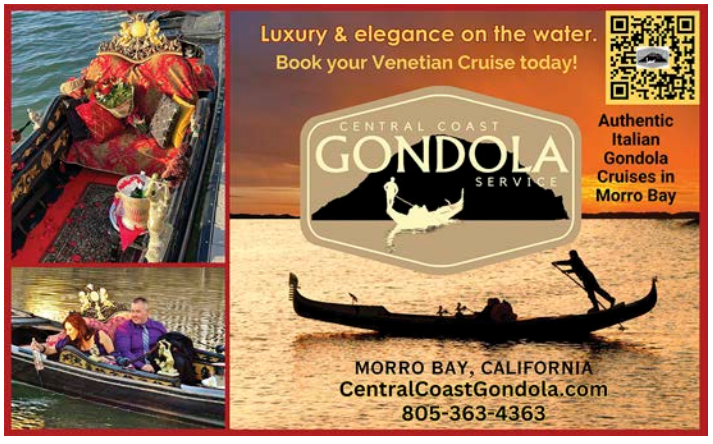
Morro Bay Jewelers has a new owner, but Certified Master Jeweler Ali Athari is not new to jewelry; he started at 9 years old in Iran in 1954. He still crafts everything by hand and is teaching the next generation just like his family taught him.

"My father, my grandfather, and my great-grandfather were all jewelers," Athari said. He has been crafting jewelry and repairing clocks and watches for over 70 years.

After coming to the United States in 1964 as a student, he became a jeweler to the stars while working in Beverly Hills on Rodeo Drive in the late 1960s and early 1970s. There, he created custom jewelry for Liberace, Farrah Fawcett, Cybill Shepherd, Christie Brinkley, and Dick Van Dyke. "Dick Van Dyke was a gentleman," Athari said. "I made a ton of stuff for Liberace." He also spent a decade in Las Vegas. Again, his client list reads like a who's who with clients like Siegfried and Roy, the governor, and many senators.

After leaving Las Vegas for San Luis Obispo, he opened a store that focused increasingly on watch repair, changing to jewelry after the 2008 recession. "I've been repairing watches and jewelry all my life," Athari said. "I specialize in being all-around. I don't separate gold work, platinum work, watches, or clocks. It's all precision work."

That philosophy reflects the traditions of old European jewelry workshops, where artisans once crafted jewelry, watch movements, watch cases, and cut



gemstones all under one roof. "I think working on watches makes me a better jeweler," he said.

"I have a full gemological lab," Athari said. "I can identify gemstones and do insurance appraisals. I've had experience making jewelry and working with gems from all over the world."

Today, Morro Bay Jewelers offers fine jewelry, custom design, jewelry repairs, watch and clock restoration, appraisals, and gemstone identification. Nearly everything is completed in-house by hand.

A traditional apprenticeship and a new career path

After a brief retirement, Athari purchased Morro Bay Jewelers, which had already been open for 30 years. He lives on his sailboat in the harbor, and following a shoulder injury, a young customer became an unexpected apprentice. Katie McBride offered to help him out of concern and kindness. He, in turn, completely changed her life by offering her a position as his apprentice, who will eventually take over the shop.

I have a career path now," McBride said. "This is bigger than anything I imagined."

Find a wide selection of clocks, watches, and handmade, custom jewelry inside the shop.

Initially, she tackled the enormous task of organizing inventory during the ownership transition. She cataloged hundreds of pieces, photographed jewelry for the website, and now manages much of the store's online presence while helping customers, replacing watch batteries, restringing pearls, and repairing clocks.

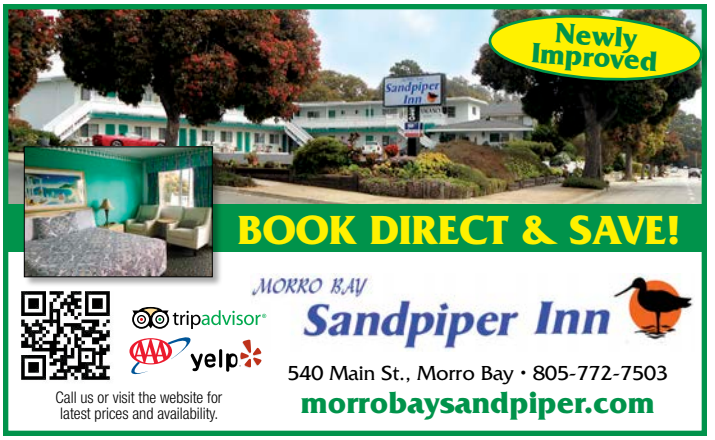
Athari beams with pride when he talks about training her. He is teaching her the same old-world craftsmanship that has been passed down through four generations of his own family.

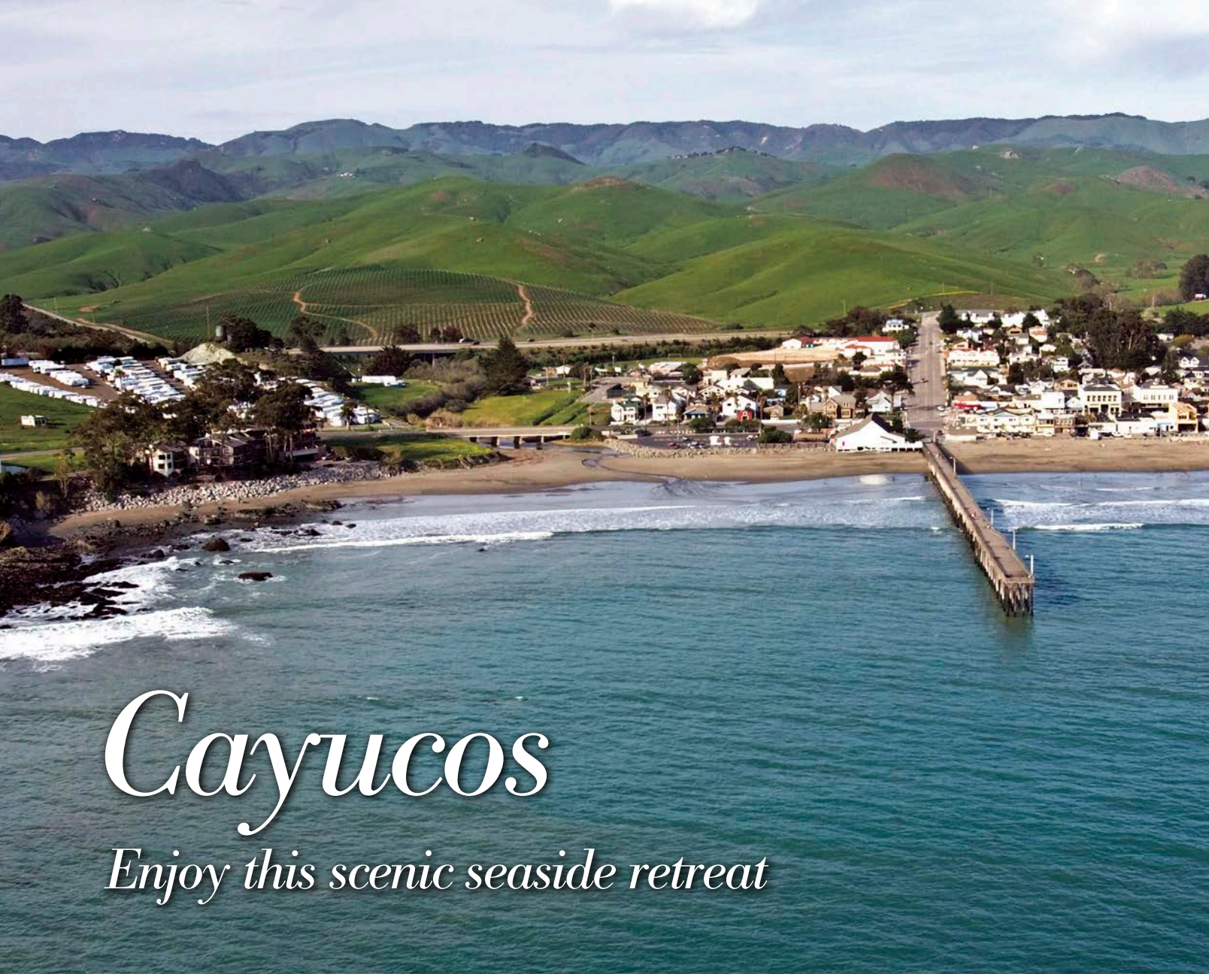
They try to accommodate everyone who comes in. Most repairs take 7-10 days, but if a customer needs something done immediately, they do their best without charging extra. “Fairness matters,” Athari said.

Crafting everything by hand in a jewelry store is unique these days. Most stores send work out, but not at Morro Bay Jewelers. They keep the craft traditions alive. Stop by to browse custom fine jewelry, antique watches, cuckoo clocks, and more. If you are looking for custom-made, stop by to let them create something wonderful for you.

Morro Bay Jewelers is located at 898 Main Street, Suite A, Morro Bay. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, visit aliatharifinejewelry.com or call (805) 772-1878.

—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.

Attraction

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.

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

Hotels & Lodging

Beachside Rentals

Over 65 vacation rentals located in perfect locations in Cayucos, Morro Bay, and Cambria. Clean, comfortable, and many just steps from the sand. Friendly staff ready to help guests enjoy unforgettable Central Coast getaways. Some pet-friendly availability. Beachsiderentals.com, (805) 995-3680

Cayucos Sausage Company, a seaside delicatessen

Where specialty sausages headline the menu

The Cayucos Sausage Company makes gourmet sausages, great sandwiches, and treats for your dog. Located on North Ocean Street in Cayucos, the shop and deli are landmarked by the tables, umbrellas, and beautiful flowerpots in front. Enjoy your meal while people-watching or on the patio behind the shop.

Don and Juneé Sherwood's Cayucos Sausage Company has been a local favorite since it opened in 2001 in the back of Cayucos Supermarket. The Sherwoods rebranded the business to its current name in 2012. In 2018, the Cayucos Sausage Company moved into its North Ocean Street location. Today, their sausages, sandwiches, and seasonings are favorites for everyone who visits the area.

Treat yourself and your fur-kid to delicious food and snacks.

Sausage was in Don Sherwood's blood from the time he was 12. Raised locally, Sherwood is the last of nine children who had the opportunity to work for local ranchers, many of whom were of Italian/Swiss ancestry. "They made Swiss sausage at a certain time of the year," he explained, "and I learned from that."

Don later entered the meat industry, where he met a German man who took him on as an apprentice and taught Don his personal sausage-making secrets. Eventually, Don left the meat business for some years, but those recipes remained with him. Upon returning to the meat business, he began to use those recipes but altered them to create his sausage specialty line.

Bold flavors and signature seasonings

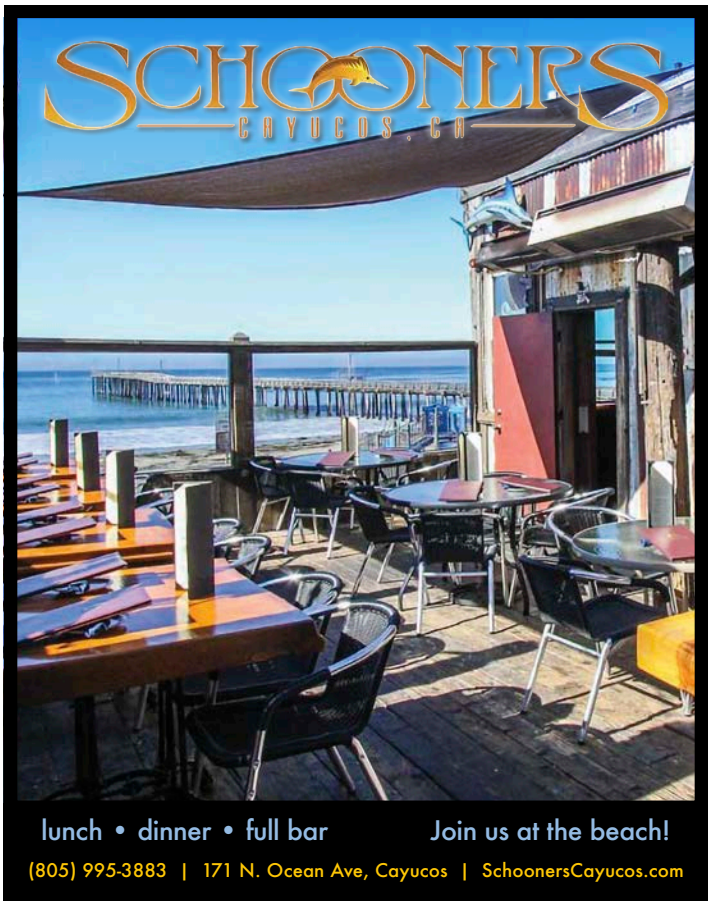
Don makes sausage with premium pork and fresh spices. Sausages offered are Coastal Italian, French Apple, Jalapeno Chipotle, Hot Basque, Baja, Bratwurst, and many more varieties. They also make a Pumpkin Spice sausage for Halloween and a Champagne Pecan for Christmas. All sausages are handmade in-store with no preservatives, nitrates, or fillers.

After Juneé bugged Don for years for a chicken sausage, he finally came up with a recipe. The flavor wasn't quite what he wanted, and one night after pondering it for hours, he suddenly thought of the missing ingredient. It was cranberry. He did the same thing with Irish sausage, finally hitting on Guinness Blonde Ale. It's his personal favorite.

Patrons can purchase Cayucos Sausage Co. Signature Seasoning and the CSD Tequila Mustard at the shop. The Signature Seasoning is a savory, all-natural custom blend, not-so-secret ingredient for their sausages. Tequila Mustard is a zesty house favorite, adding even more flavor to their deli sandwiches and barbecue.

Beyond sausage

Sausage isn't everything. The Sherwoods offer an extensive deli menu of sandwiches on fresh bread. Meats offered are turkey, ham, roast beef, pastrami, tri-tip, pork roast, salami, and Mary's chicken, a delicacy not matched by other chickens. Cheeses include provolone, Swiss, smoked cheddar, pepper Jack, Muenster, and cheddar. Sandwiches include a choice of their special Tequila Mustard, house-made Garlic Aioli, Chipotle Mayo, and a variety of other toppings.



Cayucos Sausage Company shares 'secret' seasonings with you!

The menu features delicious baby back ribs, pork roast, tri-tip, and Mary's free-range rotisserie chickens. Soups and salads are also on the menu.

The full-service butcher shop offers a wide variety of beef, pork, and poultry. Call for details and special orders.

Irresistible treats for your pup

The latest creation, which may prove to be the million-dollar moneymaker, is Juneé's specialty, The Cayucos Sausage Company Dog Treats. "I took pork cranberry sausage, cooked it, sliced it, and dehydrated it, and came up with this nice little dog treat," she said. "Dogs are literally going crazy for it." About 30 to 50 dogs go by the store daily, and each stops to get their treat.

Cayucos Sausage Company is at 12 North Ocean Street, Cayucos. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. For more information, or to check out the menu, visit cayucossausage.net or call (805) 900-5377.

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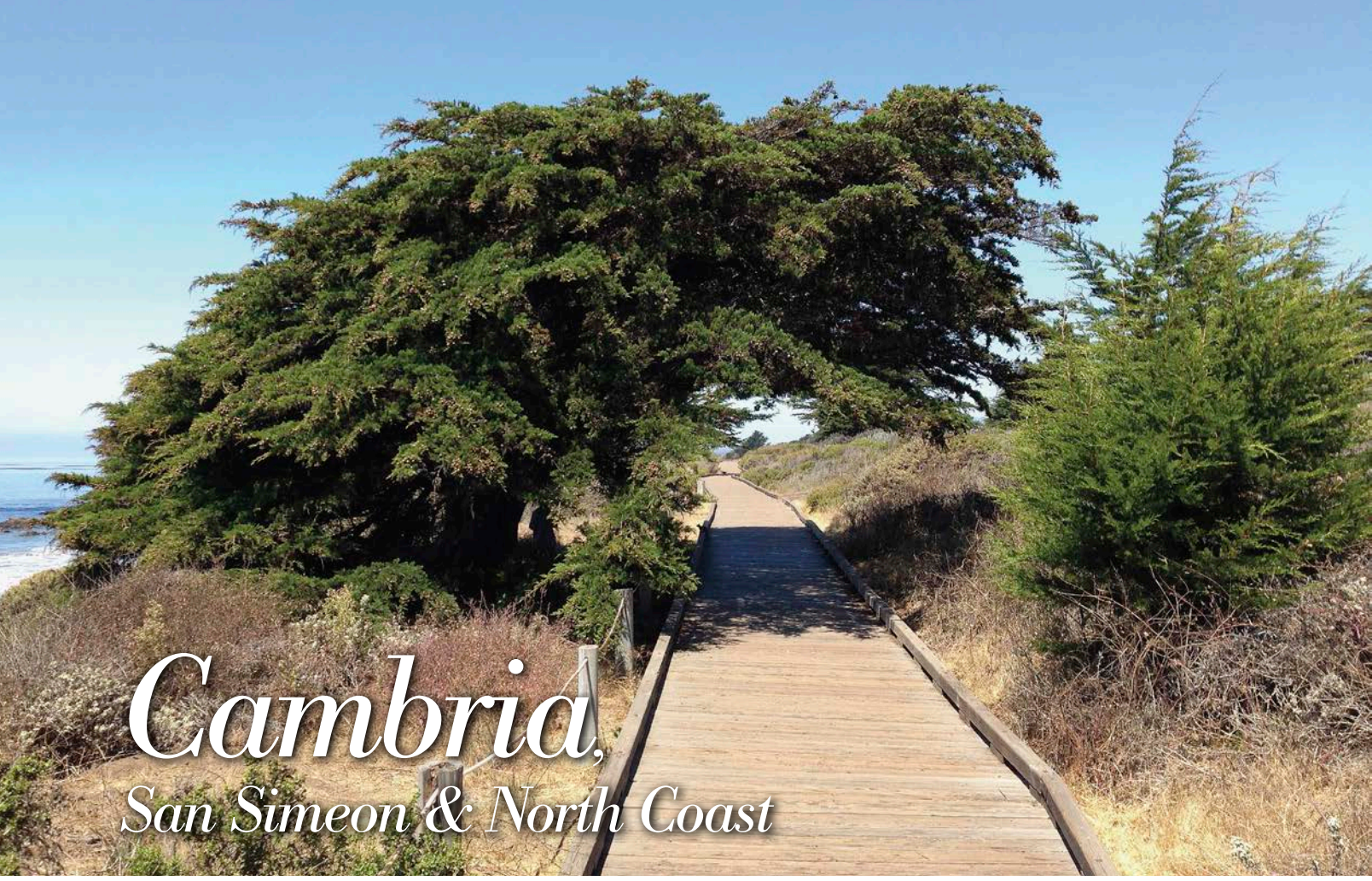

Cambria,
San Simeon & North Coast

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.

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

Cavalier Coastal Kitchen

Enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dinner in an elegant oceanfront setting. Featuring thoughtfully sourced local ingredients, seafood, and premium Hearst Ranch beef. Start your day with breakfast or savor a handcrafted cocktail at sunset. 9415 Hearst Dr., San Simeon, CA, cavalierresort.com, (805) 927-3276

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

Hotels & Lodging

Cambria Pines Lodge

Indulge in the region's exceptional coastal-inspired cuisine at the lodge's restaurant. Take a morning or after-dinner stroll through 25 acres of beautiful gardens. Relax in the Fireside Lounge for happy hour specials and nightly live music. 2905 Burton Dr., cambriapineslodge.com, (805) 927-4200

Cambria Shores Inn
Relax in well-appointed rooms featuring modern amenities, with select accommodations offering private patios and ocean views. Enjoy daily complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and pet-friendly hospitality near Hearst Castle and coastal adventures. 6276 Moonstone Beach Drive, Cambria, cambriashoresinn.com, (805) 927-8644

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 Nursery
Take a piece of Cambria home with you from the extensive selection of seasonal outdoor and indoor plants and garden décor. Browse the gift shop, the year-round Christmas Store, and visit the Farmstead and friendly goats. Open daily 9-5. 2801 Eaton Rd., cambrianursery.com, (805) 927-4747

Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry
Since 2009, 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 one of our three other locations in Templeton, San Luis Obispo, or Pismo Beach. 614 Main Street, Cambria, maddiemaespetpantry.com, (805) 924-1139

Rich Man Poor Man 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 Mincing Mockingbird
Thoughtfully designed by local artists to surprise and delight, two locations feature curated books, original art, and one-of-a-kind vintage and offbeat gifts. The vibe is pretty, cheeky, playfully humorous, and beautiful objects. 783 Main Street, Cambria, and 3310 Ramada Drive, Suite A, Paso Robles, mincingmockingbird.com, (805) 257-8020

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

Vacation Rentals

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

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

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

Cambria Christmas Market returns for the 15th year

Tickets are now on sale for November 27 through December 31

The annual Cambria Christmas Market is welcoming guests back to this festive tradition, displaying over 3 million colorful, glowing lights and an authentic German vendor market, complete with Santa, train rides, and more.

Cambria Christmas Market is a wonderland for everyone.

For the 15th year, this highly anticipated Central Coast event, set in the charming town of Cambria, blends old-world tradition with the warmth of a California holiday getaway. The festive wonderland, inspired by traditional German Christmas markets, creates unforgettable experiences for families, couples, and holiday travelers alike.

The Cambria Christmas Market is proudly sponsored by CoastHills Credit Union, Cuesta Springs Ice Company, State Farm Mike Smith, Wood Pellet Products, and Moonstone Hotel Properties, and proudly serves BarrelHouse Brewing Company.

Tickets sell out fast!

General admission tickets for the 2026 Cambria Christmas Market are now on sale through cambriachristmasmarket.com.

Weekends and dates closer to Christmas traditionally fill the fastest, especially for guests traveling from across California and beyond. Weekdays are perfect for those seeking a more relaxed visit.

Guests are highly encouraged to purchase tickets in advance and visit the website for event details, exclusive offers, and updates throughout the season!

Overnight hotel packages

Don't wait to reserve your overnight stay—the Cambria Christmas Market partner hotels often sell out before opening night, and weekend dates are already filling up! All hotel packages include event admission for each guest, accommodations, and daily breakfast.

• Cambria Pines Lodge: Stay just steps away from the magic! Some rooms feature private decks overlooking the dazzling light displays, while spacious family suites and pet-friendly options make it easy for everyone to enjoy the holiday fun.

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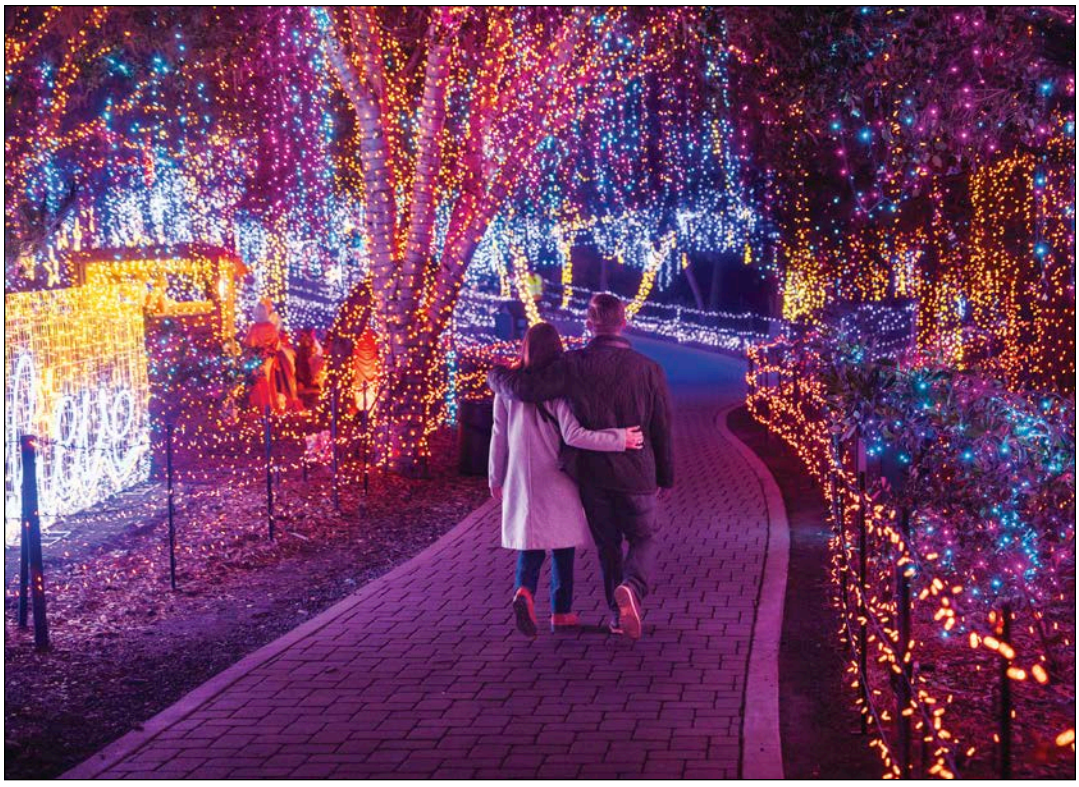


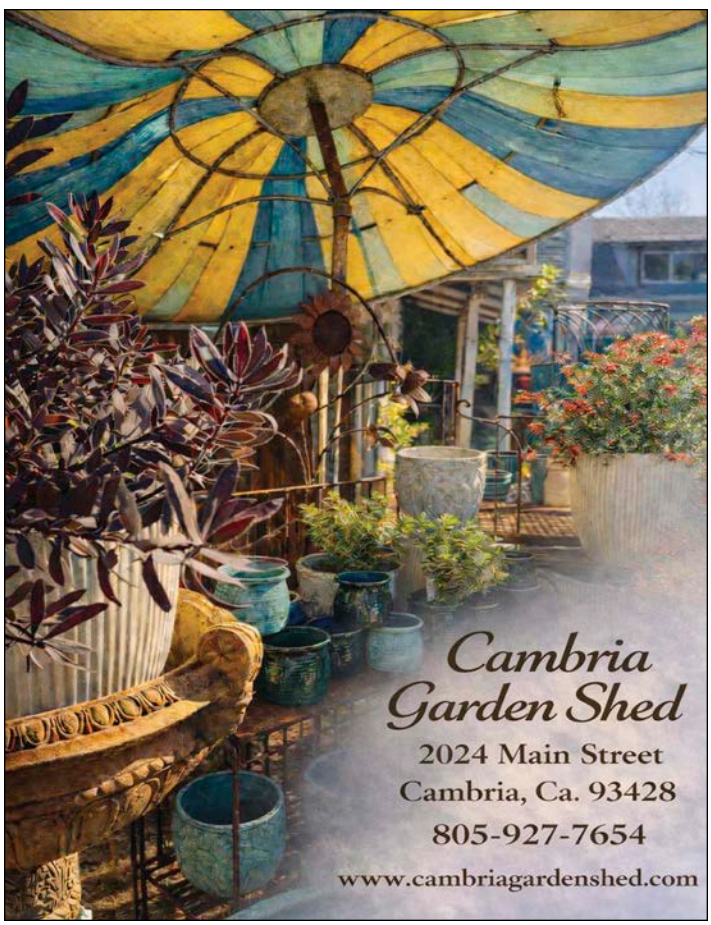
• Sea Otter Inn: Located across from Moonstone Beach, this cozy coastal retreat provides a complimentary shuttle to the Christmas Market. Amenities include a breakfast basket delivery, ocean-front fire pits, and the relaxing sounds of the waves.

• The J. Patrick House & Inn: Nestled just across the street from the amazing light displays, this charming Inn is perfect for couples or solo travelers seeking a romantic holiday getaway.

Skip the crowd

Guests who prefer a quieter experience to enjoy the lights, Cambria Pines Lodge offers exclusive Lights Only nights on December 1, 7-8, 14-15, and 24–25. During these evenings, only the light displays are open—there will be no vendors, Santa, train rides, food, beverages, or live music. This special viewing option includes a hotel room, entry to the light displays for each person on the package, one parking spot, and breakfast the next morning.

The Cambria Christmas Market is held at the Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Dr., Cambria. For tickets, itinerary packages, lodging, and more information, visit cambriachristmasmarket.com.



Calling all garden lovers for morning coffee, home and garden treasures, and afternoon wine

Succulents, local art, clothing, and music at the Cambria Garden Shed

Shops at the Cambria Garden Shed on Main Street in Cambria are full of an ever-changing inventory of garden and home accessories. Take a relaxing stroll through the back patio and discover exotic succulents, women's clothing, home decor, a bookshop, and local art that can be found in the seven shops at the Cambria Garden Shed.

Treasures to discover with every step.

Delight in the many gifts and unique items, and see fun displays filled with great collections. Something sweet is around every corner! Shops include the Cambria Garden Shed, Lily's Coffee House, Cayucos Cellars, Ocean Heir, Salty Pages, Grow Nursery, and Art with Judy Ann.

Cambria is the not-so-secret destination for an unforgettable mellow vacation. It is a small town where the locals are quite friendly, where you'll notice people waving and smiling at each other. Visitors enjoy a day at the beach exploring tide pools, collecting moonstones, hiking, or seeking out the many wonderful shops, galleries, and cafes.

Sharing a love of the outdoors

Before starting Cambria Garden Shed, owners Ashley and Lucky Gracey had backgrounds in retail and landscaping. The couple opened in 1998, fulfilling their dreams of sharing the outdoors every day. "Our aim has always been to keep the loveliness of nature and gardens in our shop space. We love the ideal weather of the Central Coast and the abundance of songbirds, deer, and wildlife found in this area," said Ashley.

Find the Cambria Garden Shed on Main Street in Midtown Cambria, just inside the 1890s creamery building. Customers can start the morning at Lily's Coffee House, explore the shops of the courtyard, and end the afternoon at Cayucos Cellars for a glass of Central Coast wine.

At one point, the creamery building served as the town hall, where many community decisions were made. The Garden Shed has become well known for its emphasis on outdoor living and as a place to pause and slow down.

Surprises for everyone on your gift list.

Gifts for friends, home, and yourself

The Cambria Garden Shed offers unique finds and merchandise found nowhere else on the coast. They carry new and vintage pieces for the garden and home. Old farm tables and cupboards display the goods, and visitors find rustic farmhouse decor around every corner. The owners have an eye for high-quality goods, such as leather gardening gloves, hand tools from Holland, and lotions that will heal dry hands. Cambria Garden Shed always has an abundance of one-of-a-kind pottery, great fountains, and a warm and inviting atmosphere.

The shops have inspirational pieces for everyone, and the staff is ready to help find that special something. Cambria Garden Shed is the perfect place to take a break from life, relax, and socialize while enjoying a little inspiration and local musicians who stop in regularly to perform.

The Shops at the Garden Shed are located at 2024 Main St. in Cambria. Open daily from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, call (805) 927-7654 or visit cambriagardenshed.com.

— Cassandra Frey

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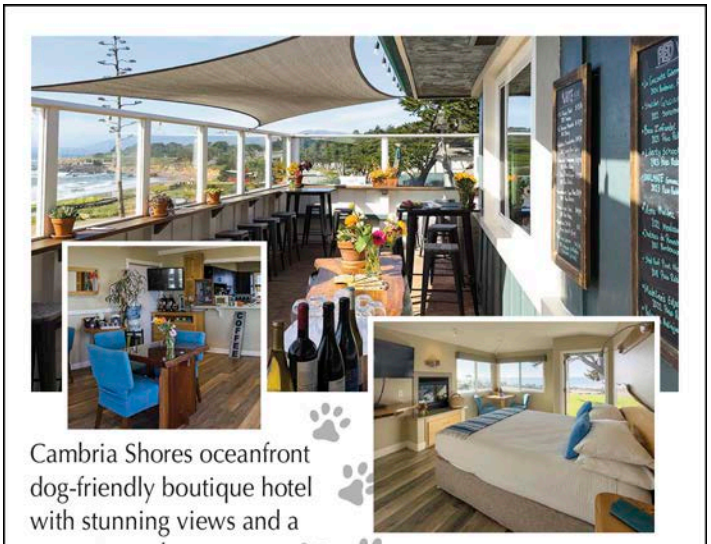

Cambria Shores oceanfront dog-friendly boutique hotel with stunning views and a cozy atmosphere.

Start each morning at our Espresso Bar with specialty coffee and light breakfast bites.

In the evening, relax at Madeline's on Moonstone Wine Bar & Tapas with wine, tapas, and sunset views.

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805-927-8644 | cambriashores.com

Cavalier Coastal Kitchen, embracing San Simeon's charm

Indulge your senses with great dining and amazing views

Cavalier Coastal Kitchen overlooks San Simeon's Pico Beach with a panoramic view of the ocean. A quick drive off Highway 1 and short distances from major landmarks, a meal at this restaurant is part of the San Simeon experience.

Just three miles from Hearst Castle, and short distances from the historic Piedras Blancas Lighthouse and elephant seal rookery, there's a warm, family-friendly ambiance and affordable, high-quality cuisine.

A sample of the Cavalier Coastal Kitchen menu.

Serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the restaurant is part of the Cavalier Oceanfront Resort. The restaurant is known for its premium steaks and hamburgers, and some of the finest seafood in San Simeon.

The breakfast menu includes tempting dishes such as Bailey's French toast and specialty omelets. Breakfast is just the beginning. Lunch offerings include burgers, fish and chips, and grilled salmon. Dinner caps off a day of North Coast adventure with steaks, locally caught seafood, fresh local vegetables, and much more. Top it all off with a selection of award-winning local San Luis Obispo County wines.

The vision that built a San Simeon legacy

Founder Harris Victor and his wife, Maxine Terry, visited San Simeon in 1959 to escape the cold weather of Washington. At the time, there was only one hotel in the area, causing the couple to wonder why.

Harris had a vision and purchased some San Simeon property without another thought that same day. That land hosted the couple's first project, the Silver Surf Motel. In 1964, they sold the motel and purchased an acre of oceanfront that became the Cavalier Oceanfront Resort. He built the first shopping center in San Simeon in 1972. Unfortunately, he passed away unexpectedly in 1975, but his vision continued. After a few years without his leadership, the business reorganized and began expanding in 1980. The following year, the Cavalier Coastal Kitchen was opened.

Harris's legacy lives on through his projects and the memorable experiences of guests and staff.

Cavalier Coastal Kitchen is located at 9415 Hearst Dr. in San Simeon. Open 7 days a week, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, visit cavalierresort.com or call (805) 927-4688.

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Dinner daily from 5 to 9 PM
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CAVALIER COASTAL KITCHEN

OCEAN VIEW DINING ON HIGHWAY 1

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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).

Central Coast 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 centralcoastzoo.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.

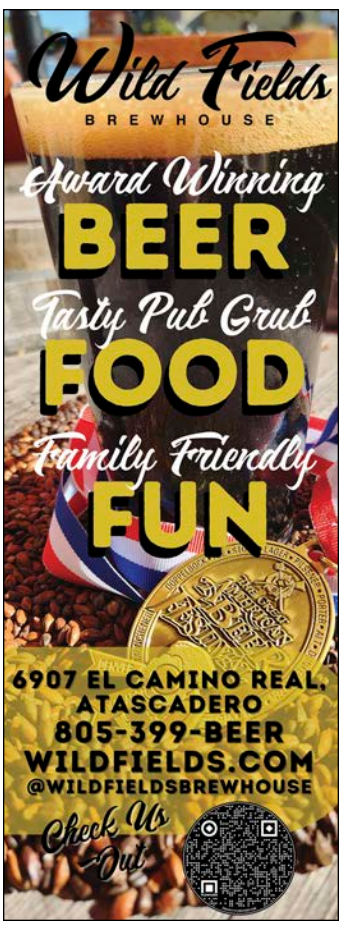
Beer & Cocktails

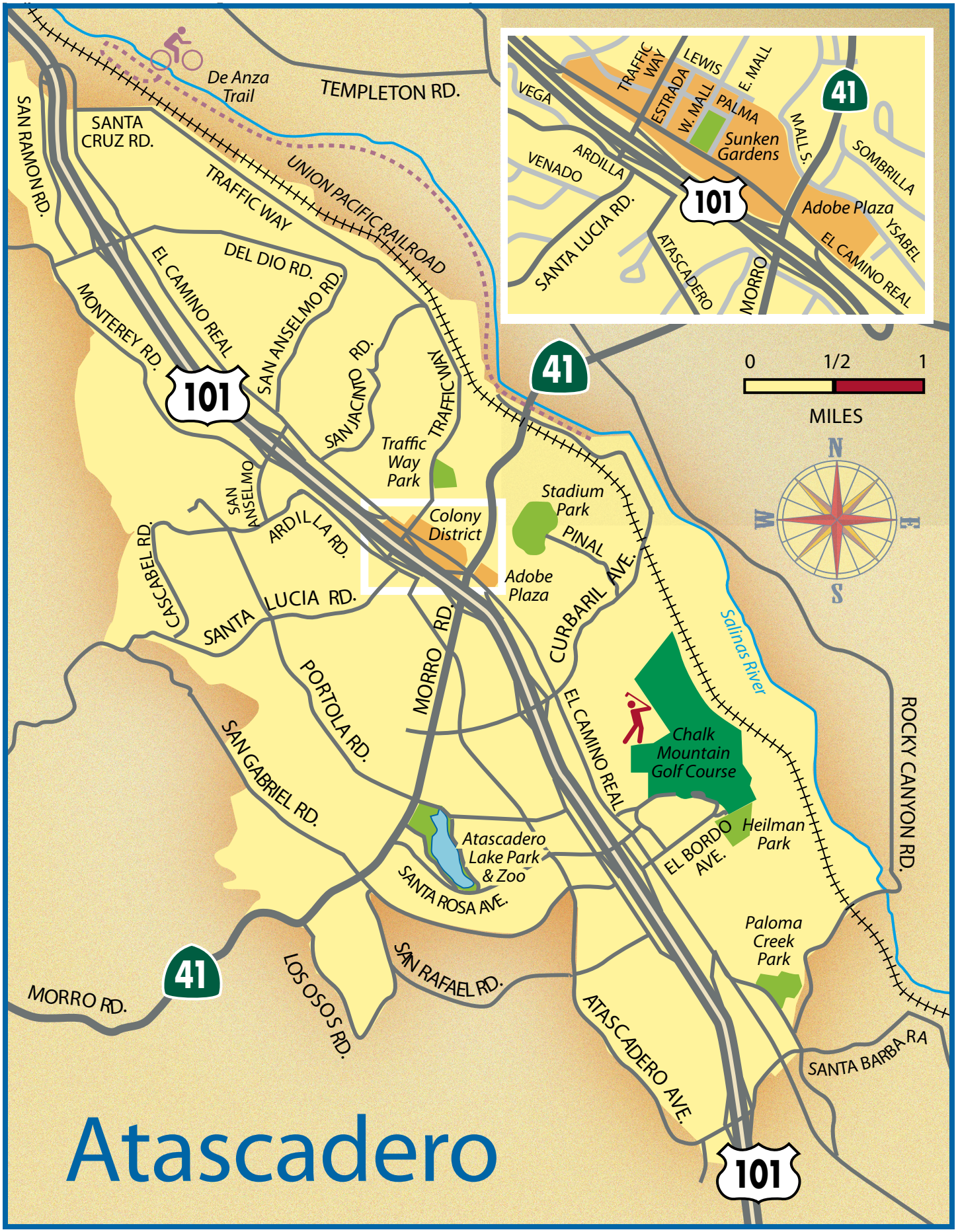
Whiskey & June

Whether it's for happy hour or a birthday celebration, Whiskey & June is the perfect spot to meet up with friends in downtown Atascadero! Open daily 10 a.m. to 2 a.m., 5950 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA, (805) 466-9974. Follow on Facebook.

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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TEMPLETON RD.
SAN RAMON RD.
SANTA CRUZ RD.
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
TRAFFIC WAY
EL CAMINO REAL
DEL DIO RD.
SAN ANSELMO RD.
MONTEREY RD.
101
SANJACINTO RD.
TRAFFIC WAY
Traffic Way Park
SAN ANSELMO
ARDILLA RD.
CASCABEL RD.
Colony District
Stadium Park
PINAL
Adobe Plaza
CURBARIL AVE.
SANTA LUCIA RD.
MORRO RD.
PORTOLA RD.
SAN GABRIEL RD.
EL CAMINO REAL
Salinas River
Chalk Mountain Golf Course
ROCKY CANYON RD.
Heilman Park
EL BORDO AVE.
Atascadero Lake Park & Zoo
SANTA ROSA AVE.
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ARDILLA
VENADO
SANTA LUCIA RD.
Adobe Plaza
YSABEL
EL CAMINO REAL
ATASCADERO
MORRO

Atascadero

Atascadero for history, festivals, cycling challenges, and holiday events

October celebrates Colony Days and the Fall Festival

Atascadero's Fall Festival runs from October 17-19, with the annual Colony Days parade on Saturday, October 18.

The 6th annual Atascadero Fall Festival is a 3-day free family-friendly event taking place at Sunken Gardens and the surrounding area! Enjoy carnival rides and games, live music from over 30 bands on two stages, street fair and food vendors, and local craft beer, seltzer, and wine! See you there! More information at visit Atascadero.com!

Atascadero lights up for the holidays on December 4.

The Colony Days parade starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, behind the Administration Building on Lewis Avenue, continuing onto Capistrano Avenue towards CA-41, and then downtown. Applications are being accepted for the parade; participation is free!

For parade applications and more information, visit colonydays.org.

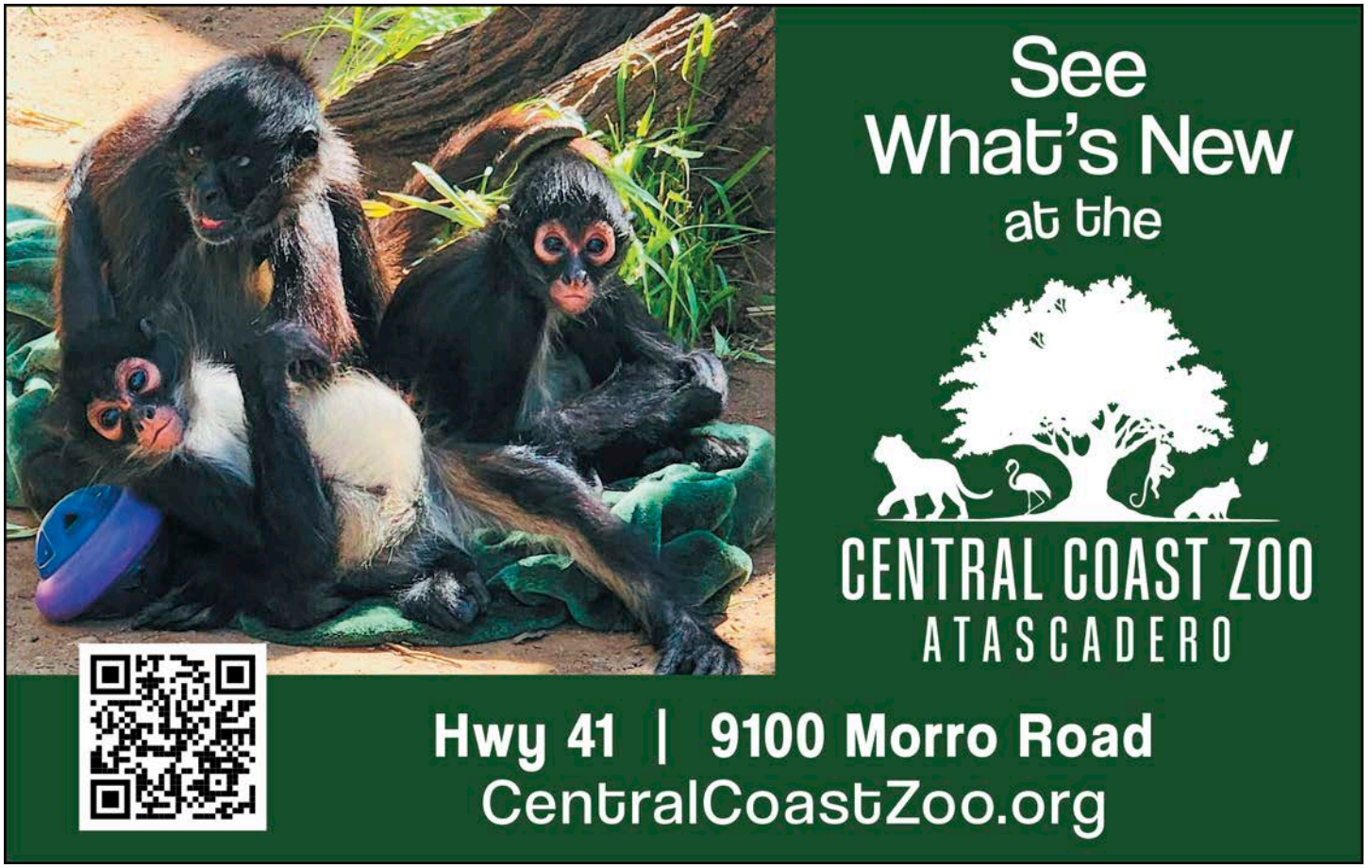
Bovine Classic for world-class cycling

Get ready for a weekend of world-class cycling and a taste of the SLO Life at the 5th Annual Bovine Classic, America's 4th Hardest Cow-Themed Gravel Cycling Ride! The ride starts at 8:30 a.m. on October 30 from Atascadero's beautiful Sunken Gardens. The event has limited space and multiple routes with varying difficulties.

To participate in this year's event, visit thebovineclassic.com for full event information and registration.

Holiday happenings

The holidays in Atascadero kick into full gear with the annual Holiday Boutique at Atascadero Lake Park and Pavilion at 10 a.m., November 7. Check out a variety of handmade and unique gifts for that special person or for yourself!



Holiday events continue with:

• Veterans Day at the Faces of Freedom Veterans Memorial, November 11 at 11 a.m.

• Garden Lights & Winter Nights from December 4 through January 11 is an opportunity to experience holiday lights and décor throughout Historic City Hall and Sunken Gardens.

• Holiday Musical Walk Around the Lake on December 5.

• Winter Wonderland Downtown on December 11.

Find more information about Atascadero's holiday happenings and locations at visitatascadero.com/events!

Zoo Boo and Holiday Magic at the Central Coast Zoo

Visiting the Central Coast Zoo is an amazing experience, and it gets better when the family joins in the many popular events! Zoo Boo and the Pumpkin Smash get the Halloween experience off to an early start, followed by more fun events in December.

Games and activities for the entire family

• Zoo Boo, October 23 and 24 from 4-7 p.m. Dress up the family in their favorite costumes and enjoy Halloween decorations, carnival games, a haunted maze and barn, tricks and treats, and a costume contest.

• The Pumpkin Smash is on October 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn what a spider monkey does with a pumpkin and watch the other animals delight in a pumpkin-filled extravaganza.

• Holiday Magic, December 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Experience the magic of the season as the zookeepers prepare gifts for the animals that the community has provided. Santa will be there, too!

• Noon Year's Eve, December 31, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring the kids for a countdown to the New Year at noon instead of midnight. There's a ball drop and cider toast at noon.

Are you looking for a fun and unique holiday gift? Consider the Central Coast Zoo's membership program.

Most events are included with the price of general admission. For more information about zoo activities, admission, and directions, visit centralcoastzoo.org.

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 Carizzo Plains National Monument

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

Santa Margarita Historical Society

The historical society takes local history online, with copies of research material held at the public library located on the corner of I & Murphy Streets. Ongoing projects include documenting a number of the community's historic buildings and recording the stories of "old timers." santamargaritahistoricalsociety.org

Margarita Adventures Zipline Tours

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

Margarita Adventures, experience the Central Coast's ultimate playground

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

Epic Zipline tours

Margarita Adventures zipline tours offer a uniquely thrilling perspective on a true California landmark, the historic Santa Margarita Ranch. Here, you embark on six distinct ziplines spanning more than 7,500 linear feet, finishing with an 1800-foot journey over Pinot Noir vines.

Save with holiday gift certificates

Save big this holiday season! Margarita Adventures presents the ultimate stocking stuffer with discounted gift certificates. You'll save on Zipline Tour, Escape Room, and e-Bike Tour gift certificates. Stock up at Margarita-Adventures.com and then redeem on any day thereafter.

Soar with the eagles on Margarita Adventures ziplines.

Acclaimed escape rooms

ESCAPE! at Margarita Adventures offers four escape room experiences with unique storylines that test your wits, imagination, and ingenuity. It's great fun for groups, friends, and families as you work together to solve interactive puzzles to "escape."

Scenic Vineyard eBike tours

Take a pedal-assisted eBike ride into Margarita Vineyard and experience the rare beauty of the historic Santa Margarita Ranch. Here, you will learn about the ranch's rich history, sustainable winegrowing practices, and more. You may opt to finish your ride at the affiliated Ancient Peaks Tasting Room and Café right across the street.

For reservations and more information, visit margarita-adventures.com, call (805) 438-3120, or stop by the Margarita Adventures office at 22719 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita. Be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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 handmade crafts.

Dining & Drinks

Chulos Cafe & Cantina

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

McPhee's Grill

Fresh seafood, wood grilled steaks, & gourmet 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

Wines on Main

The destination for thoughtfully curated imported wines, Friday evening live music, and bi-monthly tastings hosted by acclaimed local winemakers. An inviting space to savor exceptional wines, food, entertainment, and experience the region's welcoming hospitality. 624 South Main St, Templeton, winesonmain.shop, (805) 591-7069

Health Care

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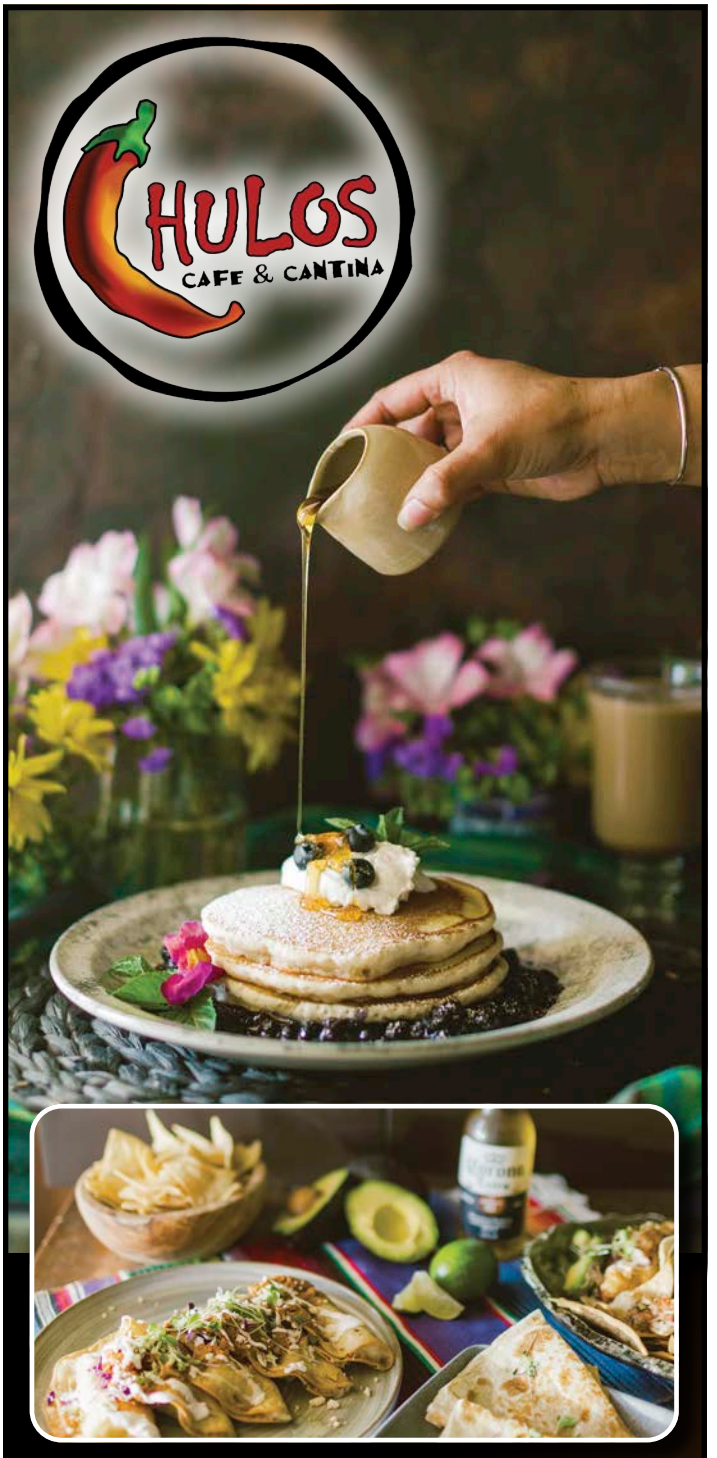

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Wines on Main, a one-stop experience for local wines and global sips

The shop is filled with hundreds of local and imported wines

Exceptional wines and bites at Wines on Main.

The buzz is that Wines on Main wine bar is the place to be for an exceptional wine adventure, great bites, entertainment, and a welcoming, friendly staff that guarantees a relaxed and enjoyable experience.

Since opening in October 2023, Wines on Main has become one of Templeton's hotspots for enjoying local and imported wine. "We're especially passionate about imports and are proud to offer some of the best selections of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. With hundreds of local and imported wines to choose from, there's always something new to explore, and it's always worth taking a look through our shop," said owner Jennifer Baeza.

"Our guests definitely enjoy exploring different wines, and I make it a point to carry unique selections from around the world so there's always something new to discover," said Jennifer.

Drop in to enjoy a glass, a bottle, or more. Order some food from the menu, which includes charcuterie boards, a wonderful pâté from Wayward Bakery, honey-whipped chèvre, and beautiful caviar boards. During the summer, Leo Leo Gelato is always a guest favorite.

Check the calendar!

For fun, upbeat entertainment, there's live music every Friday from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday is Industry Night, when hospitality industry members receive a discount. On the first and third Tuesdays of each month, the venue features either a local winery or an importer for tastings, offering featured wines by the flight, glass, and bottle. A tasting flight includes a curated selection of four wines for $25.

"I always encourage guests to visit our website to see upcoming special events," said Jennifer. "For example, we are bringing back our popular Oysters & Champagne event in September."

Local roots meet global palate

A lifelong Paso Robles local, Jennifer was inspired to open Wines on Main from developing a deep appreciation for wine, especially imported wines. After 17 years in the wine industry and a decade of expanding her wine education and exploring wine regions around the world, she gave her passion a home at the shop.

"Opening Wines on Main gave me the opportunity to combine my passion with my community. My goal was to create a welcoming place where both locals and visitors could discover incredible wines, learn something new, and enjoy great conversations over a glass," she said. "I couldn't have done this without the help of my sister and partner, Natalie."

An exceptional venue, plus a to-go menu!

Along with the wine for your next party or celebration, Wines on Main helps elevate your event by providing the perfect venue. From release and pick-up parties, appreciation events, special gatherings for birthdays, graduation, holiday gatherings, and more. The venue is an ideal choice for hosting private events.

Along with a private venue, Wines on Main can prepare a selection of delicious party platters and grazing boxes prepared from local and imported ingredients. Place your order, pick it up from the shop, and enjoy your festivities without the stress of food preparation!

• Wines on Main's customized cheese platters are a delicious assortment tailored to your preference. Drop off your own charcuterie board for them to fill as an added convenience.

• Indulge in their handcrafted grazing boxes, perfect for picnics, concerts, special lunches, and any occasion.

Relax and browse the wine selections at Wines on Main wine bar.

Bubbles make wine even more fun

Wines on Main offers two wine clubs:

• The Bubbles Club offers anywhere from one to four bottles of bubbles biannually, in April and October, for $130.

• The Wine Club offers two bottles of wine monthly for $39 per month, focusing on different regions. Choose from reds, whites, or mixed.

Pick up wine club offerings at the shop! Wine club memberships include a 10% per bottle "out the door" discount on wine purchases to take with you. Club wines and bubbles are personally hand-picked by Jennifer.

There's more!

Drop in! Reservations are recommended for parties of six or more.

You can also join the Wines on Main mailing list and learn about new wines, upcoming special events, and more.

Wines on Main is located at 624 S Main St., Suite 101A in Templeton. Open 1-8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday. For more information, visit winesonmain.shop, or call (805) 591-7069.

—Jackie Iddings

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A taste of tradition at Templeton Market & Deli

Excellent homestyle cooking and more!

Templeton Market & Deli serving homestyle food made from scratch.

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

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

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

Allen said, "We try to accommodate our local customers, business people, youth, and their needs. Many of Templeton's local kids have worked for us over the years, and we love having that connection to our community. It is all about Templeton for us." The market is part of the fabric of Templeton.

Homegrown for the community

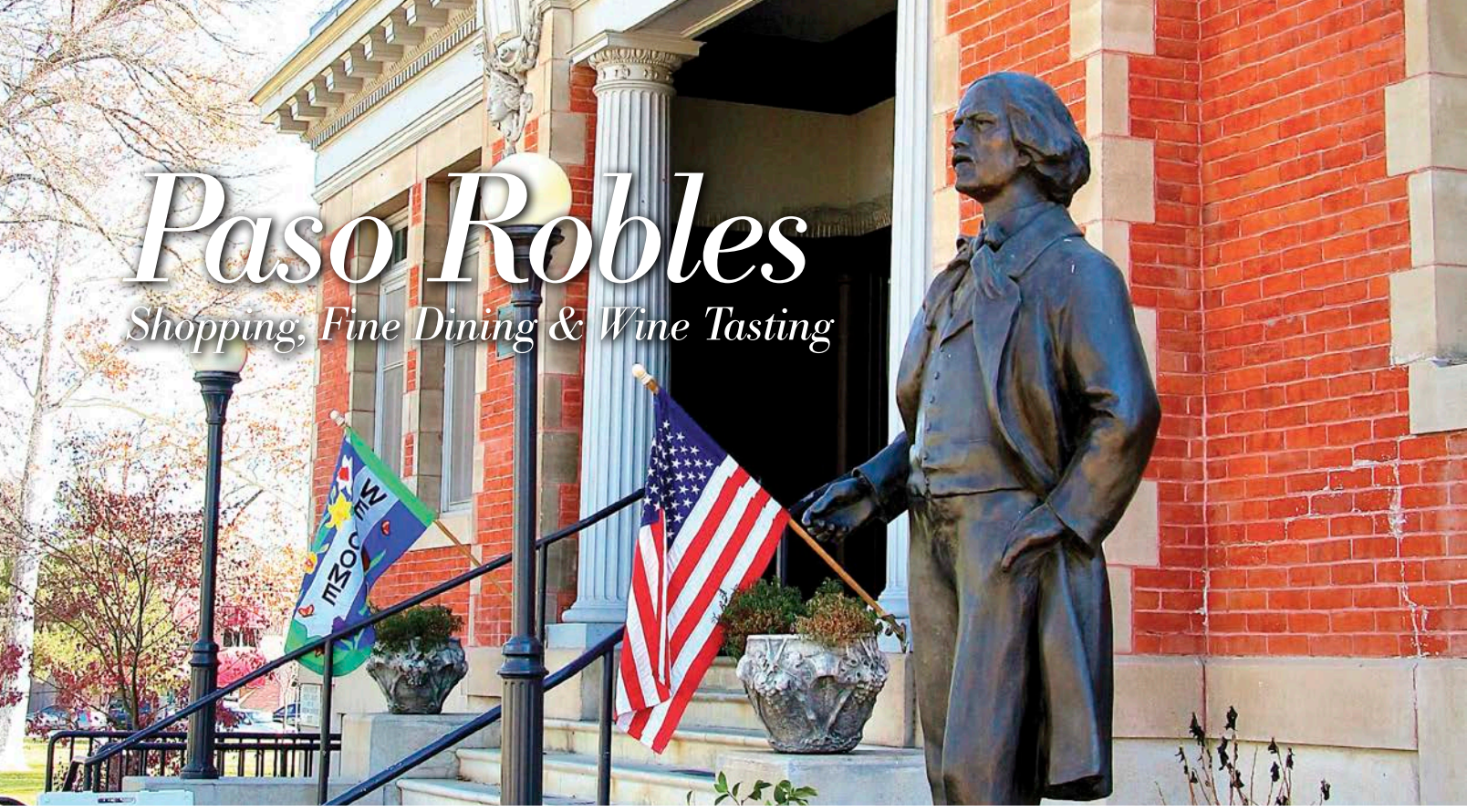
Templeton Market & Deli is known for its breakfast specials, fried foods, salads, sandwiches, wraps, juicy burgers, and catering. They provide platters, trays, salads, and appetizers for weddings, office parties, memorials, and on-site barbecues or full-service catering for any special event.

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

"We love serving our customers, and we love giving back to the community that supports us." Allen is active in the community, was named Citizen of the Year in 2020, served as Homecoming Grand Marshal, and is co-founder of the Nightmare on Main Street haunted house, a local nonprofit that has given back over $90 thousand to the community. The Market also sponsors Concerts in the Park, local Templeton youth sports teams, the Templeton High School FFA, Relay for Life, the Templeton 4th of July parade, the Wine and Roses Bike Ride, The Templeton Easter Egg Hunt, the Farm Supply Quiz Jam at the Mid State Fair for FFA and 4-H, Central Coast Honor Flight and the Templeton Community Library, as well as many other organizations and activities. Allen has also served as a THS Mock Rock judge and on the Save Templeton Fire committee, as well as a past board member of Templeton Recreation Foundation.

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

—Cassandra Frey



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

Park Street Antiques

A unique variety of hand-selected vintage and antique goods, including records, glassware, jewelry, trading cards, lamps, furniture, collectibles, and vintage clothing. Pet-friendly establishment! Look for the black, silver, and blue balloons at 1335 Park Street, (805) 296-3040

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

Art Galleries

Park Street Gallery

Park Street Gallery showcases some of the finest work from premier artists of the Central Coast. Featuring original paintings, sculpture, furniture, unique jewelry, blown and fused glass, wood turnings, ceramics, and fiberarts! Located at 1320 Park Street, Paso Robles. parkstreetgallery.com, (805) 286-4430

Attractions & Tours

Franklin Hot Springs

A local favorite since the 1950s, known for soothing warmth, healing benefits, and a serene, relaxing year-round retreat. Pure, chemical-free mineral pools and tubs (98–100°F). Open daily 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Affordable admission. 3015 Creston Rd, Paso Robles, (805) 712-5372

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

Dining & Drinks

Black Sheep Sourdough Micro-Bakery

Naturally fermented, real ingredients, fresh sourdough bread, flaky scones, delicious cookies with personality, prepared and baked the slow way—honest baked goods from a rebellious bakery breaking all the rules. 1306 Pine St., # D, Paso Robles. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit blacksheepsourdough.com, (805) 221-5281

Cane Tiki Room

Cane Tiki Room gives a tropical exotic escape to their guests, right in the heart of Paso Robles. Featuring Polynesian small bites and delicious tiki cocktails, Cane Tiki Room is a must visit! 1240 Park St. Paso Robles, canetikiroom.com, (805) 227-7113

Eleven Twenty Two Speakeasy & Cocktail Lounge

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

Odyssey World Cafe

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

Pappy McGregor's Gastro Pub

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

Paso Terra Bistro

Enjoy Paso Terra's affordable global menu and tasty entrées, including seafood, steak, pasta, sandwiches, appetizers and more. Open Wednesday-Saturday 4:30-9 p.m. Happy hour 4:30-6 p.m. 1032 Pine St., pasoterrabistro.com, (805) 286-4002

Primal House

Blending heritage, craftsmanship and diverse local flavors into a distinctive experience. Their offerings include an old-world-style butcher shop, in-house brewery featuring seasonal craft beers, farm-to-table comfort food and a local produce market. 3330 Ramada Dr., Paso Robles, PrimalHousePaso.com, (805) 202-4700

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

Rustic Fire
Locally owned for nearly 20 years, Rustic Fire serves North County's top-rated brick-oven pizza, fresh-made salads, homemade soups, and locally crafted gelato. Enjoy an extensive local wine and craft beer selection, warm hospitality, and family-friendly dining. 1145 24th St., Suite D, Paso Robles, rusticfire.com, (805) 238-7711

Spirit of Paso Robles
Great breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, and amazing golf course views. Also check out Spirit of San Luis in SLO, for great food and runway views! Open daily. 700 Clubhouse Drive, Paso Robles, or 925 Airport Dr., SLO. Spiritofpasorobles.com, (805) 257-8003

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

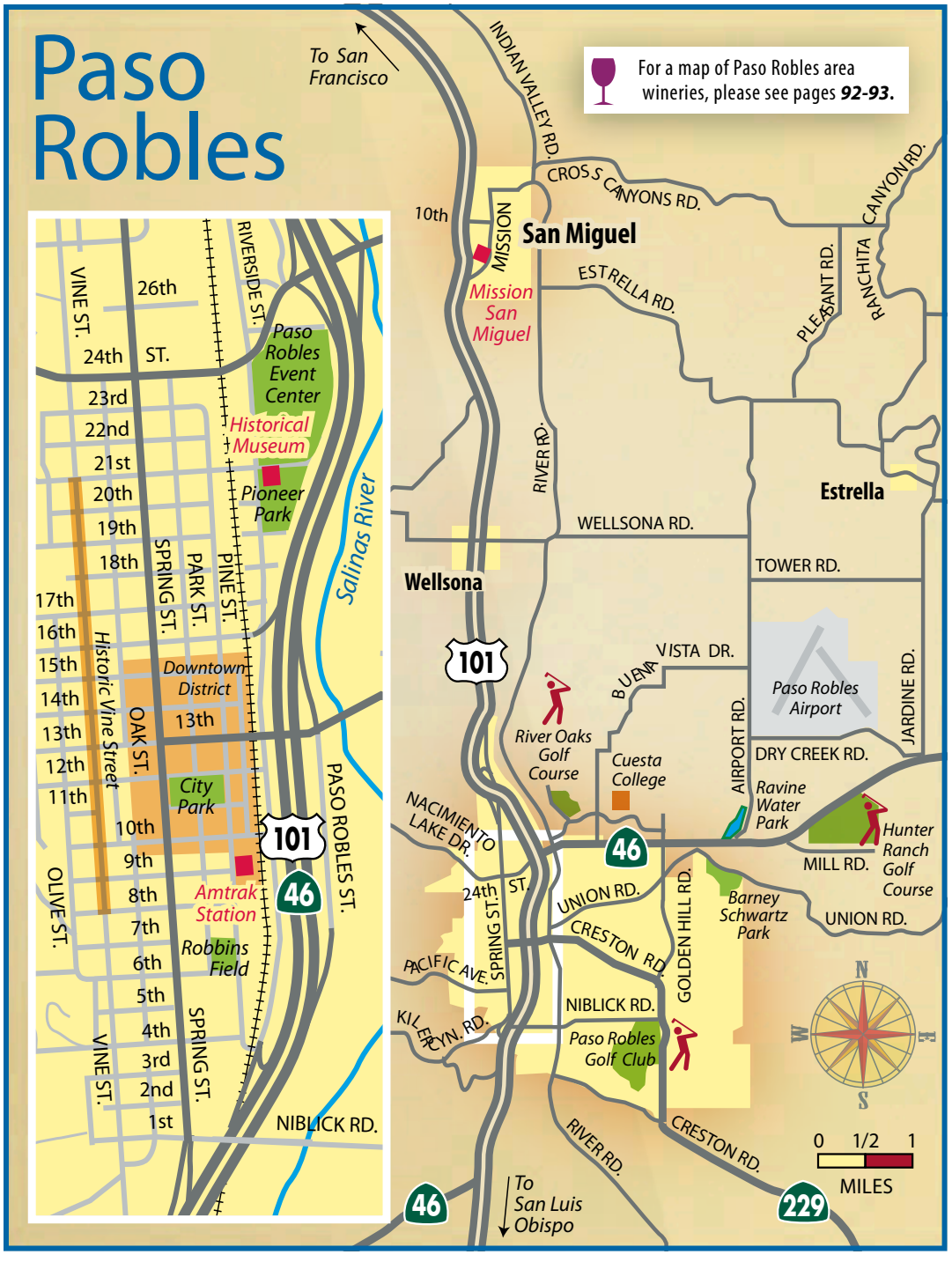
Yes Cocktail Co.
Premium mixology goods for your perfect pour. Whether you're looking to wind down or turn up, we produce award winning mixers, syrups, bitters and more to liven up any cocktail or mocktail. Daily tastings & mixology classes, bookable online at yescocktailco.com, 2915 Union Rd. Paso Robles, (805)-591-4735

Hotels & Lodging

Oxford Suites
Discover Tripadvisor's highly rated stay. Unwind with genuine hospitality, an outdoor pool, luxury amenities, and easy access to the region's best vineyards. Pet-friendly, complimentary parking, breakfast, social hour, and more. 800 4th Street, Paso Robles. Reservations: oxfordcollection.com/hotels/suites-paso-robles, (805) 237-0305

Indoor Activities

Crimson Cue Sports & Billiard Club
The Crimson Cue is the all-age fun location for pool, shuffleboard, and darts. Serving a variety of beers and seltzers. Open daily from 1 p.m. with late hours on Friday and Saturday. 1319 Spring St., Paso Robles, (805) 674-4664



Museums

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

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

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

Shopping

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

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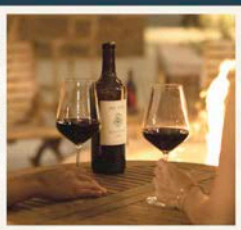
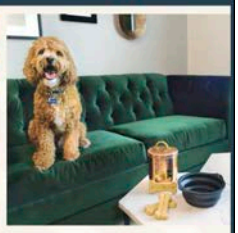

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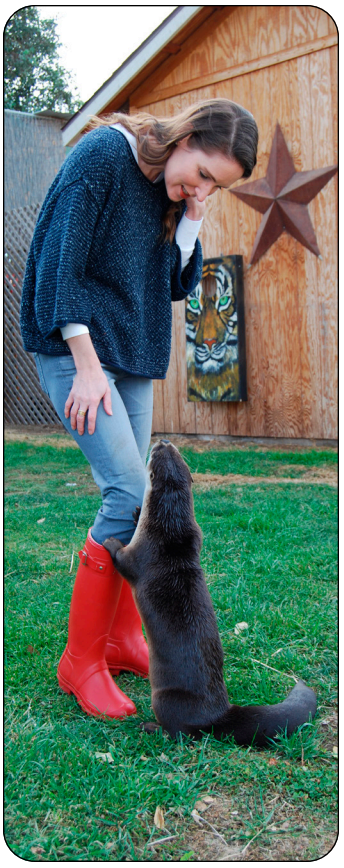
The Haute Doggy

Locally owned pet boutique offering premium food, treats, toys, and apparel for dogs and cats. Unique cat lounge featuring quality time with adoptable cats. In-store pet grooming in partnership with Maddogs Pet Grooming. 1401 Park St. #102, Paso Robles, thehautedoggy.com, (424) 493-8646



Estrella Warbirds Museum is a one-of-a-kind Central Coast adventure

Historic aircraft, military memorabilia, classic vehicles, and more

Betsy's Biscuit Bomber.

Spend a day at the Estrella Warbirds Museum and Woodland Auto Display. See rare military aircraft and vehicles, as well as an amazing collection of restored automobiles ranging from American and European classics to racetrack winners. The Woodland Auto Display has been called the best auto museum on the Central Coast.

The museum was established in 1992 at the Paso Robles Municipal Airport and is dedicated to restoring and preserving military aircraft, vehicles, and memorabilia. From its first hangar, the museum has grown to a 20-acre, 14-building complex of exhibit halls, workshops, a library, a gift shop, and conference facilities.

Estrella Warbirds Museum

Experience history firsthand by standing next to an amazing array of military aircraft and armored vehicles.

The displays feature fighter airplanes from the Cold War to the present, ranging from a Link Trainer Flight Simulator to a state-of-the-art, full-size F/A-18 cockpit simulator used for pilot training. Make an appointment for a Friday or Sunday, and reserve your own flight time in the simulator! The displays in Freedom Hall include artifacts from WWI to the present, featuring actual cockpit instrument displays from US and Japanese fighters, as well as a Norden bombsight used by US bombers in WWII.

The museum hosts the Gooney Bird Group (GBG) and its C-47, Betsy's Biscuit Bomber. Betsy has chronicled quite a history, logging over 9400 flight hours in service with the air forces of the US, Belgium, France, and Israel. The group acquired Betsy from Canada, where she had been mothballed for six years, and returned her to full flight status in 2009. In 2019, Betsy flew to the UK, along with many of her sister C-47s and DC-3s, to participate in the 75th D-Day anniversary reenactment. For a

treat, search online for "Daks over Duxford," and watch your choice of YouTube videos of this anniversary celebration.

The Red Ball Express display features restored large military logistics vehicles used to support General Patton's late 1944 march to the Battle of the Bulge.

Woodland Auto Display—the jewel in the crown

The jewel in the crown at the museum is the Woodland Auto Display. Be prepared to be amazed at the 20,000-square-foot display hall featuring a range of vehicles from the 1886 Benz Motorwagen to a 2005 Ford GT 550, and everything in between. Autos on display include American, European, and Japanese classics, all in showroom condition. Steve McQueen's Indian motorcycle and sidecar are on display, as well as an accurate recreation of an Indy 500 workshop with actual garage doors from the famed Brickyard. The auto display's collection of race cars is unmatched and includes midget, sprint, Silver Crown, modified NASCAR, and Indy racers. The opportunity to see the auto memorabilia filling the display hall walls is well worth the visit.

An open invitation

The museum is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit. The admission and ticket fees help ensure that the museum continues to honor those who flew, drove, and worked on the planes and vehicles at the museum, and help future generations understand that the American way of life does not come without sacrifice.

Estrella Warbirds Museum and Woodland Auto Display, located at 4251 Dry Creek Road, Paso Robles, are open Thursday-Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Mondays for Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. For tickets or more information, visit ewarbirds.org or call (805) 238-9317.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Downtown Paso Robles

OCTOBER

Sat. 17th • Golden Oak Honey & Pumpkin Festival & Kids' Flea Market
10am-4pm, Downtown City Park (Free Admission)

Sat. 24th • Dia de los Muertos Festival
10am-7pm, Downtown City Park (Free Admission)

Sat. 31st • Downtown Safe & Fun Halloween
4pm-7pm (Free Admission)

NOVEMBER

Sat. 14th • Downtown Elegant Evening
5pm-8pm, Downtown Paso Robles (Free Admission)

Fri. 27th • 40th Annual Downtown Lighting Ceremony
5:30pm, Downtown City Park (Free Admission)

Sat. 28th • Shop Small Saturday
Downtown Paso Robles (Free Admission)

DECEMBER

Sat. 5th • 65th Annual Christmas Light Parade
Theme: "Light Up Your Holiday", Santa arrives,
7pm, Downtown Paso Robles (Free Admission)

Sat. 12th • 40th Annual Vine Street Victorian Showcase
Sat. 6pm-9pm

Sat. 19th • 36th Annual Teddy Bear Affair
2pm-4pm, Park Ballroom
Tickets Required: my805tix.com

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Double your pleasure at two Red Scooter Deli locations

Voted best grilled cheese in the county at the SLO Grilled Cheese Festival

When you find yourself in or near downtown Paso Robles, hungry and without much time to grab a good meal, Red Scooter Deli comes to the rescue! Give them a call, order online, or drop in. With two locations, ordering from this popular Paso Robles hot spot is easy, or you can order online for delivery or pickup. Both locations offer outside dining for enjoying your meal, too.

The BALT, with bacon, lettuce, tomato, avocado, mayo on sourdough

Pick up your order at the 711 6th Street location, right next to Robbins Field, across from the Post Office. Or stop by the downtown location at 1102 Pine Street, and enjoy lunch in the Downtown City Park. Leisurely dining is still a thing to do at both locations. Each location has an outdoor patio and is ready to greet loyal Red Scooter fans and welcome newcomers!

Over the years, the Red Scooter, renowned for its mouthwatering fresh ingredients, vegan options, and warm hospitality, has become a foodie destination for locals and visitors. Traveling fans of the deli make it a point to stop here, as it's the perfect halfway point between Southern California and the Bay Area.

Fresh, locally-sourced food

The deli opens early for breakfast, serving everything from bagels, lox, egg scrambles, and breakfast sandwiches, to gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options. Locals and visitors exploring the beautiful Paso Robles wine country can enjoy meals on the patio or take a picnic to a winery or the nearby park.

The food is built on fresh, locally sourced ingredients, including pastries and breads either baked in-house or from local bakeries. Guests can choose from a variety of hot and cold sandwiches, wraps, salads, and soups, all piled high with delicious fillings. There are dietary options available, as well as fruit smoothies, a full espresso bar, and pastries like walnut-loaded sticky buns and lemon bars.

A favorite since 2010

Stephanie Johnston has been operating the Red Scooter Deli since 2010. She works alongside her staff, taking orders, preparing the food, serving, checking on customers, and bussing tables. "I'm very hands-on," said Johnston. "This is a family-run business, and I enjoy mentoring the staff and helping them learn and develop job skills." Her efforts are apparent in the cheerful and helpful attitudes of the deli staff, and Red Scooter Deli's contributions to local charity are always top of mind, giving a percentage of profits to help the homeless, Woods Humane Society, supporting local schools, other nonprofits, and donating meals each month to the Echo shelter.

Bagels, bagels, and more bagels!

Red Scooter Deli is also the perfect go-to for catering local events, wineries, and group breakfast and luncheons. The catering menu features a large variety of breakfast options, sandwiches, cheese, and vegetable platters, as well as salad bowls, box lunches, and desserts.

Drop in and order in person or use Red Scooter's easy and convenient online ordering system. Delivery to many locations is available for orders placed between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Delivery to wineries is available, as well as to Templeton and San Miguel businesses.

Red Scooter Deli's locations are 1102 Pine Street, open daily 9 a.m. - 4 pm. And 711 6th Street, open 6:30 a.m.-4 pm daily. Delivery is available daily, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, visit redscooterdeli.com or call (805) 237-1780.

Come for the fall festivals, stay for holiday celebrations

There's always something going on in downtown Paso Robles, and especially in the fall. October kicks off with the Pioneer Day celebration in the park. From then on, it's one event and activity after another, all the way through holiday shopping events and the famous Victorian Teddy Bear Tea in the Park Ballroom.

Pioneer Day

Pioneer Day, October 10, is the 96th anniversary of one of Paso Robles' most cherished events. The first Pioneer Day, on October 12, 1931, was organized to provide a day of community friendship to commemorate the heritage of the region. The event has continued that tradition every year since.

The highlight of this free day is the Pioneer Day Parade that starts at 10 a.m. at 16th and Spring streets. Bring the entire family and enjoy the antique tractors, horse-drawn wagons, marching bands, mounted equestrian groups, dancers, floats, fire engines, vintage cars, and more. For more information, visit pasoroblespioneerday.org.

Taste of Downtown & Arte de Tiza

Enjoy gourmet samples from over 35 local restaurants and wineries in Downtown City Park, September 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are required for this event and can be purchased at my805tix.com.

On the same day, beginning at 8 a.m., join the Paso Robles Art Association for a free Arte de Tiza youth chalk art festival. Watch the youngsters create chalk art on the sidewalk surrounding the Downtown City Park. Registration is from 8 to 9 a.m. The artwork judging is at 11:30 a.m., and the awards ceremony is at noon at the park gazebo. For more information, visit pasoroblesart.org or call (805) 712-4555.

Food, drink, handcrafted items, and more at the Golden Oak Festival.

Golden Oak Honey & Pumpkin Festival and Kids' Flea Market

Honey, arts, crafts, pie-eating, and vendors, along with the Kids' Flea Market, fill the Downtown City Park. This annual event celebrates local beekeepers and honey producers and is the perfect place to acquire the best of the pumpkin harvest. Vendor booths are filled with unique gifts, tasty honey, educational experiences, and fun. October 17, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Free admission.

What's Halloween without a Día de los Muertos festival?

Come downtown and enjoy both. Things are done a little differently here, though Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, complete with an

ofrenda altar honoring loved ones, is celebrated a few days ahead of the traditional early November date.

Join the community in Downtown City Park on Saturday, October 24, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for a cultural celebration, educational and children's activities, food, dance, music, vendors, a special ofrenda altar, and more.

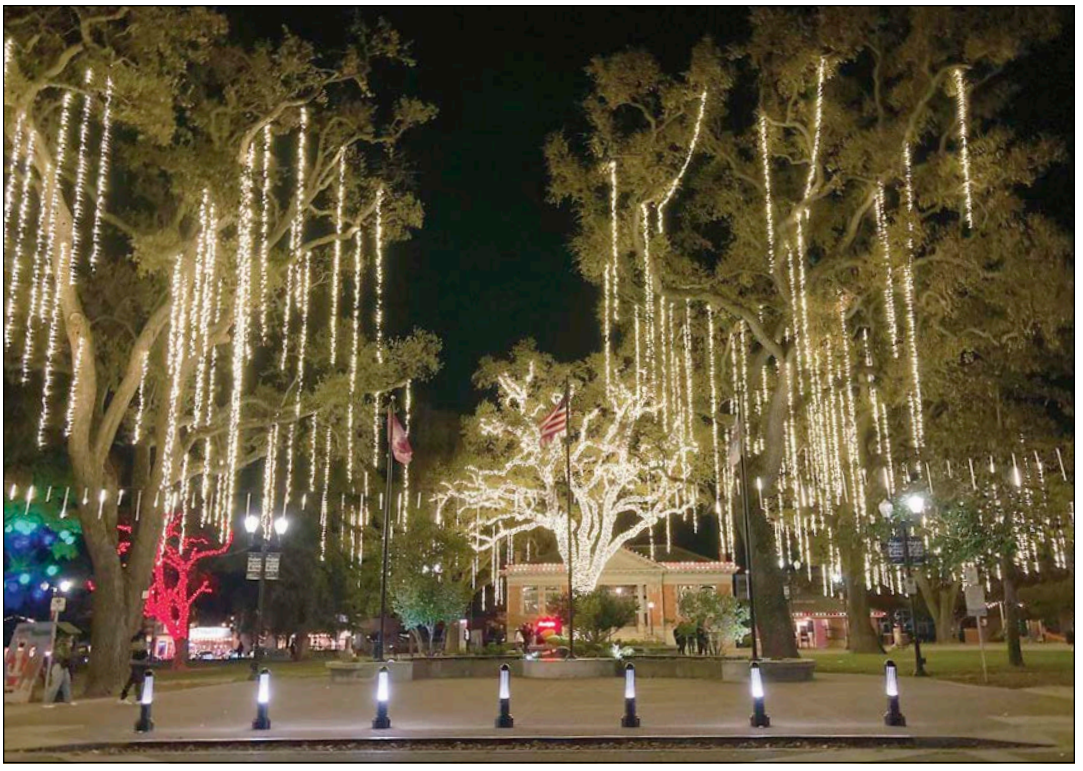
Rest up and come back downtown for Safe & Fun Halloween Downtown on Saturday, October 31, between 4 and 7 p.m. Dress the family in their favorite costumes and trick-or-treat around the park.

Elegant Holiday Evening Downtown

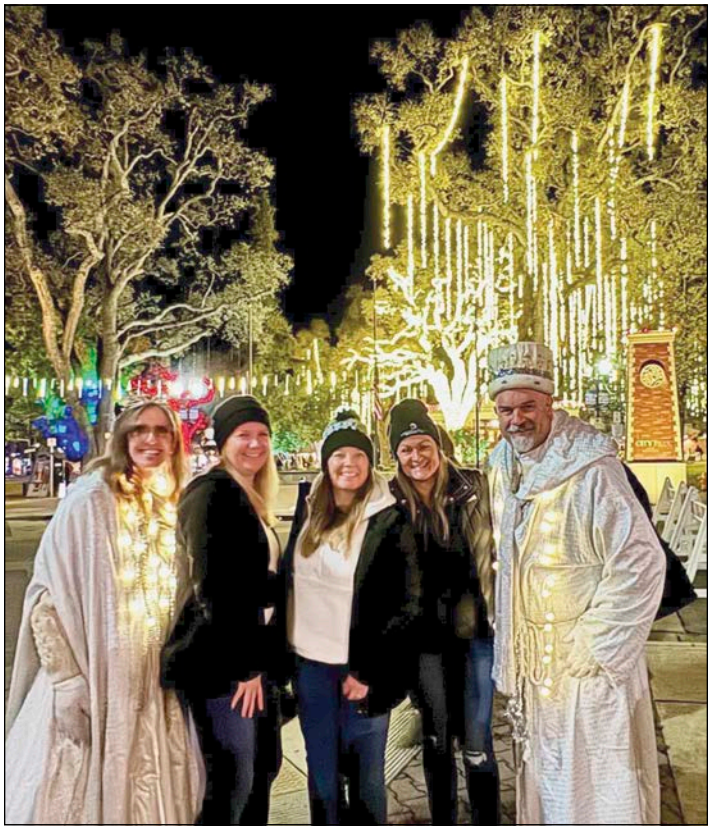
This annual free event kicks off the holiday season, featuring local merchants open house specials, live mannequins, refreshments, and entertainment. Saturday, November 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., downtown Paso Robles.

More not-to-be-missed holiday activities

November and December are packed with Paso Robles' traditional holiday activities.



The 40th Annual Downtown Lighting Ceremony. Mrs. Claus and her entourage arrive just in time to switch on the holiday lights in the Downtown City Park. Enjoy hot coffee, cocoa, candlelight, caroling, and Christmas characters. Free admission, Friday, November 27, 5:30 p.m.



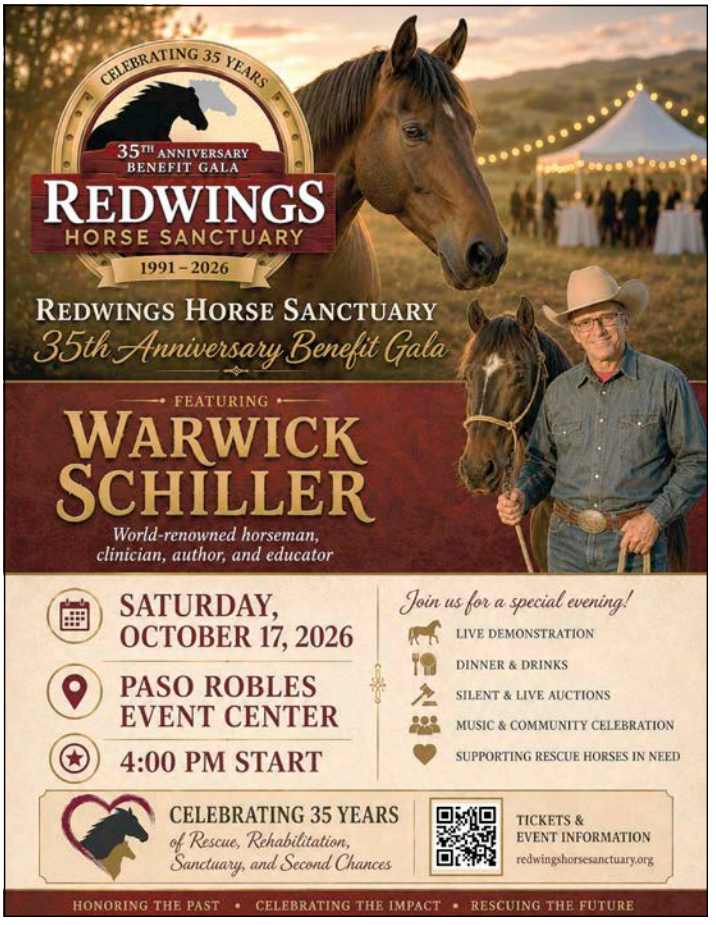
Shop Small Saturday. All day, November 28, is the opportunity to explore, browse, and purchase the best unique gifts that downtown merchants have to offer.

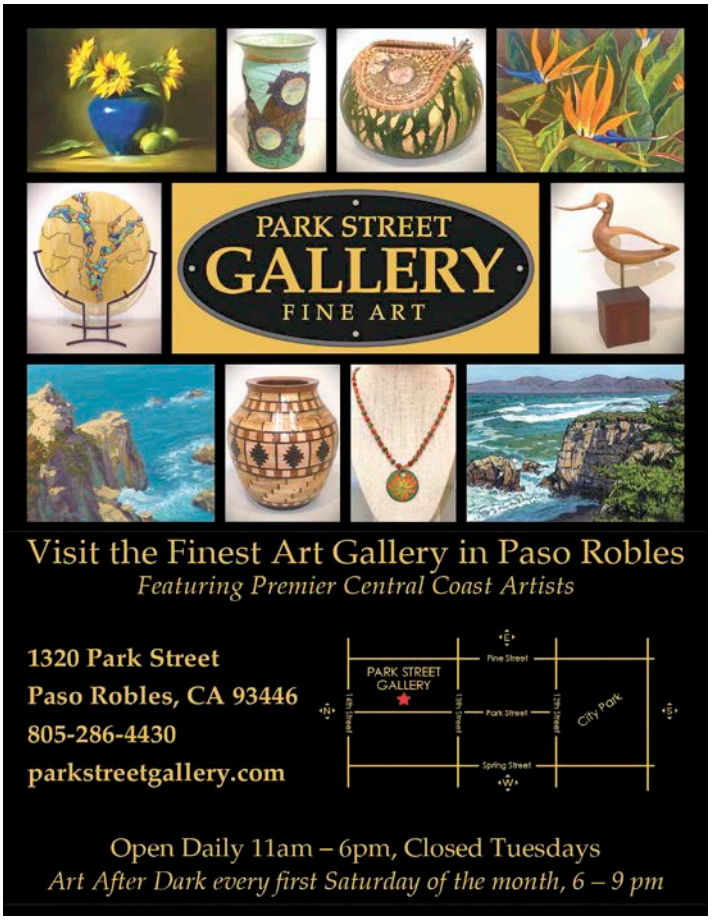
The 65th Annual Christmas Light Parade. Santa officially arrives, along with festively lighted floats, classic cars, and surprises. The parade starts at Spring and 10th streets, and winds around the park. Saturday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

The 40th Annual Vine Street Victorian Showcase. Enjoy the sights of Christmas decorations adorning Paso Robles' iconic Victorian homes and businesses. On Vine Street from 8th to 21st streets, Saturday, December 12, 6-9 p.m.

The 40th Annual Teddy Bear Tea. Santa and Mrs. Claus are holding court along with their company of elves and famous personalities. Tea and tasty snacks are served, and there are a variety of all-age activities for this family-friendly holiday event. Park Ballroom. Saturday, December 19, 2-4 p.m. Tickets at my805tix.com.

The Downtown City Park is located at Spring and 12th streets. For more information about events, visit pasoroblesdowntown.org.





Odyssey Café is a favorite downtown gathering place

Savor fresh, handcrafted cuisine and heartfelt hospitality

Something for every appetite.

Whether you're visiting Paso Robles for world-class wine tasting, a weekend getaway, or exploring the charming downtown, Odyssey World Café invites you to slow down, relax, and enjoy a memorable meal. For nearly 30 years, Odyssey has been a favorite gathering place where generous portions, fresh ingredients, and genuine hospitality come together to create an experience guests return for again and again.

Located in the heart of downtown, Odyssey World Cafe offers something for every appetite. From crisp salads, creative tacos, and flavorful stir-fry bowls to gourmet burgers, sandwiches, wraps, gyros, steaks, and comforting pasta dishes, every meal is thoughtfully prepared under the direction of owner and chef Carmelo Rodriguez.

Before becoming an owner, Carmelo spent more than ten years leading the kitchen. Today, he continues to oversee every dish with commitment to consistency, freshness, and exceptional flavor. He treats his team like family, and that's love you can taste in every dish.

Odyssey has earned a reputation for serving meals that are as generous as they are delicious. Sharing an appetizer after an afternoon of wine tasting or settling in for a family dinner, you'll find comfortable, unhurried dining in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Pair

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a Village of Shops
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(805) 239-1001
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your meal with a carefully selected Central Coast wine, a local craft beer, specialty Peet's coffee, or an enticing dessert.

A menu offering something for everyone

"Our menu truly has something for everyone," says co-owner Anna Rodriguez. "Guests love our grilled salmon salad, chicken piccata, and tacos featuring house-made salsas. One of our signature vegetarian favorites is the blackened tofu tacos with spicy peanut sauce, fresh pineapple, and pickled onions. We love creating dishes that surprise people

Brick Oven Tradition. Local Flavor.

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with fresh flavors while making sure every guest leaves happy and satisfied."

"We're incredibly grateful for the loyalty of our local community while also welcoming visitors from around the world," says Anna. "Whether it's your first visit or your hundredth, we want every guest to feel cared for, enjoy a wonderful meal, and look forward to coming back."

The people are what truly allow Odyssey to achieve its goals. Many team members have been with the restaurant for years, greeting familiar faces by name and welcoming first-time visitors with the same warmth. Friendly, attentive service and authentic hospitality are at the heart of every meal, like welcoming each guest into our home.

Art, catering, and special events

Odyssey continues to partner with the Paso Robles Art Association to display the work of local artists on its walls. This partnership showcases the creativity of the region while giving guests the opportunity to experience another unique aspect of the Central Coast's vibrant culture.

Planning a gathering? Odyssey also offers catering for business meetings, family celebrations, and private small events, bringing the same quality, generous portions, and attention to detail to every occasion.

Settle in at Odyssey World Cafe and savor fresh, handcrafted cuisine and experience the kind of heartfelt hospitality that has made it a favorite of locals and visitors for nearly three decades.

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

Celebrating 10 years of fine art and fine Craft at Park Street Gallery!

Celebrating the artistic talent of California's Central Coast

Explore the many choices at Park Street Gallery.

Discover why Park Street Gallery is famous for its wide array of unique and original pieces of art, featuring the work of over 55 accomplished artists from all over the Central Coast. The gallery has a relaxed atmosphere and is a fabulous opportunity to spend quality time browsing fine art! The gallery, established in 2017, is host to some of the best work to be found in the region. The work reflects the beauty, creativity, and character of California's Central Coast. From dramatic coastal landscapes and vineyard vistas to contemporary abstracts and finely crafted artisan pieces, every visit offers new discoveries.

Stepping inside, you are welcomed into a warm, inviting space where relaxing music flows and thoughtfully presented displays encourage mindful browsing. Park Street Gallery offers a friendly atmosphere that invites you to slow down, explore, and connect with the stories behind each handcrafted creation. The gallery has become a favorite gathering place for art lovers, collectors, and visitors alike. It's an inspiring destination where creativity and community come together.

"We live in a beautiful place, and many people come here because of the local charm. We're so fortunate to have such talented artists and craftspeople living locally, and our customers really enjoy being able to take home a piece of the Central Coast. As we head into our 10th year, we're blessed with customers who make it a point to stop in to visit and find something new to add to their collection," said Julie Dunn, gallery owner.

Showcasing Central Coast creativity

Park Street Gallery has become known for its approachable atmosphere and carefully curated collection. The gallery features original paintings in a variety of mediums alongside one-of-a-kind jewelry, handcrafted wood pieces and furniture, fused and blown glass, fiber art, sculpture, ceramics, and fine art reproductions. Every piece is created by talented Central Coast artists, making the gallery an ideal place to find a meaningful addition to your home or that unique gift you're seeking.

Whether you're an avid collector or simply exploring downtown Paso Robles for the day, a visit to Park Street Gallery offers more than an opportunity to purchase art; it's an invitation to experience the remarkable talent and creative spirit that make the Central Coast a special place. All are welcome to walk in, relax, and refresh their souls and spirits with the beauty of art!

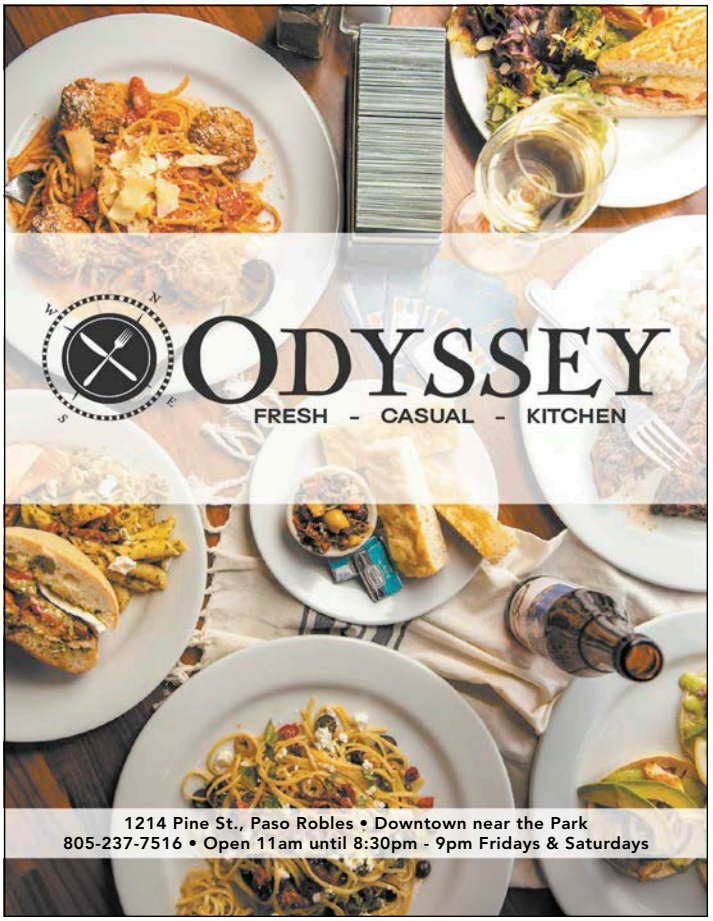
Julie adds, "Looking at art inspires the visual imagination, and it's so rewarding to see people of all ages feeling comfortable to explore the gallery, ask questions, discover something

Owner Julie Dunn with artist Deb Piazza, in front of paintings by Jim Tyler and Francie Beaman.

new, and become inspired to create their own artwork!"

The gallery participates in Art After Dark, a monthly tradition held on the first Saturday of each month, from 6-9 p.m. The public is invited to meet artists, enjoy a fun-filled atmosphere of music, small bites, and wine, or other beverages, while browsing art!

Visit Park Street Gallery at 1320 Park St in Paso Robles. Open 11 a.m.-6 a.m. daily and from 6-9 p.m. for Art After Dark on the 1st Saturday of every month. Closed Tuesdays. For more information, visit parkstreetgallery.com or call (805) 286-4430.



San Miguel

Mission San Miguel Archangel, a beacon of history

Mission San Miguel Archangel, founded in 1797, is the 16th of the California missions. Father Fremin de Lasuén established the mission to close the gap between Mission San Antonio de Padua in the north and Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa in the south.

The mission survived its first church burning down in 1806, years of neglect and vandalism (1834-1859) after the secularization by the Mexican Government, the abandonment of the Mission after the murder of the Reed family, and the 2003 San Simeon earthquake.

In 1846, Petronillo Rios and William Reed purchased the mission from the Mexican Government. Reed's family occupied the mission and grounds. Rios settled in what is now the Adobe Rios Caledonia across from the Mission. In 1848, the Reed family was robbed and murdered. After that, some of the mission rooms were converted to commercial enterprises, including a hotel, a saloon, and retail shops.

In 1859, President Buchanan, following the California Land Act of 1851, returned California missions and lands to the Catholic Church. By 1928, the mission was occupied and administered by Franciscan friars of the Province of Santa Barbara. The Mission continues to be an active parish and a historical landmark.

Today, the village of San Miguel is home to approximately 3000 residents and local businesses that serve visitors, locals, and nearby ranches and wineries. The mission is a cornerstone of the community, welcoming thousands of visitors annually and providing Mass and sacraments to local parishioners and visitors.

The mission is located at 775 Mission Street in San Miguel. For more information about tours, Mass, sacraments, and the mission's history, visit oldmissionsanmiguel.org.

Mission San Miguel

Museum: Mon-Sun 10 AM- 4 PM
Mass: Sat 5PM- Sun 11AM English
Sat 7PM-Sun 1PM Español
(805)-536-0532 www.oldmissionsanmiguel.org

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

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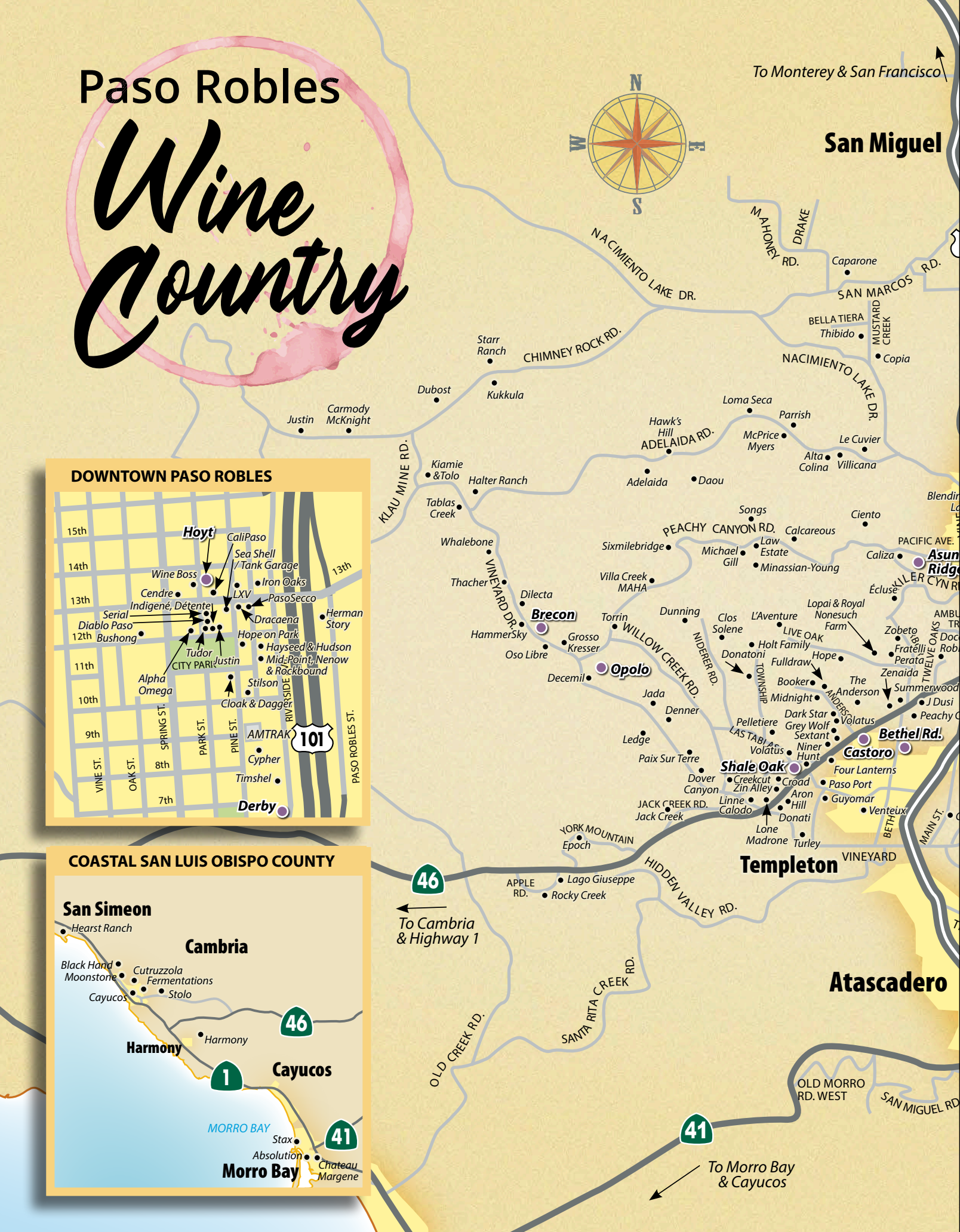
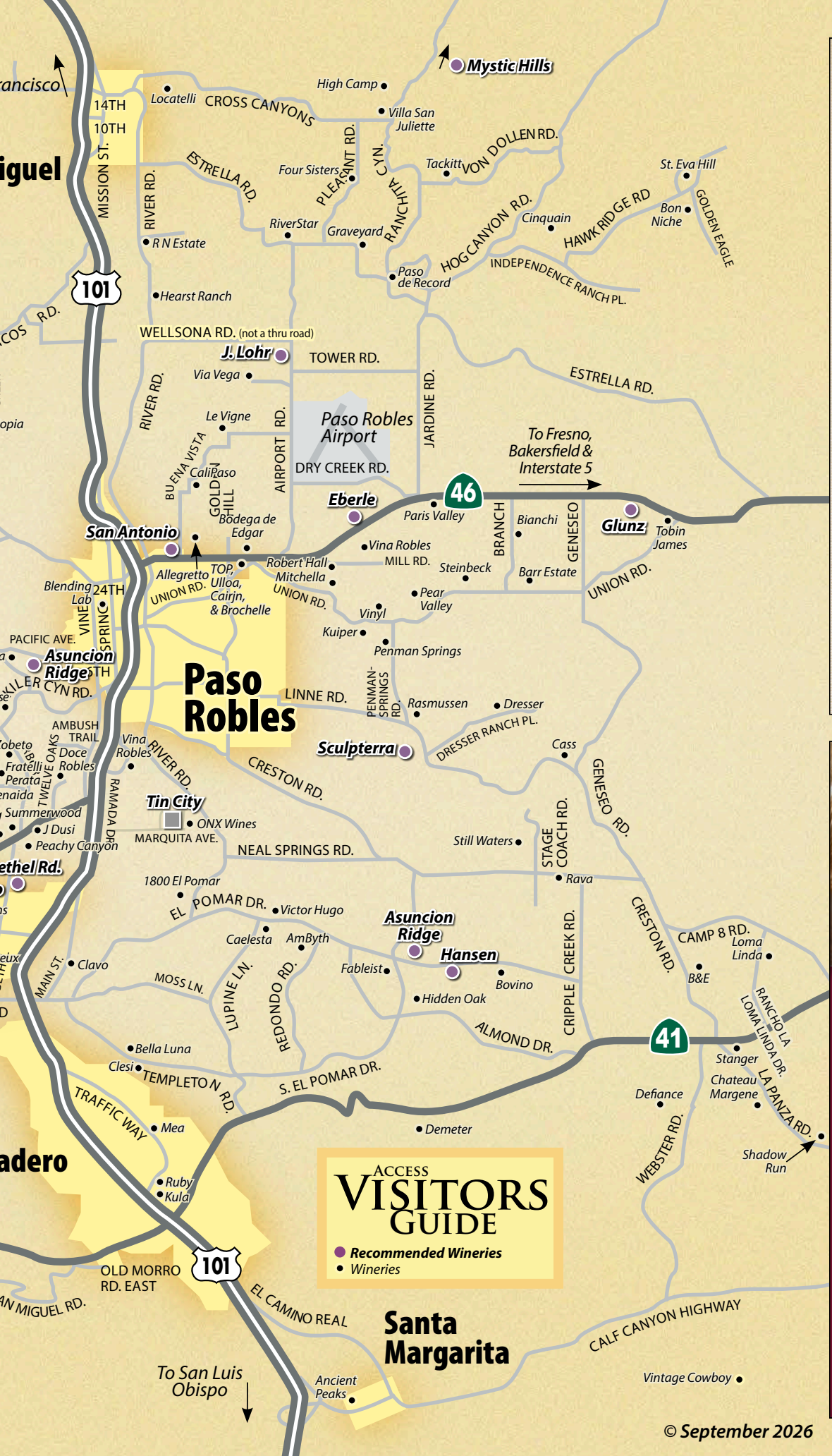
Paso Robles Wine Country



DOWNTOWN PASO ROBLES

COASTAL SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



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Glunz Family Winery in Paso Robles blends tradition and value

Fourth-generation winemakers welcome guests for tastings, tours, and conversation

Stephan and Matthew Glunz (fourth generation) getting some help from Matt and Will Glunz (fifth generation).

Glunz Family Winery opened in Paso Robles in 2014 with a focus on quality and value. "Since opening Glunz Family Winery, our primary goal has been to produce exceptional wines at accessible prices, and we're proud to say we've achieved just that," General Manager Stephan Glunz said.

The winery sits on 40 acres, with 10 acres dedicated to zinfandel and Bordeaux varietals. Grapes are also sourced from vineyards in Paso Robles, Edna Valley, and Santa Barbara County, allowing the family to produce a diverse lineup. Many of the wines have earned strong reviews while maintaining prices between $28 and $65 per bottle.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the last decade, Stephan said, has been the people they've met in Paso Robles. "In Paso Robles, there's a strong sense of community and a genuine willingness to help one another," he said. "It seems everyone, from winemakers to vineyard managers and cellar workers, is ready to lend a hand when needed."

Stephan said the winery has grown along with the region's increasing popularity. "It's been exciting to witness the remarkable growth in Paso Robles since we acquired our property in 2013," he said. The tasting room is open daily, and Glunz Family Winery is now establishing distribution in multiple states, which Stephan called "a very exciting development for us."

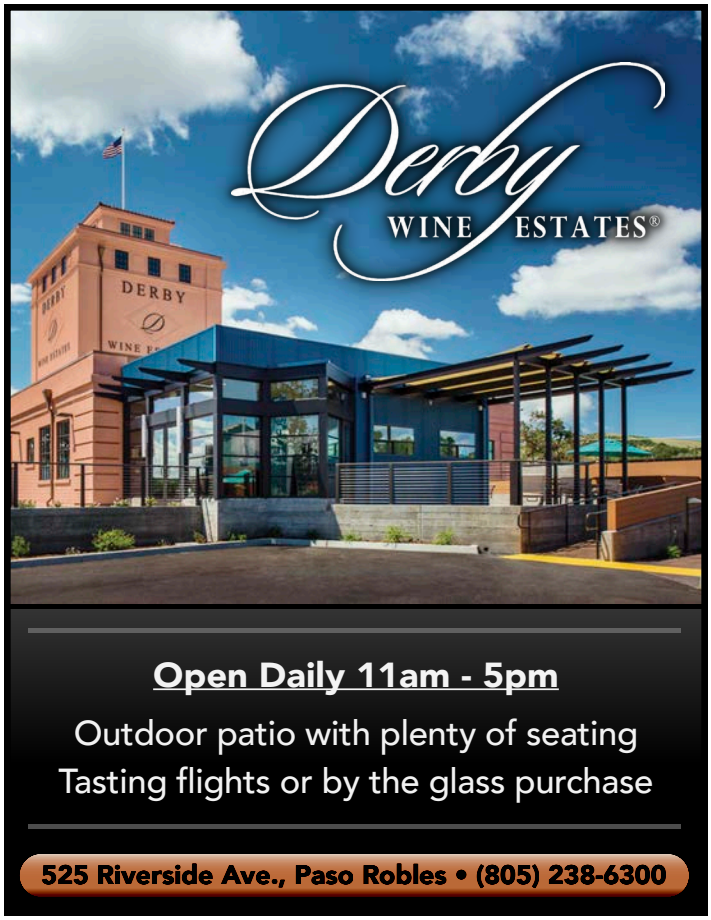
Tradition, innovation, and affordability

Affordability and approachability remain core to their winemaking philosophy. "As fourth-generation owners, my brother and I grew up in the wholesale side of the business in Chicago, where we learned the importance of overdelivering on quality while maintaining attractive pricing on the shelf," Stephan said.

The winery's standard tasting fee is $20, but it's waived with any wine purchase. Complimentary tastings are also offered on Wednesdays through a collaboration with Tobin James Winery, a neighbor and longtime family friend.

While the family preserves tradition, they also embrace innovation. "I wouldn't say we've flipped the script; however, we are always exploring new techniques in the cellar and experimenting with different vineyard sites, oak treatment, and yeast strains each year," Stephan said.

A hallmark of that tradition is the Mission Angelica, a dessert wine produced in a solera style. "We've continued the tradition



Granddaughter Nora Glunz (fifth generation) and Grandpa Joseph Glunz (third generation) harvesting zinfandel.

started by my grandfather and father in the 1950s, adding to the solera and taking out a small amount each year," Stephan said. "It's a truly enjoyable project that connects us to our family's winemaking legacy."

A family behind every bottle

Family involvement extends beyond ownership. "My brother Matt and I handle all winemaking and daily operations while our other brother Joe and sister Suzzie oversee our national sales wholesale business," Stephan said. Their parents, once skeptical of the move from Chicago, now live on the property. During harvest, even the family's children help pick grapes or work the bottling line in the summer to earn money for the fair.

Visitors can currently taste the Glunz 2022 Reserve Cabernet, featuring estate and mountain-grown fruit from Paper Street Vineyard, aged 22 months in French oak, and the Glunz 2024 Sauvignon Blanc from Vogelzang Vineyard in Santa Barbara's Happy Canyon, one-third barrel fermented for bright, fresh flavors of Meyer lemon, tangerine, and freshly mowed grass.

Stephan said the aim for every guest is simple: "We want to ensure that their visit is as relaxing and enjoyable as possible. We typically pour six current releases and encourage customers to engage with our knowledgeable tasting room staff. They are happy to answer any questions you may have about our wines, vineyards, or our family's history in winemaking."

Glunz Family Winery & Cellars is located at 8331 Highway 46 in Paso Robles. It is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit glunzfamilywinery.com, or call (805) 238-1400.

—Skye Pratt

Beyond the glass: family, terroir, and vision at J. Lohr

A family's dedication to legacy and community

A bird's eye view of the J. Lohr Paso Robles Wine Center on Airport Road.

If not for an elite group of visionaries half a century ago, Paso Robles may never have become the universally recognized wine region it is today. Early luminaries like Gary Eberle, Justin Baldwin, and Jerry Lohr had a passion and the vision that the Paso Robles area could produce world-class grapes and wine. Today, that dream is a reality.

At J. Lohr, the original vision of founder Jerry Lohr is now being carried on by his three children, Steve, Cynthia, and Lawrence. J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines is a remarkable family business, and a visit is more than just a tour and a tasting; it's an experience not to be missed. J. Lohr is about more than just producing fine wines. It's about family, legacy, heritage, community, and genuine respect for the earth.

During a recent visit to J. Lohr, our host and wine educator, Christine Williams, artfully wove together the history of the Lohr family, including Jerry Lohr's vision and background, his accomplishments, and the road the family is traveling today. Christine's passion and knowledge about the company were evident. And that she felt proud to be an integral part of this family operation was certainly apparent.

Well-deserved accolades

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024, this internationally acclaimed company remains a family-run operation in every sense of the word. Jerry and his three children are engaged in every aspect of the business. Nothing gets finalized without a Lohr family member signing off on it. The dedication and commitment to producing excellent wine from the ground up have paid off in personal satisfaction and professional achievements. J. Lohr, a Certified California Sustainable Vineyard and

A typical, stunning J. Lohr vineyard not-to-be-missed sunset.

Winery, has earned several winery of the year honors, as well as a prestigious Green Medal Leader Award for its all-encompassing sustainability programs.

The Lohr family and J. Lohr team are also committed to "giving back" to the communities where they live and work. They continue to support breast cancer research through sales of J. Lohr Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. This special wine was created to honor Carol Lohr, who passed away from breast cancer. A donation is made to National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.® programs from every bottle sold.

Where wine grows in the vineyard

No matter where you purchase J. Lohr wine, be assured that every bottle produced follows a philosophical commitment.

Jerry Lohr's vision has been that they would be growers primarily, producing the best grapes possible, and then producing the best wine, reflective of the terroir. As such, the wines are made from their family vineyards, located in Napa Valley's St. Helena, Monterey County's Arroyo Seco, and five different sub-AVAs in Paso Robles. This allows them direct quality control over the entire process, from soil to bottle, including a commitment to follow sustainable growing practices. From these grapes come elegant wines, reflective of locations that are as different from each other as night and day. The grapes undergo minimal intervention, letting them speak from the soil.

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Choose your tasting experience

Wine tasting today is different from 20 or 30 years ago. There is a focus on history, terroir, learning about wine, and what's behind the wine in the glass. It's a fun experience, educational, and tasting at this winery creates lasting memories.

You may be familiar with the J. Lohr label, which is often seen on retail shelves. What you may not know is the number of J. Lohr wines that are small production (a few hundred cases), artisanal, and dedicated to highlighting specific vineyard blocks, blends, and terroir. These elegant and exclusive wines are available only at the winery, through the wine club, or online.

When you participate in the wine tasting experience at J. Lohr, you get to choose from different tastings, such as:

• The Seasonal Tasting: featuring winery-exclusive small-lot wines, both red and white.

• J. Lohr Legacy Tasting: featuring three Cuvées, an homage to Bordeaux, presenting Grand Cru-style wines of Pomerol (*POM), St. Emilion (*St. E), and Pauillac (*PAU).

• J. Lohr Paso Robles Vineyard to Vintage-A Production Tour: a sneak peek into behind-the-scenes sustainable winemaking - including the demonstration vineyard, crush pad, fermentation and barrel room, with barrel tastings.

These are just a few of the wine tasting experiences at J. Lohr. Be sure to add the J. Lohr Paso Robles Wine Center to your next excursion to the area. You won't be disappointed!

The J. Lohr Paso Robles Wine Center is located at 6169 Airport Road in Paso Robles. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, with last reserved seating at 3 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Closed major holidays. For reservations and more information, visit jlohr.com, or call (805) 239-8900.

—Don Sonderling

(Don Sonderling is a freelance writer covering the unique lifestyle cultures of wine, food, adventure, and hospitality. He may be reached at: donsonderling@gmail.com.)

Bethel Rd Distillery, a journey of family legacy

Following where the spirits lead

Max and Luke Udsen spearhead Bethel Rd Distillery.

Blake Franco, the tasting room manager at Bethel Rd Distillery, wasn't wrong when he welcomed our tasting party to "the most unknown, underrated view in Paso Robles wine country." The view of rolling hills and vineyards, with birds of prey soaring overhead, along with the spacious, inviting outdoor seating areas, was perfect on a Central Coast fall day to enjoy tasting Bethel Rd's spirits–and wine!

Bethel Rd Distillery, which opened in 2016, is another dimension to the environmental sustainability vision of the pioneering Udsen family, founders of Castoro Cellars. During his time in Italy, Niels Udsen envisioned making grappa, a spirit distilled from leftover grape seeds, skins, and stems. This idea naturally aligned with the Udsen family's commitment to sustainability, regeneration, and respect for the land. "Why not transform winemaking leftovers into grappa and produce high-quality brandy, gin, and liqueur?" he asked.

So, he did. Bethel Rd Distillery holds one of the earliest-issued distillery licenses in the county and is one of 13 distilleries on the Paso Robles Distillery Trail, the only designated spirits trail in California.

The Udsen sons, Max and Luke, spearhead the distillery, following the family legacy for sustainability. Max is the head distiller, and Luke heads up marketing and entertainment for both venues.

Let the spirits move you

Although the Spirit Tasting Flight selection may vary at times, our party was treated to the current tasting list, which included:

• Neutral Brandy, a modern, clean neutral brandy from organic estate-grown grapes, and the foundation for the rest of the Bethel Rd brandies.

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• Grappa di Moscato, the spirit that started the Bethel Rd Distillery journey.

• House Brandy, cask-aged, hand-crafted from estate-grown vineyards, and distilled in small batches.

• VSOP Brandy, aged for six years instead of the traditional four years.

• Orange Liqueur, from organically grown oranges, hand harvested, and infused into Neutral Brandy, or Nocino, a walnut liqueur, with clove and cinnamon.

Enjoy some wine-time, too

Bethel Rd also produces small-batch artisanal wines under the direction of consulting winemaker Natasha Boffman. Vines are organically farmed and estate-grown in the Udsen family tradition. The grapes are 100% hand-harvested and sorted.

Plan to enjoy a wine flight. Given the variety of varietals grown, the tasting menu will change, constantly offering intriguing selections to explore.

Family and legacy

Max and Luke Udsen continue the family legacy and commitment to sustainability and the environment. The SIP and CCOF certifications awarded to the distillery are the result of careful and intentional stewardship. Sustainability and environmental programs include solar, water treatment, and other systems to offset consumption, growing organic yeast for wine production, composting, producing fertilizer, and using electric tractors.

"We are only temporary residents of the earth, so we must be sustainably responsible for those who come after us," said our host, Blake.

The distillery is situated on a historic property with buildings dating back to the early 1900s. Of particular interest is the old barn, which now functions as the distillery. A tour might reveal some fun details about the barn's structure, orientation, and the vertical beams supporting it. Over the years, due to the barn's positioning and the daily wind from the Templeton Gap, the beams have become slightly slanted — but don't worry, they have been reinforced.

And if you visit the barrel room, you'll see the old stable with the original horse stalls still in place. The original farmhouse, next to the stable, is still maintained but is not currently in use.

Bethel Rd Distillery is located at 1266 N Bethel Rd., Templeton. The tasting room is open Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Reservations are requested for groups of 8 or more. For reservations or more information about spirits and wine, clubs, and events, visit bethelrddistillery.com or call (805) 434-0319.

—Don Sonderling

(Don Sonderling is a freelance writer covering the unique lifestyle cultures of wine, food, adventure, and hospitality. He may be reached at: donsonderling@gmail.com.)

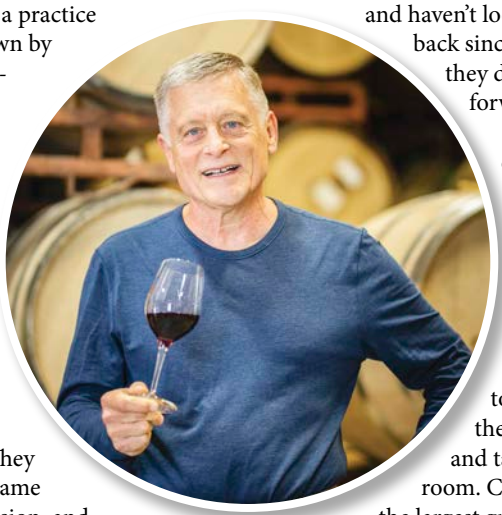
Castoro Cellars—four decades of sustainable winemaking rooted in Templeton

Where sustainable, organic wine is a family affair

Enjoy elegant wines and top-notch hospitality at Castoro Cellars.

Castoro Cellars has been a leader in winegrowing, sustainability, and an integral part of the Paso Robles and Central Coast community for over 40 years. The Udsens have consistently prioritized doing things the right way for both people and the environment, earning SIP Certification in 2008 and CCOF Organic Certification in 2007. In recognition of their decades of dedication, Castoro was honored in 2020 by the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance as the Environmental Winery of the Year.

Bimmer and Niels Udsen's dedication to the environment and sustainable, responsible farming is a practice passed down by Niels' Danish father. Although Niels was born in Ventura, CA, he often visited Denmark, where he met Bimmer. They share the same passion, vision, and commitment to the soil, wine, people, and community.



Castoro Cellars was established in 1983, when fewer than twenty wineries operated in the Paso Robles area; today, that number has grown to over 250. The Udsens began their journey sourcing fruit and making wine, eventually building a winery and tasting room, and purchasing property. By 1990, they were fully involved in the entire operation and haven't looked back since, but they do look forward.

Today, over four acres of solar panels offset the power needed to operate the winery and tasting room. Castoro is the largest grower of organic grapes on the Central Coast. There are 27 different varietals of French, Italian, and Spanish grapes growing in 14 100% certified organic vineyards, covering roughly 1400 acres.

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Sit, sip, and savor

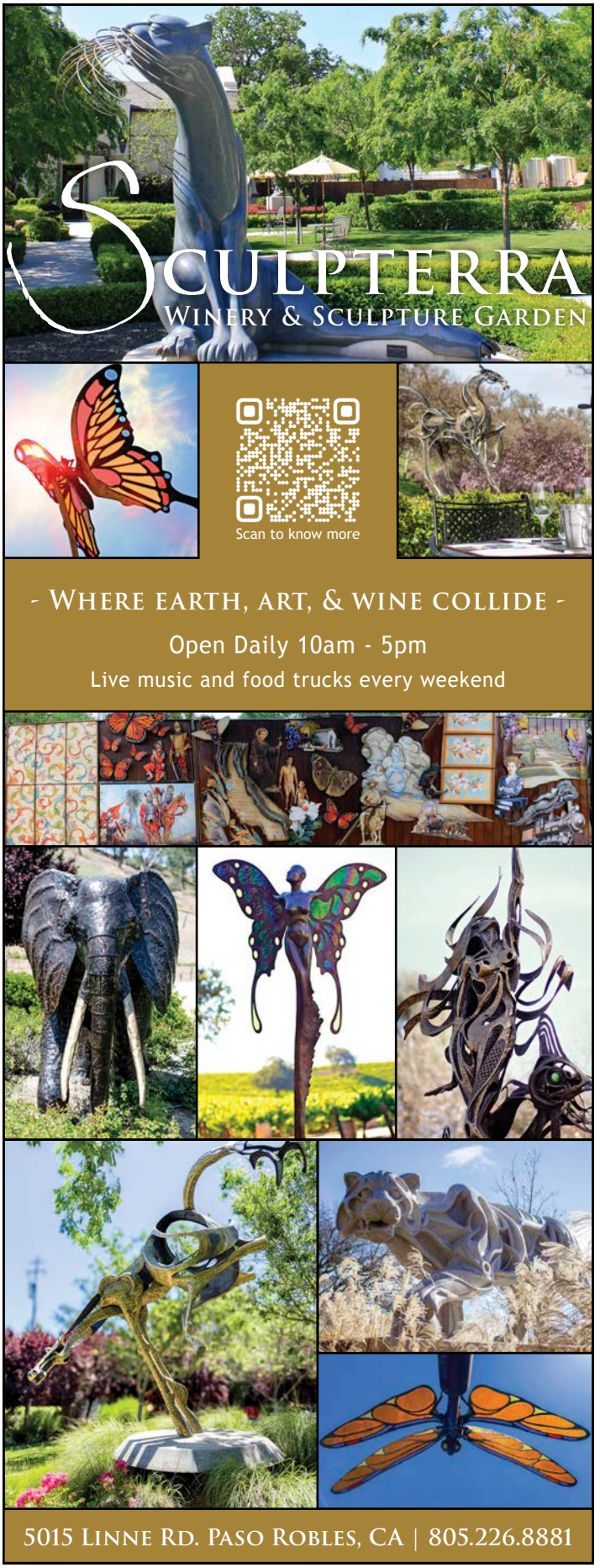
Head winemaker Tom Myers has been producing wines in Paso Robles since 1978, establishing himself as a true pioneer in the wine industry. He joined Castoro in 1990 and has been leading the winemaking team ever since. Besides his various degrees, Tom's hands-on experience is unmatched, and he creates wines that genuinely showcase the terroir, letting the earth and grapes speak for themselves.

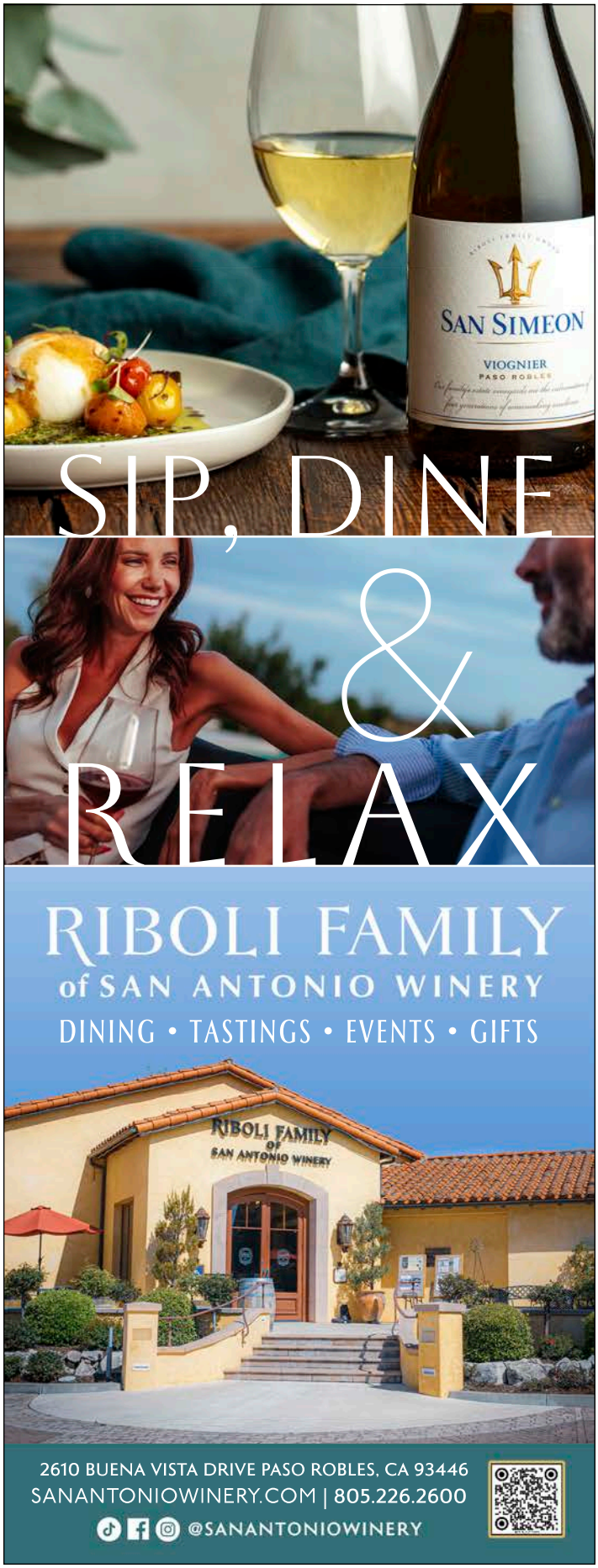
Tastings will vary depending on the time of year and availability, but you will always enjoy a selection of single-varietal and blended wines. Sample single varietals like primitivo, zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon, pinot grigio, albariño, and a range of creative, palate-pleasing blends.

Most of the year, the weather is ideal for sitting outside, surrounded by the pastoral view of Castoro's vineyards and the landscape beyond. In real estate, there's a saying: "location, location, location." Now, add elegant wine and top-notch hospitality to the location, and you've just experienced a moment in Shangri-la.

Moved by the spirits

Spending time in Italy, Niels became fascinated with Italian-style grappa, which naturally led to expanding the family legacy. After obtaining the first distilling licenses in the county, Niels





began crafting spirits, and Bethel Rd Distillery became a reality in 2013.

Located just across the road from Castoro Cellars and managed by sons Luke and Max Udsen, the distillery marks another chapter in the Udsen family's legacy of SIP and CCOF certifications. The brothers grow their own organic yeast, compost, produce their own fertilizer, use electric tractors, 100% hand-harvest, and sort the grapes.

Join the legacy at the Dam Fine Club

Join the Dam Fine Club wine club and keep up on new releases, exclusive wine club bottlings, upcoming events, rare library wines, and Castoro Cellar's "Dam Fine Wine" canned wines.

Check out the website and take advantage of Web Wednesday discounts, make reservations, and learn more about onsite lodging, ebike tours, disc golf, and upcoming events. Mark your calendar for the September 19-20, 2026 Whale Rock Festival.

A visit to Castoro Cellars is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the Udsen family's vision for the future.

Castoro Cellars Vineyards & Winery is located at 1315 N Bethel Rd., Templeton, CA. Tasting room is open daily 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Reserved seating is available until 4:45 p.m., walk-ins are welcome until 5:30 p.m. For reservations or more information, visit castorocellars.com or call (888) 326-3463.

—Don Sonderling

(Don Sonderling is a freelance writer covering the unique lifestyle cultures of wine, food, adventure, and hospitality. He may be reached at: donsonderling@gmail.com.)

Hotels & Lodging — Visitor Guide's Favorite Places

Arroyo Grande
Agrarian Hotel
325 E Branch St
(805) 574-6040

Aloha Inn
611 El Camino Real
(805) 489-9300

Best Western Casa Grande Inn
850 Oak Park Blvd
(805) 481-7398

Hampton Inn & Suites
1400 W Branch St
(805) 202-2110

Pismo View Inn
555 Camino Mercado
(805) 481-4774

Atascadero
Atascadero Inn
6505 Morro Rd,
(805) 466-0794

The Carlton Hotel
6005 El Camino Real
(805) 461-5100

Springhill Suites
900 El Camino Real
(805) 462-3500

Vino Inn & Suites
6895 El Camino Real
(805) 466-2231

Avila Beach
Avila Lighthouse Suites
550 Front St.
(805) 627-1900

Inn at Avila Beach
256 Front St.
(805) 595-2300

San Luis Bay Inn
3254 Avila Beach Dr
(805) 595-2333

Avila Village Inn
6655 Laurel Place
(805) 627-1810

Bradley
Lake Nacimiento Resort
10325 Nacimiento Lake Dr.
(805) 237-4924

Cambria
Best Western Fireside Inn
6700 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-8661

Blue Bird Inn
1880 Main St
(805) 927-4634

Blue Dolphin Inn
6470 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-3300

Cambria Pines Lodge
2905 Burton Dr
(805) 927-4200

Cambria Shores Inn
6276 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-8644

Cambria Landing Inn & Suites
6530 Moonstone Beach
(805) 927-1619

Cambria Palms Motel
2662 Main Street
(805) 927-4485

Cambria Vacation Rentals
784 Main Street Ste. A
(805) 927-8200

Captain's Cove Inn
6454 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-8581

Castle Inn
6620 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-8605

Creekside Inn
2618 Main St
(805) 927-4021

Fogcatcher Inn
6400 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-1400

Moonstone Landing
6240 Moonstone Beach
(805)927-0012

Ocean Point Ranch
7200 Moonstone Beach Dr.
(805) 927-4648

Pelican Inn & Suites
6316 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-1500

Sand Pebbles Inn
6252 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-5600

Scenic Coast Vacation Rentals
712 Main St
(805) 927-6163

Sea Otter Inn
6656 Moonstone Beach Dr
(805) 927-5888

White Water Inn
6790 Moonstone Beach Dr
(8050 927-1066

Cayucos
Beachwalker Inn
501 S Ocean Ave
(805) 995-2133

Cayucos Motel
20 S Ocean Ave
(805) 995-3670

Cayucos Pier View Suites
14 N Ocean Ave., (805) 995-0014

Cayucos Sunset Inn
95 S Ocean Ave., (805) 995-2500

Highway One Rentals
148 N. Ocean Ave., (805) 995-3678

On The Beach B&B
181 N. Ocean Ave., (805) 995-3200

Seaside Motel
42 S Ocean Ave
(805) 559-3809

Grover Beach
Holiday Inn Express
775 North Oak Park Blvd.
(805) 481-4448

Pacific Inn Grover Beach
150 S 5th St
(805) 481-7931

Los Osos
Back Bay Inn
1391 2nd St., (805) 528-1233

Sea Pines Golf Resort
1945 Solano St
(805) 528-5252

Morro Bay
Anderson Inn
897 Embarcadero
(805) 772-3434 or (888) 950-3434

Best Western El Rancho
2460 Main St, (805) 772-2212

Best Western San Marcos inn
250 Pacific St., (805) 772-2248

Best Western Tradewinds
225 Beach St., (805) 772-7376

Blue Sail Inn
851 Market Ave.
(805) 772-2766 or (888) 337-0707

El Morro Masterpiece Motel
1206 Main St.
(805) 772-5633 or (800) 527-6782

Embarcadero Inn
456 Embarcadero, (805) 772-2700

Avalon Inn
730 Morro Ave.
(805) 772-2244 or (800) 444-0562

Holland Inn Motel
2630 Main St., (805) 772-2650

Inn at Morro Bay
60 State Park Rd
(805) 772-5651, (800) 321-9566

La Serena Inn
990 Morro Ave.
(805) 772-5665, (800) 248-1511

Marina Street Inn B&B
305 Marina St.
(805) 772-4016, (888) 683-9389

Morro Bay Luxury Rentals
264 Bowie Dr., (805) 704-1169

Morro Bay Sandpiper Inn
540 Main St., (805) 772-7503

Morro Bay Vacation Rentals
1910 Hill St., (805) 459-8460

Morro Crest Inn
670 Main St.
(805) 772-7740, (800) 613-2007

Morro Shores Inn & Suites
290 Atascadero Rd.
(805) 772-0222, (800) 575-4095

Pleasant Inn Motel
235 Harbor St.
805-772-8521, (888) 772-8521

Sea Air Inn
845 Morro Ave., (805) 772-4495

Sundown Inn
640 Main St.
(805) 772-7381 or (800) 696-6928

The Bayfront Inn
1150 Embarcadero, (805) 772-5607

The Breakers Motel
Corner of Morro Bay Blvd & Market
(805) 772-7317 or (800) 932-8899

Travelodge
1080 Market Ave., (805) 772-1259

Nipomo
Kaleidescope Inn & Gardens
130 E Dana
(805) 929-5444 or 866-504-5444

Oceano
Pacific Plaza Resort Hotel
444 Pier Ave., (805) 473-6989

Paso Robles
Adelaide Inn
1215 Ysabel St., (805) 238-2770

Allegretto Vineyard Resort
2700 Buena Vista Dr.
(805) 369-2500

Best Western Plus Black Oak
1135 24th St., (805) 238-4740

Budget Inn
2745 Spring St., (805) 239-3030

Cava Robles RV Resort
3800 Golden Hill Rd.
(844) 641-5093

Chanticleer Vineyard B&B
(805) 226-0600

Courtyard By Marriott Paso Robles
120 South Vine St.
(805) 239-9700

Dunning Vineyards Guest Villa
1953 Niderer Road
(805) 238-4763

Hotel Cheval
1021 Pine St.
(805) 226-9995 or 866-522-6999

La Bellasera Hotel & Suites
Jct 101 & 46 West
(805) 238-2834, 866-782-9669

La Quinta Inn & Suites
2615 Buena Vista Dr.
(805) 239-3004

The Oaks Hotel
3000 Riverside Ave., 805-237-8700

Oxford Suites
800 4th St. , (805) 237-0305

Paso Robles Inn
1103 Spring St
(805) 238-2660, (800) 676-1713

Paso Robles Vacation Rentals
(805) 423-9174

The Piccolo
600 12th St., (805) 226-5920

Travelodge
2701 Spring St., (805) 238-0078

Vines RV Resort
88 Wellsona Rd., (877) 820-0940

Wine County RV Resort
2500 Airport Road
(805) 238-4560, (866) 927-8669

Pismo Beach
Beach Bum Rentals
354 Main Street Ste. A
(805) 773-7194

Beach House Inn & Suites
198 Main St.
(805) 773-7476 (PISMO)

Beachwalker Inn & Suites
490 Dolliver St., (805) 773-2725

Inn at the Cove
2651 Price St.
(805) 773-3511, (800) 848-1434

Shore Cliff Hotel
2555 Price St.
(805) 773-4671, (800) 441-8885

Coastal Vacation Rentals
330 Main St.
(805) 773.1080, (800) 700.1254

Cottage Inn by the Sea
2351 Price St.
(805) 773-4617 or (888) 440-8400

Dolphin Cove Motel
170 Main St., (805) 773-4706

Edgewater Inn & Suites
280 Wadsworth Ave.
(805) 773-4811

Ocean Palms
390 Ocean View Ave.
(805) 773-4669

Pismo Coast Village RV Resort
165 S. Dolliver Street
(888) RV-BEACH, (888) 782-3224

Pismo Lighthouse Suites
2411 Price St.
(805) 773-1508, (800) 245-2411

Quality Inn Monarch Shores
230 Five Cities Dr., (805) 773-1841

Sandcastle Inn
100 Stimson Ave.
(805) 773-2422 or (800) 822-6606

Sea Crest Resort
2241 Price St., (805) 773-4608

Sea Gypsy Motel
1020 Cypress
(805) 773-1801 or (800) 592-5923

Sea Venture
100 Oceanview Ave.
(805) 773-4994

Shell Beach Inn
653 Shell Beach Rd.
(805) 773-4373

Spyglass Inn
2705 Spyglass Dr.
(805) 773-4855, 1-(800) 824-2612

Valentina Suites
371 Pismo Avenue, (805) 773-1234

Ragged Point
Ragged Point Inn & Resort
19019 CA Highway 1
(805) 927-4502

San Simeon
Cavalier Oceanfront Resort
9415 Hearst Dr.
(805) 927-4688

Courtesy Inn
9450 Castillo Dr.
(805) 927-4691 or (800) 555-5773

The Morgan – San Simeon
9135 Hearst Dr.
(805) 927-3878 or (800) 451-9900

Sands By The Sea
9355 Hearst Dr.
(805) 927-3243 or (800) 444-0779

Sea Breeze Inn
9065 Hearst Dr.
(805) 927-3284 or (800) 927-3316

Shell Beach
The Palomar Inn
1601 Shell Beach Rd.
(805) 773-4204

Shell Beach Inn
653 Shell Beach Rd.
(805) 773-4373

San Luis Obispo
Comfort Inn & Suites Lamplighter
1604 Monterey St., (805) 547-7777

Courtyard by Marriott-SLO
1605 Calle Joaquin, (805) 786-4200

Days Inn
2050 Garfield St., (805) 549-9911

Embassy Suites
333 Madonna Rd., (805) 549-0800

Garden Street Inn
1212 Garden St. , (805) 545-9802

Granada Hotel
1126 Morro St., (805) 544-9100

Holiday Inn Express-SLO
1800 Monterey St., (805) 544-8600

Hotel San Luis Obispo
877 Palm St., (805) 235-0700

Hotel Cerro
1125 Garden St., (805) 548-1000

La Cuesta Inn
2074 Monterey St., (805) 543-2777

Peach Tree Inn
2001 Monterey St., (805) 543-3170

Rodeway Inn
1001 Olive St., (805) 544-0400

San Luis Creek Lodge
1941 Monterey St.
(805) 541-1122 or (800) 593-0333

Sands Inn & Suites
1930 Monterey St.
(805) 544-0500 or (800) 441-4657

Sycamore Mineral Springs
1215 Avila Beach Dr.
(805) 595-7302

Templeton
Honey Oak House
2602 Templeton Rd.
(805) 434-5091

Cambria Scarecrow Festival
Oct. 1-31—Hundreds of handcrafted scarecrows are bowling, bathing, pedaling, fishing, and flying through Cambria and San Simeon. Details: cambriascarecrows.com.

Harvest Wine Month
Oct 1-31, various Paso Robles locations—Enjoy grape stomps, barrel tastings, live music, winemaker dinners, and vineyard tours. Details: pasowine.com.

Central Coast Railroad Festival
Oct 2-4—Educational and recreational activities about local railroads and railroading. San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara St. San Luis Obispo. Details: slorrm.com/(805) 458-6175.

SLO Symphony
Oct 4, 3 p.m. Rites of Passage concert presents Stravinsky's "Rites of Spring,""Danse Nègre from African Suite, Op.35," by Coleridge-Taylor, and Podell's "New Work, World Premiere". SLO Symphony, Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo. Tickets and details: slosymphony.org.

Atascadero Fall Festival & Colony Days
Oct 17-19.—Free family event. Carnival rides, games, vendors, live music, food, craft beer, wine, and seltzer. Colony Days parade starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct 18. Sunken Garden, 6505 El Camino Real. Details: visitatascadero.com and colonydays.org.

Pioneer Day Paso Robles
Oct. 10, parade at 10 a.m.—free bean feed in the park and more activities. Events at Downtown City Park and other locations. Details: pasoroblespioneerday.org.

Open Studio Art Tour 2026
Two weekends: Oct 10-11/Oct 17-18.— Visit the studios of participating artists throughout San Luis Obispo County. Details: slocountyarts.org.

Pismo Beach Clam Festival
Oct 17-18—Vendors, food trucks, kids' activities, live music & Clam Chowder Cook-Off. Pismo Beach Pier Parking Lot and Price Street. Details: experiencepismobeach.com.

Cayucos Antique Street Fair
Oct 18, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.—Shop for antiques, vintage, collectibles, and more. Free admission and parking. Well-mannered, leashed dogs welcome. Ocean Avenue. Details: cayucoschamber.com.

Golden Oak Honey & Pumpkin Festival & Kids' Flea Market
Oct 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.—Vendors, food, activities, and more. Free admission. Downtown City Park, Paso Robles. Details: pasoroblesdowntown.org.

5th Annual Bovine Classic
Oct 30, 8:30 a.m. start—World-class cycling over multiple routes. America's 4th Hardest Cow-Themed Gravel Cycling Ride. Cow-themed attire strongly suggested. Start and finish at Sunken Gardens, downtown Atascadero. Registration and details: thebovineclassic.com.

Witches and Warlocks Paddle
Oct 24—Break out the broomstick, witch, and warlock costumes and get out on the water! Coleman Park, 101 Coleman Dr., Morro Bay. Details: morrobay.org.

Zoo Boo and Pumpkin Smash at the Central Coast Zoo
- **Oct 24-25, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Zoo Boo—** Halloween fun for all ages, costume contest, Halloween activities.

- **Oct 26, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Pumpkin Smash—**Watch what the animals do when they get their Halloween pumpkins!

Central Coast Zoo, 9305 Pismo Ave, Atascadero. General admission includes all activities. Details: centralcoastzoo.org.

Family Fun Day
Oct 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.—Free admission. Celebrate maritime heritage with interactive exhibits, children's activities, free hot dogs for kids, and fun for the whole family. Details: morrobaymaritime.org.

Paso Robles Día de los Muertos Festival
Oct 24, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.—Cultural celebration includes educational and children's activities, food, dance, music, vendors, and more. Downtown City Park. Details: pasoroblesdowntown.org.

Halloween Carnival & Haunted Maze
Oct 24-25, 3-9 p.m.—Elm Street Park, Arroyo Grande. Details: Arroyo Grande Recreation Department at arroyogrande.org / (805) 473-5474.

Safe & Fun Halloween Downtown
Oct 31, 4-7 p.m.—Dress the family in their favorite costumes and trick or treat all around the park. Free family-friendly event. Downtown Paso Robles. Details: pasoroblesdowntown.org.

Paderewski Festival
Nov 6-8—A music festival celebrating one of Paso Robles' most famous residents, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, virtuoso pianist and composer. Concerts feature world-renowned talent, exhibits, lectures, and more. Tickets and details: paderewskifest.com.

Keys of Grandeur
Nov 7, 7:30 p.m.—SLO Symphony & Paderewski Festival present Guest artist Hyunjin Roh, First Prize winner of the Paderewski Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo. Details and tickets: slosymphony.org.

35th Annual Cayucos Car Show
Nov 7, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.—Free event, classic cars, music, and food. Downtown Ocean Ave., Cayucos. Details: cayucoschamber.com.

Holiday Boutique Atascadero
Nov 7, starts at 10 a.m.—Kick off holiday shopping for handmade items. Pavilion on the Lake, Atascadero. Details: visitatascadero.com.

Turkey Trot Fun Run
Nov 17, registration at 1 p.m.—Preschool to 8th Grade, sponsored by Arroyo Grande Lions Club. 495 Valley Road, Arroyo Grande. Register online: arroyogrande.org/rec.

Elegant Evening Downtown
Nov 14, 5-8 p.m.—Merchant open house debuts the holiday season with refreshments and entertainment in Downtown Paso Robles. Details: pasoroblesdowntown.org.

Annual Downtown Lighting Ceremony Paso Robles
Nov 25, 5:30 p.m.—Free event. Downtown City Park, Paso Robles. Details: pasoroblesdowntown.org.

Cambria Christmas Market
Nov 27-Dec 31—Over 3 million holiday lights, interactive displays, and vendor markets. 2905 Burton Dr., Cambria. Details: cambriachristmasmarket.com.

Garden Lights & Winter Nights
Dec 5 through January 11—Experience holiday lights and décor throughout Atascadero's Historic City Hall and Sunken Gardens.

Lighted Boat Parade
Dec 7, 6:30-8 p.m.—Be dazzled as the fishing, leisure, and yachting community takes to the water with decorated boats with dazzling lights and holiday cheer. Free event on Morro Bay's Embarcadero Street. Details: morrobay.org.

Holiday Musical Walk Around the Lake
Dec 5, 5:30-9 p.m.—Musical groups, carolers, Santa, community singing, and more. A special visit with Santa starts at 5 p.m. for a fee. Atascadero Lake, Atascadero. Details: visitatascadero.com.

Christmas Light Parade
Dec 5, 7 p.m.—Santa officially arrives, along with festively lighted floats, classic cars, and surprises. The parade starts at Spring and 10th streets and winds around the Downtown City Park, Paso Robles. Details: pasoroblesdowntown.org.

Mid-State Fair Market
Dec 11-13—Find local jewelry, apparel, accessories, home decor, health and beauty products, art, antiques, handmade eats, and more. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave. Free admission and parking. Details: midstatefair.com/event-center.

Winter Wonderland
Dec 11, 5-9 p.m.—Tons of snow transforms Atascadero's Sunken Gardens into a wonderland with events, food, arts and crafts vendors, and more. Atascadero's Sunken Garden. Details: visitatascadero.com.

Vine Street Christmas Victorian Showcase
Dec 12, 6-9 p.m.—Enjoy the sights of Christmas decorations adorning Paso Robles' iconic Victorian homes and businesses. On Vine Street from 8th to 21st streets. Details: pasoroblesdowntown.org.

Holiday Magic at Central Coast Zoo
Dec 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.—Santa welcomes visitors and delivers gifts to the animals. Along with watching the animals open their gifts. 9305 Pismo Ave, Atascadero. Admission includes all of the activities for the day. Details: centralcoastzoo.org.

Victorian Teddy Bear Tea
Dec 19, 2-4 p.m.—Santa and Mrs. Claus are holding court along with their company of elves and famous personalities. Tea and tasty snacks are served, and there are a variety of all-age activities for this family-friendly holiday event. Park Ballroom, 1232 Park St., Paso Robles. Tickets at my805tix.com.

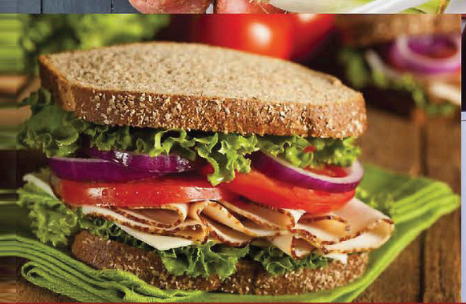
Noon Year's Eve
Dec 31, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Bring the kids for the countdown to the New Year at noon instead of midnight. There's a ball drop and cider toast at noon.

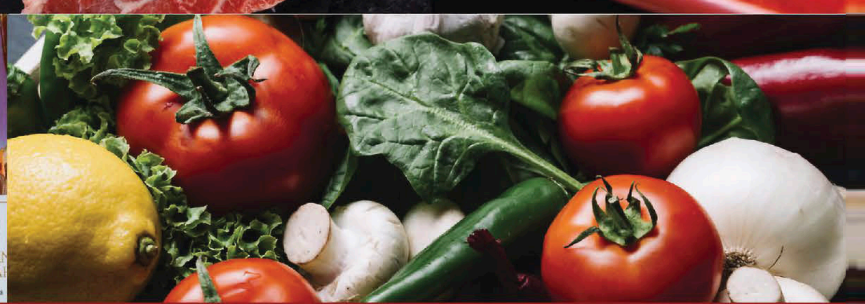
Experience Fantasia New Year's Eve
Dec 31, 7:30 p.m.—From "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" to "Night on Bald Mountain," hear the sounds of Fantasia come to life! Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo. Details and tickets: slosymphony.org.

El Rancho Marketplace
The Heart of the Valley
1966

California Fresh Market

Taste the Fresh Difference





Proudly Serving the Central Coast Since 1966

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Phone: (805) 295-7162

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

All stores are open daily from 6 am to 10 pm

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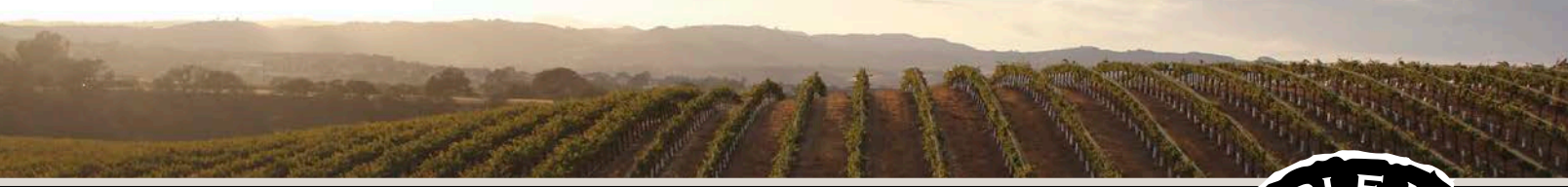

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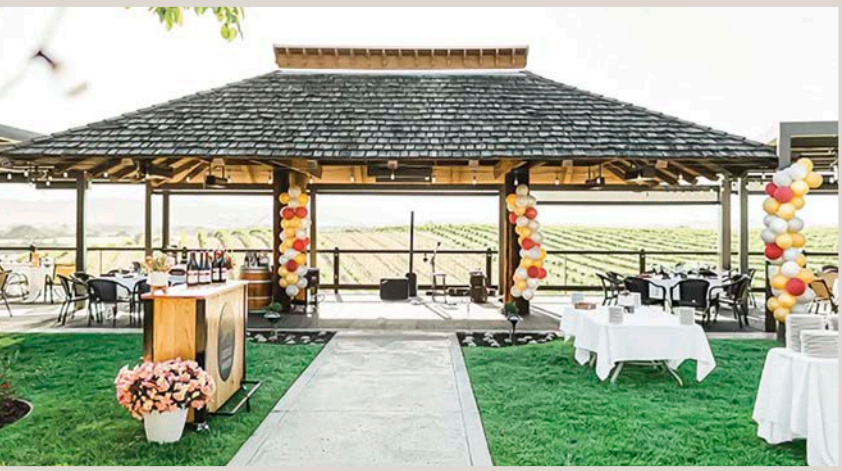
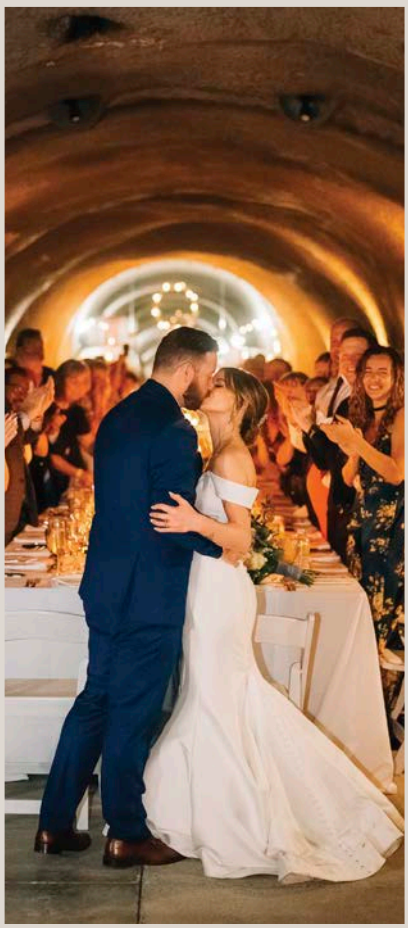
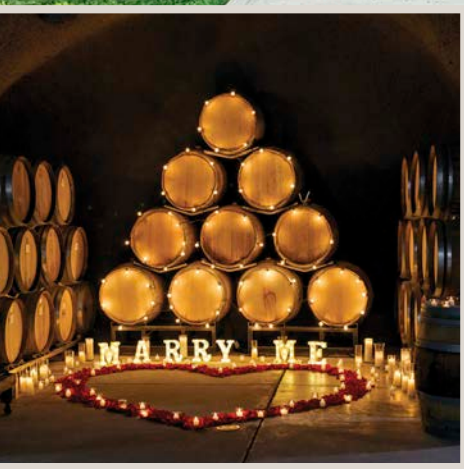
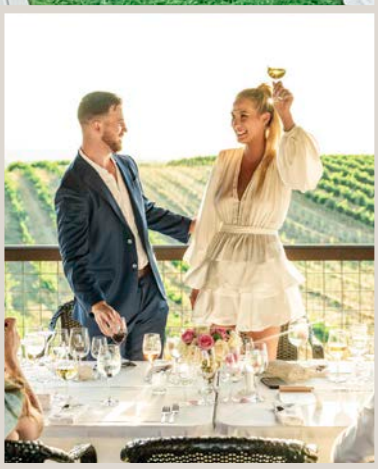
One of the Originals, One of the Best!









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