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VISITORS

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WINTER 2025

GUIDE



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and winemaker Joel Cox
at Mystic Hills Vineyards*



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If a serious emergency were to occur that would require you to take action, the County would sound the Early Warning System sirens. The sirens are an indication to tune to a local radio or television station for emergency information and instructions. When at sea, tune to Marine Channel 16.

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

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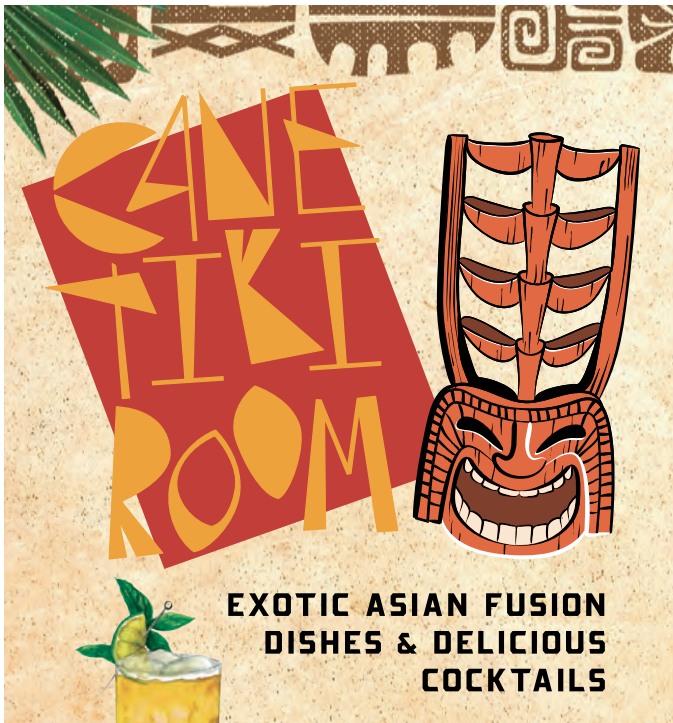
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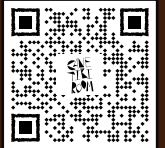
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Welcome to
San Luis Obispo
 County

Find a map of things to do and see!

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 Off-road recreation
 Skydiving



Welcome to San Luis Obispo County



Publishers Scott and Beth Brennan and their family welcome you to San Luis Obispo County

Welcome to the beautiful Central Coast and the arrival of winter and all its promises! Thank you for reading this newest issue of the San Luis Obispo County Visitor's Guide. On these pages, you can learn what's new at your favorite places and be among the first to be part of some of the newest things to do and see!

Along with sightseeing, shopping, fine dining, and outdoor experiences that are unique to this part of California. The crisp air, beaches, valleys, and foothills where mysterious morning fog gives way to sunny afternoons, cozy dinners, and world-leading wine, all coming together for some of the most memorable experiences for the entire family.

Adding a visit to the family-run Mystic Hills Vineyard is a plus for wine enthusiasts. Founders, Joel and Judy Cox are renowned for their award-winning wines and personalized hospitality. Since planting their San Miguel vineyard in 2007, they've focused on producing Bordeaux-style wines and offering private tastings by appointment, allowing guests to connect deeply with their family's story and passion for winemaking.

Joel, an Oscar-winning film editor known for his work with Clint Eastwood, brings the same dedication to wine as he does to film. Together with winemaker Keith Roberts, Mystic Hills has earned accolades like Monterey County Winery of the Year. Their wines, crafted with sustainably grown fruit and aged meticulously, include blends like Unforgiven and the rosé h.e.a.r.t.s., named for their grandchildren.

The upcoming months are a perfect time to experience the charm and romance of San Luis Obispo County. Stroll along serene beaches, explore breathtaking hiking trails, and cap off your day savoring exquisite cuisine and wine at a cozy, world-class restaurant. If you can't fit it all in, don't worry—you're always welcome to return and discover even more!

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

Scott

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY VISITORS GUIDE

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Distribution

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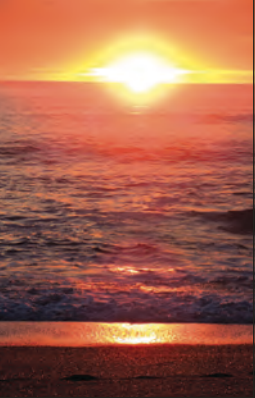
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San Luis Obispo

There are many things to discover around SLO

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

Attractions

The San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Mission

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

Historical buildings

Other historical buildings, many featuring unique architecture, include the Sinsheimer store with an iron front built in 1884 at 849 Monterey St., the Jack House at 536 Marsh Street, which was built in 1875, the State Historical Landmark

Dallidet Adobe at 1185 Pacific St and the 1884 Ah Louis Store at 800 Palm St, originally a supply station for the Chinese laborers who built the railroad tunnels through the mountains of the Cuesta Grade.

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

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

San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens

Gardeners and outdoor enthusiasts are not left out. The San Luis Obispo Botanical gardens, on Highway 1 near Dairy Creek Road

is the only garden in the United States exclusively featuring plants and ecosystems from the five Mediterranean climates in the world. The design includes miles of paved trails and shady resting spots and a variety of other activities.

Hiking and cycling

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

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

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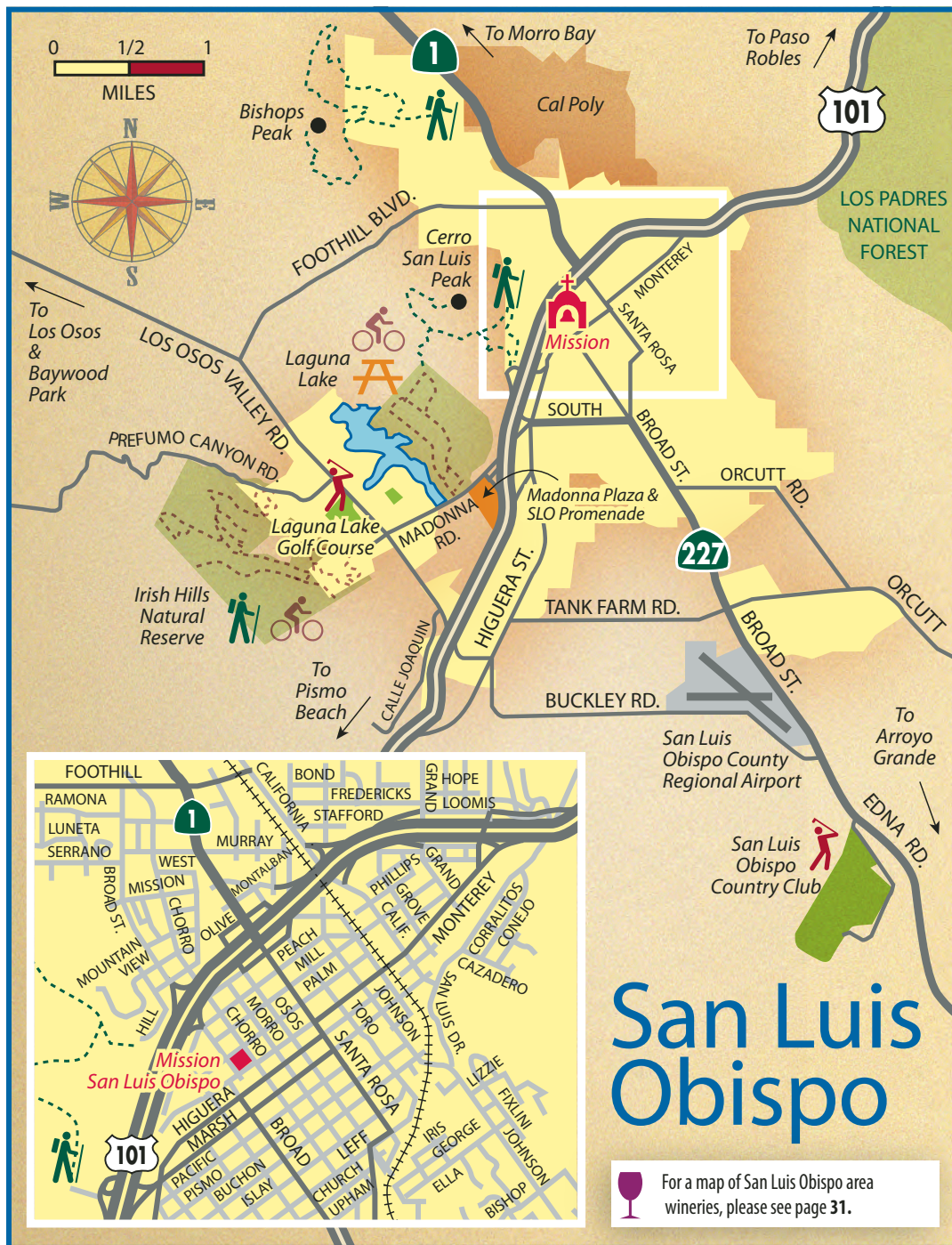
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San Luis Obispo

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San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market is a feast for the senses

Let's all go to Farmers'

Who doesn't love a good farmers' market? The Downtown SLO Farmers' Market, or just "farmers" as the locals call it, however, is more than just a farmers' market. It's an icon, a cornerstone of the San Luis Obispo community, and an absolute must-do during any trip to the Central Coast.

This beloved Thursday evening event reimagines five blocks of downtown San Luis Obispo into a vibrant community gathering, featuring over 100 vendors serving up everything from farm-fresh produce to the region's famous Santa Maria-style barbecue.



Seasonal bounty, fresh from the farm. Photography by Skye Pratt

A feast for the senses

Farmers is a wonderful place to meet up with friends or get lost in a

crowd. The aroma of tri-tip smoking over red oak wood mingles with the scent of fresh kettle corn and

local delicacies, creating an irresistible sensory experience that draws thousands of visitors each week.

Local farmers display seasonal bounty from the fertile Central Coast soil— strawberries from Santa Maria, avocados from Morro Bay, and fresh citrus from inland valleys. Artists and craftspeople showcase their work alongside local musicians who provide the evening's soundtrack, from acoustic guitar to jazz ensembles.

From cruising to community

The market's origins tell a unique story of community problem-solving. According to Downtown SLO, in the late 1970s, downtown merchants faced an unexpected challenge when cruising culture took over Higuera street

Welcome to Freedom

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CASINO RESORT

on Thursday nights, deterring shoppers from visiting local businesses. In response, the Downtown Association (now Downtown SLO) turned this challenge into an opportunity by closing the street to traffic and inviting merchants to bring their business outdoors.

What started as a creative solution to a local problem has evolved into one of the Central Coast's most cherished traditions, drawing visitors from across California and beyond. Cal Poly students mingle with longtime residents and tourists, creating a dynamic atmosphere that epitomizes San Luis Obispo's friendly, small-town charm.

A local's guide to the market

Start your market experience at the intersection of Higuera and Nipomo streets, where the aroma of barbecue leads you to multiple tri-tip vendors.

As you stroll up the street, you'll find a diverse array of prepared foods, from authentic Thai cuisine to wood-fired pizzas. Continue to head towards the market's boundary on Osos street to find the farm-



Photography by Skye Pratt

ers' stands, where seasonal produce creates a colorful display of the region's agricultural abundance.

Live entertainment spots are scattered throughout the market, with the primary performance area near the intersection of Higuera

and Morro streets.

For dessert, follow the sweet scents to local bakeries' stands or the popular kettle corn vendor. Many downtown restaurants also offer market-night specials.

Planning your visit

Today, visitors can experience this iconic market every Thursday evening on Higuera Street, with vendors, barbecues, and entertainment kicking off at 6 p.m.

The market runs year-round, adjusting its hours seasonally, staying open until 9 p.m. during the warmer months (March through October) and closing slightly earlier at 8:30 p.m. in winter (November through February). Just keep in mind that the market takes a break on federal holidays and rainy days (check their website by 10 a.m. PST on market day if the weather looks questionable).

Farmers' Market is where families establish weekly traditions, and where visitors can experience the authentic charm that makes SLO one of California's most beloved small cities.

For more information, visit downtownslo.com/farmers-market. No pets except service animals are allowed.

—Skye Pratt



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San Luis Obispo Winds Orchestra and the passion of volunteers

A history of music with a purpose

The San Luis Obispo Winds Orchestra, known as SLO Winds, has been entertaining San Luis Obispo County since its first performance on December 31, 1999, at the Old Mission Church in San Luis Obispo.

December 2024 marked the 25th anniversary of the 45-member volunteer, wind and percussion orchestra. Founder William V. Johnson was the director of bands at Cal Poly, and SLO Winds was his passion project and gift to the community. The pinnacle of his tenure was the “Queen Symphony” which included a 150-voice choir, organ, and strings.

Over the years SLO Winds has continued to grow, and now each season they perform a series of five to six concerts. Current musical director, Jennifer Martin continues the legacy.

Martin is passionate about bringing professional quality wind music to the Central Coast. According to Martin, “SLO Winds is not only the largest volunteer-driven musical arts non-profit on the Central Coast but also boasts musicians who perform at



Music with a purpose.




a professional level despite their volunteer status. Our members are deeply passionate about wind band music, volunteering their time out of love for this art form.”

The volunteer musicians come from a variety of different careers ranging from a microbiologist to a retired clergyman and it seems everything in between. It’s an eclectic group, and each member can be sponsored on the SLO Winds website. With the funds they raise from the main-stage concerts, they host two free children’s concerts annually and visit assisted living centers to offer free concerts to seniors dozens of times each year. It’s music with a purpose.

According to Martin, “Our repertoire is selected with care to offer a broad representation of



wind band literature, balancing classics with contemporary pieces. We are dedicated to showcasing the

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finest works, providing both our musicians and audience with a rich, musical experience”

If you're scratching your head and wondering when was the last time you listened to an orchestra without strings, be sure to check out their upcoming concert series and be prepared to fall in love with wind instruments.

- **March 2, 3-5 p.m.**—Symphonic Spectacle at Harold J. Miossi Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC), 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

- **March 16, 3 p.m.**—Chamber Concert at Atascadero United Methodist Church, 11605 El Camino Real, Atascadero. Tickets and details for both events: slowinds.org.

- **May 4, 3-5 p.m.**—Hands Across the Sea at Harold J. Miossi Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC), 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

For concert tickets and more information, visit slowinds.org.

—Karen Lycan

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Mission San Luis Obispo: A living legacy in the heart of downtown

Founded in 1772, the mission continues to serve the community

Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, founded in 1772 by Franciscan missionaries, is the fifth of the 21 Spanish missions established in Alta California. The mission has always been situated near its present location, close to the water of San Luis Creek. Located in the heart of downtown San Luis Obispo, the old mission has become a historical treasure admired by visitors from all over the world.

The gardens have grown and evolved over centuries. The grape arbor is reminiscent of the vineyards that once filled acres around the mission. Over time, staff and guests have added more plants and trees to the garden. Visitors are encouraged to bring a book, find a bench and take a rest in the garden.

Learn more about the history of the mission on a docent-led tour. Guided tours start at 1:15 p.m. Monday - Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday and begin in front of the gift shop. One-month advance notification is required for group tours of 10 or more. Reservation forms are available on the mission website, or call (805) 781-8220.

The docents enjoy sharing their love of the old mission. You will learn how the Mission grew in stages, who is buried in the floors of the church, and the story behind the centuries-old art still hanging from the adobe walls. The mission, originally constructed from rudimentary thatch, bows, and logs, grew to the substantial walls and tile roofs still standing today. In contrast to some missions, the San Luis Obispo mission never fell into complete ruin or abandonment during and following the secularization period under the Mexican government. The original church consisted only of the main wing leading to the



Learn more on a docent-led tour.

sanctuary and altar. In the 1880s and again in 1948, the annex wing was extended in stages to provide seating for the rapidly growing San Luis Obispo community.

The Mission museum and the gift shop are housed in the Convento Wing, the original living quarters of the friars. The museum displays artifacts from Native Californian, Mission Era, and American settlement. The gift shop offers an eclectic collection of crafts, jewelry, art and books, with a friendly staff ready to help and answer questions. Proceeds from the gift shop help maintain the mission.

Pilgrims and visitors of many faith traditions find the quiet and peace of the Old Mission Church, its grounds and gardens, to be a place of rest and renewal for the spirit. Unlike many California missions, the church of San Luis Obispo de Tolosa does not charge admission but welcomes donations, and its doors are open most days of the year. There are two daily masses and six masses on the weekend in English and Spanish.

For more information, hours, schedules of masses and events, or to arrange a group tour visit missionsanluisobispo.org or call (805) 781-8220.



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www.VetMuseum.org

Bubblegum Alley: A sweet and sticky San Luis Obispo landmark

Unique tourist attraction where memories stick around

Bubblegum Alley is a tourist attraction in downtown San Luis Obispo, California, known for its accumulation of used bubble gum on the walls of an alley. Located in the 700 block of Higuera Street, the 15-foot-high and 70-foot-long alley is lined with chewed gum left by passers-by.

It's not completely clear how bubblegum alley got started. Some historians believe that the tradition of putting gum in the alley started after WWII as a San Luis Obispo High School graduating class event. Others



Bubblegum Alley has a four-star Yelp ranking.

believe it started in the late 1950s, as rivalry between San Luis Obispo High School and California Polytechnic State University students. By the 1970s, Bubblegum Alley was well established

and has survived two thorough cleanings.

Throughout the years, San Luis Obispo's Bubblegum Alley has been featured on a number of television shows, news programs, and in newspapers around the world such as the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times, The San Francisco Chronicle and Ripley's Believe it or Not. "Weird Al" Yankovic mentioned Bubblegum Alley in his 1978 song "Take Me Down," an ode to San Luis Obispo. Our local Bubblegum Alley shares fame with its Seattle counterpart; the only two such landmarks on the West Coast.

Agreement whether these gum-covered walls should remain a part of quaint downtown San Luis Obispo has not been reached since its founding. While some locals consider this

alley to be an "eyesore," the Chamber of Commerce lists it as a "special attraction." Store owners' complaints concerning upkeep are countered by the argument that it increases foot traffic and business.

The Alley has inspired professional artists such as Matthew Hoffman. On the east end of the alley, up high on the north-facing wall, a giant self-portrait of Hoffman titled "Projectbubble Gum" is created entirely with bubble gum. The picture of the artist blowing a bubble required a tremendous amount of gum, which he was able to get with the help of the community.

Bubblegum Alley has a four-star Yelp rating for Landmarks & Historical Buildings. Here's what some of the visitors have had to say:

"It was in 2009 when a Sagittarius man brought me to this yummi candy smelling alley. At first I was confused then I realized he liked me. He actually failed miserably not to kiss me." Laura N., Huntington Beach, CA

"My 9-year-old found it equal parts fascinating and gross but she managed to spell out her first name in gum nonetheless." Rich G., Los Angeles, CA

"It's cool to find unique and weird tourist attractions like this, people from all over coming to find the infamous SLO Bubblegum alley and claim their spot on the wall with their minty fresh gum!" Adriana B. Santa Clara, CA.

Be sure to arrive with a good supply of gum!

—Skye Pratt

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Making your dreams a reality: Tips for relocating to SLO County

An interview with relocation expert Jennifer Hamilton

Thinking of making your favorite vacation destination your permanent home? Jennifer Hamilton, broker/owner and director of relocation at local real estate firm Farrell Smyth, Inc., recently spoke with the SLO County Visitors Guide to share her tips on relocating to San Luis Obispo County.

"From quaint coastal communities to ranchlands with sprawling vineyards, SLO County offers something for everyone," Hamilton says. "There are fun festivals, farmers markets, and outdoor activities throughout the county all year."

The Central Coast lifestyle

Beyond its natural beauty, the region appeals to newcomers with its distinctive atmosphere and inviting climate. "It's beautiful year-round here, and we have a relaxed way of life you don't find in larger cities," Hamilton says. "Something new residents often mention is how friendly everyone is. You're welcomed with a smile."

The local real estate market maintains a character unique among California's coastal regions, providing diverse options for various lifestyles and budgets. "Compared to other California coastal areas, SLO County has a smaller hometown feel, without the influence of larger cities driving up housing costs," Hamilton said.

Strategic location

Located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, SLO County is ideal for those seeking proximity to major metropolitan areas while embracing a more relaxed pace of life. With approximately 230 miles south to San Francisco and 200 miles north to Los Angeles, weekend trips are accessible by car or regional flights from San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport.



Jennifer Hamilton makes moving to the Central Coast a reality.

Timing your move

Timing can influence the home-buying process. "There's never a bad time to look for a home on the Central Coast," Hamilton notes. "As in most markets, spring and summer offer the most availability, though with added competition from more buyers."

Changing demographics

The profile of new residents in SLO County has evolved. "Previously, most people relocating here were attending Cal Poly or retiring on the coast," Hamilton says. "Today, we're seeing more young families and professionals coming here as business growth increases, adding to our diversity and community dynamics."

Professional guidance

Understanding the unique character of each SLO County community can help newcomers find the right fit. Hamilton emphasized the value of working with experienced real estate professionals familiar with the area. "Every local area has its unique traits, and a seasoned agent can help guide you to the best fit," she says.

Global connections, local expertise

Farrell Smyth connects people moving to SLO County, offering

of the World enables them to assist with relocation needs both locally and globally.

Hamilton, who has been with Farrell Smyth since 2006, brings years of expertise to help newcomers with a smooth transition. A licensed real estate broker since 2015 and a Certified Relocation Professional since 2016, she offers full relocation and move management services.

Contact her today to make your relocation dreams a reality!

To learn more about relocating to SLO County, contact Hamilton at the Farrell Smyth office, located at 21 Santa Rosa Street, Suite 100, in San Luis Obispo. She can be reached at (805) 543-2172 ext. 30 or by email at jennifer@farrellsmyth.com.

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Croma Vera Wines celebrates a unique 10-year approach to Central Coast winemaking

Winery honors Spanish wine heritage with Central Coast-grown varietals

San Luis Obispo's Croma Vera Wines marks its 10th anniversary this year, showcasing a continued commitment to bringing unique, Spanish-inspired wines to California's Central Coast. Located in Duncan Alley, San Luis Obispo's emerging urban beverage district,



Croma Vera, creating wines that respect nature and community.

Croma Vera has carved out a niche with wines like albariño, tempranillo, graciano, and bold red blends sourced from sustainably farmed local vineyards.

Spanish-style wines on the Central Coast

In an interview, owner Mindy Oliver discussed the winery's dedication to Spanish varietals, citing factors that influenced this direction. "Spanish wines like albariño and tempranillo are simply delicious, offering distinctive flavors that bring something unique," Oliver said. A focus on Spanish-style wines differentiates the winery

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from the region's many chardonnay and pinot noir producers, allowing Cromá Vera to offer visitors a unique tasting experience.

Oliver explained that the Central Coast's climate and soil are similar to Spain's wine regions, providing a natural fit for these varietals. "If you trace a line of latitude from Ribera del Duero, you'll land close to Paso Robles—a perfect parallel for these exceptional Spanish varietals," she said, noting that this climate enhances the structure and richness of the winery's tempranillo.

Edna Valley's cool coastal climate draws out the crisp acidity and minerality in albariño, a varietal originally from the coast in Galicia in Spain. "This coastal influence gives our wines their distinct balance and freshness," she said.

Celebrating 10 years

"Our goal is to introduce our wines in a casual and relaxed environment. We're kid-friendly and dog-friendly" says Oliver.

Oliver said the winery's proudest achievement has been building a



strong sense of community among its followers. "Seeing our wine club grow and knowing that people genuinely enjoy our wines and look forward to each new release has been incredibly rewarding."

To mark its 10th anniversary, Cromá Vera has launched a project with The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. The co-branded 2025 Rosé will contribute part of its proceeds to land conservation efforts.

"Choosing SIP-certified sustainable vineyards has always been a core principle, and as we reach this milestone, we wanted to give back to the land that nurtures our wines," Oliver said. This partnership reflects Cromá Vera's commitment to sustainability and community-focused conservation.

Duncan Alley, SLO's new beverage hotspot

Duncan Alley is a new hub for three wineries, a beer garden, a brewery, a coffee shop, a cidery, and food trucks, offering visitors an exciting urban space to enjoy a variety of local craft beverages.

Oliver highlighted the area's unique charm as a unique attraction for guests, "Duncan Alley invites guests to explore a variety of locally crafted beverages in one convenient location, all while enjoying a vibrant community atmosphere that's unique in San Luis Obispo."

Duncan Alley is a five-minute drive from downtown SLO, much closer than many of the wineries in the Edna Valley, which makes it a



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compelling choice for visitors who want to experience the diversity of wines available on the Central Coast all in one convenient spot.

Environmental stewardship

Environmental stewardship is central to Croma Vera's approach.

The winery sources grapes from SIP-certified vineyards, ensuring practices that protect the land and vineyard workers. SIP Certified (Sustainability in Practice) is a San Luis Obispo County certification that recognizes vineyards and wineries committed to environmentally

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responsible practices and worker well-being.

“We believe in creating wines that respect both nature and community,” Oliver said, adding that Croma Vera continually seeks ways to reduce its environmental footprint and give back to the area it calls home.

Discover the vibrant flavors and community spirit of Croma Vera Wines during your next visit to San Luis Obispo. Raise a glass to 10 years of dedication to Spanish varietals and sustainable winemaking on California’s Central Coast.

Croma Vera Wines is located at 3183 Duncan Road, Suite D, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Visit them Thursday through Sunday (and some Mondays) from 1 to 7 p.m. For more information, visit cromavera.com, or on Instagram at [instagram.com/cromaverawines/](https://www.instagram.com/cromaverawines/), or call (805) 946-1685.

—Skye Pratt



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Attractions

Piers in Avila Beach

Avila Beach boasts three piers, two historic piers and a private pier that houses the California Polytechnic State University's Center for Marine Sciences. The Harford Pier, built in 1873, was used for shipping before the railroad arrived. The pier also has a romantic history as a liquor smuggling hotspot during the 1920s. Today, the pier is occupied by commercial fishing and restaurants and is open to pier-fishing. Avila Beach Pier was built in 1908 and was important for fishing and ocean-bound passenger transportation. It

has been partially closed to foot traffic since 2015 due to storm damage. For information about the piers, call (805) 595-5400.

Fishing

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

Hiking

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

Hotels & Lodging

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Pismo Beach, Shell Beach & Oceano



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

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

Attractions

Dinosaur Caves Park

Located at the corner of Cliff Street and Shell Beach Road, this

11-acre park is popular with walkers, photographers, dog lovers, joggers and fishing enthusiasts. Observe dolphins, whales, sea otters and other sea life as well as sea and shore birds such as gulls, cormorants, and Peregrine falcons. Reservations may be required for group events. Visit pismo-beach.org/288/Dinosaur-Caves-Park for more information.

Oceano Dunes

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

Ocean views

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

- Chumash Park covers 38-acres of

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

- Eldwayen Ocean Park meanders over a mile along the bluffs and has stairs down to the beach and the tidepools. Check a tide chart to visit during low tide to explore the tidepools.

- Margo Dodd Park, located on a bluff above the ocean includes breathtaking panoramas of the ocean, beaches and surrounding areas. Bring binoculars and a camera. Walk the sandy beach to a tidepool at the end of Pier Street.

Hiking and scenic walks at the Pismo Preserve

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

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

An advertisement for Ashtie's Beach Shack. The top part features the shop's logo in a pink, bubbly font with two pink hibiscus flowers on either side. Below the logo are three circular inset images: the first shows several colorful beach backpacks, the second shows a display of folded beach towels and blankets, and the third shows a variety of colorful beach toys and plush items. To the right of the images, the text reads "Souvenirs, Boutique Clothing, Beach Blankets, Toys & More!". At the bottom of the ad, the phone number (805) 295-5055 and the address 240 Pomeroy Ave. Pismo Beach are listed.

Pismo Beach, Shell Beach & Oceano

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

Pismo Beach Pier

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

Attractions & Tours

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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, pismoofishandchips.com, (805) 773-2853

Splash Café

Splash Café is one of the longest standing restaurants on the Central Coast. A popular destination since 1989, serving OVER 40,000 gallons of Clam Chowder per year! Splash Café is a certified landmark that truly represents Classic California. 197 Pomeroy Ave, Pismo Beach, SplashCafe.com, (805) 773-4653

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Shopping

Ashtie's Beach Shack

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

California Fresh Market

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

Thomas Kinkade Gallery

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



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Discover a serene beachside getaway at Pismo Coast Village RV Resort

'The perfect blend of relaxation and adventure'

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

Spanning 26 meticulously landscaped acres, the resort boasts 400 spacious sites, each offering a picturesque retreat. The ocean beckons a short stroll away and the resort's



Beckoning travelers to explore and experience.



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extensive amenities include a heated swimming pool, outdoor pickleball and basketball courts, a nostalgic miniature golf course, an arcade, and surrey bicycle rentals.

An on-site restaurant, complimentary wireless internet access, and a well-stocked general store catering to needs from everyday toiletries to local wines, RV essentials, and trendy apparel fill out the amenities. The resort's prime location has easy access to popular Pismo Beach restaurants and shopping, all within a leisurely stroll.

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

While holidays and summer resonate with the laughter and joy of families, the off-season beckons couples seeking a romantic, serene escape. The resort's calendar is filled with vibrant events, including the

renowned Pismo Beach Classic Car Show, the Clam Festival, PCV Halloween Lane and the much-anticipated annual Pismo Vintage Trailer Rallies, slated for the third weekends in November and May. The unique trailer rallies feature vintage trailers towed by classic cars, with the park opening its doors for public viewing on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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

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

From breakfast to BBQ — Brad's Restaurant is a Pismo Beach gem

*Celebrating 70
years of fine
food and family
atmosphere*

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

Brad's Restaurant was opened in 1956 by Brad and Helen Philips, focusing on breakfast food. The Philips had previously owned The



Famous BBQ from Brad's.

Hut, which featured delectable hamburgers until it was destroyed by a fire in 1955.

Afterward, Brad's Restaurant officially opened for business in the same location. The Philips

family has been involved with managing the restaurant since its opening, meaning the passion for delivering a welcoming experience is always present. The restaurant has been a favorite of locals and tourists.

"We just try to create a dining experience that's enjoyable and quality food that makes people want to come back," said Debra Rivera, the office manager and family member of Brad's Restaurant.

There are plenty of breakfast dishes to start the day off right. Popular choices include omelets, pancakes, bacon and eggs, breakfast burritos and more. The highlight of the breakfast menu is the chicken fried steak and eggs for a protein-filled morning.



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The lunch and dinner menu offers seafood appetizers, including coconut shrimp and steamed clams. Salads, sandwiches, wraps, burgers, seafood, and more polish off the extensive lunch and dinner options. Many of the recipes were handed down the family line, including the award-winning clam chowder made from scratch daily, and freshly made tartar sauce. Popular lunch and dinner dishes include tri-tip sandwiches cooked on the oak-pit BBQ, and fish and chips made from the highest quality wild-caught Alaskan cod. Local wine and beers will make a perfect addition to a meal. Make sure to indulge in the dessert menu at Brad's Restaurant, where brownie sundaes, carrot cake, and mud pie are delicious options.

While every seat is a great spot to enjoy their classic fare, the patio is high in demand due to the ideal weather and beautiful atmosphere. The patio has been the biggest among Pismo Beach restaurants since 1983.



For a mouthwatering bite of fresh seafood, stellar service, and a restaurant steeped in history and passion, Brad's Restaurant in Pismo Beach is the way to go.

Brad's Restaurant is located at 209 Pomeroy Avenue in Pismo Beach. Open Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 8

a.m.-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (805) 773-6165 or visit bradsofpismo.com.

—Sadie Mae Mace

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Affordable beach vibes at Ashtie's Beach Shack in Pismo Beach

Beachwear, blankets, sweatshirts, souvenirs and more

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 very high on our list," said Bob Wexler, who owns the beach shack along with his wife, Cat Wexler.



Supplying beach-themed items and gifts.

Popular and affordable items at the store include sweatshirts

in multiple sizes to suit every customer, Baja shirts, blankets,

sandals, and swimsuits. Kids items are also for sale, such as shirts and onesies. Many of the products pay homage to the local area, with graphic t-shirts displaying Pismo Beach in lettering and sweatshirts with the California bear displayed. Hats are also available, ranging from baseball caps to straw wide-brim hats. The products are affordable, so the whole family can stock up on fun goodies and clothing for a good price.

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

While Ashtie's Beach Shack is a big draw for tourism, there are plenty of high-end items

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that satisfy the local community, too. Tourists from all around the world travel to the Central Coast and visit the shack, including guests from Australia, France, England, Germany, Canada, Dubai and more. The beach shack is also conveniently located close to the Pismo Beach pier for beachgoers to stroll to the shop and the beach. In addition, there are many other shops and restaurants near Ashtie's Beach



Shack offering an enjoyable day exploring the community of Pismo Beach.

Ashtie's Beach Shack is a shop that tourists and locals will appreciate for the friendly customer service, affordable merchandise, and overall fun atmosphere.

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

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Grover Beach

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



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

Attractions

Skating

The South County Skate Park, operated by the City of Grover Beach, is located at 1750 Ramona Ave. The park is open to skateboarders and inline skaters.

Helmets and knee and elbow pads are required. Call (805) 473-4568 for more information.

Hiking and beaches

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

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

Golf

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

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

Service

Cole's Linen & Laundry

The place to go when in need of laundry services. The Fluff and Fold service lets you vacation while

they do your laundry, or use their machines and do it yourself. Clean, safe laundromat with attendants to help. 360 W Grand Ave, Grover Beach, JacksWashtubGroverBeach.com, (805) 489-1192

Shopping

Natural Healing Center

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

Choose your adventure at Oceano Dunes State Park

Rent an OHV, camp overnight, hike, fish, and enjoy the beach year-round

A vehicle recreation destination since the early 1900s, Oceano Dunes is California's only off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation area on the Pacific Ocean. Established as a state park in 1974, the long stretch of beach fronts 3600 acres of open space, including 1500 acres for OHVs. Over 1.6 million visit this unique park annually to ride the dunes, camp, swim, surf, fish, hike, bird watch, and explore.

Come for the day or the camping

Oceano Dunes is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. for vehicle day use. Passes are \$5 per vehicle, on first-come-first-serve at the entry kiosks at Grand Avenue in Grover Beach and Pier Avenue in Oceano.

All vehicles must display current registration. OHVs must be hauled in and off-loaded at a designated location.

Leashed dogs are welcome in the park but may not be at nearby attractions.



So many adventures at Oceano Dunes.

Camping, at \$10 per vehicle per night, is primitive beach and dune camping with no designated campsites. Facilities include vault and chemical toilets. Make camping reservations up to six months in advance at Reserve California, reservecalifornia.com/Web/.

Map your adventure

Don't forget a map from a kiosk or the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center at 555 Pier Ave. The center, open daily from noon to 4 p.m., is packed

with exhibits about the Chumash, the unique Bohemian Dunite community, and much more.

The map identifies important locations within the park, especially along Sand Highway. Sand Highway is named for its expansive sand dunes, stunning coastal views, and access to nature trails offering chances to explore and enjoy the landscape, coastal vegetation, and wildlife.

OHVs allowed in the park include ATVs/UTVs, off-road motorcycles, some dirt bikes, sand rails, and dune buggies. Four-wheel drive vehicles are highly recommended. Even then, high tides, heavy rains, and blowing sand can get you stuck.

"Riders are encouraged to explore and scout routes. Ride within your experience and ability," said Oceano Dunes District Planning Chief, Roger Jacobs. "Don't hesitate to ask park rangers or more experienced riders for tips. They're here to help you have a great time. Enjoy the thrill, take in the beautiful scenery, and remember, the more you practice, the more fun it gets."

Hikers, horseback riders, and wildlife also enjoy the park. Remember to yield when you encounter them so that everyone has a great time.

Don't own an OHV? No worries. Rent one from a nearby vendor. Recommended vendors from the Oceano Dunes website include:

- Arnie's ATV Rentals, 311 Pier Ave., Oceano, (805) 474-6060
- BJ's ATV Rentals, 197 West Grand Ave, Grover Beach, (805) 481-5411
- Steve's ATV Rentals, 332 Pier Ave, Oceano, (805) 481-2597
- Sun Buggy Run Rentals, 328 Pier Ave, Oceano, (805) 473-8636
- Pacific Adventure Tours, (805) 481-9330. Book an extreme Hummer adventure for a "mild to wild" ride in a USMC Humvee over the wild terrain of Oceano Dunes.

Play safely

"Stay safe. Following posted signs, wear proper gear, and ride only in designated areas. Help protect this stunning environment for the future by packing out what you pack in and respecting wildlife. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the thrill of outdoor adventure!" said Jacobs.

Detailed safety information is available at ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1207. The State of California has partnered with the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute (ASI) to conduct regular OHV training and certification sessions at the park. For more information visit atvsafety.org.

Getting there

Oceano Dunes is located three miles south of Pismo Beach in Oceano. Exit Highway 101 at Pismo Beach to Highway 1 and turn right at the light in Grover Beach to enter the park. For more information visit ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1207, call (805) 773-7170 or (805) 473-7220.

—Jackie Iddings

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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

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Klondike Pizza — From the tundra to tall tales



Award-winning pizza and tall tales at Klondike Pizza.

Adventures in food, fun, and Alaskan artifacts

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

Peanuts and tall tales

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

Delicious food, delightful fun

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

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

Join the "Klondike Gold Rush Club" to get special Club Member deals and be in the know for upcoming events like their popular Beer and Pizza Tastings.

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

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

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

Montana de Oro

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

Elfin Forest

The forest has nearly 200 species of plants, more than 100

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

Baywood Pier

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

Los Osos Community Park

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

Sweet Springs Nature Preserve

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

Baywood Park Farmers’ Market

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

Bear statues

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

Dining & Drinks

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

Foggy Bottom Distillery, crafted spirits in a coastal village

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

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

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

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



Owner, Todd Adams.

Finding a location for his distillery was no easy feat, according to Adams. He says that being a distillery was a deterrent for many leasing agents. Adams also works as a county building inspector and said that one day on the job he was

inspecting the building that houses Martin's restaurant for a remodel when he said jokingly that there was an unusual condition on the permit: that 100-square feet be dedicated to a craft distiller. After some convincing and a whiskey tasting, the owners agreed to let

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

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

The future of Foggy

Adams has big plans for the future of Foggy Bottom. He says he plans on retiring from the county building department in about 3 years, after which he will be able to devote more time to growing the business. He says he can have three locations with his current license, and if he adds a restaurant he can have a full bar. "My little brother is working on having a location near his home in Roseville California," he says. He has big plans for the restaurant, he says, "but I don't want to give up those secrets yet."

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

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

—Skye Pratt

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Morro Bay

A sightseer's delight

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

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

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

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

Attractions

Morro Bay Maritime Museum

This museum has been preserving and interpreting the maritime history, especially that of California since 1995. The current fleet on exhibit

includes the tug boat "Alma" that rescued sailors from the December 1941 Japanese attack on a Union Oil tanker off the coast of Morro Bay and the "Avalon," one of two Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles (DSRV) submarines designed to rescue crews of downed submarines. The museum is located at 1210 Embarcadero in Morro Bay. For hours visit morrobay-maritime.org.

Morro Bay State Park

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

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

North Point Natural Area

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

Black Hill Trail

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

Giant chessboard at Centennial Parkway

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

Art Center Morro Bay

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

Chablis Cruises

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

Art Galleries

David J Rogers Fine Art

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

Dining & Drinks

Bayside Cafe

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

Morro Bay

Hotels & Lodging

Salty Sister Boutique Hotel

Salty Sister a boutique hotel is Morro Bay's newest hotel and closest lodging to Morro Rock. With a stunning panoramic view of the bay, this boutique hotel | vacation rental is a popular addition to the Morro Bay waterfront. Rent the full complex (six private suites) or choose a 1, 2 or 3 bedroom suite layout, 7svr.com, (805) 900-6000

Outdoor Activities

Central Coast Gondola Service

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

Shopping

Beads By The Bay

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

Rich Man Poorman Antique Malls

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



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A perfect day — Coastal charm and adventure in Morro Bay

A guide for the day, from morning coffee to dinner

Looking for the ideal day trip along California's Central Coast? Morro Bay offers small-town charm and maritime adventure, perfect for those craving fresh seafood, wildlife encounters, or unique shopping. This guide will help you make the most of your time in this relaxed coastal destination.

Morro Bay's skyline stands out along the SLO County coastline, anchored by two iconic landmarks: the 576-foot volcanic Morro Rock and the three smokestacks from the decommissioned power plant. Just 12 miles from San Luis Obispo, the town makes for an ideal day trip and a strategic base for exploring the county.

Morning adventures

Start with a warm cup of coffee from a local shop while watching surfers catch waves at Morro Strand State Beach. When you're ready for breakfast, head to Frankie and Lola's Front Street Cafe on the Embarcadero. The crab cake benedict is a favorite among locals, while the chorizo scramble is another popular choice.

Once you're fueled up, wander the Embarcadero's waterfront shops. Beads By The Bay offers coastal-inspired jewelry and garden art, while nearby Main Street has even more unique finds. For art lovers, the Morro Bay Art Center at 835 Main Street hosts rotating exhibits by Central Coast artists. A block over, David J Rogers Fine Art Gallery captures the area's landscapes in various media.

Midday exploration

For an intimate view of the bay, book a Central Coast Gondola tour. These 50-minute cruises offer close-



Get a close-up view of the sacred Morro Rock. Photography by Skye Pratt.

up encounters with the harbor's wildlife, including sea lions and otters.

When hunger calls, head to Bayside Cafe at 10 State Park Road, a local favorite overlooking the marina. The fish tacos are popular, but it's the clam chowder in a sourdough bread bowl that steals the show. The dog-friendly patio provides views of the estuary, making it an ideal lunch spot.

Nearby, Morro Bay State Park offers hiking trails and the Museum of Natural History. For a \$3 admission fee (children under 6 free), visitors can explore interactive exhibits about the estuary's ecosystem. The Marina Peninsula Trail provides excellent bird-watching opportunities among the area's 250 species.

Afternoon discoveries

Morro Bay is known for its antique shops, so if you're still in the mood to explore, visit Rich Man-Poor Man Antiques at 2110 Main Street. The store's maritime section includes authentic pieces from local fishing vessels.

Dinner delights

As the day winds down, consider returning to Morro Strand

for a sunset stroll with a coffee in hand. For dinner, book a Chablis Cruise, a 2.5-hour evening voyage with fresh seafood and scenic views of the harbor lights.

Another great dinner option is Dorn's Original Breakers Cafe, where the heated patio offers panoramic bay views and fresh-caught seafood.

Visitor tips

- Morro Bay's coastal climate calls for layers, as mornings may be foggy until around 11 a.m., and evenings stay cool year-round.

- Remember to maintain a respectful distance from wildlife, including seals and sea otters.
- Most shops are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and some restaurants take a break between lunch and dinner.
- Free parking is available at the Morro Rock lot and near the state park.
- For special experiences like Chablis Cruises and Central Coast Gondola tours, reservations are recommended. Popular restaurants like Dorn's also suggest weekend dinner reservations.

Respect the rock! Morro Rock, known as "Lisamu" to the indigenous Northern Chumash people, is more than just a scenic backdrop. This sacred site has been a spiritual center for thousands of years, playing a crucial role in Northern Chumash ceremonies and cultural practices. While visitors can admire its majesty from the beach or harbor, climbing the rock is prohibited both for safety reasons and to preserve its cultural significance.

After just a day in Morro Bay, you'll see why this unpretentious coastal town captures the hearts of visitors and locals alike. It's a place where time slows down, nature takes center stage, and the simple pleasures of coastal life are a reminder of what truly matters.

—Skye Pratt

The enchanting world of Beads by the Bay

Everything needed to create stunning jewelry

Step into a magical space of color and creativity at Beads by the Bay! Walls and counters are covered with beads just 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 just collect some unique beads for conversation pieces or later projects. A free-spirited (dirt free!) air plant or charmingly potted succulents may turn out to be exactly what that empty space in your own garden, studio, or living room needs.



The bead selections include semi-precious stones, Czech glass, seed beads, pearls, and trade beads from many countries around the world. Beads by the Bay also has charms, tools, string-

ing materials, and findings; everything you need to create your own jewelry and accessories. There are also plenty of handmade earrings, bracelets, and necklaces to take home as gifts for friends and fam-

ily or a treat for you. We also do jewelry repairs!

The Garden carries succulents, air plants and house plants, pots, fairy garden supplies, and whimsical garden art. Spend some quiet meditative time at the goldfish pond or pot your own plant at the potting bench and create a miniature garden to take home!

"It's just a beautiful little spot in the middle of town," said Susan Stewart, who has owned and operated the shop since 2006. Be sure to ask about the Beads by the Bay frequent buyer card!

Beads by the Bay is located at 333 Morro Bay Boulevard in Morro Bay. Open Wednesday through 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. For more information call (805) 772-3338, or visit the website at morrobaybeads.com or on Facebook.



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Nola Barnick, Marina boats ©



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Morro Bay Bird Festival celebrates 28 years of flying high

Registration open now for 5 activity packed days

From January 16-20, 2025, the Morro Bay Bird Festival celebrates 28 years of attracting bird enthusiasts to the Central Coast. This year's festival offers the most extensive list of activities yet. With over 250 events led by 141 expert leaders, beginners to seasoned birders find activities suited for their interests.

Considered one of the top five bird festivals in the nation, the five days of events include destination field trips to habitats including Carrizo Plain, Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Oso Flaco and Point Buchon, birding by bike, bay cruises and kayaking, master classes,



Bird watching for everyone.

journaling and sketching and more.

There are opportunities for boating tours, and the pelagic trips onto the

ocean can turn up sightings of whales, dolphins, albatross, and more. Inland tours are to ranch lands and oak woodlands offering sightings of raptors, and meadowlarks, bluebirds, woodpeckers, and more.

Guided Big Days of Birding offer the potential to identify over 100 species at hot spots throughout San Luis Obispo County. There are also Casual Big Days at a slower pace for beginning and intermediate birders. A special effort is made to sight regional specialties and rarities during the many opportunities for up-close observations.

Along with all of the birding activities, participants can visit the Atascadero beavers, learn more about the southern sea otters, the 19 species of bats found on the Central Coast, visit the elephant seals and monarch butterfly over-wintering sites, explore mushrooms, learn to use birding technologies with a cell phone, and map making.

Meet the VIPs

The festival presents two welcome receptions, one on Friday and one on Saturday. Enjoy wine, cheese, live music, and visiting with fellow birders, VIPs and event leaders. Visit the Bazaar to browse vendor booths featuring books, music, nature art and photography, woodcarvings, jewelry, educational exhibits and festival swag. Reception attendees receive a free

MBBF logo etched wine glass. Sign up for one of the two receptions, and an entry ticket is required.

This year's VIPs include:

- David Lindo, known as the urban birder, is a broadcaster, writer, educator dedicated to inspiring city dwellers worldwide to appreciate their environment through birds. He has contributed numerous articles on urban bird conservation and wildlife to various publications and is a familiar face on BBC, ITV, and Channel 4, among others.

- Kenn Kaufman, renowned naturalist and author, began his birding journey at age six. He gained fame as a teenage birder hitchhiking across North America to observe bird species. Kaufman has authored numerous books, including the popular Kaufman Field Guides series, and received multiple honors for his contributions to ornithology.


- Kimberly Kaufman has dedicated her career to bird conservation and education. As the executive director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, she has significantly impacted birding initiatives, including founding the Ohio Young Birders Club and organizing The Biggest Week in American Birding festival. A contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and coauthor of several field guides, Kimberly received the 2015 American Birding Association's Chandler Robbins Award for her contributions to bird education and conservation.

- Jon Dunn, a renowned ornithologist, has been passionate about birds since childhood. He has authored numerous influential books on bird identification and distribution, including collaborations with Kimball Garrett and Jonathan Alderfer. Dunn has served on prestigious ornithological committees and contributed significantly to the National Geographic Society's bird guides. His expertise includes history and the works of Leonard Cohen.

Events and activities fill up quickly for this popular event. To register and for more information visit morrobaybird-festival.org.

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Cayucos

Enjoy this scenic seaside retreat

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

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

Attractions

Public art

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

Explore tidepools

Rocky areas around the pier on Cayucos State Beach are great areas to find tidepools. Estero Bluffs State Park north of Cayucos is another area with plenty of tidepools. Depending on the tide, the animals that can be seen in tidepools include small fish, shrimp, sea stars, hermit crabs, anemones, sponges, sea urchins, tube worms, sea cucumbers and many, many more. Please leave the tidepools exactly as you found them. Tidepools are special, fragile systems and disturbing the animals and plants can cause harm.

Fishing

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

Beach activities

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

Dining & Drinks

Brown Butter Cookie Company

Since 2008, they have crafted signature hand-rolled cookies renowned for quality and taste. The latest offerings include cookies infused with Ghirardelli® chocolate in three flavors: White Chip, Chocolate Chip, and Dark Cocoa Chocolate Chip. Brown Butter Frozen Custard was recently introduced, expanding the indulgent lineup! 95 N. Ocean Ave., Cayucos, brownbuttercookies.com, (805) 464-6636

Cayucos Sausage Company

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



Great food, community, stunning views and local talent — The allure of Schooners

Celebrating 30 years in Cayucos

The laid-back vibes of Cayucos blend perfectly with the relaxed atmosphere of Schooners. Just steps away from the beach, you can drop your beach blanket in the car and walk directly into the restaurant. It's all about the views and the seafood for this Cayucos institution.

It's been a favorite of both locals and visitors since 1994 when founder Bill Larkin purchased the 1930s building and transformed it into the restaurant and bar it is today. The famous upstairs bar was once an apartment, and many locals still remember the woman who lived there for many years.



Visitors and locals gather at Schooners.

Schooners has a space for everyone. Diners can sit downstairs in a covered patio and watch the waves and beachgoers, or in the dog-friendly outdoor patio complete with a water wheel. There's an indoor dining room for anyone

who wants to be out of the sun for a while. Upstairs is the outdoor deck overlooking the water and the Cayucos pier. It's absolutely stunning. Diners can dig into a side of calamari while watching the sunset. If the ocean breeze is too much,

the overhead heaters keep the chill at bay. Adjacent to the deck is the famous bar. It's small and cozy and feels like you've stepped into a beach town bar of old movies.

The current owner, Brendan Fritzsche, bought Schooners in 2010. He had opened a restaurant in Hawaii, but the lure of the Central Coast brought him and his family back. However, his Hawaii days are evident in the welcoming and charming atmosphere at Schooners, where he brought his love of music. Locals and visitors can belt out their favorite tunes at the Wednesday, 7 p.m. open-mic nights.

Free live music plays on Saturday and Sunday from May to October. "There's a lot of great talent," says Fritzsche. He loves supporting talented local and traveling musicians. From Labor Day to Memorial Day, guests can enjoy happy hour specials. Schooner's is famous for its bloody marys and margaritas. They also have craft cocktails, local wines, and many draft beers.

The only trouble is deciding what to eat. The menu is dialed in with local favorites such as fish tacos at lunch. Dinner favorites include pan-seared halibut, Harris Ranch steak, and lobster. Fritzsche, says the cioppino topped with crab legs is a must-try. During the winter months, does anything sound better than watching the sunset over the ocean with a seafood stew?

Schooners is decorated for Christmas with lights and trees to add to the ambiance. Holiday parties can be booked, and wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners are booked year-round.

Schooners is open late so there's no excuse to miss this Cayucos gem!

Schooner's is located at 171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos, across from the beach. Open Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 11 a.m.-10 p.m. For the menu, reservations, or more information, visit schoonerscayucos.com, or call (805) 995-3883.

—Karen Lycan

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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 elephantsseal.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 Pearl purchased the land in 1928 and spent the next 50 years creating his own version of a castle. Building materials include beer cans, concrete, washing machines, car parts, old stoves and abalone shells. Call (805) 927-2690 to arrange a tour.

Attractions & Tours

Covell's Clydesdales

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

Dining & Drinks

Madelines Restaurant & Wine Tasting Room

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

Shopping

Ball & Skein & More

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

Cambria Nursery

They offer an extensive selection of seasonal outdoor and indoor plants, flowers and décor for your garden! Browse their gift shops and year-round Christmas store, and take a piece of Cambria home with you. Open daily, 9am-5pm. 2801 Eton Rd., cambrianursery.com, (805) 927-4747

**Cambria,
San Simeon, North Coast**

Maddie Mae's Pet Pantry

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

Rich Man Poorman

Antique Malls

Two Giant locations on the central coast offering a unique selection of antiques and collectables. Open daily 10 am to 5 pm. Located in Cambria at 2110 Main street. RichManPoorManAntiques.com, (805) 203-5350

The Shops At

The Garden Shed

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

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Cambria's Chumash mural honors ancient traditions and culture

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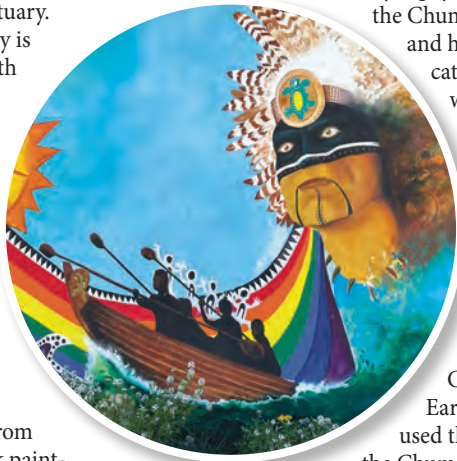
A mural by Chumash artist John Khus, celebrating the Chumash heritage adorns the front of the US Post Office in the Cambria East Village.

Chumash territory spanned 7000 square miles ranging from Malibu to Cambria and east to the edge of the San Joaquin Valley. Cambria is home to two Chumash village sacred sites that have been continuously occupied for 10,000 years. So, it made sense for the Chumash Council and Beautify Cambria to collaborate on a project to honor this rich history.

John Khus was selected to create a mural that celebrated the tribe's history as the first people of San Luis Obispo County and the new Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary.

The sanctuary is America's 17th national marine sanctuary, and it's one of the largest at 5543 square miles along 116 miles of coastline. Khus drew inspiration from Cuyama rock paintings, Canaliño rock paintings, and Ventureño rock paintings to create the mural, "Tomol Rides Wishtoyo."

The mural tells the story of a Chumash elder watching over a tomol (canoe) full of human spirits traveling over a rainbow, known as Wishtoyo, to meet their ances-



Mural "Tomol Rides Wishtoyo," by John Khus.

tors. According to Khus, tomol crews knew the journey would be dangerous and "their connection to the spirit world would be very high during their time on the ocean."

Every image in "Tomol Rides Wishtoyo" pays homage to the Chumash people and helps to educate visitors as well. So, what exactly does everything mean? The large rainbow is called a Wishtoyo. According to the Chumash, Earth Mother used the bridge for the Chumash people.

It is also seen as a bridge to the sacred. The face of a Chumash leader is called a Wot. He would represent the voices of their people at councils and with the nation. The Wot worked closely with the people, medicine bearers, and the storytellers to make sure everything was in balance.

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The tomol is the traditional Chumash canoe. The Chumash had many tomol fleets, and this enabled them to share, fish, and travel. Inspired by a Cuyama rock painting, Khus included a dancing spirit in abalone on the bow of the boat.

Behind the tomol crew is a drawing of four tomol paddlers. This is a partial translation of a rock painting from Cuyama. Just ahead of the tomol is the swordfish or 'elye'wun. Khus combined elements from many different rock paintings to create the 'elye'wun. The bill of the swordfish touches the navy-blue spirit Wot. She carries a staff to signify her position as a leader, and she also carries a child in her womb. The Spirit Wot was translated from a rock painting in Cuyama. The lighter blue spirit next to her is the moon spirit with a head-dress of a crescent moon. She is also pregnant with a child. The moon spirit was translated from a Canaliño rock painting.

The green spirit next to the moon spirit is the spirit Liz-



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ard Wot. According to several Ventureño rock paintings, it is said that were it not for Lizard the hands of humans would be shaped like a coyote paw instead of the five fingers similar to those of Lizard.

The orange spirit is the Grandfather spirit who carries a staff of hawk's feathers and healing medicine. The red spirit is the artist spirit who plays a flute which creates the sky. The music opens the Milky Way and the stars as the song floats from one horizon to the next.

The yellow Sun spirit sits on top of the other spirits. Her headdress represents the rays of the sun and the path of the sun throughout the seasons. Like the spirit Wot and Moon spirit, she carries a child in her womb. The mural also shows the sun, moon, and the Milky Way.

The mural is a colorful addition to the East Village of Cambria that serves to remind visitors of the Chumash tribe. The mural is located on the front of the post office at 4100 Bridge Street in Cambria.

—Karen Lycan

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From succulents to souvenirs — Discover the charm of the Garden Shed

Delights await in Midtown Cambria

Calling all garden lovers! Shops at The Garden Shed on Main Street in Cambria is 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, and local art that can be found at the seven shops at the Garden Shed.

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

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

The Garden Shed is located in Midtown Cambria on Main Street. Customers can start the morning at Lily's Coffee House, explore The Garden Shed and the shops of the courtyard, and end the afternoon at Cayucos Cellars for a glass of



Unique finds at the Garden Shed.

Central Coast wine.

The Garden Shed is located inside of an old 1890s creamery building. At one point, it served as the town hall, where

many community decisions were made. Nowadays, the Garden Shed is known for its emphasis on outdoor living, and also as a place to pause and slow down.

Before starting Cambria Garden Shed, owners Ashley and Lucky Gracey had backgrounds in retail and landscaping. In 1998, the couple opened The Shed, 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.

Cambria Garden Shed has offered unique finds and merchandise found nowhere else on the coast

since first opening its doors. 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 gloves for gardening, 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. It's also a place to find pleasure listening to local guitarists and musicians who stop in regularly to perform. Cambria Garden Shed is the perfect place to take a break from life, relax, and socialize while enjoying a little inspiration.

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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Madeline's

RESTAURANT • WINE SHOP

Stunning vacation rentals available in town

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

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



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the Shops at the GARDEN SHED

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are used to at home and not to mention, the same privacy you'd get at home!

Vacation Rental amenities can include a full kitchen to keep meal costs down, a comfortable living room with and TV, fireplace, washer and dryer, free Wi-Fi, supplied linens, BBQ grill, full bathroom with walk-in showers, dining room table for family meals, and some with hot tubs or even a free bottle of local wine. You will find places offering from two to five bedrooms with king and queen-sized beds and bunk beds. Many are also dog-friendly, so no one gets left behind!

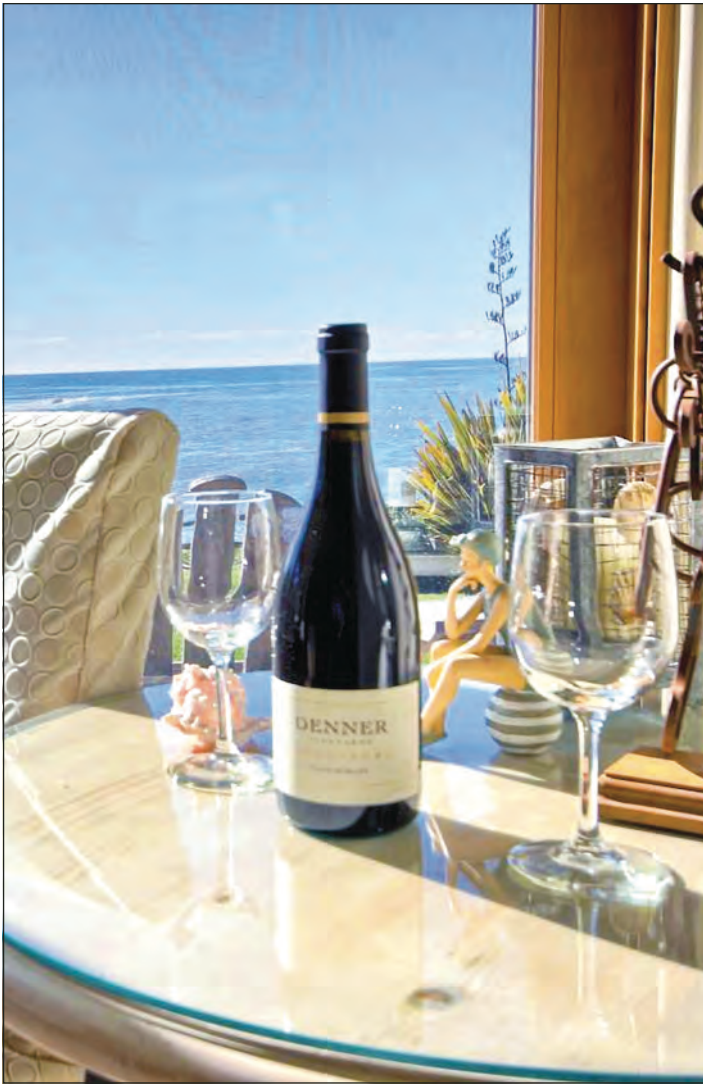
A discussion with the rental agent makes all the difference in finding the perfect vacation rental. The agent can provide guidance that is helpful for those who have trouble with stairs, child-safe vacation rentals, views and location.

Families with children want safety and someplace close to the beach or playground. Couples may desire that romantic spot. Do you want to wake up to views of sunrise over the ocean or en-

joy a glass of wine while watching the sunset? Vacation rentals can give you just the right view.

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

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



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

To learn more about vacation rentals visit:

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

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Atascadero

Outdoor activities abound

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

Attractions

Atascadero Lake Park

A 1.3-mile easy walk path circles the lake in the park providing views of the lake, the many varieties of birds that frequent the lake and other visiting wildlife. Bring binoculars; more than 48 species of birds have been sighted at the lake and recorded on ebirds.org. Leashed dogs are allowed and the path is also a favorite place for cyclists. The

park has restrooms, small barbecue and recreation areas. The Faces of Freedom Veterans Memorial occupies the edge of the park facing Morro Road and is well worth a visit. The park is located at 9305 Pismo Ave, Atascadero just off of Morro Road (Highway 41).

Charles Paddock Zoo

The zoo is one of only 211 zoos accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, this zoo was founded in 1955 by Charles Paddock, a county park ranger who nursed injured wild animals back to health. Today, the zoo covers more than five acres. Many of the zoo residents are part of a world-wide program to preserve animals and their habitats. Some of these rare and endangered animals include the American Alligator and endangered owls and the Greater Roadrunner native to California. The zoo is located at 9100 Morro Rd, Atascadero. For hours and more information call (805) 461-5080 or visit charlespaddockzoo.org.

Golfing

Atascadero and North San Luis Obispo County has several challenging golf courses. Contact any

of these golf courses directly for tee times and more information: Chalk Mountain Golf Course, Links Golf Course of Paso Robles, Paso Robles Golf Club, Hunter Ranch Golf Course and River Oaks Golf Course.

Historic City Hall

Atascadero's historic city hall is probably the city's best known historic building. Located at 6500 Palma Ave. and gracing the back of the Sunken Gardens, the double-domed Italian Renaissance building was originally constructed in 1914 as the Atascadero Administration Building. After founder E.G. Lewis declared bankruptcy the building was purchased in 1927 and, over the years, served as three different private schools and a bank. It became the Veterans Memorial Building when acquired by the County of San Luis Obispo in 1954, and served as a community building. When the City of Atascadero incorporated in 1979, government offices occupied the building until it suffered major damage in the 2003 San Simeon Earthquake. After years of reconstruction and restoration, Historic City Hall opened again in 2013.

Beer

Wild Fields Brewhouse

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

Shopping

D.S. Fisher Men's Apparel

D.S. Fisher Men's Apparel offers a handpicked selection of premium clothing, accessories, and skincare products—perfect for the modern man looking to elevate his style and grooming routine. 5816 Traffic Way, (805) 792-2321

Dewy Rose Clothing Co.

The only store of its kind in town, offering a carefully curated selection of stylish pieces that reflect the latest trends. With top-notch customer service, they're dedicated to helping every shopper find their new favorite outfit. 5863 Traffic Way (805) 434-8866

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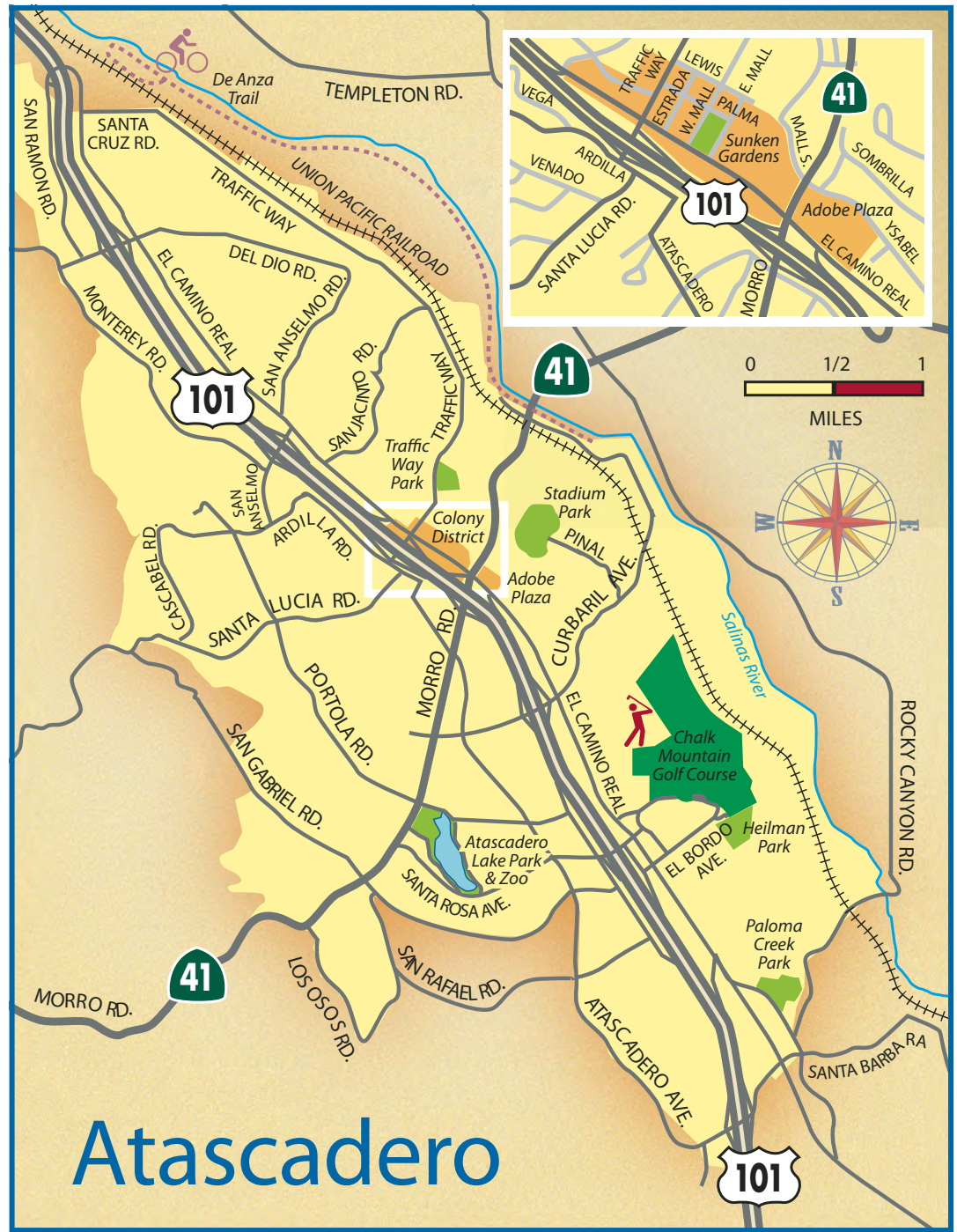
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There's a style for every season at Dewy Rose clothing boutique

'Here to help you find your new favorite outfit!'

In the heart of downtown Atascadero, Dewy Rose offers a unique shopping experience focused on helping women find versatile, high-quality clothing. Owned and operated by Dale Fisher and his family, the boutique is part of a group of businesses that includes D.S. Fisher's men's store and Down To Earth wellness shop.

A sweet beginning

The journey of Dewy Rose began in Georgia in 2014 when the store was initially a honey company with a small selection of clothing. As Fisher and his family connected with clients through conversations about lifestyle and fashion, their focus began to shift. "We started as a honey company with just a small room of clothing," Fisher said in an interview. "A few years ago, we decided to focus on clothing because we got to know our clients better and connect with people more through learning about their lifestyles and how they see themselves through their wardrobes."

Blossoming on the Central Coast

Since relocating to Atascadero in March, Dewy Rose has welcomed customers from San Luis Obispo County and beyond who



Styles for everyone and every season.

are looking for a personalized shopping experience. While the boutique caters primarily to women aged 30 to 60, its collections are designed to appeal to every age and size, with options ranging from XS to 3X. The store's welcoming atmosphere and attentive staff ensure that every shopper feels comfortable exploring their personal style.

A style for every season

Dewy Rose prides itself on carefully curated clothing sourced from brands that prioritize quality and wearability. Fisher and his team handpick each piece at showrooms in Los Angeles to ensure a diverse range of styles that can transition seamlessly from day to evening wear. "Our best-selling brands are Liverpool, Molly Bracken, and Lost + Wander," Fisher said. "Most of our brands are based in California, and we carry pieces from smaller,

independent designers as well."

The store's selections include professional wear, casual weekend outfits, and special occasion attire. Casual pieces range from \$30 to \$100, while professional wear and special event clothing can reach up to \$200, ensuring visitors can find pieces that are both affordable and timeless. Each item is selected with attention to quality, ensuring that customers invest in pieces that will last beyond a single season.

Personal touch in full bloom

For Fisher, the essence of Dewy Rose lies in the personal connection he and his team build with customers. The boutique's mission is to help visitors find clothing that aligns with their unique lifestyles and preferences. "We are here to help you find your new favorite outfit," Fisher says, reflecting the store's commitment to personalized service and style guidance.

By offering locally curated, high-quality selections with a focus on California-based brands, Dewy Rose provides a shopping experience rooted in personal connection.

For those seeking fashionable, versatile pieces in San Luis Obispo County, this family-owned boutique in downtown Atascadero blends the character of independent retail with a deep understanding of women's fashion, inviting visitors to discover their personal style in a welcoming atmosphere.

Visit Dewy Rose at 5863 Traffic Way in downtown Atascadero. Stop by Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday and Monday by appointment only. For more information, visit dewyroseclothing.com.

—Skye Pratt

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Raise your glass with friends — Central Coast Craft Beer Fest returns

March 22,
save the date!

Join friends and family at the seventh annual Central Coast Craft Beer Festival on Saturday, March 22 at the famous Atascadero Sunken Gardens!

Hosted by the Central Coast Brewers Guild, the Central Coast Craft Beer Fest features over 40 independently owned craft breweries, ciders, and wineries.

There is live music, food for purchase, merchant vendors, and everyone's favorite MEGA Sized Beer Pong!

Still in the planning stages, the 2025 festival promises to get bigger and better.



Beer Fest 2025, not just for Vikings.

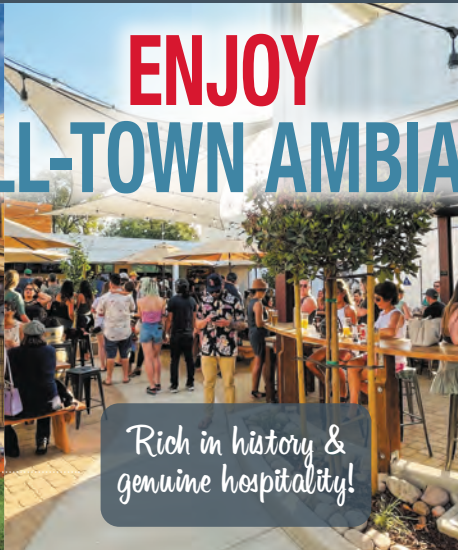
This is a 21-and-over event. Bring your ID! No infants, babies or children, no strollers, no exceptions. All pets must be on a leash and be well-mannered. Please pick up after your pets.

The event takes place rain or shine!

The festival is held at Atascadero's Sunken Garden, 6505 El Camino Real, in front of the historic city hall building. For hours, to purchase tickets, or for more information visit ccentralcoast-craftbeerfest.com.



Photo by Jody Langford



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Photo by Christa Lam

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Santa Margarita

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

Attractions & Tours

Santa Margarita Lake

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



The Carrizo Plains National Monument

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

Santa Margarita Historical Society

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

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

Margarita Adventures Zipline Tours

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

Blast off to a new escape room adventure in 'Renegade — The Retrofit'

Margarita Adventure's newest escape room is open!

Escape! at Margarita Adventures has launched a new sci-fi-themed escape room called, "Renegade: The Retrofit." This marks the latest addition to the lineup of immersive escape rooms, joining the "Rita's Relics," room, which opened in 2022.

"Renegade: The Retrofit" is now available for booking at escape-margarita.com. The room is open Thursday through Sunday, and tickets are \$44 per person. Guests must be at least eight years old to participate.

An escape room is an interactive experience where participants work



Board the Renegade for a new challenge.

together to solve puzzles within a specific time frame to "escape." The official description for "Renegade: The Retrofit" reads: "Episode 1: You have been chosen to board the Renegade, an intergalactic research vessel. You and your teammates must carry out a series of tasks to

complete an upgrade to the ship's general artificial intelligence Interface. Do you have what it takes to complete the upgrade before time runs out?"

Frank Rodgers, the escape room's creator, said the goal is to offer fun for the entire family while

challenging participants' wits and ingenuity. "We spent more than a year creating this immersive new experience. I believe you will be blown away by the sights, sounds, and challenges," Rodgers said.

"Renegade: The Retrofit" is the first episode in a planned trilogy of "Renegade" escape rooms, hinting at a deeper storyline unfolding in future installments.

Margarita Adventures is known for its zipline tours, nature tours, and e-bike vineyard tours. The addition of escape rooms has garnered rave reviews, earning a five-star rating on Google Reviews.

For reservations and more information visit escapemargarita.com or margarita-adventures.com, call (805) 438-3120, or stop by the Margarita Adventures office at 22719 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita.



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Templeton

Templeton is the epitome of small town charm. Originally founded in 1886 as the last station on the southbound Southern Pacific Railroad, the town hosted horse drawn stagecoaches that met the trains and gave passengers a ride to San Luis Obispo to connect with the next stagecoach to their destinations. Even after the railroad extended the rails south to Santa Margarita in 1889, Templeton remained the shipping point for local crops and products bound eastward and to boats in shipping ports on the coast. Grain, wood, charcoal, fruit and cattle, driven from as far away as Kern County, arrived in Templeton for the next destination.

Many of the buildings from the late 1800s are still lining Main Street and housing unique shops, wineries and restaurants serving everything from

hearty country breakfasts to dinner for every taste and the Templeton Historical Museum Society.

Attractions

Fresh farm to table adventures

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

Farmers market

The Saturday morning Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Templeton Park. The park is located at 550 Crocker St. Find fresh

vegetables, fruit, bakery goods, meat, fish, nuts, honey, olive oil and hand-made crafts.

Dining & Drinks

Chulos Cafe & Cantina

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

McPhee's Grill

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

Pig Iron

A new restaurant serving high-end California comfort food, award winning cocktails, and a brunch most would die for. Open for lunch and dinner, come find out what all the talk is about! Follow on Instagram: [@pigirontempleton](https://www.instagram.com/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



Happy Hour Taco Tues & Thurs 4-6 PM

- Artfully created coffee beverages •
- Handcrafted cocktails •

Open for breakfast & lunch Mon - Sun, 8am - 3pm

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Featuring local wines and beer



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Wed-Sun dinner starting at 5pm



"dedicated to great food and great service"

Homestyle flavor meets community spirit at Templeton Market & Deli

Enjoy made-from-scratch meals, warm hospitality, and a legacy of local pride

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 gets along well with everyone and serves up fresh food made from scratch in their deli. Besides having a fair amount of grocery items and other odds and ends, this popular location has thick, juicy, amazing made-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 home-made perfection in the simple comfort of their indoor and outdoor dining areas. Gas up your vehicle or try out the self-serve car wash.

Run by manager Abby Allen, Templeton Market & Deli opened in Nov 1999. When first started, it was the brainchild of Gary and Jan Davis from the Templeton



A hometown favorite for fresh food.

Livestock Market. Allen had been working for the brothers for a long time and developed the deli as partners. She worked at the sales yard throughout high school and college and knew the Davis's very well, even her mother worked there. Allen has been the full-time manager of Templeton Market since its opening.

Allen said, "We try to 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.

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

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

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

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

—Cassandra Frey

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Paso Robles

Shopping, Fine Dining & Wine Tasting

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

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

Several winery tasting rooms are located within easy walking distance in downtown Paso Robles. There are more than 200 wineries in the region around Paso Robles. One of the fastest growing American Viticultural Areas in California with 26,000 acres planted, Paso Robles

wine country has one of the longest and most consistent growing seasons for wine grapes in California.

Antique Shops

Reminisce Antiques

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

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

Studios on the Park

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

Attractions & Tours

ArtSocial 805

A vibrant painting, drawing and pottery studio. Whether you're a sprightly 5-year-old or a seasoned 105-year-old, this is

your creative playground to splash some color, sketch your heart out, craft away, and have fun! Book a private party or join a workshop. artsocial805.com, 631 Spring St., (805) 400-9107

Redwings Horse Sanctuary

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

Sidecar Tours Inc.

Sidecar Tours Inc. is the World's First and only tandem sidecar experience. They combine the freedom of the open road with a one-of-a-kind thrilling adventure. sidecartoursinc.com, (951) 840-0178

Dining & Drinks

Brown Butter Cookie Company

Since 2008, they have crafted signature hand-rolled cookies renowned for quality and taste. The latest offerings include cookies infused with Ghirardelli® chocolate in three flavors: White Chip, Chocolate Chip, and Dark Cocoa Chocolate Chip. Brown Butter Frozen Custard was recently introduced, expanding the indulgent lineup. 801 12th St., Paso Robles, brownbuttercookies.com, (805) 464-6636

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, canetikeroom.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

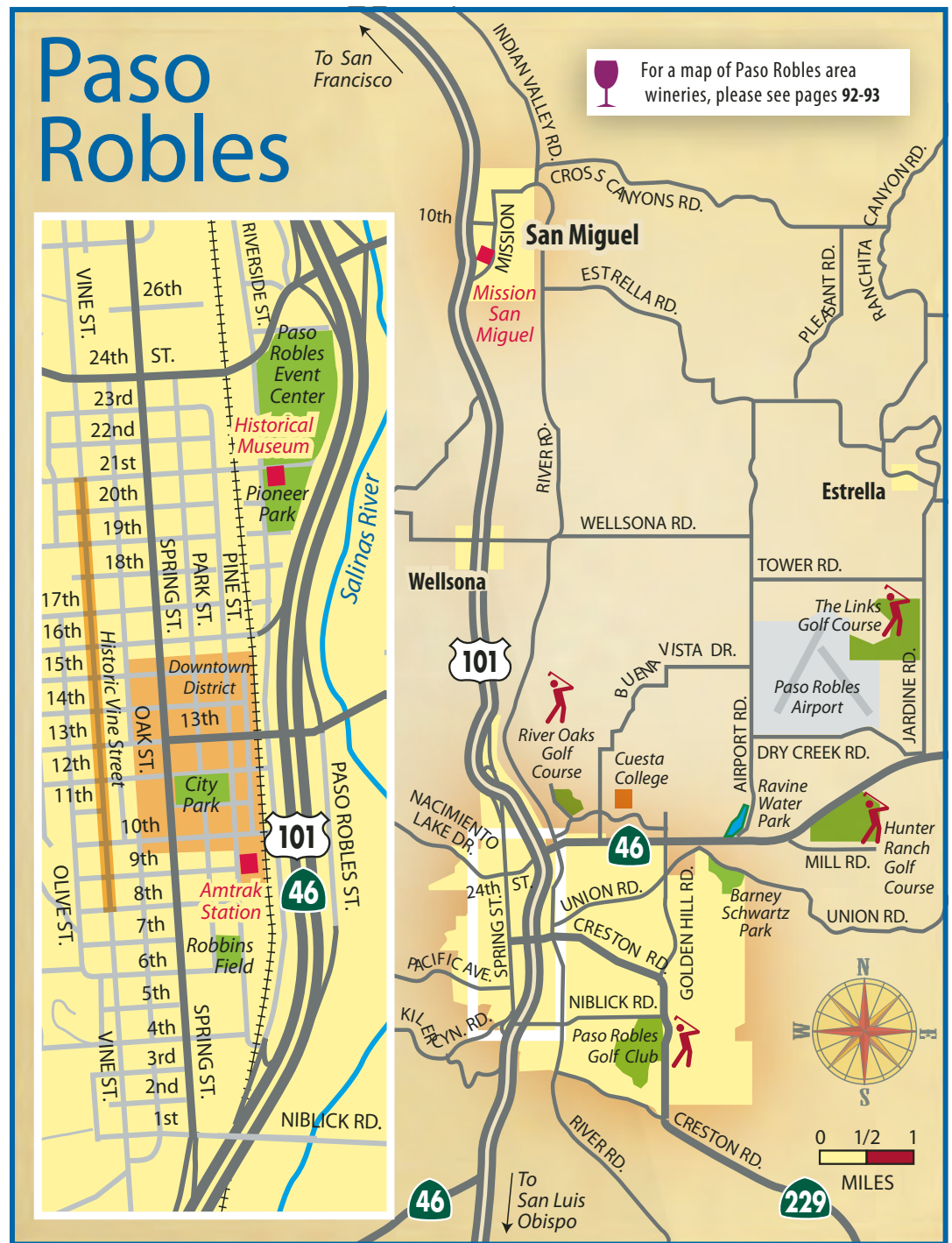
Pine Street Saloon

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

Red Scooter Deli

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

The Paso Market Walk



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

Vivant Fine Cheese

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

Museums

Estrella Warbird Museum

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

Paso Robles Children's Museum

The museum's mission is to engage children in a joyful learn-through-play

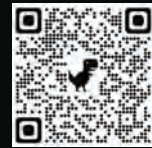
environment and inspire educational curiosity. It's a favorite for a fun family afternoon. Located in the historic Paso Robles Volunteer Firehouse. See website for hours. 623 13th Street, pasokids.org, (805) 238-7432

Pioneer Museum

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

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Salons & Spas

The Spa Central Coast

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

Shopping

Bijou Baby & Toddler

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

Bijou On The Park

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

The Blenders

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

Boyd's Tobacco and Elegant Gifts

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

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EarthTones Gifts & Gallery

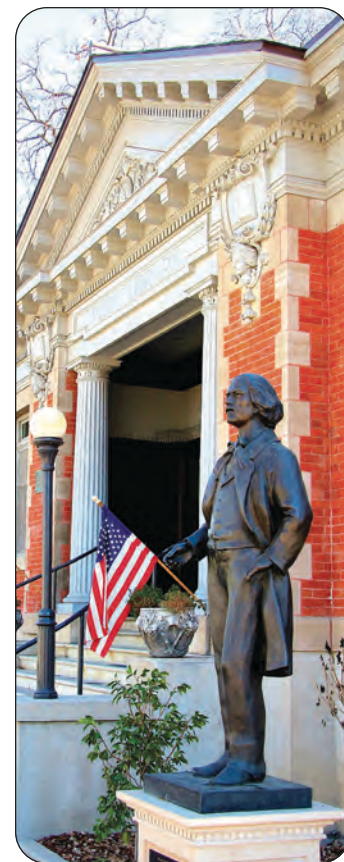
Steps from downtown find calm and tranquility. Find unique jewelry, local art, handcrafted gifts, candles, incense, books, and crystals blended with mind-body therapies for spirituality and inspiration. It shines new energy on The Historic Depot on Pine, 790 Pine Street, Paso Robles, earthtonesgifts.com, (805) 238-4413

Naughty But Nice

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

New With Tags

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



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Explore Paso Robles' French connections at elegant restaurants and wineries

Francophiles delight in Mediterranean inspired meals, olive oils, and wines

With rolling hills and sunny skies, Paso Robles could be mistaken as the French countryside, especially with the fantastic French-owned and inspired restaurants and wineries located around town. Take a look below for authentic French wine and cuisine for your next local adventure.



atmosphere in downtown Paso Robles. Owners Julien and Courtney were inspired to bring their love of cooking locally and named the restaurant for their three children. Some delectable dishes include steak au poivre, crêpe du jour, and salade lyonnaise. Don't leave before trying a classic French dessert, such as the mousse au chocolat or the cheese service.

Located at 1215 Spring Street. Open Thursday through Monday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, visit lprestaurant.com, or call (805) 296-3754.

Olive oil

Sunshine Olive Oil

When it comes to enjoying a unique tasting experience of fabulous olive oils, the ambiance of the Sunshine Olive Oil tasting room in downtown Paso Robles has, "a little French Je ne sais quoi" mixed with an undeniable Western flair. Owner Catherine Miller grew up in the south of France, where her childhood was filled with olive orchards and lavender fields.

What started as 10 acres of olive trees in Templeton grew to garner medals in Paso Robles, New York, Japan, and Greece for Sunshine's olive oils. Stop in the tasting room to sample exquisite olive oils and browse beautiful products for home and garden. Goods include tea towels and tablecloths from France and Denmark, olive wood products, jams, soaps, gift baskets, and more.

Restaurants

BL Brasserie

With classic French fare in an upscale setting, BL Brasserie is the perfect spot for a leisurely lunch or dinner. From oysters and mussels as a tasty appetizer to steak frites and mushroom ravioli as an entrée, there is the perfect dish for every guest. Crème brûlée or apple beignets are the perfect way to finish off the night.

Les Petites Canailles

Les Petites Canailles, which translates to The Little Rascals, brings the community together with soulful French cuisine and a welcoming

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Located at 1244 Pine St. Suite 106A, Paso Robles. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information visit sunshineoliveoil.com, or call (805) 221-5344.

Wineries

L'Aventure Winery

For over 25 years, L'Aventure Winery has offered quality wines inspired by French viticulture. Owner Stephan Asseo worked in Bordeaux, later moving to Paso Robles with his family to expand their passion for viticulture. Make sure to book one of the flight experiences, which include champagne, a visit through the caves, and popular vintages.

Located at 2815 Live Oak Road. Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit aventurewine.com, or call (805) 227-1588.

Clos Solène

Clos Solène invites guests to experience the passion that the owners Guillaume and Solène Fabre have put into their boutique winery. Look out over the 17-acre vineyard and indulge in a wine-pairing experience or estate tour. Some stand-out wines include the

2021 Fleur de Solène, the 2021 Hommage à nos Pairs Reserve, and the 2022 Sweet Clémentine.

Paris Valley Road Estate Winery

Inspired by the beauty of the Bordeaux region, Paris Valley Road Estate Winery promises a luxurious wine tasting and food experience. A country-inspired lunch and delectable brunch are offered on select days. Their Old World-inspired Paso Robles collection will have a wine for every palate, from the 2021 sauvignon blanc to the 2019 merlot.

Located at 5625 E CA-46. Open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit parisvalley-road.com, or call (805) 727-9463.

Located at 2040 Niderer Road. Open Saturday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, visit clossolene.com, or call (805) 239-7769.

Located at 1202 Pine Street. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. For more information visit bistrolaurent.com, or call (805) 226-8191.

—Sadie Mae Mace

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Redwings Horse Sanctuary, a home for gentle giants

*Horses, ponies,
and donkeys find
a safe haven*

Redwings is home to all kinds of horses and burros from the smallest miniature horses to the largest draft horses. Visitors can see a herd of burros, mustangs from Montana's Pryor Mountains, or the regal thoroughbred horses watching over the ranch from their hilltop. The horses and burros in the care of Redwings include permanent residents who, due to age, illness, or injury are not adoptable and will live out their lives at the sanctuary.



Saving horses since 1991.

Others are available for adoption as companions or for adoption for riding.

Thanks to a generous trust bequest, Redwings was able to purchase a 141-acre property on Union Road in Paso Robles in 2015. A grand opening in September 2021 officially opened the gates to the new, permanent sanctuary for abused, abandoned, and neglected equines. The property was designed specifically to meet the needs of the rescued horses.

An accredited nonprofit

The mission of Redwings Horse Sanctuary is to eliminate the causes of equine suffering through education and community outreach programs, to rescue abused and neglected equines, and to provide permanent sanctuary or selected adoptive homes for those equines. The new permanent location allows for increased educational outreach to local schools and the potential to build a future horse therapy program.

Redwings Horse Sanctuary is an accredited 501(c) 3 non-profit horse rescue organization. Over the years since it was founded, Redwings has received accreditation from CARMA (California Race Management Account), TAA (Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance) and GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries). The CARMA and TAA accreditation designate Redwings as an approved aftercare facility for retired racehorses. The GFAS is an international organization that provides certification for animal sanctuaries through verification and accreditation.

Redwings offers guided public tours, community volunteer opportunities with the horses, horse sponsorships, and a vibrant adoption program. Be sure to check the website for various events that are scheduled throughout the year.

To make an appointment for a visit, learn more about Redwings, volunteering, and the horses, or to make a donation, visit redwingshorsesanctuary.org, or call (805) 237-3751, or email info@redwingshorsesanctuary.org.

The need for sanctuary

There are many reasons that horses need a place in sanctuary and most of those reasons come down to the reality that horses are much harder to place than dogs and cats. What happens to larger animals desperately needing a secure place to live, due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment? The amount of space a horse needs, the cost involved in feed and care, and often the special handling and attention are not always easy to find.

The adoption program ensures that horses go to approved and loving homes. Those interested in adopting first fill out an adoption application and have a home inspection before being approved to adopt. During the first year of adoption, Redwings staff keep a close eye on the adopted horse and make sure they are happy, healthy, and a good fit for the new family.

Over 40 years of service to horses

Redwings Horse Sanctuary was founded in Carmel, CA in 1991 with the mission to end the abuse, neglect, and slaughter of horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, and burros. Redwings rescued 15 equines that first year. Since then, it has rescued, rehabilitated, and provided permanent sanctuary and adoptive homes to hundreds of horses and donkeys.

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Explore the enticing flavors at the Paso Market Walk

Discover ramen, wood-fired pizzas, burgers, vegan cheese, artisan coffee, and more

Just a few blocks down from the downtown Paso Robles city park, the Paso Market Walk has many food and drink purveyors to choose from that will create fun memories for all. From ramen, burgers, vegan cheese, and pizzas to coffee, locals and tourists are sure to find their new favorite spot at the Paso Market Walk.

A vegan cheese shop

One of your first stops can be The Vreamery, a vegan cheese shop with plenty of meats, sweet treats, and grab-and-go items. The Vreamery showcases the largest selection of artisan vegan cheeses with nationwide doorstep delivery. Just a few of their popular cheeses include a blue cheese from Climax Foods Brand, a cave-aged classic brie from Rebel Cheese Brand, and a smoked gouda from Reine Brand. Pick up a package of vegan salami deli slices from Prime Roots Brand and a perfect picnic lunch is in the making. For a quick bite, there are



Something for every craving.

plenty of salads, paninis, and more to choose from. “Our menu offerings are 100% plant-based and everything can be served gluten-free and soy-free,” owner and founder Jennifer Golden said.

Ramen and more

Craving a mouthwatering ramen experience? Look no further than Momotaro Ramen, where every dish is crafted to delight your taste buds with authentic Japanese flavors. From savory tonkotsu and vegetarian ramen to crispy gyozas, fluffy hirata buns, and crispy kara-

age, each bite is a burst of freshness and quality. Every ingredient is thoughtfully sourced locally and prepared with kokoro —heart and soul—ensuring an unforgettable meal. Owners Brittney and Mateo are passionate about serving the best ramen in SLO County, made entirely from scratch with no pre-made bases or concentrates. “We’re here to offer you a truly authentic experience and can’t wait to welcome you at the ramen bar!”

Classic Italian fare

If you’re in the mood for some classic Italian fare, Via Caravaggio 147 offers Neapolitan pizzas with the skills owners Pat and Kathryn Haran learned from Enzo Coccia, the famous Michelin-recognized

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PineStreetSaloon.com • 11AM to 2AM Daily

Naples chef. Their popular dishes include the classic Margherita D.O.P. made with San Marzano tomatoes, the pesto con pomodorini with freshly made pesto Genovese, and the Nduja di Calabria, which is a Calabrian chili-infused pork sausage also topped with ricotta, mozzarella, and pecorino Romano. Owner Kathryn Haran notes, "Slow fermented dough, imported Italian ingredients, and a hand-crafted Acunto wood-fired pizza oven create a dining experience like no other, highlighted by a unique wine and beer list of unique imports and local favorites."

Coffee, latte and cold brew

Whether you want to catch up with a friend over coffee or need a quick caffeine boost, Common Grounds (formerly Joebella Coffee Paso) has all you might need. Make sure to grab one of their signature lattes, which include matcha, lavender vanilla honey, salted caramel, or their famous velvety espressos. For a more adventurous choice, try the Kyoto cold brew, which can be served straight, over rocks, or in a mocktail; you can expect a molasses flavor with a strong bourbon finish.

Burgers, sandwiches and great sides

The Third Degree is a must-visit on the list for delectable burgers, sandwiches, and appetizing sides. Their secret to the perfect burger is the mix of ground chuck and brisket, which is an in-demand menu item. Other tasty options include paninis, seasonal salads such as a beet salad, and sandwiches that range from salmon BLTs to house-cooked turkey clubs. Owner Jody Storsteen said, "We would like everyone to know that The Third Degree is the new home of Berry Hill Bisiro with a new fun setting where the options are incredible. There is something for everyone at our new home at Paso Market Walk."

Paso Market Walk is located at 1803 Spring St. in Paso Robles. For more information, call (805) 720-1255 or visit pasomarketwalk.com.

— By Sadie Mae Mace

Boyd's Tobacco & Elegant Gifts has everything for tobacco enthusiasts

Premium cigars, pipe tobacco, and exquisite accessories

Boyd's Tobacco & Elegant Gifts, located a few blocks from the Downtown City Park in Paso Robles, is a veritable treasure trove for cigar and tobacco enthusiasts. It offers a huge array of cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco and all the accompanying accessories. The shop is well stocked with a variety of gifts such as wine accessories, Waterford crystal, shaving accessories and flasks. Boyd's also strives to make gift-giving simple by offering gift wrap at no extra charge.

Its extensive selection of premium cigars includes those from Arturo Fuente, Padron, Davidoff, Drew Estate, General Cigar, Altadis, Rocky Patel, Ashton, A.J. Fernandez, EPC, Gurkha, My Father, Nat Sherman, Quesada, and JMG's own line of Knockout TOC Cigars & Just Sticks. Boyd's also carries many of Cigar Aficionado's Top 25 Cigars of the Year going back in time, and a vast selection of vintage cigars not found anywhere else in California.



A treasure trove for tobacco enthusiasts.

Customers are welcome to browse the shelves in the large walk-in humidor that holds a huge stock of cigars. At 300 square feet, the humidor has plenty of room to display its varied offerings.

Find cigar accessories like cutters, punch cutters, travel humidors and leather accessories at Boyd's. This special shop features lighters from S.T. Dupont and cigar cutters and lighters from XIKAR.

Also offered at the store is a wide selection of pipes and pipe tobacco. Boyd's has a full line of imported Italian briar pipes. The wall displays

glass jars filled with old-fashioned pipe tobacco blends with a variety of wares available for every customer. They also sell their own exclusive blends of tobacco.

Boyd's Tobacco & Elegant Gifts strives to serve both seasoned tobacco connoisseurs as well as less-knowledgeable customers looking for a gift for someone else. The staff is knowledgeable and ready to help.

Check out the members' only cigar lounge. With a warm atmosphere and amenities such as a pool table available to members, the lounge is a popular gathering place for cigar enthusiasts. For out-of-town customers, a lounge day pass can be purchased giving full access to all amenities.

The lounge is a favorite place for customers to watch sporting events throughout the year. Boyd's Tobacco & Elegant Gifts also offers cigar events for its lounge members and guests featuring various cigar brands.

In these, and in many other ways, they truly do strive to serve as Paso Robles' go-to stop for cigar, pipe and tobacco enthusiasts and those who love them.



Boyd's Tobacco & Elegant Gifts is located at 625 Spring Street in Paso Robles and is open Mon-Sat from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sun

from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information visit boydstobacco.com or call (805) 239-8701. You must be 21 years of age to shop

at Boyd's Tobacco & Elegant Gifts.

—Kate Joyce

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The Blenders — A 50-year legacy of beauty and fashion

Embracing community and friendship

For 50 years now, The Blenders, located in downtown Paso Robles, has created a sense of community and passion for fashion, skincare, and cosmetics among locals and visitors. The Blenders remains true to its namesake by offering a ‘blend’ of unique items, special orders, and beauty consultations to the San Luis Obispo community.

The Blenders was opened by Barbara Lewin in 1974, offering Merle Norman Cosmetics, clothing, accessories, coffee and tea, and miscellaneous products that drew people into the store to find the perfect holiday gift or enjoy a hot drink and peruse the products. Her daughter, Lori Alpert, was part of her sales team and daily business ventures at The Blenders while engaging in her career in wholesale apparel, and after the 2003 San Simeon earthquake, became partners with her mother until Barbara’s passing in 2019.

“The most rewarding aspect of working at The Blenders are the customers. After almost 50 years, our customers are not just customers, they become friends. Having a business in this community that is part of my heritage is a blessing. Carrying on my mother’s legacy is fulfilling and I sure have some big shoes to fill! But I hear her guiding me every day,” said Lori. Mom was driven, passionate, engaged in the community, and a great salesperson. I learned a great deal from her. We each had our strengths that we brought to the business.”

Carrying wonderful skincare and cosmetics products and offering complimentary makeovers



Unique selections and beauty for all.

with Merle Norman Cosmetics, which are manufactured in the USA, is an integral component of The Blenders. Just a sampling of the Merle Norman Cosmetics products offered are skin care collections for all skin types with the latest technology. Also included are permanent and seasonal colors and palettes for lips and eyes, Merle Norman’s foundation with dermatologist-suggested ingredients such as zinc, and products geared toward anti-aging.

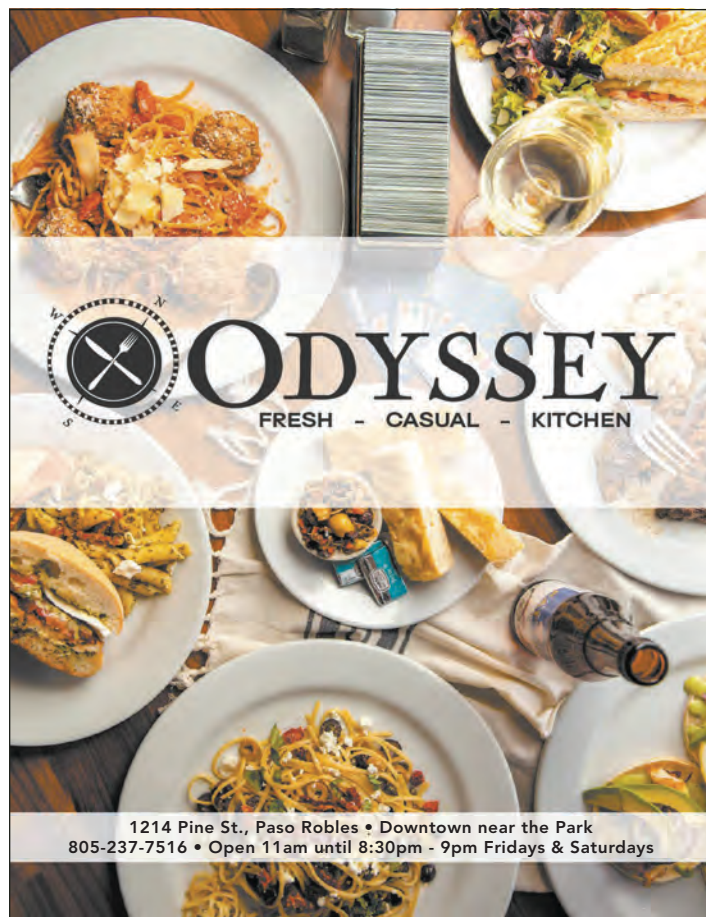
“The Merle Norman motto is ‘try before you buy’ which is the concept we uphold at The Blenders. We encourage anyone looking for new skincare or makeup to come in and try before replenishing. We customize your regime to fit your needs, focusing on skincare first so that your makeup highlights the best you,” said Lori.

“We would like the community to know how grateful we are for your support over the years. We have become a destination community and we have a lot to offer. The Blenders offers a different selection than the other

wonderful stores and if we don’t offer what you are looking for, we definitely refer to the other businesses. Shop local and support the local businesses,” said Lori.

Whether you are looking for new skincare products, a fun new clothing item, or a wonderful selection of accessories The Blenders offers a unique selection of your retail needs. Real women, real sizes! We celebrate beauty for all!

The Blenders’ lifestyle clothing is selected with customers in mind. For those who travel, for special occasions, or just to spice up the wardrobe, The Blenders should be your first stop. Be sure to check out their amazing selection of accessories and handbags.



1214 Pine St., Paso Robles • Downtown near the Park
805-237-7516 • Open 11am until 8:30pm - 9pm Fridays & Saturdays



The Blenders also offers ear piercing.

To stay connected with The Blenders about new arrivals or

sales, follow them on Facebook and on Instagram at theblenders.merlenorman.

The Blenders is located at

538 12th St in Paso Robles. Open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Closed Sunday. For

more information visit theblenderspasorobles.com or call (805) 238-5554.

—Sadie Mae Mace



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Naughty But Nice — Where fun meets romance

A boutique for romance, adventure and gifts

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

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

Ever-changing inventory

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

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

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

“We get to know the people that visit us and we want to make sure they are comfortable telling



Featuring costumes, lingerie and gifts.

us anything,” says Michelle, adding, “This is a very nonjudgmental place and we will help you find whatever you need. This is just a really, really fun store and all of us are committed to making your visit a fun experience.”

Gifts galore

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

Check out the costume selection at Naughty But Nice including shoes, stockings, gloves, corsets, skirts, and more in sizes from small to 4X. “We are fashion consultants year-round and we carry everything you need to put your costume together,” says Michelle. “We can help you choose items that will make the costume original and unique – from Alice in Wonderland to Sexy Vampire; we also have masks available year-round. We are all about fashion and helping women feel their sexiest.”

Stop by Naughty But Nice, located at 1319 Spring St. #101 in Paso Robles. Open daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, visit nbn-stores.com or call (805) 238-2787.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Downtown Paso Robles

♥ FEBRUARY ♥

Sun. 16th at 7pm Valentine Movie Night
 Movie: “For the First Time” 1959 Mario Lanza and Zsa Zsa Gabor
 Park Cinemas, 1100 Pine St.
 Info: Call (805) 238-4103 • Tickets: ParkCinemas.com

• APRIL •

Sat. 12th, 11am - 2pm
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 Downtown City Park Holiday House

Sat. 26th, 10am - 4pm
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Savor the flavor, taste local premium olive oils

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

Look for three qualities

Tasters should look for these three positive attributes:

Fruitiness: Any positive organic smell or taste.

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

Pungency: A peppery, burning sensation in the throat.

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

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



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

Olivas De Oro

Local grower and producer of award-winning olive oil. Enjoy olive oil, vinegar and artisan-crafted food tastings and a rotating selection of cheese & charcuterie. Located in Tin City, 2989 B Limestone Way, Paso Robles. Open Daily 11-5, Fri & Sat 11-6, olivasdeoro.com, (805) 227-4223

SLO Olive

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complimentary tasting experience. 958 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, sloolive.com, (805) 439-2455

We Olive

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Sunshine Olive Oil

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



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Sunshine Olive Oil, a journey from France to Paso Robles

Tasting room and home goods store in downtown Paso Robles

A visit to San Luis Obispo County would not be complete without a stop at the Sunshine Olive Oil tasting room and home goods store, located in the heart of Downtown Paso Robles. Featuring a selection of local, premium, award-winning California extra virgin olive oils, a wide variety of home goods, and gorgeous décor, this family-owned business has earned a stellar reputation for providing outstanding service and exceptional products.

Owner Catherine Miller grew up in the south of France, where her childhood was filled with olive orchards and lavender fields. She and her husband, Gary, fell in love with Templeton and the surrounding area while their son was attending Cal Poly.

They purchased a 10-acre hillside property and planted different varieties of olive trees with the help of Richard and Linda Delahanty. When Richard introduced the couple to a mobile milling service, they decided to make a batch of olive oil from their first harvest back in 2018.

The first year, the Millers gave their olive oil to friends who then did a blind tasting against some of the most well-known and expensive olive oils. What started as a hobby soon blossomed into a passion.

"To our friends' surprise, they preferred our oils," Miller said. "That's when we realized we had something truly special and, since then, growing and producing olives and oils has become a passion."

When deciding on a name for their new business, Miller decided Sunshine, also the name of the street they live on, was a perfect fit. Their logo, featuring a dove with an olive branch in its beak, was inspired by a stained-glass window she had designed for their home.



The Miller family: Alex, Chloe, Catherine and Gary, with chihuahuas Diva and Lilly.

Team focuses on award-winning olive oil

Miller points to their "amazing team" as being essential to the success of Sunshine Olive Oil. Together, they work to produce extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) bursting with polyphenols and antioxidants.

"Richard and Linda not only helped us plant the first trees, they are the force behind the farming," she said. "Dominique Lobjois has been intrinsic in the evolution of our family-owned company, while Eileen Nunes and Corinne Ashley manage the day-to-day operations in our tasting room."

Alex MacMiller was hired to assist Richard and his crew of farmworkers with planting new trees and maintaining the groves. He also mills the olives at the estate mill while his wife, Michelle, manages the company's social media accounts.

Garnering medals this year in Paso Robles, New York, Japan, and Greece has inspired the family to keep moving forward and improving every aspect of their family-owned business.

"We are expanding our production from 5,000 trees in San Luis Obispo County to over 20,000," Miller said. "As from the beginning, all will be planted, cared for, and picked by hand. We are continuing to focus on how to make the best olive oil, not only in California but worldwide."

Gorgeous tasting room in downtown Paso Robles

When it comes to enjoying a unique tasting experience of fabulous and healthy olive oils, the ambiance of the Sunshine Olive Oil tasting room and home goods store in downtown Paso Robles is unsurpassed. Its welcoming setting includes a wow factor Miller describes as "eclectic and boujee" that somehow manages to maintain a large portion of its original Paso Robles history.

Featuring stamped ceilings, original 100-year-plus hardwood floors adorned with cowhides and tapestry rugs, and a tasting

bar made of English Pine topped with marble, the store definitely has what Miller refers to as "a little French Je ne sais quoi" mixed with an undeniable Western flair. Under the sparkle of crystal chandeliers lie beautiful treasures for the home and garden including tea towels and tablecloths from France and Denmark, olive wood products, jams, soaps, gift baskets, and more.

"Eileen and Corinne do an amazing job running the store," Miller said. "They can answer questions about all of our home goods, and love sharing our amazing olive oils with everyone. They provide a tasting experience that is educational and inspiring."

During tastings, they like to start visitors off with a lighter oil before moving on to one with a more heavy, spicy, pungent flavor. Many people like to taste vinegar as well, including some Balsamic and local, wine-based offerings.

Healthy olive oils high in polyphenols

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

"It's incredibly high in polyphenols, tastes amazing, and is super healthy," Miller said.

For those wanting a more delicate oil for everyday use, their 100% Leccino California EVOO is a favorite. With a flavor profile of sweet, freshly cut grass, almond, and pepper, it may be used for cooking, salad dressings, or even baking.

Their Miller Blend California EVOO, with flavors of green tea, nettle, and black pepper, is a must-try. It also comes with a fun history.

"When we planted the trees, we were novices and just planted different varieties," Miller said. "After harvest, we decided to do a field blend and, since we are the Millers, we called it the Miller Blend. Little



did we know this is a technical term from the past where, at the end of the day, an olive miller would use all of the leftover olives and call it the Miller Blend!"

Since then, the family has acquired two additional properties, and now have a total of 14 acres of trees including unusual varieties such as bosana from

Sardinia and hojiblanca from Spain. They are passionate about environmentally-conscious farming, refrain from using toxic pesticides or fertilizers, practice beekeeping, and also grow lavender.

The Sunshine Olive Oil team invites everyone to stop by their tasting room, peruse their offerings of unique artwork and gifts, and sample some of their award-winning oils.

"Please come by the store and experience our ray of sunshine to inspire your day," Miller said.

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

—Meagan Friberg



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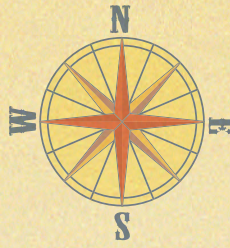
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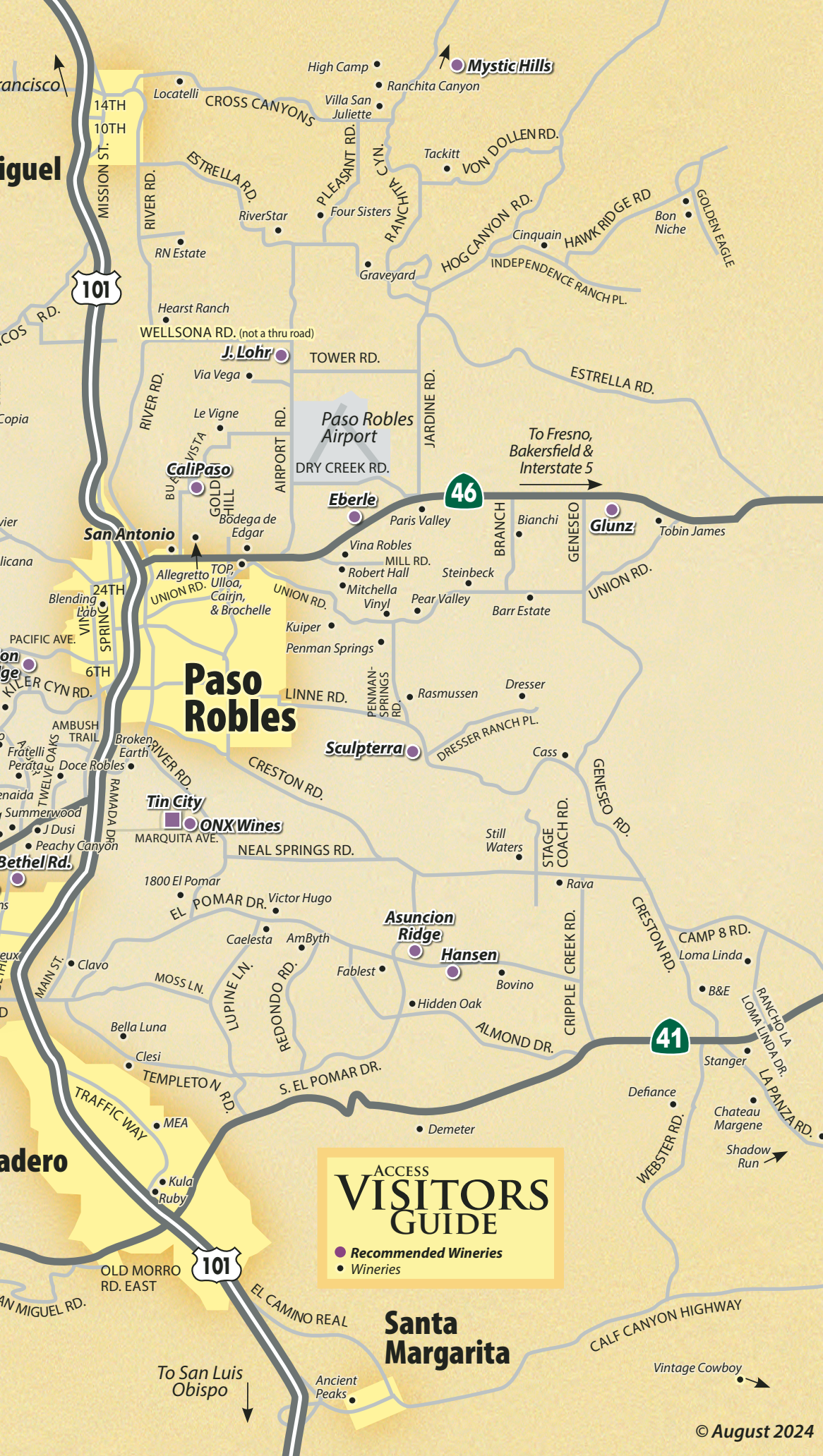
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Mystic Hills Vineyard — Epic wines, hospitality and family ties

Academy-award-winning film editor and family welcome visitors to their boutique winery

From the time they planted their Mystic Hills Vineyard, Joel and Judy Cox have consistently demonstrated a passion for providing unsurpassed experiences and award-winning wines. By offering private, complimentary tastings at their vineyard and winery, the Cox family lends a personal touch to their interactions with each guest.

“We have so much love for people,” Judy said. “We offer private



Owners Judy and Joel Cox. Photography by Brandon Bomberger.

tastings by appointment only, which allows us to spend two or three hours with each person or group. This gives

us the chance to get to know one another, share our story, and just enjoy being together.”

Theirs is a true love story filled with tenacity, hard work, and family. Married for 56 years and counting, Joel and Judy encourage and support one another even when their careers sometimes take them miles apart. Their winery is a family-run operation with their children and grandchildren pitching in to help with the vineyard, oversee tastings, and manage the wine club.

Joel, an Academy Award-winning film editor who frequently works with Clint Eastwood, has edited numerous films including “Gran Torino”, “Unforgiven”, “Million Dollar Baby”, “The Bridges of Maddison County”, “Letters From Iwo Jima”, and more. He fell in love with Bordeaux wines while traveling with Eastwood to the Cannes International Film Festival.

In 2004, Joel and Judy purchased their 14-acre hillside ranch in San Miguel and planted their boutique vineyard in 2007. Utilizing the same professional and creative love he holds for film, Joel consistently earns awards for each of their Mystic Hills wines.

Award-winning wines

Winemaker and vintner Keith Roberts has been with Mystic Hills since the beginning, working the vineyard and creating hand-crafted,

estate-grown Bordeaux-style wines with Joel. Their teamwork has led to the winery being named the Monterey County Winery of the Year and San Luis Obispo County Winery of the Year.

“Joel puts the same integrity and hard work into everything that he does,” Judy said. “When he sets out to do something, he does it right. And, Keith is such a wonderful, knowledgeable guy. He has so much experience, and he has the same ideas as we do, so it’s just an ideal partnership.”

The climate at the winery, which is part of the Pleasant Valley Wine Trail, typically consists of crisp mornings, hot days, and cool afternoon winds. These temperature swings and the way the team works the land contribute to the growth of superior fruit for Mystic Hills wines.

“We don’t fertilize, we don’t spray our vines, and this ensures pure, beautiful wine,” Judy said.

Making beautiful wines with consistent balance and character takes time. After the grapes are harvested by hand and separated, they are placed in neutral oak barrels and aged 18 months before blending, then left alone for another year. Once bottled, it’s another six months before the wines are released.

Not long after releasing their first Mystic Hills bottles in 2011, they started racking up awards including gold at the 2015 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition for their 2011 Unforgiven wine. Aptly named after Joel’s Oscar-winning film with Eastwood, this rich, velvety blend of cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot, petit verdot, and malbec remains a favorite among customers.

In addition, Mystic Hills has consistently earned awards from such prestigious events as the New York International Wine Competition, the Critics Challenge International Wine Competition, the Los Angeles International Wine Competition, and more. Their 2017 Reserve Unforgiven is bottled in pristine quality glass and available in limited quantities. Each bottle is hand-signed, and decorated



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with a medallion designed by the couple and placed onto each bottle by Joel.

Their Gran Trio blend includes cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, and merlot. The name for their h.e.a.r.t.s. rosé was coined using the first initials of their grandchildren's names – Heather, Emma, Alexander, Rachel, Tyler, and Savannah. Joel and Judy call it a “rosé for red wine drinkers” with rich, fruity flavors. Offerings of other varieties, such as their “Joy-ride” merlot, are produced in limited quantities, and most feature labels that are created by their son, David.

The Cox Family unveiled their 2020 wines at their fall gathering and pick-up party in early November 2024. With aromas and tastes of cherry, dried strawberry, caramel, cocoa, and hints of vanilla, the fruit from 2020 has been transformed into a stunning lineup of wines.

Tasting room, wine club, and movie nights

At the Mystic Hills tasting room, it's all about providing a warm welcome and exceptional hospitality to everyone who visits with the Cox



Photography by Brandon Bomberger.

family. Their home has a spacious covered patio with gorgeous views of the vineyards and surrounding hills. The landscaping includes several sitting areas and an outdoor kitchen. Son-in-law, Chris, likes to fire up the pizza oven, while Judy and daughter Becky frequently prepare charcuterie boards for guests.

“We want to get to know people

and share our love of family and wine with them,” Judy said. “Everyone enjoys sitting outdoors, but when it's cold, we just go inside. We're not fancy people; we greet everyone when they arrive, and welcome them like one of the family.”

It's free to join the Mystic Hills Wine Club with a membership commitment to purchase six bottles

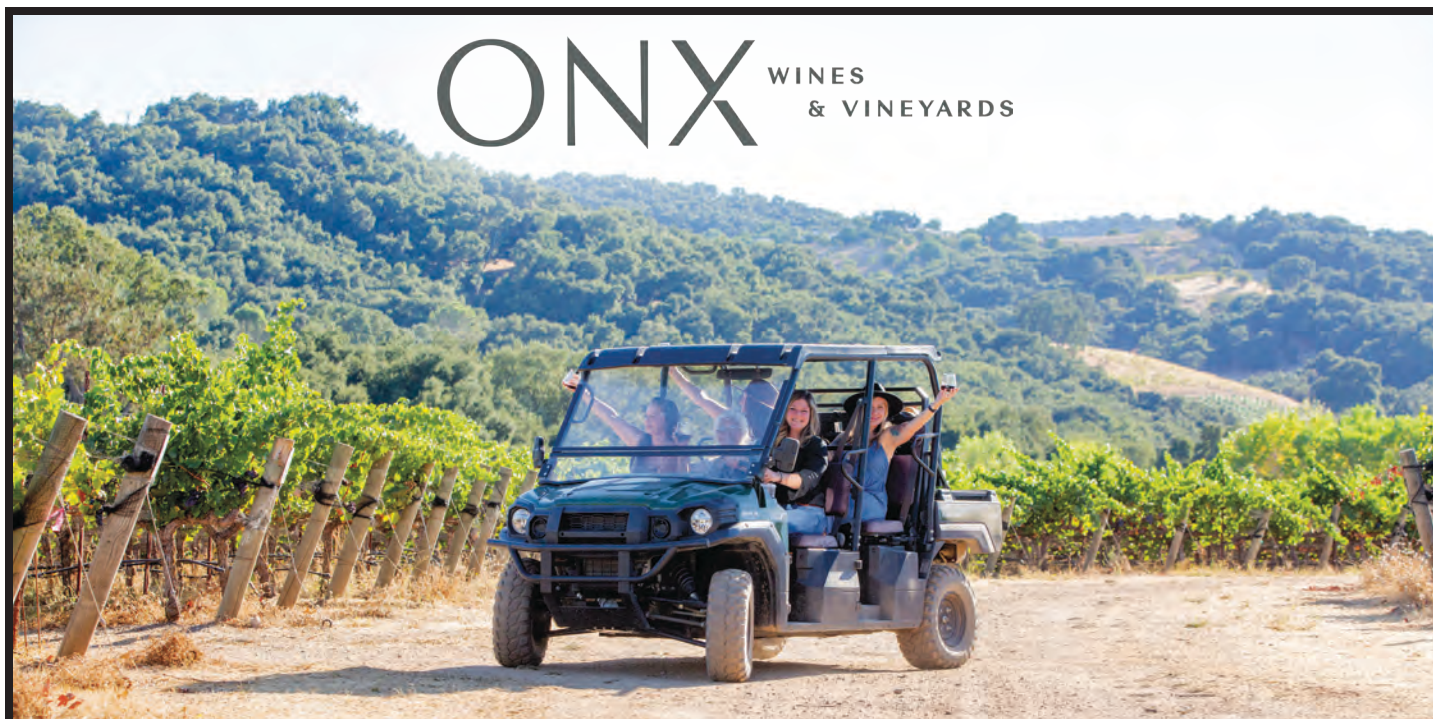
twice yearly at a 20-percent discount. Each shipment contains information about the wines and special recipes from Chef Chris. Club membership also includes complimentary private tastings, invitations to special events, and more.

Adding to that personal touch, every shipment of Mystic Hills wines includes a piece of artwork by one of the Cox grandchildren with messages such as, “Happy Fall, We Love You All” attached.

Their annual Movie Night with Joel takes place on the first Saturday of August. In 2025, the Cox family is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the event and has a few surprises for everyone who attends. All tickets include food, award-winning wine, popcorn, candy, games, prizes, and plenty of stories from Joel about his films.

Mystic Hills Vineyard is located at 79550 Watkins Lane in San Miguel, just 10 miles north of Paso Robles. For wine tasting appointments, or more information visit mystichillsvineyard.com, follow them on social media, or call (805) 610-1099.

—Meagan Friberg



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A slice of Tuscany, wine, food, luxury and romance at CaliPaso Winery and Villa

Italian style romance among majestic oak trees, and lush gardens and vineyards

It isn't surprising that the Tuscan-inspired CaliPaso Villa is a popular venue for weddings and other events. The luxurious private villa and winery is surrounded by rolling hills and vineyards to accommodate private events while two tasting rooms are conveniently located in the heart of downtown Paso Robles, and downtown San Luis Obispo.

The villa has eight exquisitely appointed suites that can be



Feel like you are in Italy without leaving the country.

reserved individually, or reserve the entire villa for an event. Guests enjoy the luxurious accommoda-

tions and attention to detail, including a gourmet breakfast prepared by an executive chef at the onsite

restaurant. After breakfast, it's only a short drive from the villa to the downtown CaliPaso tasting room to enjoy complimentary wine tasting.

The villa has become a highly sought-after venue for weddings. According to Jaime Glenn, the chief operating officer, "It's a great place to feel like you are in Italy without having to travel out of the country. Paso Robles is a wonderful location for a destination wedding, and we are now enjoying a busy wedding season with more bookings year after year."

It's hard to imagine a setting more idyllic. Surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens and hundreds of acres of lush vineyards, the villa has a unique setting that highlights Paso Robles's natural

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beauty. The outdoor terraces are perfect for champagne receptions or al fresco dining. With manicured gardens, majestic oak trees, a romantic courtyard and surrounding vineyard views, this location is a photographer's dream.

The culinary team creates a menu paired with CaliPaso's wine for a decadent reception. In addition to the weddings, the winery also offers pop-up winemaker dinners and other special events at the villa where the culinary offerings paired with wine are sure to impress attendees.

The tasting rooms offers their own special events with live music every Friday and Saturday night so locals and tourists can enjoy a glass of wine before strolling through downtown Paso or San Luis Obispo to explore the many fine dining establishments. For those looking for food to enjoy with their tasting, the CaliPaso culinary team creates daily cheese and charcuterie plates.

Enrique Torres, the senior winemaker, became a winemaker when

he was 25-years old after working his way up in the cellar at other Paso Robles wineries. His specialty is working with grape varietals that thrive well in Paso Robles and other areas of the Central Coast. Producing wine from the estate vineyards, as well as from grapes sourced from the Paso Robles and Monterey AVAs, the wine offering includes albariño, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, pinot noir, grenache, zinfandel, tempranillo, cabernet sauvignon and cellar select blends.

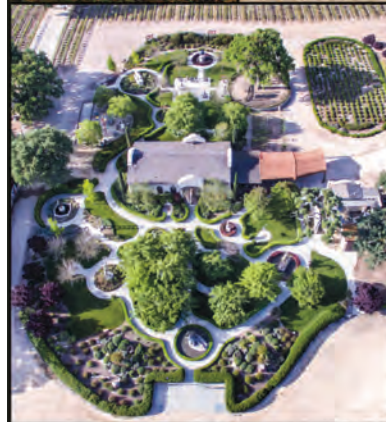
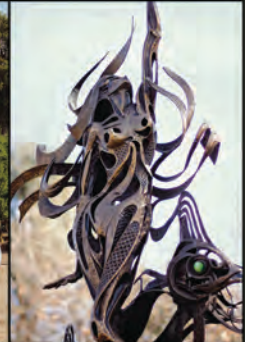
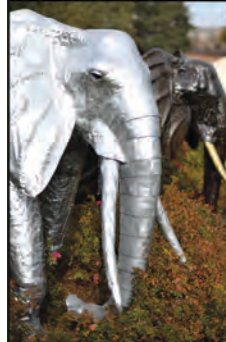
The CaliPaso Winery and Villa are located at 4230 Buena Vista Dr. in Paso Robles. The downtown tasting room is located at 809 13th St.. The San Luis Obispo tasting room is located at 570 Higuera St., Suite 185. Both tasting rooms are open Sunday-Wednesday noon-7:30 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday noon until 9:30 p.m. For more information about the villa and reservations for events, visit calipasowinery.com or call (805) 226-9296.

—Lisa Pretty



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Discovering Chronic Cellars' artful wines and quirky labels

The story behind the winery's unique wines and humor

A beautiful winding drive along Nacimiento Lake Drive in the Adelaida District of Paso Robles' wine country leads to the Chronic Cellars tasting room. Situated on a corner lot with a large green area and a pet-friendly patio, the tasting room offers a laid-back experience. Inside the tasting room, guests get a sense of the winery's adventurous vibe with a large colorful mural and artwork on the walls. The tasting it-



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self is all about the wine and guests may elevate their tasting by pre-ordering a cheese pairing. Group size is limited to six people to keep the experience wine-focused.

The legend of Chronic Cellars dates to 2004 when the founders, Josh and Jake Beckett, combined their winemaking skills with their wit and humor to turn an idea into reality using two tons of the best – or ‘chronic’ – grapes to make stellar wine. Since then, each wine has been given a witty name and a colorful, quirky label.

Don't let the fun décor and labels fool you, Chronic Cellars is fully committed to making seriously good wine. Winemaker, Kip Lorenzetti, works with premium growers in the Paso Robles area to select the right grapes he wants for crafting custom blends. The high-quality wines consistently receive 90+ point accolades.

The wine portfolio includes a large selection of wine – predominantly custom red blends with a character on the label to represent the wine. For example, Mr. Nibbles is a blend of zinfandel, petite sirah and syrah featuring a long-eared rabbit claimed to “have something

up his sleeve and a good time on his mind.” Knight Mare is a blend of cabernet sauvignon and syrah sporting a label with the skeleton of a knight on a horse wielding a large sword, for a wine that is meant to “bewitch your senses and leave you wondering if it was just a dream.”

The characters on the labels, coupled with the stellar wine, have captured people's attention and built a following over the years. Once people discover the wines, they keep coming back for more. Angela White, DTC operations manager, highly recommends joining the wine club. “Our wine club, Chronic Connoisseurs Club, offers great perks. With just two six-bottle shipments of red wine a year, members receive a 25% discount on all wine and logo merchandise purchases. Other perks include access to exclusive wines, member-only pick-up parties, and an unlimited number of complimentary tastings throughout the year with up to four guests included each visit.”

Although the wine club offers all red wines, you will find some whites and rosé on the wine list. A fun way to start is with a little Spritz & Giggles, Chronic's chardonnay-



based sparkling wine. For those who enjoy lighter wines, the Crown Jules, Stone Fox, Kindly Swallows, and Pink Pedals are some of the al-

ternatives to the red wine offerings. Don't forget to check out the logo items and gifts when you visit. The replicas of the label art are sure

to pique people's interest and start a conversation.

Chronic Cellars is located at 2020 Nacimiento Lake, Paso

Robles. For tasting room hours and more information visit chroniccellars.com, or call (805) 237-7848.

—Lisa Pretty

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Explore the sustainable, eco-friendly charm of Shale Oak Winery

Discover Shale Oak Winery's innovative practices and a unique approach to wine

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

At Shale Oak Winery, they've taken sustainability in practice a step further by designing their entire facility to be Gold LEED Certified. LEED stands for leader-



It's all about enjoying the wine.

It then goes to the reclamation pond/water feature just outside the tasting room. The pond then flows into a pipe that flows directly to the catch basin that pumps the water to 5 hundred-thousand-gallon tanks. The roofs are pitched so perfectly that water beads up during a heavy fog, and, of course, that is also collected.

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

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

The same attention to detail they put in the buildings has gone into the winemaking. According to Hascall, "Our varietals are the best of Paso. We have Rhône's. We have Bordeaux. We have Zinfandel. We have a good mix of everything that I feel grows well in the area. Everything is from Paso Robles. Everything is done in small lots. Nothing is more than a couple hun-

ship, energy, and environmental design. According to LEED, "The LEED plaque on a building is a mark of quality and achievement in green building."

Owner Al Good dreamed of a vineyard, winery, and tasting room with very little impact on the environment. His dream became a reality. Everyone at Shale Oak is committed to the vision of sustainability. Lead Winemaker, Curtis Hascall, has been with the winery from the beginning and is equally committed to Good's vision. "From the beginning, one of our goals was to get that Gold Certification; so, we worked with Studio 2G Architecture down in San Luis Obispo. They helped guide us in that direction. We opened the production facility and did our first harvest in 2010, and then the tasting room opened in 2011."

Despite the beautiful stained glass, the tasting room was not designed to look like a church but instead to reclaim water. Both the tasting room and production facility have pitched roofs so rainwater will go down the slope of the roof. It then passes through drip chains and is filtered through the rocks.

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dred cases produced. So, we're able to pay a lot of attention to detail and focus on the wine quality."

They have many Best-in-Class awards, but Hascall's favorite is Sunset Magazine's Double Gold, Best

in Class award for their 2019 Syrah which is the perfect embodiment of a westside Paso Robles Syrah.

There's nothing pretentious at Shale Oak Winery. The vibe is cool and funky and both family and dog-

friendly. Hascall states, "We want people to relax and enjoy the wine because that's what it's all about. Enjoying the wine."

Shale Oak Winery is located just off Highway 46 at 3235 Oakdale

Road, Paso Robles. The tasting room is open from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday-Monday. For reservations or more information visit shaleoak-winery.com or call (805) 239-4800

—Karen Lycan

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Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance — Keeping enthusiasts busy in 2025

Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance (PRWCA) never fails to keep wine enthusiasts busy with wine, food, and things to do. Keeping up traditions into early 2025, PRWCA welcomes enthusiasts to the popular BlendFest on the Coast, and to over 100 spring release events during the entire month of March.

BlendFest on the Coast

Popular event returns February 20-23, 2025

Paso Robles' winemakers love to blend wine, mixing varieties to craft something unique and delicious. BlendFest on the Coast celebrates rule-breaking, traditional, and unconventional wine blends of Paso Robles Wine Country. BlendFest on the Coast takes place February



Blend Fest and more in store for 2025.



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20-23 in San Simeon and Cambria with a selection of exciting events that include:

- **Winemaker Dinners:** Dine with Paso's best winemakers and sip blended wines paired with unique menus highlighting the best of Central Coast cuisine. Select from two special and exclusive wine dinners in Cambria and San Simeon on Thursday, February 20 and Friday, February 21.

- **Coastal Excursions:** Experience the awe-inspiring and unique offerings along a Highway One road trip!

- **Blending Seminar:** Become a winemaker for a day on Friday, February 21! Try your hand at making the perfect blend with three of Paso's finest winemakers as your guides. Learn the philosophy of blending and then compete for the best blend. Lunch follows with the winemakers and their finished wines.

- **Sunset Grand Tasting:** On Saturday, February 22, over 40 renowned Paso Robles wineries come together showcasing distinct Paso blends. Guests enjoy spectacular wines, only surpassed by stunning Pacific Ocean views, on

the Sundance Lawn of Oceanpoint Ranch in Cambria.

- **Winery Events:** On Sunday, February 23, take the short drive to explore diverse wineries, breathtaking landscapes, and the warm hospitality that make Paso Robles Wine Country so special.

Tickets are on sale now at pasowine.com.

Spring release month

Over 100 events from March 1-31, 2025

The entire month of March is a spring release celebration in Paso Robles Wine Country. Spring release is a themed month featuring individual experiences at the area wineries. Throughout the month, discover what sets the region apart and experience some of the over 100 individual events including winemaker dinners, seminars, live music, specialty tours, and more. Experience the unique personalities, iconic places, and creative activities that only Paso Robles Wine Country can deliver.

Come take in Paso Robles as the weather warms inviting you to absorb the fresh sights and scents of wine country. Delicious new wines,



wildflowers in bloom, seasonal foods on offer, and the beginning of a new vintage budding in the vineyard. There is no prettier time

to experience Paso Robles Wine Country than spring release month. For a full list of spring release events, visit pasowine.com.

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ONX Wines and Vineyards celebrates high ranking for 2021 Noble Intrigue

The wine earns #45 on the Wine Enthusiat's Cellar Select List

ONX Wines is thrilled to announce that its 2021 Noble Intrigue, has secured the #45 position on Wine Enthusiat Magazine's prestigious Cellar Select list. Each year Wine Enthusiat releases their Top 100 Wine List which ranks the best wines in the world. These wines exhibit pedigree, structure, and staying power, and includes wines from Bordeaux, Burgundy, Barolo, Spain, New Zealand, as well as California and the Pacific Northwest.

The award not only highlights the exceptional quality of the wine but



Meticulous farming and exceptional wines.

also reinforces ONX's commitment to crafting unique and captivating wines that resonate around the globe.

"A huge thanks to Matt Kettmann and Wine Enthusiat for recognizing our 2021 Noble Intrigue. We also

want to thank the great people at Bien Nacido Vineyards for their continued partnership and meticulous farming of the Syrah from which Noble Intrigue is made," said winemaker Drew Newnow.

ONX Noble Intrigue 2021 is made from several blocks of Syrah that ONX controls at the Bien Nacido Vineyard. The wine has an earthy introduction of mushroom and peat moss infused with sweet sarsaparilla, savory steak and iron. Undertones of prickly strawberry support notes of vanilla and brown butter before an edge of sweet peppercorn. The wine hits the palate softly with an even weight and silky textures. Wet tobacco leaf and smashed raspberry headline a flavorful core before a dense finish rife with anise.

ONX Wines has vineyards in the acclaimed Willow Creek and Templeton Gap AVAs.

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

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(805) 481-7398

Hampton Inn & Suites
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(805) 202-2110

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

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

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

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Avila Village Inn
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La Quinta Inn & Suites
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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

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

Calendar of Events — see more at slovisitorsguide.com

Carlin Soule Memorial Polar Bear Dip

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

Avila Beach Polar Bear Plunge

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

Second Saturdays SLO

Jan 11 and every second Saturday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Art-making activities that complement the Museum's current exhibitions and will be completely free and open to the public. Free activity at San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo. Details: soma.org.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

Jan 16-20 — This annual ecotourism event draws birdwatchers from all over the country. The festival features hundreds of events, field trips, workshops, and master classes. Held at various locations around Morro Bay. Details: morrobaybirdfestival.org.

Cambria Art & Wine Festival

Jan 26-28 — Shopping, raffle ticket opportunities, wine tasting, and artist demonstrations. Tickets and details: visitcambria.com.

SLO CAL Surfing Open

Jan 20-26, beginning at 7:30 a.m. — The World Surf League (WSL), established in 1976, is dedicated to changing the world through the inspirational power of surfing. Pismo Beach Pier. Details: surfingforhope.org.

Art for Paws

Jan 18, 2025, noon-4 p.m. — Fun & free event celebrating art and our furry friends, benefitting Woods Humane Society and Studios on the Park! View art, make dog toys, food and drink. Leashed dogs are welcome. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine Street, Paso Robles. Details: studiosonthepark.org.

Moonlight Hours

Monthly on third Thursday, 5-7 p.m. — Free museum hours at the San Luis Obispo Children's Museum, 1010 Nipomo St. SLO. Details: slocm.org.

For the Birds exhibit

Jan 9-Feb 17, Artist reception Jan 12, 2-4 p.m. — Art Center Morro Bay's annual exhibit held in conjunction with the Morro Bay Bird Festival for promoting an understanding and appreciation of birds and other wildlife, and an awareness of environmental and conservation issues of the Central Coast. 835 Main St., Morro Bay. Details: artcentermorrobay.org.

Art After Dark SLO

Feb 7, 5-8 p.m. — A free self-guided art walk takes place on the first Friday of each month. Visit local galleries and participating businesses! Venues and details: slocountyarts.org.

Blendfest on the Coast 2025

Feb 20-23, — Celebrating the rule-breaking, traditional, and unconventional wine blends throughout the weekend. Hosted by the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance. Held at various locations in San Simeon and Cambria. Details: pasowine.com.

Cal Poly Winter Jazz Concert

Feb 21, 7:30 p.m. — Featuring performances by various jazz ensembles, including the University Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and the Jazz Combos. Harold Miossi Hall, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo. Tickets and details: pacslo.org.

Meet the Machines

Feb 22, 9 a.m.-noon — A family-friendly event offering children a hands-on opportunity to see, touch, learn, and explore the vehicles that protect, build, and serve our community. Free at Soto Sports Complex parking lot on Ash Street, Arroyo Grande. Details: arroyogrande.org.

SLO Winds concert series

March 2, 3-5 p.m. — Symphonic Spectacle at Harold J. Miossi Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC), 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

March 16, 3 p.m. — Chamber Concert at Atascadero United Methodist Church, 11605 El Camino Real, Atascadero. Tickets and details for both events: slowinds.org.

Arc Circus: A Bee Story

Mar 15, 2-2:45 p.m. — The story of Queen Bee and Worker Bee who must work together to rebuild their hive after being destroyed by a bushfire. Join the bees on their buzzy adventures and be enchanted by their pollen-collecting skills, honey-making abilities, and superbee strength. Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre, 1 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo. Tickets and details: calpolyarts.org.

Annual Morro Ba y City Wide Yard Sale

Mar 21-23, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. — Rain or shine. Multiple locations in Morro Bay offer treasures for collectors and thrifters. Details: morrobay.org.

Central Coast Craft Beer Fest 2025

Mar 22, noon- 4 p.m. — Sample over 40 local craft breweries, plus ciders, distilled spirits and wine. Live music, food trucks, vendors and lawn games. Sunken Gardens, 6505 El Camino Real, Atascadero. Details: centralcoastbrewersfest.com.

Rhone Rangers Experience

Mar 22, starting at 9:30 a.m. — Opportunity to sample over 250 wines, food, silent auction, and seminars. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles. Tickets and details: rhonerangers.org.

Montaña de Oro Trail Run

March 29, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. — Start at Spooner Cove, Los Osos for 50K, 36K, Half Marathon, or 12K. For runners of all ages and abilities over the peaks and valleys of picturesque Montaña de Oro State Park, taking in views of the vast Pacific Ocean, wildflowers, and green hills along the way. Details: pacificcoasttrailruns.com.

Farmers Markets

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

Atascadero — Wednesdays 3-6 p.m./ Winter hours 3-5 p.m., at Atascadero Sunken Gardens at East Mall Ave.

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

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

Morro Bay — Two weekly markets on Thursdays 2-4:30 p.m. at 2650 Main St. and Saturdays 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Main St. and Morro Bay Blvd.

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

San Luis Obispo — Three weekly markets on Thursdays 6-9 p.m. Downtown San Luis Obispo, on Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 p.m. 224 Tank Farm Rd, and Saturdays 8-10:45 a.m. at 325 Madonna Road, World Market and Embassy Suites parking lot.

Templeton — 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at City Park, 550 Crocker St.

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





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