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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



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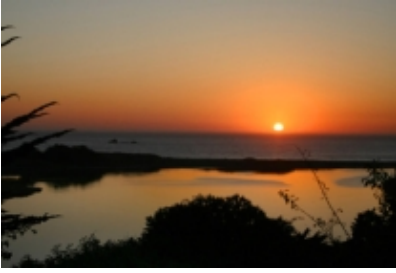
Holiday Weekend in Sonoma

Glen Ellen, Jenner, Healdsburg, Sonoma, 5 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: West Sonoma has it all: the Russian River, with all its water fun options, wine tasting in one of the best undiscovered appellations left in California, and a wealth of great hotels, B&Bs and inns that often have rooms available last-minute. And then of course there's the food. You can eat your way across Sonoma County without ever crossing the threshold of a chain establishment. Farm-to-Table cuisine was born here in Sonoma, and everywhere you look there are chefs, cheesemakers, bakers and other artisanal food specialists waiting to tempt you with food so fresh you probably saw it growing minutes before you sat down.

So if the Fourth of July weekend or another holiday has caught you off-guard and unprepared, no worries. The minute you're off the highway the fun begins.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Sonoma



Bistro Des Copains

The original "locavore" experience brings Provence to Occidental



Applewood Inn

Luxe fixings at top-rated gourmet getaway

Day 5 - Healdsburg



Barn Diva

One of the most "happening" arrivals on the Healdsburg dining scene is BarnDiva, an eclectic combination of restaurant, bar and gallery in what appears to be a country barn transported to the downtown plaza.

Day 2 - Sonoma, Jenner



Korbel Champagne Cellars

An Estate Worth a Visit



Armstrong Redwoods State Rsrve

Some of the tallest redwoods south of Humboldt



Watertreks Eco-Tours And Kayak Outfitters

Be in good hands with this Jenner-based outfitter that knows kayaks and knows the coast



Jenner Inn & Restaurant

Pacific surf and the freshest seafood

Day 3 - Sonoma, Glen Ellen



Osmosis Day Spa Sanctuary

Japanese-inspired wellness spa specializes in enzyme soaks and stress-busting massages



Wildwood Farm Nursery

Nursery with exotic plants, eclectic sculpture and organic produce for sale

Day 4 - Glen Ellen, Healdsburg



Ledson Winery & Vineyard

Smack Your Lips



Collier Falls Vineyards

Family Winery

Day 1 - Sonoma



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: (707) 874-2436
<http://www.Bistrodescopains.com>

location:
3782 Bohemian Highway
Occidental CA 95465

1 Bistro Des Copains

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Book ahead on Friday or Saturday nights, and plan for a leisurely half-hour wait at the bar or on the deck if it's warm. No one rushes at Bistro des Copains.

DESCRIPTION: This quintessentially country French bistro yet manages to be equally quintessentially Sonoma valley, with practically every ingredient listed sourced from the organic farms, artisanal dairies, ranches and orchards that surround the tiny town of Occidental. Partners Michel Augsburgberger and Cluney Stagg were old friends before they started Bistro des Copains, and have remained friends during their 12-year tenure, and it shows. The atmosphere is so friendly and relaxed, you feel like you stumbled into some local rancher's harvest celebration party. Everything on the menu is divine, but the roast chicken is the dish local chefs come back for again and again.

© NileGuide



Melanie Haiken

contact:

tel: 707-869-9093

<http://www.applewoodinn.com/>

location:

13555 HWY 116

Guerneville CA 95446

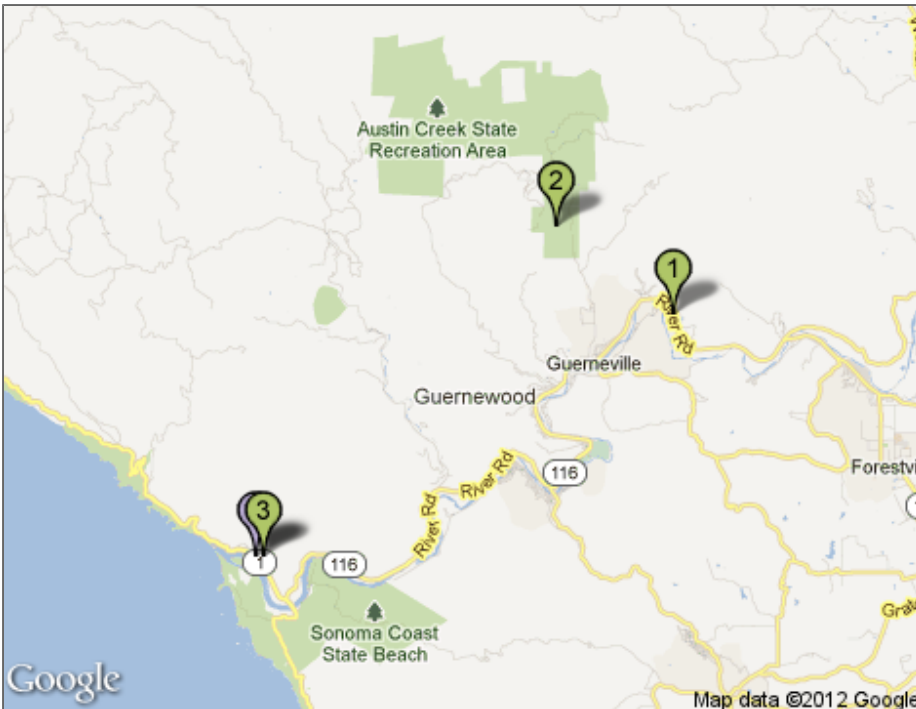
Applewood Inn

DESCRIPTION: Located near Guerneville, California in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley, the Applewood Inn Bed & Breakfast is on a knoll in the shelter of towering redwoods, this romantic inn has two distinct types of accommodations. Those in the original Belden House, where cozy chairs around a river-rock fireplace encourage loitering in the lounge area, are comfortable but modest in scale. The 10 rooms in the newer buildings are larger and airier, decorated in sage green and terra-cotta tones that recall a Mediterranean villa. Guests rave about the accommodating service, soothing atmosphere, and the earthy wine country cuisine served in the cozy restaurant built to recall a French barn. Wine country accommodations don't come any more relaxing or romantic. Applewood is the perfect choice for a honeymoon, anniversary, weekend getaway or extended wine country vacation. Weekend warriors wax poetic about this woodsy retreat tucked away in the Russian River Valley that's worth the drive on a foggy curving highway for superb French-accented California cuisine and wines from a great, very local, very exclusive list served by a knowledgeable, helpful staff; the warm welcoming and ultraromantic setting "make it a fabulous over night destination." - Zagat Survey



more at BedandBreakfast.com

Day 2 - Sonoma, Jenner



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: +1 707 824 7000
fax: +1 707 869 2506
<http://www.korbel.com/>

location:
13250 River Road
Guerneville CA 95471

hours:
Daily 9a-4:30p

1 Korbel Champagne Cellars

DESCRIPTION: While in Guerneville, a visit to the Korbel Estate is a must. Opt for the 50 minute Champagne Cellar Tour, which familiarizes you with wine-making techniques and includes a visit to the History Museum. After all the activity, you can cater to your gastronomic needs at the Korbel Delicatessen and Market by feasting on some traditional local food, and don't forget to stop by the gift shop to take home some of the rare wines (some of which are available only on the estate), wine accessories and other local souvenirs. You can also tour the Rose Garden, which features 250 varieties of antique roses. © wcities.com



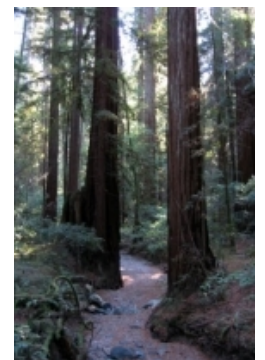
Photo courtesy of Korbel Champagne Cellars

contact:
tel: (707) 869-2015
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

location:
Guerneville CA 95471

2 Armstrong Redwoods State Rsrve

DESCRIPTION: The Armstrong grove of redwoods has some of most accessible tall trees in northern California, easily accessible by car and short walks through gorgeous stands of old growth trees, surrounded by newer second growth. © Josh



contact:

tel: (707) 865-2249
fax: (888) 865-2249
<http://www.watertreks.com/>

location:

Highway 1, PO Box 39, River
Boat Launch, Beach Area
Jenner CA 95450

3 Watertreks Eco-Tours And Kayak Outfitters

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Mid-week group discounts offer great deals, so get a group of friends together and play hooky!

DESCRIPTION: Guided kayaking trips from Forestville to Jenner-By-the-Sea include shuttle service so you don't have to worry about doubling up on cars. A variety of options, from two-hour estuary paddles to 2-day camping adventures, mean there's a trip for every level of skill and enthusiasm.

© NileGuide



editor

contact:

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/california-jenner-jenner-inn.html>

location:

10400 Coast Route 1
Jenner CA 95450

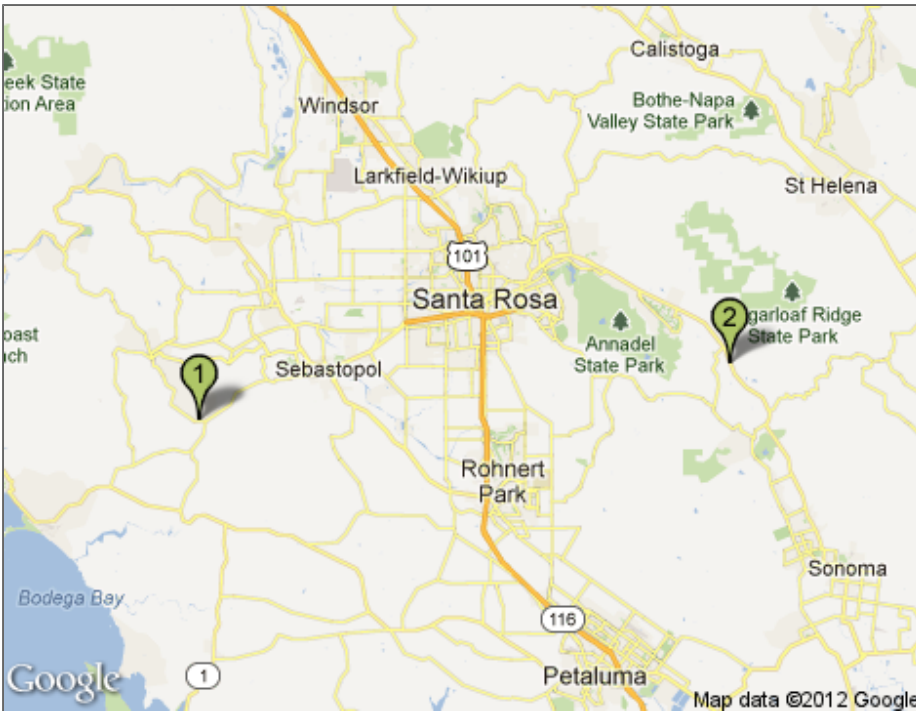
4 Jenner Inn & Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: Romantic hideaways on the coast of Northern California's premier wine country, just 90 minutes north of San Francisco. Jenner is a unique neighborhood, part of a protected natural habitat for seals, otters and hundreds of bird species, where you can explore the sanctuary by kayak or canoe, or watch the show from your deck or hot tub on the shore. We offer accommodations for every taste and budget, from sumptuous suites to rustic log cabins, each a private world of its own; this website features a handful of our favorite rooms. A full vegetarian breakfast is served to all guests in the Lodge. Weddings, receptions, conferences and retreats are all specialties of the Jenner Inn's restaurant. Please visit our website for photos and descriptions of all our rooms and facilities.



more at BedandBreakfast.com

Day 3 - Sonoma, Glen Ellen



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: (707) 823-8231
<http://www.osmosis.com/>

location:
209 Bohemian Highway
Freestone CA 95472

1 Osmosis Day Spa Sanctuary

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

This treatment will leave you as limp as a wet noodle; schedule it at the end of the day for a perfectly relaxed evening

DESCRIPTION: Like a magical trip to ancient Kyoto, a visit to Osmosis day spa and sanctuary feels like an escape to another time and place. Oddly located in the tiny town of Freestone, west of Sebastopol, this holistic therapy spa is less about pampering and more like giving yourself the gift of a health-boosting treatment. Despite the name, an "enzyme bath" is more akin to a ritual sauna than a soak. Used by Japanese practitioners as a detoxification procedure, an enzyme bath involves immersing your body into a hot bed of fermenting cedar chips, which raises your internal core temperature and allows your body to sweat out toxins. Osmosis founder Michael Stusser is a serious believer in the importance of alternative healing, and hires only the best massage therapists available. So take advantage of the deep relaxation you'll feel after your bath and indulge in a massage as well, and you'll leave feeling restored, relaxed, and energized beyond what you thought possible. © NileGuide



Melanie Haiken

contact:

tel: 888-833-4181

<http://www.wildwoodmaples.com/>

location:

10300 Sonoma Hwy
Kenwood CA 95442

2 Wildwood Farm Nursery

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Visit in spring to see the dogwoods bloom, in summer to enjoy the bounty of fresh fruit and produce, or in the fall to celebrate the vivid color of the Japanese maples.

DESCRIPTION: Wildwood Farm, located next to Kenwood Inn and Spa on the Sonoma Highway, is a garden and nursery specializing in maples, dogwood, and other ornamental trees and shrubs. It's also a sculpture garden and outdoor gallery, featuring works by West Coast artists designed to be displayed outdoors. There are gigantic cast iron sculptures, stone carvings, ornamental birdbaths, and ceramics. Stop by to make a purchase for your garden, or just to take a stroll through the gorgeous grounds.

Gardeners all over the west know Wildwood Farm, which specializes in exotic varieties of decorative trees and rare plants. Proud of their selection of more than 300 different Japanese maples and 40 types of dogwood, Wildwood Farms has also expanded their stock to include Ginkgo biloba trees and other hard-to-find trees and shrubs. But that's only one reason to visit. Owners Sara and Ricardo Monte and their son, landscape gardener Joe Monte, also display an eclectic and adventurous selection of sculpture and garden art by artists of both local and national renown. Stroll among gigantic abstract cast iron structures and insects, or sit and contemplate elegant stone carvings and ceramic sculptures. New in 2009 is an organic vegetable garden and orchard planted by Joe, and a farmstand selling the garden's heirloom produce.

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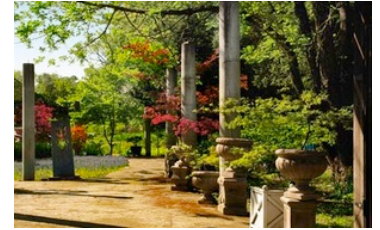
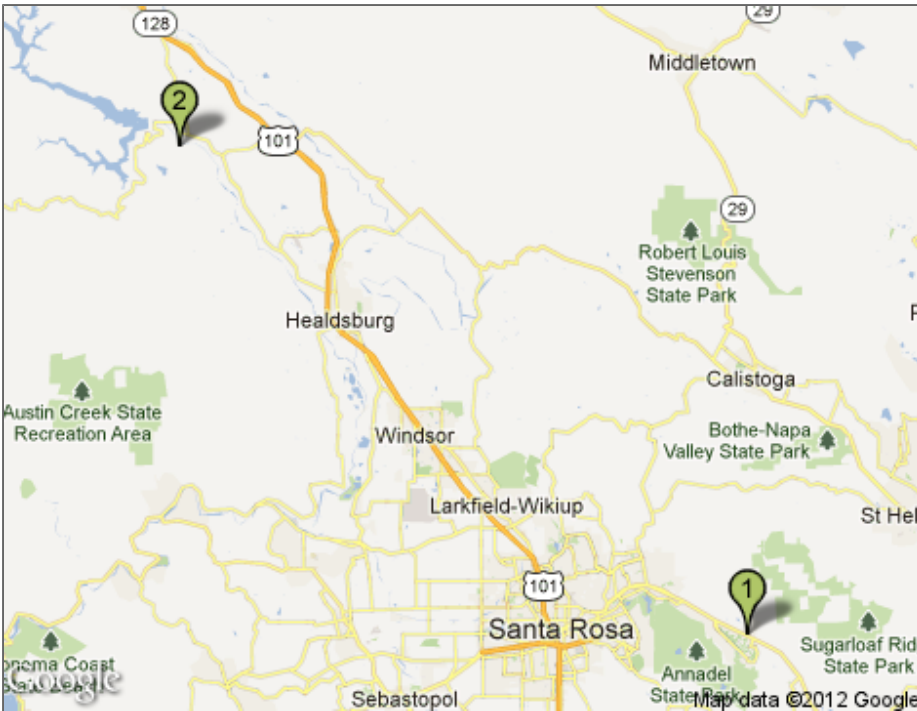


Photo courtesy of Melanie Haiken

Day 4 - Glen Ellen, Healdsburg



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: +1 707 537 3810
<http://www.ledson.com/>

location:
7335 Sonoma Highway 12
Kenwood CA 95409

hours:
Daily 10a-5p

1 Ledson Winery & Vineyard

DESCRIPTION: Keeping up with the family tradition, owner Steve Ledson continues to produce world class wines in Kenwood. The wines are aged in American and French barrels, and have a distinct taste. Most of the varietals are offered either in the winery or in Ledson Hotel's restaurant Harmony. Also, the wine club invites members to special tasting events. If you want to know more about the art of wine-making, take one of the tours. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Ledson Winery & Vineyard

contact:
tel: +1 707 433 7373
fax: +1 707 433 7780
<http://www.collierfalls.com/>

location:
9931 West Dry Creek Road
Healdsburg CA 95448

hours:
Daily 10:30a-4:30p

2 Collier Falls Vineyards

DESCRIPTION: Collier Falls Vineyards is family-owned and grows vines of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. The picturesque estate is apt for picnics, long walks and bocce games. Wines can be tasted at the Family Wineries Tasting Room, a communal tasting room at Timbercrest Farms, where 5 other wineries also pour their wines. The reds and whites are bottled at the estate itself. © wcities.com



Collier Falls Vineyards

Day 5 - Healdsburg



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 707- 431 0100
<http://www.barndiva.com/>

location:
231 Center Street
Healdsburg CA 95448

1 Barn Diva

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

BarnDiva has become enormously popular for events, weddings and parties, and it's often hard to get in, so call ahead if you want dinner or brunch. Dogs are allowed for Sunday brunch in the garden.

DESCRIPTION: A founding member of Fork & Shovel, an alliance of chefs and local farmers, BarnDiva is the ultimate farm-to-table dining experience. The staff proudly explains that scraps from the kitchen feed the chickens, which in turn produce the eggs used in tonight's meal. The used cooking oil is recycled to run the farm's tractors. But none of this is done in hippie fashion; everything looks polish, artistic, upscale. Owners Jil, Geoffrey and Lukka Feldman have backgrounds in architecture, design and photography as well as food and hospitality, so the whole enterprise feels sophisticated and cultivated.

While chef Ryan Fancher is a "name" thanks to his three-year stint at The French Laundry and role in opening New York's Per Se, Barndiva doesn't stand on ceremony. The bar is warm and friendly, the back patio an almost perfect copy of a Provencal garden cafe. The rustic yet elegant interior feels like a country barn cross-pollinated with a downtown loft. The list of local purveyors on the menu is as long or longer than the list of available dishes; local cheeses, figs, olive oil, heirloom



Barn Diva

vegetables, and local seafood, free-range chicken, and grass-fed beef are the centerpieces of every meal. But at BarnDiva, cocktails are treated as goals unto themselves, and concoctions such as the Basque Lolita, A Kiss with a Slap and Maharani of Cooch-Bihar now have their own fans who return just to sample the latest creative combination of flavors.

© NileGuide

Sonoma Snapshot

Local Info

Known to locals as the "real wine country," Sonoma County has fewer tourists and at least as many working farms and wineries as Napa, giving it more the sense of a country getaway. Towns at the southern end of the county, just 45 minutes north of San Francisco are close enough for day trips or weekends, while the northern end of the county maintains a rugged remoteness perfect for getting away from it all. Laid-back and back to nature are the key concepts in Sonoma; with an incredible rock-studded coastline to the west and the Russian River making lazy Z-curves through the valley, there are endless opportunities for hiking, biking, beachcombing, and water sports of all kinds.

Epicurean culture is rooted in the rich soil that has yielded world-class wines and fresh produce for generations. Wine is a way of life in "Slow-noma," birthplace of the California wine industry and home to over 250 wineries. Family-run wineries and intimate tasting rooms abound visitors eager to drink in Sonoma's offerings. Local produce fills the many restaurants, which showcase superb California cuisine in elegant-yet-casual settings. A resort destination for over 100 years, hot springs await, and luxury resorts and spas are prepared to pamper. Sonoma County captures the natural diversity of Northern California with its fertile farmlands, rolling vineyards, redwood reserves and ruggedly beautiful coastline, and features outdoor activities such as golfing, kayaking, hiking and cycling. But even as its tourism grows, Sonoma County retains its small-town approachability and historical charm. An ideal getaway destination, Sonoma gives the perfect taste of Northern California living.

Sonoma

The city of Sonoma is the historical heart of Sonoma County and serves as a great base from which to explore Sonoma Valley. Sonoma welcomes visitors with its small-town charm and first-class amenities. Despite its recent growth and rediscovery as tourist center, Sonoma remains a laid-back and more affordable alternative to its neighbor Napa. At the city's center lays the leafy and tranquil Sonoma Plaza, a national historical landmark lined with hotels,

restaurants and quaint shops. Sonoma Plaza hosts several festivals every year, including the Valley of the Moon Festival, a Sonoma tradition for over 100 years. Wine tasting rooms and artisan food markets can be found throughout the city, while natural thermal waters can be enjoyed at nearby Boyes Hot Springs, original home to Sonoma's tourist industry.

Healdsburg

In northern Sonoma County, Healdsburg is a quainter, more upscale version of Sonoma, with every shop, restaurant and service you could need to indulge your "weekend in the country" fantasy. Once the working heart of Sonoma's wine culture, today Healdsburg is packed with acclaimed and luxury bed-and-breakfasts.

Three wine appellations converge near Healdsburg, making the area rife with lauded wineries and that low-key wine-country lifestyle. Nearby Alexander Valley is Sonoma wine country's most densely planted area, famous for its Zinfandels and signature Cabernets. Whether you prefer the elegant Francophile dining experience of Cyrus, the hip, happening feeling of Cafe Zin, or the locavore artisanal indulgence of Barndiva, devoted foodies will find a critically acclaimed restaurant to their taste.

Lodging options include the warm hospitality of Honor Mansion, the romantic indulgence of Hotel Healdsburg, with its resort-like spa and pool, and-- the newest arrival-- the quaint farmstay atmosphere of Healdsburg Modern Cottages, brought to you by the artsy collective that runs Barndiva. For the outdoorsy, hiking and biking options are aplenty, while the nearby Russian River makes a picturesque setting for kayaking and inner-tubing.

Guerneville

Nestled along the Russian River, Guerneville is a popular day-trip destination for Bay Area families. The town's small beach rents paddle boats, kayaks and inner tubes, and also makes for fun splashing around. Riverside redwood reserves keep the area cool and shaded during the hot summer months. Home to many ex-urbanites, Guerneville is also known for its environmental and gay activism.

Petaluma

One of Sonoma County's larger cities, Petaluma boasts a picturesque historical downtown of restored 18th-century buildings filled with antique shops and restaurants. Although Petaluma is largely a quiet residential city, it does offer some of the area's best nightlife options. Both housed in historical buildings, McNear's Mystic Theater and the Phoenix Theater attract some of the biggest musical acts the North Bay sees. You can also play pool or karaoke at one of the many bars and pubs.

Santa Rosa

Sonoma County's biggest city, Santa Rosa is a wealthy community full of bustle and traffic jams. Three shopping districts offer everything from brand-name apparel to local art, while historical residential neighborhoods offer a glimpse into Santa Rosa's small-town past. Reasonably priced rooms can be found in Santa Rosa, in name hotels such as Hilton, Holiday Inn and Best Western. Families enjoy Santa Rosa's many kid-(and adult) friendly activities, from an ice-skating rink to Safari West, a safari-style African wildlife reserve. Comic lovers will have to make a stop at the Charles M. Schulz Museum for all things Peanuts.

Bodega Bay/Sonoma Coast

The Sonoma Coast showcases some of Northern California's most breathtaking views. Cliffs dramatically descend into the crashing Pacific surf along legendary Highway 1; take in the stunning views on a coastal hike or drive. The largest destination along the Sonoma Coast is Bodega Bay, a working-class fishing town that swells with tourists in the summer months. The town was the location for Alfred Hitchcock's horror film *The Birds*. But with luxury resorts like Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa, you have nothing to be afraid of.

Sonoma County's mild Mediterranean climate makes visiting enjoyable at any time of year. High season begins in April and runs through the summer, when many food, wine and cultural festivals take place. You'll encounter the greatest crowds during Harvest Season, or "Crush," as locals call it. The Sonoma wine country swells during this time, although the crowds are still less than in neighboring Napa County. If you are at all interested in wine and wine production, this is the best time of year to visit. Winter affords great deals

Sonoma Snapshot continued

and less crowds, though outdoor activities are limited. Weekdays are generally less

busy all times of the year, as Sonoma is a popular weekend destination for San Francisco Bay Area residents.

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