



TWO PERFECT DAYS IN SONOMA VALLEY

General Overview Located in the heart of Northern California wine country, Sonoma Valley is a 17-mile long valley within Sonoma County that encompasses the city of Sonoma and the villages of The Springs, Glen Ellen, Carneros, Bennett Valley and Kenwood. A year-round destination, Sonoma Valley is home to more than 100 premium wineries; a variety of lodging options ranging from luxury hotels to charming bed and breakfasts; award-winning olive oil producers; breweries; artisan shopping; delicious dining; 13,000 acres of state and regional parks; world-class spas and endless discovery. The town of Sonoma is the birthplace of the state of California, as well as the state's wine industry. Sonoma Valley is home to the state's oldest commercial and oldest family-run wineries, and 85 percent of wineries within Sonoma Valley are family owned. The destination, which is easily accessible from all major Northern California airports, encourages all visitors to partake in its wine country lifestyle and enjoy a vacation that is fun, friendly and beautiful.

More Info

SonomaValley.com

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Where to Stay for... Romantic Getaways

- [The Ledson Hotel](#)
- [Kenwood Inn & Spa](#)
- [The Cottage Inn & Spa](#)

Culinary Travelers

- [Ramekins Inn & Culinary School](#)
- [El Dorado Hotel & Kitchen](#)
- [Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa](#)

Girlfriend Getaways

- [The Lodge at Sonoma](#)
- [McArthur Place Hotel & Spa](#)
- [An Inn 2 Remember](#)

Guys' Getaways

- [Best Western Sonoma Valley Inn](#)
- [Safari West](#)
- [El Pueblo Inn](#)

DAY ONE

Morning

Romantic Getaway: Visit [Basque Boulangerie Café](#) on the historic Sonoma Plaza, to enjoy authentic French pastries or a full hot breakfast, paired with organic coffee. The founders' family, originally from the Pyrenees Mountain area of southwest France, has been supplying Sonoma with fresh Old World-style baked goods since the 1950s. Walk hand-in hand around the [Sonoma Plaza](#) – the largest in California – and enjoy the historic buildings, many of which have stood there since the 1846 founding of the short-lived Republic of California. *Basque Boulangerie Café is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.*

Culinary Travelers: Have breakfast at [Santé Restaurant](#) within the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa. The recipient of AAA Four Diamond and Michelin designations, Santé is amongst the top-rated restaurants in Northern California. Then, visit Sonoma Valley's first authentic Italian olive oil manufacturer, [Figone Olive Oil Company](#). This family-operated, specialty olive oil and balsamic producer is located on the plaza, and offers complimentary tastings of its wide selection of pure and infused oils daily. *Santé is open daily from 7-11 a.m. and 6-9 p.m. Figone's tasting room open Sunday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.*

Girlfriend Getaways: Visit popular wine country marketplace [Cornerstone Sonoma](#); there, grab a coffee from [Park 121](#), and explore Cornerstone's collection of world-class shopping, boutique wine rooms, artisanal foods and art-inspired gardens. Cornerstone is also home to the *Sunset* magazine Gardens + Outdoor Test Kitchen. *Cornerstone open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

Guys' Getaways: Get up early, skip breakfast and head to [Sonoma Raceway](#) for a half-day Formula 3 Racing Experience. Drivers are fitted for a racecar and supplied with all the necessary equipment and instruction to enjoy multiple laps around the 2.52-mile track at ever-increasing speeds. For those who want to take it to the next level, a full-day McLaren 570 experience is also available. *By reservation; sessions are 4.5 hours, and \$1,495 per person.*

Midday

Romantic Getaway: Order a pre-packed picnic lunch complete with cheeses, charcuterie and other accoutrements, as well as plates, napkins and cutlery from [Sonoma Market](#), or pick out your favorite provisions from [Sonoma's Best](#) to create your own. Head to [Gundlach Bundschu](#) ("GunBun" for short), the oldest family-owned winery in California, and purchase a bottle of wine; enjoy it with your lunch on the estate's Picnic Arbor or Towle's Hillside. If you need one, the winery has picnic blankets for sale. *Sonoma Market open daily from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sonoma's Best open Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Winery open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily.*

Culinary Travelers: Enjoy a sampling of the best flavors in Sonoma Square, with [Foodies on Foot!](#) The three-hour culinary walking tours provide attendees bites from seven local culinary institutions, including The Chocolate Cow, Vella Cheese Factory, Maya, La Bodega, Sonoma Wine Merchant, Wine Country Chocolates and more. Stop into the original [Williams Sonoma](#) or [Sign of the Bear](#) following the tour, to stock up on premier kitchen accessories. *Tours are 11 a.m. Tuesday-Saturday; \$85 per person; by reservation. Williams Sonoma open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sign of the Bear open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

Girlfriend Getaways: Have a lunch of fresh oysters and seafood, local farm-raised meats or seasonal fruits and vegetables from Executive Chef Armando Navarro at [El Dorado Kitchen](#). Trained under some of the best chefs in the country, including Jean-Georges Vongerichten and Daniel Boulud, Chef Navarro sources the best of the region to create a beautiful menu of options, which are best enjoyed with a glass of one of the 200 hand-picked California wine selections. *Monday through Saturday, 8-11 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

Guys' Getaways: Head to retro-looking [El Molino Central](#) for a quick lunch of authentic, artfully prepared tacos, tostadas and other Mexican favorites – it's a favorite destination for locals! *Open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

Afternoon

Romantic Getaway: Enjoy the Couples Champagne & Roses Massage at [The Garden Spa at the MacArthur Place Hotel](#). Indulge side-by-side in your rose petal-strewn treatment, followed by a glass of bubbles. *\$150 per person, for 50 minutes; by reservation.*

Culinary Travelers: Sign up for a culinary class at [Ramekins Inn & Culinary School](#). Held under the direction of one of Ramekins' world-class chefs, classes are approximately three hours, and include instruction, menu samples, wine and recipes. *Classes scheduled regularly; by reservation.*

Girlfriend Getaways: Celebrate girl power with a tasting of winemaker Margo Van Staaveren's award-winning wines at the stunning [Chateau St. Jean](#). Staaveren has garnered numerous 90+ scores for her still wines throughout her more than 35 years of winemaking, and is now diving into the world of bubbles, with the release of both a Brut Cuvee and Brut Rosé sparkling wine – the first sparkling wines from the Chateau in 23 years. *Tastings daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; reservations recommended.*

Guys' Getaways: For 2.5 hours, soar high above the famous California redwoods with [Sonoma Canopy Tours' Tree Tops Flight Course](#). There's no thrill like that of seven zip lines, reaching speeds of up to 40 miles per hour, more than 200 ft. above the ground. While you're at it, try your hand at rappelling, and take a spin on one of two sky bridges. *Starting at \$119 per person; daily, by reservation.*

Evening

Romantic Getaway: Stop for dinner at [La Salette](#) on the Sonoma Plaza, and enjoy chef Manuel Azevedo's signature Cozinha Nova Portuguesa cuisine. Both the menu and well-curated wine list celebrate the complex flavors of his Portuguese homeland, melded with those of his current home in California. Sit outdoors on the charming patio, or at the chef's counter for an up-close look at the team's culinary prowess. *Open daily for lunch and dinner.*

Culinary Travelers: Delight in dinner from award-winning [the girl & the fig](#), a favorite of locals and visitors alike. The seasonal rustic Provencal-inspired cuisine features fresh garden vegetables, herbs and an abundance of creativity. Take in the views from the outdoor garden patio, and bring home a souvenir from your meal in the form of one of Proprietor Sondra Bernstein's FIG FOOD jams, chutneys, compotes, vinegars or herb blends. If you accidentally leave without one, no worries, as they're sold nationwide. *Open daily for lunch and dinner.*

Girlfriend Getaways: If you're visiting on a Tuesday, grab the girls for a pop-up restaurant experience with Pizza and Pinot at [The General's Daughter](#). For just \$25 each, enjoy a salad, personal-sized pizza, dessert, glass of [Tyge William Cellars' pinot](#) and live music indoors or under the stars. The beautiful Victorian home that houses the experience once belonged to Sonoma founding father General Marian Guadalupe Vallejo's daughter. *Tuesdays, from 5-8 p.m.*

Guys' Getaways: Savor a taste of local micro-distillery [Prohibition Spirits'](#) finest libations, including limoncello, brandy and gin. Then, go for dinner and a microbrew at [HopMonk Tavern](#), and stay for the live music that frequents this popular locals' hangout. *Prohibition open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. HopMonk open daily for lunch and dinner.*

DAY TWO

Morning

Romantic Getaway: If you happen to be staying at The Cottage Inn, grab the complimentary basket of fresh pastries hanging from your door, and enjoy breakfast in bed. The hotel has them delivered from [Sunflower Caffé](#) to each room daily, to be enjoyed with the in-room coffee, from [Barking Dog Roasters](#).

Culinary Travelers: Grab a fresh-baked pastry and a cup of coffee from the family-owned [Barking Dog Roasters](#). The premium Arabica beans are roasted in-shop by Barking Dog's roaster of more than 10 years, in small batches to ensure absolute freshness. Then, travel to [Corner 103](#) and enjoy a tasting of seven Sonoma County wines, with detailed explanation as to how specialized glassware affects the flavor profiles of each.

Girlfriend Getaways: Indulge in facials, massages or body treatments at [The Spa at Renaissance Sonoma](#). After your treatments, relax poolside in one of the private cabanas within the tranquil outdoor spa garden, and savor a light breakfast from the room service menu. *Sunday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

Guys' Getaways: Grab some reimagined down-home comfort food for breakfast at the cheerful roadside [Freemont Diner](#), then head out to the Sonoma Serengeti with [Safari West](#). Enjoy a three-hour tour alongside a highly-trained safari guide to view cheetahs, giraffes, rhinos and more than 90 other species. *Diner open for breakfast and lunch Monday-Wednesday, and breakfast, lunch and dinner Thursday-Sunday. Safaris daily, by reservation; from \$80 per person.*

Midday

Romantic Getaway: Visit [VJB Cellars](#) to purchase a bottle of wine and cozy up at a table in the Tuscan-inspired piazza. Dine on wood-fired pizzas, calzones and more from [Red Rooster Pizza](#), or artisan cheeses, salads and paninis from [La Cucina](#). *Daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

Culinary Travelers: Enjoy a lunchtime tasting experience at [Valley of the Moon Winery at Madrone Estate's](#) new culinary concept, The Window Block Kitchen. Estate Chef Sam Badolato offers a local and seasonally-inspired three-course menu paired with five wines, or guests can order a la carte. *Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

Girlfriend Getaways: Have lunch on the patio at the adorable [Sunflower Caffé](#) on the Sonoma Plaza. The café utilizes local ingredients throughout its menu, including salt from the San Francisco Bay, and milk and eggs from nearby farms. The restaurant is located within the historic former home of Salvador Vallejo, brother of Sonoma founder General Mariano G. Vallejo. He lost the home in a poker game, which the restaurant likes to say, "worked out great for us." *Breakfast and lunch daily.*

Guys' Getaways: Get your blood flowing with a hike throughout some of the 13,000 acres of state and regional parks in Sonoma Valley, then seek out the [TIPS Tri-Tip Trolley Truck](#) for an on-the-go Tri Tip "Sando" or Bowl. The restaurant will open a brick-and-mortar location called [TIPS Roadside](#) in mid-2018. *Check schedule online for locations and hours.*

Afternoon

Romantic Getaway: Enjoy a Mountaintop Wine Tasting at [Kunde Family Winery](#), 1,400 feet above the valley floor, surrounded by the stunning natural beauty of the surrounding estate. *\$50 per person, by appointment.*

Culinary Travelers: Visit California's oldest commercial winery, [Buena Vista Winery](#), and become a winemaker for the day. As part of the "Be the Count Blending Experience," visitors are guided through the art of blending by one of the winery's knowledgeable wine educators. Each participant has the opportunity to create three different red wine blends within Buena Vista's wine cave, then select their favorite to be bottled with a customized label. *Available daily at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by 48-hour advanced reservation; \$100 per person.*

Girlfriend Getaways: Get a close-up look the fascinating biodynamic farming practices of [Benziger Family Winery](#), with the Biodynamic Wine Tour. Start with a ride around the family's breathtaking vineyards, followed by a visit to its winemaking facility and wine cave, before completing your tour with a special tasting of Benziger's award-winning wines in the tasting room. *Approximately 45-minutes; by appointment; \$30 per person.*

Guys' Getaways: Head to [Sonoma Springs Brewing Company](#) or [Carneros Brewing Company](#) for a refreshing microbrew or a flight of each's best beers. *Sonoma Springs Brewing Co. open weekdays from 1-9 p.m. and weekends from noon to 9 p.m. Carneros Brewing Co. open Mondays and Wednesday-Fridays from noon to 5:30 p.m., and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.*

Evening

Romantic Getaway: Follow the charming brick walkway just off the historic Sonoma Square to the courtyard at [Della Santina's](#). The family-owned trattoria serves traditional Tuscan soul food inspired by the owners' Italian mothers, in the form of handmade pastas, rotisserie meats, fresh seafood and more. Stop next door at [Enoteca Della Santina](#) and enjoy a glass of wine from the extensive list pre- or post-meal to extend the evening. *Open daily for lunch and dinner.*

Culinary Travelers: Enjoy dinner at [Glen Ellen Star](#), a Michelin Guide Bib Gourmands restaurant. Led by Chef Ari Weiswasser, a 2015 *Food & Wine* People's Best New Chef and French Laundry alumnus, in partnership with his wife, Erinn Benziger-Weiswasser, the restaurant specializes in a wood-fire cooking technique that brings out the best flavors of its California-inspired dishes. Located across the street from his wife's family's Benziger Family Winery, much of the kitchen's produce comes from the estate's gardens. *Open for dinner daily.*

Girlfriend Getaways: If you happen to be in Sonoma on a Tuesday night from May to September, hit the Sonoma Plaza for the [Valley of the Moon Certified Farmers Market](#). Bring a bottle of wine (you can drink it in the plaza), and purchase dinner from one of the many vendors. Enjoy both while you listen to live music. *Tuesdays, May through September, 5:30 p.m. to dusk.*

Guys' Getaways: Have dinner at award-winning chef Carlo Cavallo's upscale gastropub, [B&V Whiskey Bar & Grille](#), in the Historic Sonoma Creamery building on the Sonoma Plaza. After dinner, stay for the live music, taking place several nights each week. Then, walk to the historic bar at the nearby [Swiss Hotel Sonoma](#) for the locals' favorite nightcap, "The Glarifee," or Glazed Irish Coffee. *B&V open for lunch and dinner daily; late nights on Friday and Saturday. The bar at the Swiss Hotel open from 5-10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 5-9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.*

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