

Via

AAA Traveler's Companion



Moss Landing Monterey Bay's secret getaway **32**

Serene Elkhorn Slough meanders inland from the historic landing.



PLUS Sonoma Weekender **29**

Magnificent mansions:
Visitors welcome **36**

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Disney museum **42**

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Weekender

SONOMA CALIFORNIA

Vines entwine the friendly, fertile town, where playful shops, culinary delights, and inviting inns all conspire toward one goal—helping visitors unwind.

Area code is 707 except as noted.

DON'T MISS
Sonoma Valley Olive Festival December through February. Take lessons in olive curing, judge a martini competition, and sample wine and extra virgin oils. 996-1090, olivefestival.com.

TO DO **Gundlach Bundschu winery** Cozy barrel cave tours and winetasting. 2000 Denmark St., 938-5277, gunbun.com. **Sonoma State Historic Park** A collection of significant sites, including the 1823 Mission San Francisco Solano and Lachryma Montis, the 1850s home of Mexican general Mariano Vallejo. Corner of W. Spain Street and Third Street W., parks.ca.gov/?page_id=479. **Vella Cheese Company** Stop in to try the creamy Toma and the tasty, nutty Mezzo Secco. 315 Second St. E., 938-3232, vellacheese.com.

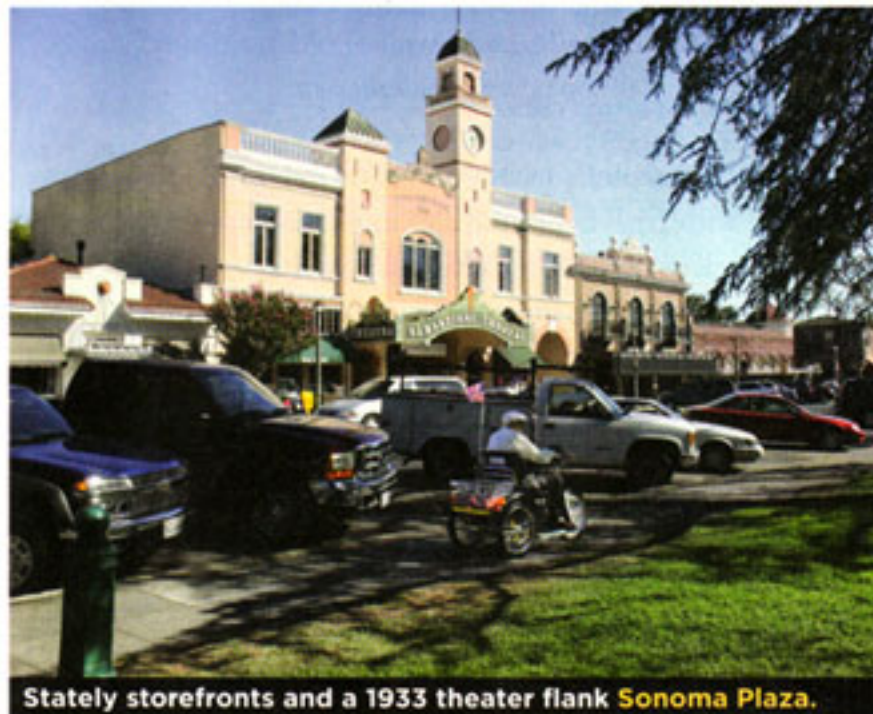
SHOPPING Sign of the Bear Kitchenware Panini grills, fancy cutlery, goat milk soap, and lazy Susans made from >>



Smile and say "Vella cheese."



Family-owned Gundlach Bundschu pours four tastes for \$5.



Stately storefronts and a 1933 theater flank Sonoma Plaza.

Weekender **SONOMA** CALIFORNIA



Tours of the mission run Friday-Sunday.



Onion goggles? Get 'em at Sign of the Bear.



Cafe La Haye puts an elegant spin on butterscotch pudding.



Treasures, such as a clock made from a Kodak Brownie, await at Tiddle E. Winks.

►► wine barrel tops. 435 First St. W., 996-3722. **Tiddle E. Winks Vintage 5 & Dime** Gumby and Pokey coffee mugs, Junior Mints lunch pails, and a wall of old-fashioned candy. 115 E. Napa St., 939-6933, tiddleewinks.com.

DRINKS **Murphy's Irish Pub** Enjoy pub grub like bangers and mash with Irish beers and ales like Guinness and Murphy's Stout, as well as other international favorites including Bass and Boddingtons. 464 First St. E., 935-0660, sonomapub.com.

EATS **Basque Boulangerie Café** Good, strong coffee and flaky, homemade pastries. 460 First St. E., 935-7687. **Cafe La Haye** Simple, locally farmed fare. Try the fresh tagliarini with lamb-pine nut meatballs, roasted pepper, eggplant, picholine olives, and feta and goat cheeses. 140 E. Napa St., 935-5994, cafelabaye.com. **El Dorado Kitchen** Savor winter squash with apples and pears, or a smoked ham hock rillettes sandwich with pickled red onion. 405 First St. W., 996-3030.

SLEEPS **El Pueblo Inn** From \$102. Rooms open to lush gardens; some have private patios. 896 W. Napa St., 996-3651, elpuebloinn.com. **Inn at Sonoma** From \$205. Has a rooftop hot tub and a fireplace in every room. 630 Broadway, (888) 568-9818, innatsonoma.com. **Ramekins Culinary School & Inn** From \$135. Stay the night or come just for a hands-on class where you can learn how to cook tapas, Asian dumplings, and other delights. 450 W. Spain St., 933-0452, ramekins.com.

GET GOING Request the *Northern California & Nevada TourBook* and the *Sonoma Valley* map at AAA.com or any AAA branch office. For more information, contact **Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau**: 453 First St. E., 996-1090, sonomavalley.com.

—DEBORAH FRANKLIN

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