

# The Original RoadTrip: California's Central Coast Food & Wine Trail



7 Day Itinerary traveling from Los Angeles to San Francisco

## **DAY 1**

**Arrive in Los Angeles (LAX)**

**Drive north for overnight accommodations in Oxnard (60 minutes/ 100 kilometers)**

## **DAY 2**

### **Half Day in Oxnard and Ventura**

Central Coast wine tasting begins in Oxnard, just an hour north of L.A., at Herzog Wine Cellars, the nation's largest producer of kosher wines, and home to award-winning Mediterranean-inspired seasonal cuisine at Tierra Sur Restaurant. Herzog is the starting point for the Ventura County Wine Trail, which includes a stop at the newly opened, picturesque Rancho Ventavo Cellars Tasting Room at Oxnard's Heritage Square. Across the brick walkway, La Dolce Vita Restaurant is a great spot for lunch, dinner and monthly cooking classes. Stop by the California Welcome Center in Oxnard to pick up the Ventura County Wine Trail map, and recommendations on great local restaurants. [www.VisitOxnard.com](http://www.VisitOxnard.com)

An array of restaurants dishing up delectable delicacies satisfying every craving while in Ventura. You'll find menus from all corners of the globe -- California, the Mediterranean, Thailand, France India, Ireland, and Argentina, just to name a few! In addition to these restaurants, you'll find bakeries, coffee shops and many wine bars for tasting and shopping and other necessary indulgences. Wine Bars: Wine Rack, The Westside Wine Cellar, Paradise Pantry, Restaurants with seating capacity for 50+ people, Jonathan's, The Sidecar, The Greek, Tutti's. [www.ventura-usa.com](http://www.ventura-usa.com)

**Depart Ventura for Santa Barbara (28 minute drive/ 45 kilometers)**

### **Santa Barbara**

Santa Barbara is uniquely self-sustaining when it comes to food, and offers a truly regional culinary experience. Fresh, seasonal produce is readily available at daily farmers' markets and local grocery stores. Fresh seafood from the Santa Barbara Channel is served up in local eateries, and you can even buy seafood right off the boat at the Santa Barbara Harbor. Learn how to eat like a locavore (eating food grown within a 100-mile radius of where you live) on a guided culinary tour of Santa Barbara with market forays. After collecting ingredients at the Fishermen's Market, Farmers' Market, and local stores, Slow-Foodie guide Laurence Hauben will teach you how you can prepare dishes easily at home. The experience concludes with a delicious meal paired to local wines. Tours are customizable. With great food comes great wine. Save time to experience the Santa Barbara Downtown Urban Wine Trail - all in one afternoon. Taste and tour eleven wineries and tasting rooms conveniently located in downtown Santa Barbara. [www.santabarbaraca.com](http://www.santabarbaraca.com)

**Overnight in Santa Barbara**

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## **DAY 3**

**Morning: depart from Santa Barbara to Santa Ynez Valley/ Solvang (60 minute drive/ 100 kilometers)**

\* Recommended to take Hwy 154 from Santa Barbara through the foothills into Santa Ynez Valley to experience breathtaking natural views

### **Santa Ynez**

When touring and tasting in the scenic Santa Ynez Valley, visitors quickly work up an appetite. Now, there are four 4-diamond properties in the heart of Santa Barbara County's famed wine country — the Petersen Village Inn & Café Provence in Solvang, with charming antique-filled accommodations; the Ballard Inn & Restaurant, with chef/owner Budi Kazali's fusion cuisine; Santa Ynez Inn, offering Victorian elegance and Chef Heather Henry's gourmet breakfasts; and luxe dinners at Willows Restaurant at the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez. [www.SantaYnezValleyVisit.com](http://www.SantaYnezValleyVisit.com)

### **Solvang**

New this year, Master Chef Bradley Ogden brings his James Beard Award-winning culinary expertise (including One Market San Francisco) to Solvang in the Santa Ynez Valley wine country with Root 246, a restaurant owned by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Ogden's newest restaurant features his signature farm-to-table gourmet dishes and extensive selection of local wines from the heart of Solvang. Individuals and groups welcome. More info: [www.SolvangUSA.com](http://www.SolvangUSA.com)

### **Overnight in Solvang**

## **DAY 4**

### **Half Day in Solvang**

Solvang: a walking smorgasbord. More than a dozen wine-tasting rooms and 30 charming eateries and authentic bakeries dot this undeniably Danish-themed town. Food lovers enjoy a diverse array of Danish, American and ethnic cuisine from gourmet to economical cafes. Scandinavian fare is readily available, including Danish aebleskiver and pastries, as well as smorgasbords. More info: [www.SolvangUSA.com](http://www.SolvangUSA.com)

**Depart Solvang for Santa Maria (45 minute drive/ 72 kilometers)**

\* Recommended to take Hwy 154 to Zacca Station Road. Follow the Foxen Canyon wine trail through the Santa Ynez Wine Country/ Santa Maria Valley. This drive will take you through the patchwork of farms, orchards, and vineyards that encompass the valley.

### **Santa Maria**

Savor the sizzling flavors of Santa Maria-style barbecue at a number of legendary restaurants in the Santa Maria Valley on California's Central Coast. This 150-year-old regional culinary tradition is founded on native ingredients and local methods for a uniquely flavorful dining experience. Local landmark barbecue restaurants include the Hitching Post, Far Western Tavern and Jocko's, all of which have been

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going strong for more than 50 years. Today, no Santa Maria-style barbecue meal is complete without a glass of Pinot Noir or Syrah from the Santa Maria Valley wine country. For more information, visit [www.santamariavisitor.com](http://www.santamariavisitor.com)

## **Depart Santa Maria for Pismo Beach (30 minute drive/ 48 kilometers)**

### **Pismo Beach**

Splash in for a bowl of award-winning clam chowder! Splash Café has been a Pismo Beach destination, attracting visitors and locals alike since the late 1980s. With a consistent line of hungry guests stretching around the block, it is easy to understand how this world famous creamy clam chowder has been winning awards for over 10 years. This casual beach-oriented café has been featured in several national publications and received requests from Gourmet and Bon Appétit magazines for the secret clam chowder recipe. Splash Café serves more than 15,000 gallons of clam chowder a year in their Pismo Beach café! This must-stop destination is definitely worth the wait. For more information on Pismo Beach, visit [www.classicalifornia.com](http://www.classicalifornia.com)

### **Overnight in Pismo Beach**

## **DAY 5**

## **Depart Pismo Beach for Paso Robles (60 minute drive/ 100 kilometers)**

### **Paso Robles Wine Country**

Located along California's famed Central Coast is Paso Robles Wine Country. In Paso Robles, a day of wine tasting and touring begins with a scenic drive along the country roads. The rolling hills and rural setting make for a truly authentic wine country experience. Guests will discover an array of wineries -- many, family owned and operated -- with the owner or winemaker greeting you upon arrival. Pack your picnic lunch to enjoy on the winery grounds, chat with the winemaker, and explore California's fastest-growing wine region. A long growing season of warm days and cool evenings give rise to vibrantly ripened fruit with dynamic flavor that translate beautifully in your glass of Paso Robles wine. You'll experience premium wines and discover what makes Paso Robles Wine Country distinctly different. For more information on wine tasting in Paso Robles, visit [www.sanluisobispo.com](http://www.sanluisobispo.com)

### **Downtown Paso Robles**

Along your journey through Paso Robles Wine Country, take time to stroll the historic downtown to shop and dine. Boutique stores, restaurants featuring wine-country cuisine, and tasting rooms fill the blocks surrounding Paso Robles Downtown City Park. A scene right out of a Norman Rockwell painting, Paso Robles' downtown completes the picture of your wine-tasting experience. For more information on Paso Robles, visit [www.sanluisobispo.com](http://www.sanluisobispo.com)

### **Overnight in Paso Robles**

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## **DAY 6**

**Depart Paso Robles for Monterey (2 hours 15 minute drive/230 kilometers)**

### **Monterey**

Monterey County's Salinas Valley is the home of the "Salad Bowl of the World." Take an agricultural tour, wine trek or visit the nation's first (and largest) working organic farm – Earthbound Farms. Take public transit -- Grapevine Express -- to the organic gardens and 10 wineries on Carmel Valley Road. Wine experts have identified the areas as "uniquely suited to raising high-grade grapes." There are 85 vintners and growers with over 40,000 acres to learn about. Year-round temperate climate, rich soils, and unparalleled infrastructure make this area an ideal place to learn best practices and to discover new ways of preparing Mother Nature's best. [www.seeMonterey.com](http://www.seeMonterey.com).

**Overnight in Monterey**

## **DAY 7**

**Depart for SFO (2 hour drive/200 kilometers)**

**Depart out of San Francisco (SFO)**