



Sonoma County Destination Fact Sheet

Official tourism information:

Sonoma County Tourism, +1-707-522-5800, www.sonomacounty.com

Location:

Part of the San Francisco Bay Area in Northern California's renowned wine country, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge; bordered by Marin, Napa, Lake, and Mendocino Counties, as well as the Pacific Ocean and San Pablo Bay.

Size:

Sonoma County's more than 1.1 million acres of redwood forests, vineyards, dairies, and coastline include over 30 small towns, quaint villages, and bustling cities.

- 1,768 square miles/4,580 square kilometers
- More than 50 miles/80 kilometers of coastline along the Pacific Ocean and the San Pablo Bay
- Three rivers: Russian, Petaluma, and Gualala.
- One lake: Lake Sonoma

Population:

485,375 (2024)

Air Service:

The Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport (STS) in Santa Rosa is the primary airport for Northern California, offering scheduled commercial air service.

Direct flights are available via:

- Alaska Airlines to Los Angeles (LAX), Burbank (BUR), Orange County (SNA), San Diego (SAN), Las Vegas (LAS), Portland (PDX), Seattle (SEA), Palm Springs (PSP) seasonal
- American Airlines/SkyWest to Phoenix Sky Harbor (PHX), Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) seasonal
- Southwest Airlines to San Diego (SAN), Burbank (BUR), Las Vegas (LAS), Denver (DEN) starting April 2026

Sonoma County is less than a two-hour drive from three international airports: San Francisco, Oakland, and Sacramento, which are accessible via shuttles from San Francisco and Oakland.

Regions:

Coast (Annapolis, Bodega, Bodega Bay, Fort Ross, Gualala, Jenner, Stewarts Point, Sea Ranch, Timber Cove). Famous seaside towns hug the rugged Pacific Coast and offer stunning views, whale watching, fresh seafood, and seaside wine tasting.

Rivers (Cazadero, Duncans Mills, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Rio Nido, Russian River Valley). Characterized by the slow, winding Russian River and majestic redwood trees, the area is rich in history, outdoor activities, local charm, and unique festivals.

Valleys (West, Central, and East (including Graton, Forestville, Freestone, Occidental, Sebastopol, Valley Ford; Asti, Cloverdale, Cotati, Fulton, Geyserville, Healdsburg, Penngrrove, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Windsor; Boyes Hot Springs, Glen Ellen, Kenwood, Schellville, Sonoma)

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Sonoma County's vineyard-filled valleys provide a wide range of wineries, spas, restaurants, museums, and galleries – all easily accessible to the area's towns and villages.

Climate:

Mild, Mediterranean climate year-round. Summers have warm days and cool nights, perfect for producing some of the world's best grapes and wines.

Average high/low in July is 82°F (28°C)/52°F (11°C).

Average high/low in January is 50°F (10°C)/40°F (4°C).

Lodging:

Approximately 6,600 rooms and over 2,500 recreational spaces are available for overnight guests.

Sonoma County features a variety of accommodations, including major hotel brands, boutique hotels, resorts, bed-and-breakfasts, small inns, vacation rentals, and campgrounds. Learn more [here](#).

Dining:

Over 500 restaurants offering cuisine from every region of the world, ranging from casual spots to Michelin- and Zagat-rated establishments. Chefs in Wine Country use freshly harvested, locally grown produce. Learn more [here](#).

Spas:

Sonoma County features 40 spas and wellness retreat centers, offering natural thermal springs, grape seed scrubs, products from locally grown ingredients, yoga in the vineyards, and the only Japanese-style cedar enzyme bath in the United States. Learn more [here](#).

Other Activities:

- 18 golf courses open to the public
- Bike tours
- 120 small farms open to the public; 12 farm markets
- Culinary schools and classes
- Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve
- Green Music Center
- Sonoma Raceway with NASCAR, IndyCar, motorcycle, and drag racing
- Safari West Wildlife Preserve
- River Rock Casino in Alexander Valley
- Graton Resort and Casino in Rohnert Park
- Pacific Coast Air Museum
- Luther Burbank Center for the Arts
- Charles M. Schulz Museum of Peanuts characters
- 27 California State Historical Landmarks
- 11 California State Parks; 53 regional parks; 20 coastal beaches
- The Russian River, Lake Sonoma

Wineries:

Over 425 wineries, mostly open for tours and tastings without appointments. Sonoma County wineries are renowned for their excellent wines and friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Many tasting rooms are free or charge a small fee that can be applied toward wine purchases.

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Wine Facts:

There are 19 American Viticultural Areas (AVAs, or appellations) in Sonoma County – regions with distinct soils and climates that enable certain grape varieties to thrive. Sonoma County is the most diverse premium winegrape growing area in the United States.

Sonoma County produces more than 60 varieties of wine grapes, but six types comprise nearly 94 percent:

- Chardonnay
- Pinot Noir
- Cabernet Sauvignon
- Zinfandel
- Merlot
- Sauvignon Blanc

More facts:

- 60,000 ± acres/25.829 hectares of grapes; 1,300 grape growers (Only 6 percent of Sonoma County’s total land area is planted with grapes).
- Five years – from vineyard planting to first harvest.
- 500-2,000 vines per acre; 5-7 tons of grapes produced per acre.
- 182,784 tons of grapes were harvested in 2015, with an average price of \$2,443 per ton.
- 1 acre/4 hectares of grapes yields approximately 3,958 bottles of wine.
- The same area yields about 15,940 glasses of wine.
- One barrel of wine requires 750 pounds of grapes, produces 60 gallons (227 liters) of wine, contains 25 cases of wine, or 300 bottles. One case of wine, which weighs 30 pounds of grapes, yields 12 bottles or 60 glasses, equivalent to roughly 307 ounces (9079 milliliters) of wine. One bottle of wine is made from about 2.4 pounds of grapes (39 ounces/1.153 liters), approximately 630 grapes, and contains 25.6 ounces (750 ml) of wine, equivalent to about 5 glasses.

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Sonoma County Tourism (SCT) is the official organization responsible for destination stewardship in California’s Sonoma County. Committed to cultivating a vibrant economy through inclusivity, sustainability, and community connections, SCT promotes the area as a welcoming place for all. Discover more about the organization’s innovative efforts to support the local economy responsibly at www.sonomacounty.com.

For a free visitors’ guide or information on hotels, wineries, events, spas, attractions, and dining in Sonoma County, visit www.sonomacounty.com/guide/ or call 707-522-5800.

EDITORS: To request high-resolution photos to accompany your Sonoma County article, please complete the request form: <https://sonomacounty.mediavalet.com/portals/sct>