

Your AAA magazine 

JANUARY+FEBRUARY 2014

via

Pinnacles National Park

plus 5 other
natural wonders ²⁸

Disneyland ³⁴

Healdsburg ²⁵

Winter fun ¹⁶

Australia ¹⁹



5

THINGS WE LOVE

San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Dubbed SLO (say “slow”), this city of 45,500 makes an easy meeting point between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Its walkable downtown offers a mix of history and quirkiness. Pass Bubblegum Alley, with its colorful blobs, en route to the 1772 Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. Area code is 805.

1 Exposed brick, velvet curtains, and vintage-style furniture blend with modern amenities at the **Granada Hotel & Bistro**. Stay in one of 17 cozy rooms, some with push-button fireplaces, or dine on the patio next to a burning tree sculpture repurposed from the building’s original tin roof. 544-9100, granadahotelandbistro.com.

2 The area’s vineyards lie outside town, so take a shortcut at Central Coast Wines, a shop and tasting room. Try a **Saucelito Canyon zinfandel** here if you can’t make it to the winery’s red farmhouse. 784-9463, ccwines.com.

3 A few blocks outside the heart of downtown, Ruby Rose fills a warehouse with desirable doodads from the 1940s through today: manual typewriters, **old-fashioned globes**, picture frames. Neither jumbled junk shop nor stale antique

emporium, it’s a curated assemblage of surprising delights. 545-7964, rubyrose805.blogspot.com.

4 Stomach growling? After a meal at the popular Big Sky

Cafe (545-5401, bigskycfe.com), cross the street for a **custom ice cream sandwich** at Batch. Match warm cookies, cool filling, and toppings, then grab some napkins and eat quickly. icecreamslo.com.

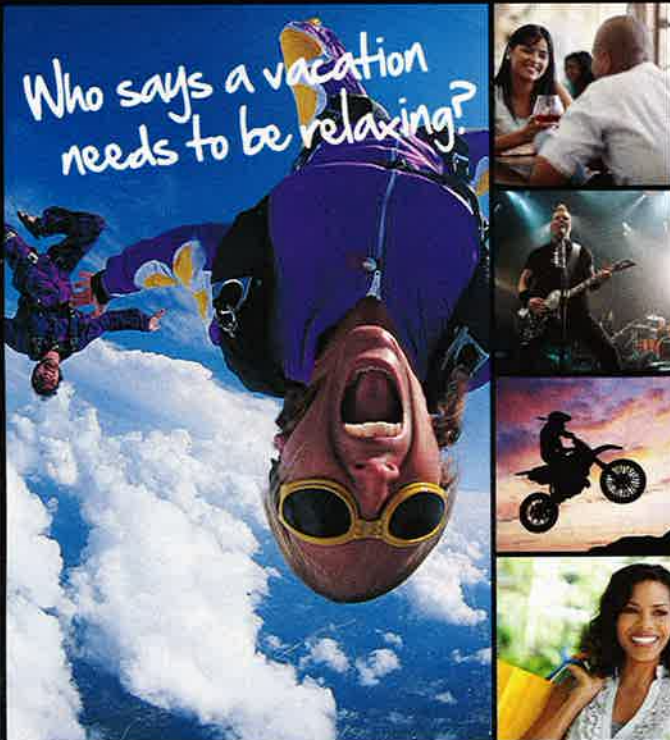
5 Firestone Grill’s vast courtyard and cavernous interior are filled nonstop with satisfied diners, and no wonder: Enjoy succulent **tri-tip on a French roll dipped in garlic butter** and you may need to head back to the Granada Hotel for a nap. firestonegrill.com. —KAREN ZUERCHER



Sprinkles festoon a treat at Batch.

STEPH DEWEY

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