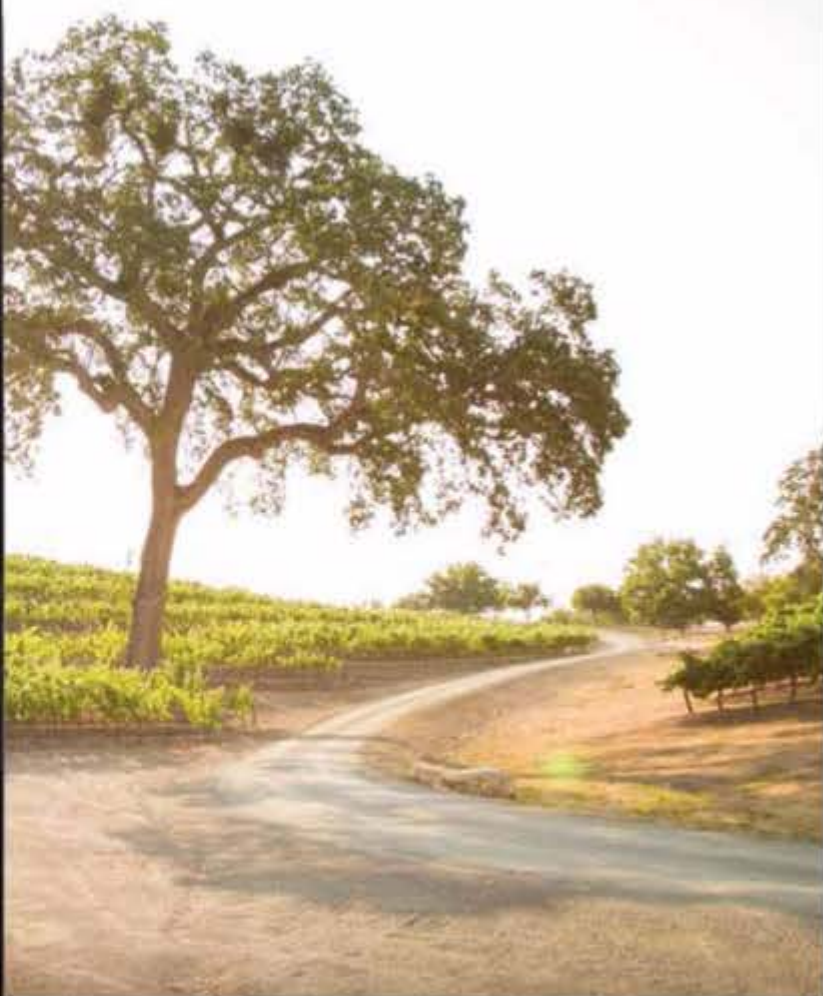


WINE COUNTRY | THIS MONTH

NOVEMBER 2017



TOP TEN

WHAT NOT TO MISS

NIVEN FAMILY WINES

A variety of wines under five labels - Baileyana, Tangent, True Myth, Zocker and Trenza

CHAMISAL VINEYARDS

Picnic patio, tasting patio, private tasting and tours; Pinot, Chardonnay and Rhône varietals

STEPHEN ROSS

Small-production Pinot Noirs and other wines in urban San Luis Obispo tasting room.

SAUCELITO CANYON VINEYARD

Zinfandels are their specialty, including one from the original vines planted in the 1880s.

EDNA VALLEY VINEYARDS

Flagship Chardonnay wine, plus other whites, reds, and blends.

TOLOSA WINERY

Take advantage of the cool Edna Valley AVA to make Burgundy-style Pinot Noir and Chardonnay

MAMA'S MEATBALL

Casual, home-style Italian cooking in downtown San Luis Obispo

NOVO RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

A wide range of international dishes; great patio next to the creek, dog friendly

FIRESTONE GRILL

Offers burgers, barbecued meats and salads

BUONA TAVOLA

Northern Italian cuisine. Gluten-free pasta available.



— DESTINATION —

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BY SURUCHI MOHAN, suruchimohan.com/category/wine/wine-blog

Whether your interests take you into town or the outdoors, you will find numerous activities to keep you entertained on your vacation

If you have access to the Highway 1 Discover Route, drive into the town of San Luis Obispo for some stunning views. This route, more than a hundred miles long, runs through San Luis Obispo County. Explore the many charming seaside towns along the way.

Pull in to see the Hearst Castle or the Cayucas History Museum. If you want vigorous exercise, try the many trails for bikers and walkers or stop in to see the elephant seals at the rookery.

Set between the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Lucia Mountains, the town of San Luis Obispo offers a myriad of activities. It is small, with a population under 50,000 and an area shy of 13 square miles.

SLO is a blend of the old and contemporary. The Mission, established in 1772, dominates the town on the north side. On

the south, established this past spring, is a thirty-foot moving sculpture, a new landmark to balance the old.

Take a trip to Edna Valley, one of the coolest AVAs in California. A stop at any winery will tingle your taste buds and delight your sense of smell. Enjoy a variety of aromatic white wines and red Rhône varietals and blends. November is harvest time and many wineries host festivities.

Visit Bishop Peak, more than 1,500-feet high, that offers spectacular views. Or take a stroll through the children's garden or the life celebration garden at the beautiful Botanical Gardens.

Take the trolley, visit a coffee shop or a pub or bakery or go beer tasting on a hop-on beer tour. Or do some plain old shopping, then retreat into your room with a SLO glass of wine.

LOCAL FAVORITES



Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa

Established by Father Junipero Serra in 1772, this mission offers not just a place of worship but history and architecture that have continued to evolve over the years. Visit the gardens with the grape arbor, enjoy the tolling of the bells, browse the gift shop. Docent tours available.



Madonna Inn

Madonna Inn redefines unique with 110 whimsical guestrooms, enchanting décor and resort amenities, including a luxurious spa, horseback riding, boutique shopping, terrace pool and bar, and two award-winning dining experiences. Madonna Inn is your gateway to Central Coast Wine Country and minutes from historic, downtown San Luis Obispo.

Fromagerie Sophie

This European-style cheese shop showcases a vast array of cheeses from the U.S. and from around the world. In addition, the store carries specialty food items, such as pastas, sauces, candy, jams, honey, escargot, olive oils, and vinegars picked from different countries. Samples available.



Performing Arts Center

A state-of-the-art performance facility at the campus of California Polytechnic State University. Check the website for events: www.pacslo.org.



San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

Six of the 150 acres that will be developed in years to come feature award-winning design.



Bubblegum Alley

In the heart of downtown SLO is an attraction with a high grossness factor: Bubblegum Alley is narrow with 15-foot walls covered with roughly two-million pieces of chewed bubblegum. Perhaps in the grossness lies the popularity. You are invited to add your gum art to the collection.



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Granada Bistro

Located in a hotel in downtown SLO, this is a classic French bistro that offers bold flavors. Very extensive wine list that spans the world. Cocktails, mocktails and spirits. Outdoor fire pit on patio. Great service. Open daily, lunch, small plates, dinner. Saturday, Sunday, brunch also.

Ciopinot

Located in downtown San Luis Obispo, this seafood grille and oyster bar is family run. The name is a blend of cioppino, the stew, and Pinot wine - both red and white, which pair well with the menu. Try their offerings from local wineries. Full service bar. No corkage.



Giuseppe's Cucina Rustica

Southern Italian fare, great selection of pizzas. Bread, sauce, pasta, desserts made in-house. Farm to table. Owner grows heirloom vegetables and fruit that is served in the restaurant. Serve lamb grown by CalPoly. Lunch, dinner; happy hour, Sunday through Thursday. Located in downtown SLO.



Thomas Hill Organics

A farm-to-table restaurant that offers locally grown produce and meats raised nearby. Amazing wine list with many local wines, craft cocktails, and beer. Creative dishes, fresh bread, great seafood, meats and salads. Open for lunch, dinner; weekends, brunch, with an exciting, eclectic menu.

Koberl at Blue

Located in the historic J.P. Andrews Building in downtown SLO, this restaurant offers wine country cuisine to pair well with local wines. Extensive wine list that covers many countries, craft beers. Bar opens at 4 p.m. for drinks and appetizers; dinner served daily. Small plates.