Sonoma County Fact Sheet

Official tourism information:

Sonoma County Tourism
707-522-5800
www.sonomacounty.com

Location
Part of the San Francisco Bay Area, in Northern California’s celebrated wine country, less than 45 minutes north of San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge; bordered by Marin, Napa, Lake, and Mendocino Counties, the Pacific Ocean, and the San Pablo Bay.

Size
1,500 square miles

More than 50 miles of coastline along the Pacific Ocean and the San Pablo Bay.

Three Rivers – Russian, Petaluma and Gualala

Population
491,829 (2012 estimate)

Air Service
Sonoma County is reached via direct air service on Alaska Airlines or Allegiant Air to Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport (STS. Sonoma County Airport has flights from Los Angeles, Orange County, Portland, San Diego and Seattle on Alaska, or from Las Vegas and Phoenix-Mesa in Allegiant, or via a transfer from another Alaska, Horizon, or American Airlines flight.

Less than a two-hour drive from three international airports: San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento. Served by shuttles from San Francisco and Oakland.

Regions
Coasts & Sea Villages (Annapolis, Bodega, Bodega Bay, Fort Ross, Gualala, Jenner, Stewarts Point, The Sea Ranch, Timber Cove)

Famous sea villages hug the wild Pacific Coast and offer remarkable views, whale watching, fresh seafood and seaside wine tasting.


*Rivers & Redwoods* (Cazadero, Duncans Mills, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Rio Nido, Russian River Valley)

Defined by the slow, meandering Russian River and majestic redwood trees, the area is full of history, outdoor activities, local color, and unique festivals.

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

Sonoma County’s vineyard-lined valleys offer a wide expanse of wineries, spas, restaurants, museums, galleries - all with easy access to the area’s towns and villages.

**Climate**

Mild, Mediterranean climate year-round. The summer months have warm days and cool nights, ideal for producing some of the world’s finest 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**

More than 8,300 rooms and 2,700 recreational spaces available for overnight guests.

Full service: 2,478
Limited service: 3,844
Bed & breakfast rooms: 546
Vacation rentals: 1,495
Campground and RV spaces: 2,769

**Dining**

500-plus restaurants featuring cuisine from every region of the world, and ranging from casual to five-star. Chefs of Wine Country cuisine use freshly-harvested, locally-grown produce.

**Spas**

40 spas – natural thermal springs, unique day spas with locally made products, and the only Japanese-style cedar enzyme bath in the United States.

**Wineries**

More than 400 wineries, most open for tours and tasting without appointment. Sonoma County wineries are famous for their excellent wines and relaxed, welcoming ambiance. Many wineries offer food and wine experiences. Also, many tasting rooms are free or apply nominal tasting costs to the purchase of wine.

**Other Activities**

20 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
Sonoma Raceway with NASCAR, IndyCar, motorcycle and drag racing
Safari West Wildlife Preserve
Graton Casino Resort in Rohnert Park
River Rock Casino in Alexander Valley
The Pacific Coast Air Museum
Green Music Center
Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
Charles M. Schulz Museum of Peanuts characters
27 California State Historical Landmarks
11 California State Parks; 50 regional parks; 20 coastal beaches
The Russian River; Lake Sonoma

Wine Facts
16 American Viticultural Areas (AVAs, or appellations) in Sonoma County – regions with unique soils and climates that allow certain grape varieties to grow particularly well. Sonoma County is the most diverse premium winegrape growing region in the United States.

Sonoma County produces more than 72 varieties of winegrapes, but seven varieties comprise nearly 94 percent of the tons crushed:

Chardonnay
Sauvignon Blanc
Cabernet Sauvignon
Merlot
Pinot Noir
Zinfandel
Syrah

60,000 acres of grapes; 1,300 grape growers
Three years – time from vineyard planting to first crop
500-2,000 vines planted per acre; 5-7 tons of grapes produced per acre

230,910 tons of grapes harvested per year; $1,871 – average price per ton

1 acre of grapes = 3,958 bottles of wine

1 acre of grapes = 15,940 glasses of wine

1 barrel of wine =
   740 pounds of grapes
   59 gallons of wine
   24.6 cases of wine
   295 bottles of wine
   1,180 glasses of wine

1 case of wine =
   30 pounds of grapes (468 ounces)
   307.2 ounces of wine
   12 bottles of wine
   48 glasses of wine

1 bottle of wine =
   2.4 pounds of grapes (39 ounces)
   4 glasses of wine

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