

LOCAL LORE

Situated in the Los Carneros American Viticultural Area (AVA), "Patz & Hall" lies amidst some of the world's most prized vineyards. Known for exceptional quality Champagne, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the wineries of the Carneros region produce memorable and collectible wines.

Just up the road, historic Sonoma Plaza was once the scene of the legendary Bear Flag Revolt where General Mariano Vallejo was stripped of his command of the pueblo of Sonoma by a band of insurgents. The Bear Flag Republic existed for just 25 days before the Bear Flag was lowered in Sonoma Plaza and replaced by the American flag. Both still fly in the Plaza today. A visit to General Vallejo's home is a lovely way to spend an afternoon. A state park within easy reach of the Plaza, the historic home is a draw for locals and visitors alike.

In addition to its world class wineries, Sonoma is home to countless activities. The eight-acre Plaza is famed for picnicking. Beginning in May on Tuesday evenings join hundreds of people who gather weekly for the favorite Farmer's Market where you can eat, drink, listen to music, and enjoy local vendors who bring their merchandise. Nearby Arnold Field plays host each summer to the town's own minor league baseball team, the Sonoma Stompers. The Sonoma Valley Museum is another favorite with exhibits from around the world taking up residency throughout the year. And also for motorsport fans and enthusiasts, the Sonoma Raceway has a complete schedule of events.

Situated between the Sonoma and Mayacama Mountain ranges, Sonoma is also known as the Valley of the Moon, once home to the Coast Miwok and the Pomo tribes. According to legend, the land is where the moon nestled, hence the name. During the summer months, warm thermals bring coastal fog over the mountains, bathing Sonoma in cooling breezes.

Sonoma is also located near some of the area's best state parks including Sugarloaf State Park, Annadel State Park and Jack London State Historic Park. The famous author made Sonoma his home, living and writing in what is now the state park.

Throughout the year, Sonoma holds a series of annual events ranging from a top rated July 4th celebration, the Sonoma Valley Film Festival, winery events like April in Carneros and the Sonoma Valley Wine Auction as well as countless events like the Olive Festival and much more. A calendar of events is available through the Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau at sonomavalley.com.