

TRAVEL JOURNAL



Summer Hotel Deals and Experiences at California Boutique Hotels

Summer in California is made for memorable escapes—whether that means sipping wine beneath the redwoods, cooling off along the coast, prioritizing self-care with a wellness retreat, or planning a weekend around live music and exceptional dining. From the Mendocino Coast to Napa Valley, the Central Coast to the High Sierra, boutique hotels across the state are celebrating the season with exclusive packages, limited-time offers, and one-of-a-kind experiences. Here are some of the best ways to make the most of California's endless summer days.



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Calistoga Wine Way Inn & The Craftsman Inn

Wine lovers can turn a summer getaway into a full Napa Valley tasting adventure with two exclusive winery packages from [Calistoga Wine Way Inn](#) and [The Craftsman Inn](#). Guests staying three nights or more can enjoy special tastings at either [Castello di Amorosa](#) or [Sterling Vineyards](#), with benefits that increase with the length of stay. Both packages include complimentary Calistoga Shuttle passes, making it easy to relax and enjoy the region's renowned wines without worrying about transportation. Available through September, the offers pair boutique accommodations with two of Calistoga's most iconic winery experiences. Enter "Castello Special" or "Sterling Special" in the special requests field when [booking online](#) or call 707-942-0680.



Yoga studio at Sensei Porcupine Creek

Sensei Porcupine Creek

Immerse yourself in [Sensei Porcupine Creek's](#) signature approach to well-being with their [Move, Nourish, Rest](#) offer. Now through July 18, travelers who book a minimum three-night stay can enjoy a complimentary fourth night, a \$400 food-and-beverage credit at Sensei by Nobu, and a 60-minute spa or wellness service of their choice. The experience also includes access to daily rotating well-being classes that encourage movement, mindfulness, and restoration. Set against the serene desert landscape of Rancho Mirage, the offer provides an ideal opportunity to reset, recharge, and experience one of California's most exclusive wellness retreats. Call 760-983-2451 to reserve.



The Milo's Summer Picnic in Santa Barbara

The Milo

A classic Santa Barbara beach day becomes even more memorable with [The Milo's Summer Picnic in Santa Barbara](#) package. Guests receive a soft Turkish towel, a locally inspired cheese platter featuring artisan cheeses and accompaniments, and a half-bottle of local white wine perfect for enjoying along the shoreline. With the beach just steps away, the package offers a simple yet quintessential Santa Barbara experience that pairs coastal relaxation with local flavors and ocean views. [Book online](#) using promo code PICNIC. For an extended stay this summer, take advantage of the hotel's [Stay Longer, Save More](#) special. Guests can save 10% off three nights, 15% off four nights, and 20% off five nights or more.



Kennedy Cottage at San Ysidro Ranch

San Ysidro Ranch

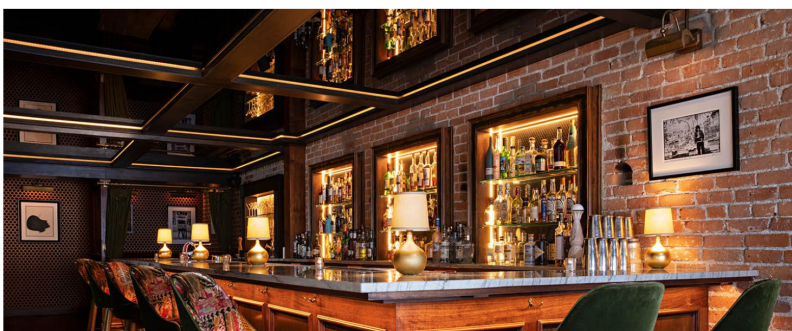
In honor of America's 250th anniversary, [San Ysidro Ranch](#) is introducing the [American Icon Experience](#), inspired by the legendary honeymoon of Jacqueline and John F. Kennedy. Guests stay in the storied [Kennedy Cottage](#) while enjoying experiences designed around the couple's favorite pastimes, from horseback riding and sailing to croquet on the ranch grounds. The experience culminates with a romantic, candlelit dinner beneath the stars. Blending history, luxury, and the timeless romance that has defined the property for generations, the package offers a unique way to experience one of California's most iconic retreats. Call 805-565-1700 to reserve.

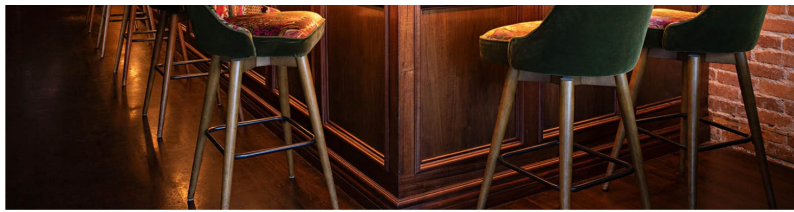


Pool area at Skyview Los Alamos

Skyview Los Alamos

Summer nights take on a magical glow at [Skyview Los Alamos](#) with the hotel's monthly Moonrise Swims. Timed with the full moon, the adults-only evenings invite guests and visitors alike to float beneath the stars in the hotel's heated pool while enjoying live DJ sets curated by Traffic Records. Stellar cocktails, tarot readings, and food from Norman are available throughout the evening, creating a laid-back celebration of music, moonlight, and Central Coast vibes. Held monthly from July through October, Moonrise Swims offer a distinctly California way to spend a warm summer evening under the open sky. Open to the public, tickets are \$35 per person and can be [reserved online](#). Entry is complimentary for hotel guests 21 and over only.





The Nightcap at Granada Hotel & Bistro

Granada Hotel & Bistro

Cocktail enthusiasts can elevate their evening with [The Art of the Nightcap](#), an intimate hands-on workshop at [Granada Hotel & Bistro](#) in downtown San Luis Obispo. Hosted in the hotel's cozy, speakeasy-inspired lounge, the one-hour class is designed to demystify classic cocktails while sharing the craft, history, and subtle details that turn a good drink into a great one. Guests will enjoy a guided demonstration, taste components along the way, and finish with an elevated cocktail in hand. Part class, part happy hour, the workshop is perfect for cocktail lovers and curious beginners alike. Workshop dates are July 29 (Martini), August 26 (Margarita), and September 30 (Negroni); the cost is \$50. [Register online](#).



Fess Parker Wine Country Inn in Los Olivos

Fess Parker Wine Country Inn

Summer fun takes center stage at [Fess Parker Wine Country Inn's Family BBQ](#) on July 30. The lively afternoon event brings together the Parker and Crestanelli families for a playful Team USA versus Team Italia celebration featuring wine, beer, cocktails, smashburgers, Italian-inspired fare, live music, and family-friendly activities throughout the property. Admission is complimentary, with food and beverages available for purchase, making it an easy and festive addition to a Santa Ynez Valley getaway.

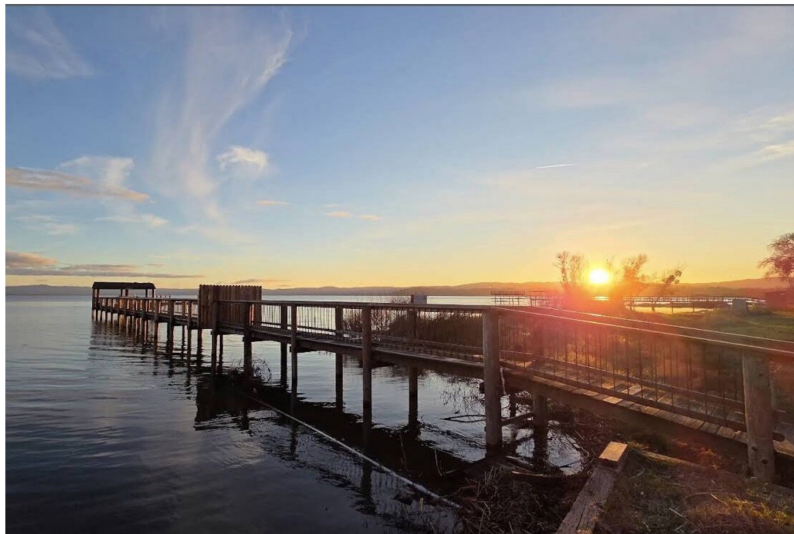


Rooftop dining at Elderwood at The Darling Hotel

The Darling Hotel

Summer in California's Central Valley brings added perks at [The Darling Hotel](#) in Visalia. The hotel's [Taste of Summer](#) package offers a two-night getaway with 10% off the stay and a \$30 dining credit at Elderwood, the hotel's rooftop restaurant and lounge. Spend sun-filled afternoons exploring

Sequoia Country or relaxing by the pool, then head upstairs for dinner, cocktails, and sweeping views of the Sierra foothills. Available for stays through September 30, this limited-time offer makes it easy to enjoy one of downtown Visalia's most stylish stays while savoring the flavors and atmosphere of summer.



Featherbed Railroad dock on Clear Lake

Featherbed Railroad

Summer at [Featherbed Railroad](#) brings both family-friendly fun and a touch of the paranormal. Guests can save on midweek stays with the Weekday Summer Special, which includes discounted lodging in the property's signature caboose accommodations along with breakfast, pool access, lakeside activities, and complimentary use of bikes, kayaks, and paddleboards. The offer is valid from July through September with promo code LAKETIME15.

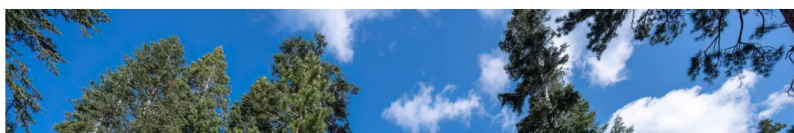
For those seeking something a bit more unusual, The Midnight Line Experience returns July 31–August 1 with an immersive overnight adventure featuring guided paranormal investigations, historical storytelling, catered dining, and exclusive access to some of the property's most talked-about locations. Advance reservations are required. Call 520-395-7588 for more details.



Massage at Stanford Inn by the Sea

Stanford Inn by the Sea

[Stanford Inn by the Sea](#) continues to expand its reputation as one of California's leading wellness retreats with two notable additions this summer. At [Massage in the Forest Spa](#), guests can experience Biofield Tuning, a restorative treatment that uses tuning forks to promote relaxation, nervous system balance, and emotional well-being. Meanwhile, the inn's outdoor outfitter, [Catch a Canoe & Bicycles Too](#), is introducing next-generation Azure Otter outriggers and catamaran canoes designed specifically for the Big River Estuary. The ultra-stable vessels make exploring one of the Mendocino Coast's most scenic waterways more accessible for families, beginners, and even pets.





Cottage beneath the pines at Kit Carson Lodge

Kit Carson Lodge

[Kit Carson Lodge](#) is celebrating a milestone summer in 2026 as the beloved High Sierra retreat marks its 100th anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, guests can save \$100 on a two-night stay and enjoy the outdoor adventures that have drawn visitors to Silver Lake for generations, including hiking, fishing, paddling, and simply soaking in the beauty of the great outdoors.

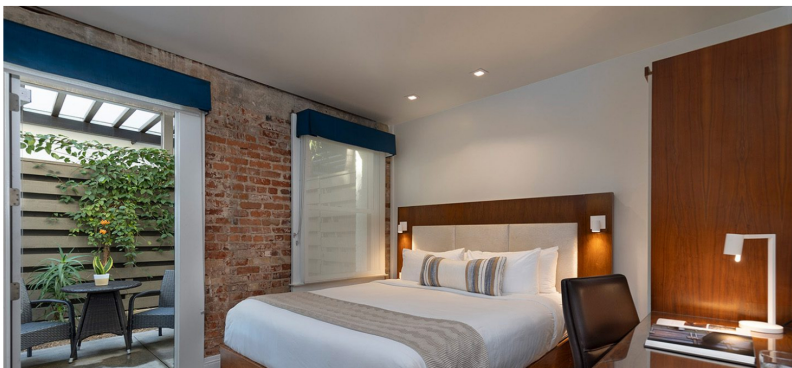
The centennial celebration culminates Labor Day weekend with a two-day music festival featuring live performances, local food, and community festivities beneath the pines. Whether visiting for a peaceful mountain escape or the anniversary celebration itself, summer is an especially meaningful time to experience this historic Sierra destination.

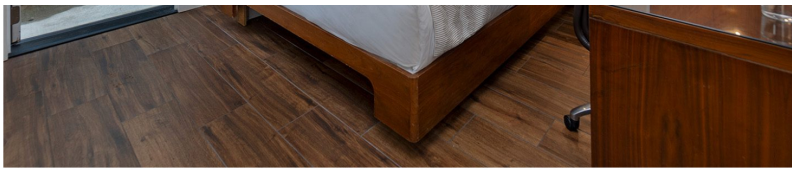


Heading out on bicycles from The Cottages of Napa Valley

The Cottages of Napa Valley

[The Cottages of Napa Valley](#) make it easy to experience wine country beyond the tasting room. Through October, the [Bike Package](#) offers a curated day of cycling in Napa Valley, with winery visits, lunch, and reservations arranged for guests. For a romantic getaway, guests can opt for the [Gondola & Dinner Package](#), pairing a private Napa River gondola ride with dinner at the beloved riverside bistro Angele. During July and August, guests can also take advantage of the [Stay Rosé](#) promotion, which includes a complimentary wine tasting for two and a bottle of rosé from one of the property's favorite boutique wineries.





King Garden Patio Room at Riviera Beach House

Riviera Beach House

Just steps from the Santa Barbara waterfront, [Riviera Beach House](#) is helping guests celebrate soccer season with its [Big Game Patio Package](#). Now through July 19, travelers who book a Garden Patio Room for two or more nights receive game-day-inspired extras, including a Riviera Snack Pack and a soccer-themed beach ball. The package combines the excitement of tournament season with the relaxed coastal atmosphere that makes Santa Barbara such a popular summer destination. [Book online](#) with promo code BIGGAME.



Outstanding in the Field dinner at the Inn at Newport Ranch

Inn at Newport Ranch

When inland temperatures soar, the Mendocino Coast offers a refreshing escape. [Inn at Newport Ranch's Coastal Cool-cation](#) package invites guests to trade the heat for ocean breezes, rugged coastal views, and a slower pace. The experience includes seasonal cocktails, exceptional ranch-to-table dining, and a picnic for two overlooking the Pacific, plus savings on accommodations.

The ranch is also hosting two memorable summer experiences. On July 1, the acclaimed [Outstanding in the Field](#) dinner series returns with a communal feast atop the property's dramatic coastal bluffs. In September, artists can immerse themselves in the landscape during the [Autumn Plein Air Artist Retreat](#), led in part by renowned painter Mary Pettis. The retreat features creative workshops, farm-to-table cuisine, and access to some of the ranch's most inspiring locations.



Hotel San Luis Obispo Courtyard, photo by Ryan Gobuty courtesy of Hotel San Luis Obispo

Hotel San Luis Obispo

From food-focused getaways to pet-friendly escapes, [Hotel San Luis Obispo](#) is celebrating summer with a collection of seasonal offers. Guests can enjoy dining credits with the [Savor the Season](#) package, extend weekend stays with [Endless Summer's](#) complimentary third night, or bring four-legged companions along with [Paws in Paradise](#). Wellness travelers can book the [Sol Spa Rejuvenate](#) package, while road trippers can take advantage of [The Scenic Route Stay](#), which includes coastal-inspired perks, food and beverage credits, welcome cocktails, and curated local recommendations. Together, the offers showcase the best of San Luis Obispo's laid-back lifestyle, vibrant culinary scene, and ideal Central Coast location. The packages are available through the hotel's [website](#) through the end of August.



Inn at Occidental at dusk

Inn at Occidental

Summer brings two reasons to escape to West Sonoma County at the [Inn at Occidental](#). Guests seeking a longer wine country retreat can take advantage of the [Summer Midweek Getaway Special](#), which offers a complimentary Tuesday night with any three-night Sunday–Thursday stay. It's a great excuse to slow down and explore the Sonoma Coast, redwood groves, wineries, and charming small towns without the crowds of peak weekends. [Book online](#) with promo code SUMMER2026.

The inn's popular [Sunset Concert Series](#) also returns on select evenings from July through September, pairing live music in the redwood-shaded courtyard with local wines, craft beer, seasonal cocktails, and food. Guests can turn the experience into a complete getaway with the [Sunset Concert Getaway Package](#), which includes concert tickets and savings on accommodations.



The pool at Kenwood Inn & Spa

Kenwood Inn & Spa

Sonoma Valley's warm summer days are best enjoyed poolside, and [Kenwood Inn & Spa's Poolside Paradise Package](#) is designed to help guests do just that. Available for midweek stays through August 27, the offer includes discounted room rates, spa credits, savings on private cabana rentals, and a marketplace credit for poolside refreshments. Guests also enjoy the property's signature amenities, including breakfast, afternoon wine hour, freshly baked cookies, and concierge service. The result is a relaxing wine-country escape that balances wellness with plenty of time to soak up the Sonoma

sunshine.



Outdoor massage gazebo at Lavender Inn

Lavender Inn

Ojai's tranquil atmosphere provides the perfect backdrop for the [Lavender Inn's Secret Garden Summer Escape](#). The package includes a one-night stay plus a relaxing 60-minute massage in the property's private outdoor garden gazebo, led by local therapist Kali of Ojai Garden Massage. Alternatively, guests can opt for a two-, three-, or five-hour personalized wellness retreat. Afterward, take time to explore Ojai's wineries, boutiques, galleries, and hiking trails before returning to the inn for a peaceful night's rest. The offer is valid through the end of August. Call 805-646-6635 to reserve.



Mushroom foraging guide at Timber Cove Resort

Timber Cove Resort

[Timber Cove Resort](#) is embracing summer with a season-long lineup of culinary, cultural, and coastal experiences along Sonoma County's rugged shoreline. Highlights include a [Fourth of July barbecue buffet](#) and the [Oceanic Global Short Film Festival](#) July 5-9, which explores humanity's connection to the ocean through film, expert talks, foraging experiences, and special dining activations. Later in the summer, Wayfarer Week brings chef-led dinners, curated programming, and exclusive resort experiences July 27-31. Together, these events showcase Timber Cove's unique blend of dramatic coastal scenery, thoughtful hospitality, and immersive nature-based experiences.





The Tallman Hotel exterior at dusk

Tallman Hotel

Historic hospitality and live music come together this summer at the [Tallman Hotel](#) and Blue Wing Restaurant & Saloon in Upper Lake. Now through the end of August, the [Sparkling Summer Sale](#) offers guests up to 15% off accommodations along with a celebratory glass of sparkling wine, creating the perfect excuse for a Lake County getaway filled with poolside relaxation and outdoor dining. [Book online](#) with promo code SPRK26.

Music lovers can also plan a stay around the [19th Annual Blue Wing Blues Festival](#) on September 12–13. The popular event combines acclaimed blues performances with barbecue dinners served in the property's garden setting, allowing guests to enjoy a complete summer weekend of great food, music, and boutique lodging just steps away.

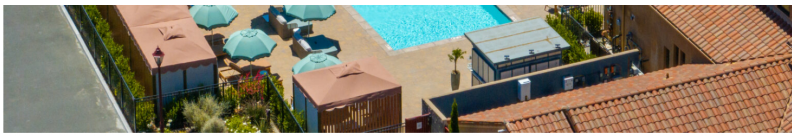


HarborView Bistro at Noyo Harbor Inn

Noyo Harbor Inn

A stay along Fort Bragg's working waterfront now comes with an even more leisurely start to the day. [Noyo Harbor Inn's](#) new [Bed & Breakfast](#) offering allows guests to add breakfast for two to their stay, pairing overnight accommodations with a relaxed waterfront dining experience. Enjoy watching fishing boats come and go while savoring breakfast and coffee overlooking Noyo Harbor before setting out to explore the Mendocino Coast. It's a simple enhancement that adds a touch of ease and indulgence to a coastal getaway.





Poolside lounging at Vinarosa Resort & Spa

Vinarosa Resort & Spa

Pool days, wine country sunshine, and thoughtful summer essentials await at [Vinarosa Resort & Spa's It Feels Like Summer](#) package. Guests booking the seasonal offer receive a branded tote bag, water bottle, and reef-safe sunscreen to accompany days spent lounging poolside in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley. The package is available through October and pairs perfectly with the resort's relaxed atmosphere and appealing wine country location. [Book online](#) with promo code BHCA.



Exterior of the Little River Inn

Little River Inn

Perched above the Pacific on the Mendocino Coast, [Little River Inn](#) has introduced new ways to soak in ocean views this summer. The property's newly debuted [Viewing Deck](#) offers a cozy spot for cocktails and small bites overlooking the sea, while private [Cocktail Cabanas](#) provide a more secluded setting for relaxing with a drink and watching the sunset. Both experiences are pet-friendly, making them a welcome addition for travelers exploring the coast with their four-legged companions. Together, the new offerings add even more reasons to linger and enjoy the laid-back beauty of Mendocino.



Lobby of the Berkeley City Club

Berkeley City Club

Known for its historic architecture, elegant interiors, and central Berkeley location, [Berkeley City Club](#) is offering guests an added incentive to visit this summer. Travelers who book directly through the hotel's website can enjoy 10% off room rates through the end of July. Whether you're exploring the East Bay's vibrant dining scene, attending a performance, or spending time on the UC Berkeley campus, the offer provides a convenient way to experience one of California's most distinctive historic boutique hotels at a special seasonal rate.



Imperial Garden Room at the MacCallum House

MacCallum House

Historic charm meets refreshed luxury at [MacCallum House](#) in Mendocino, where newly updated accommodations are debuting just in time for summer. The renovated [Spa Suite](#) and [Imperial Garden](#) rooms blend Victorian elements with modern comforts, including fireplaces, spa tubs, private outdoor spaces, and ocean views. Located within the property's MacCallum Suites collection and surrounded by lush gardens, the accommodations are a short walk from the main house and Mendocino Village shops, galleries, and restaurants.



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