

*Alaska*

# BEYOND»

MARCH 2019

## MODERN MARVEL

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# SONOMA & NAPA COUNTIES

From wine to wildlife

By Matt Villano

● “The joy is in the playing,” *Peanuts* character Schroeder once wisely stated. The comic’s late creator, Charles M. Schulz, who was a resident of the town of Sebastopol, likely appreciated Sonoma and Napa counties’ many recreational options.

The region known as wine country boasts vineyards that line the countryside like corduroy, a wine history that stretches to the 19th century, and more than 400 wineries

in each county. And the area also is a great spot for families, with vast stretches of pristine wilderness and museums with kid-friendly exhibits.

## Main attractions

### Charles M. Schulz Museum:

The Santa Rosa museum celebrates Snoopy creator Charles M. Schulz, who spent the second half of his life in Sonoma County.

**The CIA at Copia:** Sign up for a cooking class at The Culinary Institute of America in Napa.





California

Kunde Family Winery.

**Hot springs of Calistoga:** Take to the luxurious pools at Solage and Indian Springs Calistoga.

**Oxbow Public Market:** Indulge the senses with delicious oysters and other snacks, craft beer and locally roasted coffee at this urban food hall in downtown Napa.

**Wine-tasting:** In Sonoma County, visitors can enjoy sparkling wines at Breathless Wines in Healdsburg, taste crisp whites at Kunde Family Winery in Kenwood, and sip wine or juice and dip in the pool at Francis Ford Coppola Winery in Geyserville. Wine Road, an association of nearly 200 wineries and more than 50 lodgings in Northern Sonoma County, provides maps for self-guided wine tours on its website.

In Napa County, hike or bike 12.5 miles on the paved Napa Valley Vine Trail, from downtown Napa to Yountville, and stop to sample the offerings of local wineries such as Laird Family Estate in the town of Napa. To shop for luggage designed to transport wine on the plane, visit FlyWithWine, also in Napa.

Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan members can check their first case of appropriately packaged wine free on flights from many California wine destinations, including Santa Rosa. For details, see [alaskaair.com/wine](http://alaskaair.com/wine).

**Lesser-known local favorites**

**Rail Arts District Napa:** Marvel at the giant murals in this outdoor gallery, which stretches nearly 2 miles along the train tracks through downtown Napa and in the Oxbow District.

**Historical Downtown Petaluma:** Stop at the city’s Visitor Center, located inside a 1914 train depot, then shop at the local boutiques.

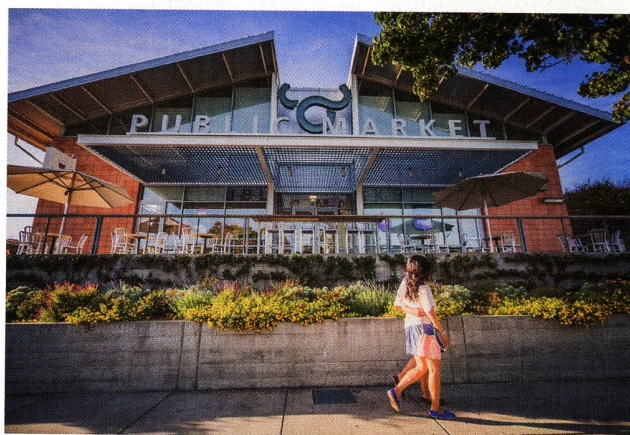
**Regional beers:** Visit local craft breweries such as the new Russian River Brewing Company outpost in Windsor and Bear Republic Brewing Company’s newest brewpub in Rohnert Park.

**Outdoor recreation**

Burn serious calories on the approximately 10-mile roundtrip hike to the summit of 4,327-foot **Mount Saint Helena**, which offers panoramas of Napa Valley.

**Fun family activities**

Kids can learn through play with interactive exhibits at the indoor/outdoor **Children’s Museum of Sonoma County** in Santa Rosa. Or visit **Connolly Ranch** in Napa. Its programs and camps offer children the opportunity to tour the ranch and meet the resident animals, such as chickens, goats, pigs and sheep. At the **Safari West** wildlife preserve outside of Santa Rosa, visitors can see



From top: The Charles M. Schulz Museum celebrates the Peanuts cartoonist; visitors can enjoy craft foods at Oxbow Public Market; Kids can interact with chickens and other animals at Connolly Ranch.



giraffes, zebras, rhinos and more on a tour through the “Sonoma Serengeti.”

**For history buffs**

Learn all about the history of handheld cooling devices at the hand-drawn **Hand Fan Museum** in Healdsburg. On any given day, there are dozens of fans on display.

**For lovers of literature**

At the **Robert Louis Stevenson Museum** in St. Helena, learn about the life of the *Treasure Island* author and one-time Napa Valley resident.

**Great places to shop**

Gourmet foods such as special mustards, oils and vinegars are on offer at **Napastäk**, an epicurean boutique in downtown Napa. ✂

*Matt Villano writes from Healdsburg. For more information on Sonoma County, see [sonoma-county.com](http://sonoma-county.com). To learn more about Napa Valley, go to [visitnapa-valley.com](http://visitnapa-valley.com).*

*Alaska Airlines ([alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com)) provides regular service to Santa Rosa (STS) from cities such as Los Angeles (LAX) and Seattle (SEA).*