



# SPRING BREAK

Branch out beyond the vine this spring in Sonoma County.

**A BOTTLE OF** red and sweatpants are essential parts of our winter survival kit, but with the arrival of spring comes the promise of something new. What if a change of scenery didn't involve moving from one side of the couch to the other, but, instead, a zipline among towering redwoods, a slow drive across the Pacific coastline, and, of course, all the wine directly from the source.

As the birthplace of California's commercial wine industry, Sonoma County is known for its world-class vineyards, but there's more to see and do beyond the vine this spring. Just over an hour drive from San Francisco International Airport – road trip, anyone? – you'll find endless meadows and festivals like the California Artisan Cheese Festival (March 27- 29) in full-bloom.

Start your adventure with a walk on the wildflower side at Crane Creek Regional Park with its rolling pastures and bubbling seasonal creek straight out of the shire. Pack

a picnic next to fields of orange California poppies or hit the links at the park's 18-hole golf course. For more colours head to Kruse Rhododendron State Natural Reserve on the coast where little pops of vibrant pink brighten up 317-acres of green forest from mid-April to mid-June.

West of Kruse Reserve are miles of beaches and coastal bluffs that dot the Sonoma coastline. The best way to check as many beaches off your sand-bucket list is to rent a car and cruise down the Pacific Coast Highway 1, where any view is a scenic one. The diverse shores have a beach for any adventure level, from kayaking and horseback riding to surfing at Salmon Creek's North Beach or sunbathing like the Pacific harbor seals in Jenner.

If you're tuckered out from all the outdoor exploring, Sonoma is home to nearly as many spas and wellness centres as it is different varietals of wine grapes.

Rejuvenation isn't just for the trees, okay? Relax and recharge at the Osmosis Day Spa Sanctuary or indulge in Kenwood Inn's signature vinotherapies like the pinot noir bath and the crushed cabernet scrub.

For those who prefer drinking wine instead of bathing in it, some of the country's best vineyards are within walking – or biking – distance from each other. See just why Ledson Winery & Vineyards is known as "the Castle," get down to earth with DeLoach Vineyards' biodynamic and organic winemaking practices and indulge in all five-courses of local and seasonally inspired fare between sips of sparkling at the esteemed Bubble Room inside J Vineyards & Winery. Or detour from the wine-route and check out local micro-breweries, cideries and distillers. We might need those sweatpants after all. ♦  
To start your Sonoma County trip, head to [sonomacounty.com/spring](http://sonomacounty.com/spring)