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SONOMA COUNTY: POETRY ON THE MAP

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Just a short drive north of San Francisco is Sonoma County, a vast and diverse landscape that includes everything from vineyards to redwoods, from pounding surf to leafy plazas. Every little town has its own character, from the laid-back LGBT environs of Russian River towns like Guerneville to tony Healdsburg, hippie-ish Sebastopol, artsy/agricultural Petaluma, and historic Sonoma, and the land between them is as powerfully beautiful and unimaginably varied as the towns. I'm warning you ahead of time, I'm going to be waxing poetic before this story is over, because that's the kind of feeling Sonoma County gives rise to: it's a poetic kind of place.



This is quite the trend among wineries, with many learning the value of including food in their experience. Learn about “The Magic of Wine and Mustard” at **DeLoach Vineyards** (1791 Olivet Rd., Santa Rosa. Tel: 707-526-9111. www.deloachvineyards.com), on the outskirts of Santa Rosa, where you'll gather in the stately dining room to make your own mustard from seeds, crushing them in your personal mortar and pestle, and adding wine as you choose.