

February Updates

### **Alpine County**

**Sorensen's Resort** is a historic resort south of Lake Tahoe since 1926. You will be greeted with coffee or cocoa and in the afternoon wine is served. There's horseback riding, llama treks, fishing and a café. Sorensen's Resort, 14255 Highway. 88, **Hope Valley**, CA 96120, Phone 530-694-2203 or 800-423-9949, Website: [www.sorensensresort.com](http://www.sorensensresort.com)

### **Amador County**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Behind the Cellar Door** is a weekend enjoying barrel tasting, seminars, fine food, and live music at 30 Amador County wineries along with a Valentine's Day Cellar Feast at Montevine/Terra d'Oro Winery. Amador Vintners Association, P.O. Box 667, **Plymouth**, CA 95669, Phone 800-945-8614, Website: [www.amadorwine.com](http://www.amadorwine.com)

### **Butte County**

**June 20 Stirling City Founders Day and Dutch Oven Cook-off.** Jim Geiger, P.O. Box 167, Stirling City, CA 95978, Phone 530-873-4863

### **Calaveras County**

**Willow Creek Ranch** has accommodations in the Gold Miner's Bunk House and includes breakfast. A second meal is available on request. You will learn about cows, participate in milking a cow, fed and care of cows, and gather eggs. During calving season will give you a chance to bottle-feed baby calves. Also available are ranch tours and cheese making classes. Willow Creek Ranch, 5125 Michel Rd., **Mountain Ranch**, CA 95246, Phone 209-754-0790, Website: [www.willowcreeknatural.com](http://www.willowcreeknatural.com)

**Blue Sky Blueberries** is on the Gonsalves Ranch. Tours are available with an appointment. Blue Sky Blueberries, 8822 Southworth Rd., Valley Springs, CA 95252, Phone 209-610-3212, Website: [www.blueskyblueberries.com](http://www.blueskyblueberries.com)

**Trinitas Olive Oil** is located on at the Trinitas Golf Course. You are invited to tour the olive groves, see first hand how the olives are harvested, and see the olives pressed into olive oil. If desired you can also play a round of golf. Ttrinitas Company, 9209 Ospital Rd. **Valley Springs**, CA 95252, Phone 209-887-9150, Website: [www.trinitasgolf.com](http://www.trinitasgolf.com)

### **Colusa County**

**April 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Colusa Western Days** with a rib cook-off and Dutch oven cook-off is at the Colusa County Fairgrounds, Colusa Western Days, P.O. Box 835, Williams, CA 95987, Website: [www.colusawesterndays.com](http://www.colusawesterndays.com) Colusa County Chamber of Commerce, 2963 Davison Ct., **Colussa**, CA 95932, Phone 530- 548-5525, Website: [www.colusacountychamber.com](http://www.colusacountychamber.com)

## **Contra Costa County**

**J and K Smith Family Farms** offers educational spring farm tours in April and May, hayrides, feeding of chickens and turkeys, learn how to crack corn, visit with baby animals, learn about beneficial insects, and in the fall is a pumpkin patch with a corn maze. J and K Smith Family Farms, P.O. Box 140, **Knightsen**, CA 94548, Phone 925-625-5966, Website: [www.smithfamilyfarm.com](http://www.smithfamilyfarm.com)

## **El Dorado County**

**Fleming Jones Homestead** is on the Robin's Nest Ranch, a working horse ranch with a variety of horse including miniature horses. Lodging is in the main house and the bunkhouse. Breakfast includes juice, coffee, eggs, French toast, pancake and waffles. For a special treat lemon panna cotta with blackberry sauce is often served. Fleming Jones Homestead, 3170 Newton Rd., **Placerville**, CA 95667m Phone 530-344-0943, Website: [www.robinsnestranch.com](http://www.robinsnestranch.com)

## **Fresno County**

**Forestiere Underground Gardens** were dig with a pick and shovel starting in 1906 by a Sicilian immigrant. There are 100 rooms connected with passageways like the ancient catacombs of Roman times. What is really amazing are the fruit trees grown in the underground courtyards. You will find orange, lemon, grapefruit, kumquat, quince and dates trees, along with wine and table grape vines. Because the area is cooler than above ground and available light, the trees blossomed at different times at different levels. You must see to believe. Only guided tours are available, times and days vary, contract to be sure. Forestiere Underground Gardens, 5021 W. Shaw Ave., **Fresno**, CA 93722, Phone 559-271-0734, Websites: [www.forestiere-historicalcenter.com](http://www.forestiere-historicalcenter.com) and [www.undergroundgardens.info](http://www.undergroundgardens.info)

## **Humboldt County**

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> Fortuna Apple Festival and Dutch Oven Cook-off I** held at Rohert Park Fortuna Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 797, **Fortuna**, CA 95540, Phone 707-725-3959, 707-764-3547, or 707-725-7620 Website: <http://chamber.sunnyfortuna.com>

## **Lake County**

**Wagoneers Express** has horse drawn carriage rides and winery tours. Wagoneers Express, P.O. Box 1011, **Middletown**, CA 95461, Phone 707-987-0790, Website: [www.wecaninc.com](http://www.wecaninc.com)

## Lassen County

**Spanish Springs Ranch** offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner. You can enjoy horseback riding, farm animals, and in the summer rodeos that includes buffalo riding. Spring Springs Ranch, P.O. Box 70, **Ravendale**, CA 96123, Phone 530-234-2050, Website: [www.thespanishspringsranch.com](http://www.thespanishspringsranch.com)

**April 4<sup>th</sup> Basque Lamb Stew Feed** is held at the Monticola Club at 140 South Lassen Street. Monticola Club, P.O. Box 392, Susanville, CA 96130, Phones 530-257-4945 or 530-257-5367, Website: [www.lassencountychamber.org](http://www.lassencountychamber.org)

## Los Angeles County

**Nancy's Ranch** has a pumpkin patch in October and is open from 10 am to 7 pm daily. Nancy's Ranch, 25039 Magic Mountain Pkwy., **Valencia**, CA 91355, Phone 661-255-6943, Website: <http://nancysranch.com>

**August 20<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Antelope Valley Fair and Alfalfa Festival**, Antelope Valley Fair, 2551 West Avenue H, **Lancaster**, CA 92538, Phone 661-648-6060  
Website: [www.avfair.com](http://www.avfair.com)

## Madera County

**February 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Wine and Chocolate Weekend** is from 10 am to 5 pm where you can sample wine at Madera County wineries and indulge in delectable chocolate creations along with food pairing, and there will be live music. Madera Vintners Association, P.O. Box 697, **Madera**, CA 93639, Phone 800-613-0709, Website [www.maderavintners.com](http://www.maderavintners.com)

## Mariposa County

**Coyote Springs Guest Ranch** specializes in preserving agriculture through education, art and family values. You can part take in cattle ranch activities from roping cows to a cattle drive. And there's fun at the ranch from bull riding to line dancing, and of course BBQ's. Coyote Springs Guest Ranch, 2100 Old Highway, **Cathey's Valley**, CA 95306, Phone 209-966-6365, Website: [www.coyotespringsgustranch.com](http://www.coyotespringsgustranch.com)

## Mendocino County

**Mendocino Winegrape and Wine Commission** represents 73 wineries and 353 vineyards in Mendocino County. Mendocino Winegrape and Wine Commission, P.O. Box 1409, **Ukiah**, CA 95482, Phone 707-468-9885, Website: [www.mendowine.com](http://www.mendowine.com)

## Merced County

**Merced Fruit Barn** has barnyard animals and a picnic area. Merced Fruit Barn, 4526 E. Hwy 140, **Merced**, CA 95340, Phone 209-385-2222, Website: [www.mercedfruitbarn.com](http://www.mercedfruitbarn.com)

## Monterey County

**Barlocker's Rustling Oaks Ranch** offers a full breakfast. During the day you can go on horseback trail rides and you can bring your own horse or use theirs. Barlocker's Rustling Oaks Ranch, 2252 Limekiln Rd., **Salinas**, CA 93908, Phone 831-675-3225, Website: [www.barlockersrustlingoaksranch.com](http://www.barlockersrustlingoaksranch.com)

**March 4<sup>th</sup> World of Wine Series** is where winemaker Marta Kraftneck takes you on a tour of unique flavors of wine, featuring wines of South Africa. Chateau Julien Wine Estate, 8940 Carmel Valley Road, **Carmel**, CA 93923, Phone 831-624-2600, Website [www.chateaujulien.com](http://www.chateaujulien.com)

## Napa County

**Bartels' Ranch** is a ranch style country inn on 100 acres surrounded by vineyards. Guests are served afternoon refreshment and a late evening dessert, and breakfast is available in the morning until 12-noon. 1200 Conn Valley Rd., **St. Helena**, CA 94574, Phone 707-963-4001, Website: [www.bartelsranch.com](http://www.bartelsranch.com)

## Riverside County

**Twin Palms Ranch** is unique property as the bed and breakfast ranch was built from straw bales and is on four and a half acres with farm animals. Guests are greeted with champagne, cookies and flowers in their room. A full breakfast and is famous for their chili egg puff and eggs benedict. Of special interest is a railroad garden and fishpond with a G-scale 1900s train on 200-feet of track. Twin Palms Ranch, 1270 S. Santa Fe St., **Hemet**, CA 92543, Phone 951-929-9933, Website [www.twinpalmsranch.com](http://www.twinpalmsranch.com)

**The Living Desert** features desert plants and animals. Of special interest the WaTuTu Village as found in northeast Africa. The domestic livestock includes Ankole cattle, Sicilian dwarf donkeys, Jacob's sheep and Nubian goats. The Thorn Tree Grill serves African cuisine. The Living Desert, 47-900 Portola Ave., **Palm Desert**, CA 92260, Phone 760-346-5694, Website: [www.livingdesert.org](http://www.livingdesert.org)

**February 14<sup>th</sup> Sweet Soiree** is a special treat for your valentine with a romantic afternoon to indulge in wine and chocolate. There will be a chocolate fountain with all the dipping delights and several kinds of wine. For those without a sweet tooth, ad deli will be provided. Mountain Palomar Winery, 33820 Rancho California Rd., **Temecula**, CA 92591, Phones 951-676-5047 or 800-854-5177, Website [www.mountpalomar.com](http://www.mountpalomar.com)

## **Sacramento County**

**Locke** is a town built by the Chinese. After the Chinese built the railroad tracks and bridges, they headed to the delta to build levees, while others went to work in agriculture. Many lived in Walnut Grove and in 1915 fire broke out the Chinese went to George Locke and built a town on his property. Today you might think by the look of the town it is a ghost town, but not so, there are about 100-people living and working in the town, of which about a dozen are Chinese. The Locke Boarding House Museum is the visitor center and is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 am to 4 pm, and on weeks from 11 am to 3 pm. The town is open other hours such as the restaurants are open in the evening, as well as some of the shops and art galleries. The only agriculture still in Locke is a community garden. Locke Foundation, P.O. Box 1085, **Walnut Grove**, CA 95690, Phones 916-776-1828 or 916-776-1661, Website: [www.locketown.com](http://www.locketown.com)

## **Santa Barbara County**

**Rancho del Cielo** was Ronald Reagan's Ranch and the Western White House. Currently the ranch is not open to the public. However, occasionally the ranch is open for student conferences. The next Reagan Ranch High School Conference is March 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> and includes a tour of the ranch. For more information contact the Reagan Ranch Center, 217 State St., **Santa Barbara**, CA 93101, Phone 888-872-1776, Website [http://yaf.org/students/conferences/high\\_school/rrhs.cfm](http://yaf.org/students/conferences/high_school/rrhs.cfm) or [www.reaganranch.org](http://www.reaganranch.org). The ranch is owned by the Young America's Foundation and welcome donations for the preservation of the ranch.

## **San Bernardino County**

**September 6<sup>th</sup> Chino Basque Festival** is held at the Chino Fairgrounds (corner Edison and Central Ave.) from 11 am until midnight. There will be Basque food, dance groups that perform traditional dances, and music provided by a band from the Basque Country. Chino Basque Club, P.O. Box 1080, **Chino**, CA 91710, Phone 909-597-7982, Website: [www.chinobasqueclub.us](http://www.chinobasqueclub.us)

## **San Diego County**

**Warner Springs Ranch** was once a major area ranch and a Butterfield Overland Stage station. Today much of the property has been turned in a resort with golf, tennis and other outdoor sports. You can still take a horseback ride on the ranch, such as their Breakfast Ride where you will be served a ranch style breakfast on the range by a little creek. You can bring your own horse, or use theirs. Warner Spring Ranch, P.O. Box 10, **Warner Springs**, CA 92086, Phone 760-782-4200, Website: [www.warnersprings.com](http://www.warnersprings.com)

## Santa Clara County

**March 7<sup>th</sup> Edible Garden Series from Design to Harvest.** You will learn about garden design, composting, soil testing, seed propagation, transplanting, watering and how to nurture healthy edible crops. Classes are from 10:30 am to 2 pm, best to register early. Common Ground Education Center, 559 College Ave., **Palo Alto**, CA 94306, Phone 650-493-6072, Website: [www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org)

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Growing a Salad Garden,** then the harvest, and finally the preparation in the kitchen. Common Ground Education Center, 559 College Ave., **Palo Alto**, CA 94306, Phone 650-493-6072, Website: [www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org)

**March 28<sup>th</sup> Growing Great Tomatoes** where you will learn the best flavor, reliable production, and learn about trellising methods, as well as soil preparation. Common Ground Education Center, 559 College Ave., **Palo Alto**, CA 94306, Phone 650-493-6072, Website: [www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org)

**April 4<sup>th</sup> How to Start Your Vegetable Garden** covering heirloom vegetables, Native American methods of planting, and seasonal herbs. Common Ground Education Center, 559 College Ave., **Palo Alto**, CA 94306, Phone 650-493-6072, Website: [www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org)

## Shasta County

**Jake Jackson Museum and History Center** has farming and ranching exhibits. Of special interest are the Blacksmith and Tin Shops. Here you can receive information on blacksmithing and you can make small items in the tin shop. Jack Jackson Museum and History Center, P.O. Box 333, **Weaverville**, CA 96093, Phone 530-623-5053, Website: [www.trinitymuseum.org](http://www.trinitymuseum.org)

**Nor-Cal Sports Show** on March 6<sup>th</sup> the Iron Chef Cook-off, followed with the Dutch Oven Cook-off on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a BBQ Cook-off on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The event is at the Shasta District Fairgrounds at 1890 Briggs Street in Anderson,. Nor-Cal Productions, P.O. Box 1381, **Anderson**, CA 96007, Phone 530-365-1381, Website: [www.norcalssportshow.com](http://www.norcalssportshow.com)

**June 6<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Day and Dutch Oven Cook-off** is a fund raiser for the Crook Museum in **Fall River Mills**. Jim Geiger, P.O. Box 167, Stirling City, CA 95978, Phone 530- 873-4863

## Sonoma County

**Relois du Soleil** is a guest ranch with lodging in a century old country farmhouse. Relois du Soleil, 1210 Nuns Canyon Rd. **Glen Ellen**, CA 95442, Phone 707-833-6264, Website: [www.relaisdusoleil.com](http://www.relaisdusoleil.com)

## Stanislaus County

**Oakdale Cowboy Museum** is open Daily from 10 am to 2 pm. The historical exhibits include ranching implements and memorabilia from pioneer ranching families. Oakdale Cowboy Museum, 355 E. F St., **Oakdale**, CA 95361, Phone 209-847-5163, Website [www.oakdalecowboymuseum.org](http://www.oakdalecowboymuseum.org)

**March 30<sup>th</sup> Oakdale Testicle Festival** – You'll have a ball! Open bar at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm. The dinner is at the FES Hall, 190 N. Lee Ave. and is sponsored by the Oakdale Rotary Club and the Oakdale Cowboy Museum. Oakdale Cowboy Museum, 355 E. F St., **Oakdale**, CA 95361, Phone 209-847-5163, Website [www.oakdalecowboymuseum.org](http://www.oakdalecowboymuseum.org)

## Trinity County

**October 17, Trinity County Historical Society Dutch Oven Cook-off** is held at the J.J. Jackson Trinity County Museum. Trinity County Historical Society, P.O. Box 333, **Weaverville**, CA 96093, Phones 530-623-5211, 530-410-8013, Website [www.trinitymuseum.org](http://www.trinitymuseum.org)

## Ventura County

**May 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> California Strawberry Festival** is held in Strawberry Meadows of College Park at 3250 S. Rose Avenue. The hours are from 10 am to 6:30 pm both days. Highlight of the festival is the Strawberry Promenade with cooking and berry demonstrations, Strawberryland for kids, and the Star Berry Hunt. Strawberry treats include strawberry pizza, strawberry kabobs, strawberry shortcake, chocolate dipped strawberries, glazed and powdered, and strawberry beer. You can enter a contest such as the strawberry tart toss, strawberry pie eating contest, and the strawberry stomp. There will be live music and fine arts and crafts. California Strawberry Festival, 1661 Pacific Ave. #15, **Oxnard**, CA 93033 Phones 888-288-9242 or 805-385-4729, Website: [www.strawberry-fest.org](http://www.strawberry-fest.org)

## Yolo County

**Heidrick Ag History Center** is considered the world's largest collection of antique Ag equipment dating back to the late 1800s. The center also has the Hays Antique Truck Museum. Open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday 10 a to 4 pm. Heidrick Ag History Center, 1962 Hays Lane, **Woodland**, CA 95776, Phone 530-666-9700, Website: [www.aghistory.org](http://www.aghistory.org)

**March 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Olives** will cover the production of olive oil, table olives, processing, curing, and marketing. Heidrick Ag History Center, 1962 Hays Lane, **Woodland**, CA 95776, Phone 530-666-9700, Website: [www.aghistory.org](http://www.aghistory.org)