

# Coastal Escapes

Warm Up at These Winter Getaways

DIABLO GETAWAYS



WINTER BECKONS EAST BAY RESIDENTS TO A VARIETY OF COASTAL GETAWAY DESTINATIONS THAT WILL WARM YOU UP WITH THEIR FOOD, WINE, AND HOSPITALITY, NOT TO MENTION A DAZZLING OCEAN VIEW AND A FEW STILL-SUNNY SHORES. SO GET READY TO HOP IN THE CAR: A QUICK ESCAPE WILL CLEAR UP YOUR WINTER BLUES. CHOOSE FROM MONTEREY BAY WITH ITS PICTURE-PERFECT CANNERY ROW, STOCKED WITH A FOODIE LOVER'S DREAM OF RESTAURANTS AND PLACES TO SIP. OR GO SOUTH TO PISMO, WITH ITS TOUCH OF SOCAL SKIES AND SAND; AND PASO ROBLES, WITH FINE DINING, TASTING, AND SHOPPING. OR WHY NOT HEAD NORTH TO RESPLENDENT BODEGA BAY FOR SPARKLING VIEWS AND WINES? ALL THESE SITES ARE PRACTICALLY AT ARM'S LENGTH, READY TO FULFILL YOUR WINTER DREAMS.

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## RELAX AND REJUVENATE ON MONTEREY'S CANNERY ROW

How can one picture-perfect destination offer so much yet be so close to home? A longtime favorite place to relax and unwind, and just a quick two hours away, Monterey indulges visitors with serene beauty, stellar restaurants, fine wine tasting, and enticing spa treatments. Let your peaceful journey begin on Cannery Row, a glittering refurbished stretch of old canneries overlooking the brilliant Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Park once, forget your car, and unwind in one of California's most beautiful wonderlands.

A continuously sunny spot even in winter, Monterey invites you to warm up those muscles with a great bike ride along the 19-mile-long Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail, where you'll find stops at historical markers and plenty of sweet treats to keep you pedaling. You can rent bikes from Adventures by the Sea, including comfy cruisers, tandems, and electric bikes. Or rent a four-person surrey, and let the whole family pedal along in style. Or bundle up and rent a kayak and search for the cutest wildlife in the sea.

Once you're ready to chow down, Cannery Row is at your service with everything from the freshest seafood to a top-notch juicy steak. Fish Hop-per delights diners not only with a gorgeous view but with seafood fit for

the gods, including a 10-ounce lobster tail. Peruse the colorful multipage cocktail menu to find just the right indulgence. Got a special occasion, or feel like making the day special on its own? The Sardine Factory impresses with its classy ambience and divine seafood, gold-standard steaks, and a wine selection from among its 32,000 bottles stored below in a magnificent wine cellar. You will be wined and dined here—no one leaves unhappy.

But where to stay? Cannery Row's European-style Monterey Plaza Hotel and Spa provides red-carpet treatment and *Forbes* Four-Star award-winning amenities. Relax in a spacious room with a wet bar and fireplace, or submerge in your own whirlpool tub in a classically appointed room. Those muscles feeling tight? Perhaps it's time for an indulgent treatment at the top-floor Vista Blue Spa. Named one of *Travel and Leisure's* Top 25 spas for three years in a row, Vista Blue spoils you with panoramic views and a full range of treatments for rejuvenating the body, renewing the spirit, and reviving the senses. Try a Coastal Quench body wrap and massage, where you'll be painted in shea butter, massaged, and wrapped for a restored you.

In February, come for the golf, stay for the view: You can grab the convenient Monterey Express Shuttle on Cannery Row, and ride in comfort to the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro Am.

Perfect to visit anytime is A Taste of Monterey Wine Market and Bistro, which features over 95 local wineries and one amazing view. Learn about local Pinot Noirs, Pinot Grigios, and other area specialties while you nibble on flatbread pizzas and small bites. Then leave with your favorite bottle



## Cannery Row, *The Best of Monterey*



Cannery Row is the Central Coast's premier visitor destination and home to Monterey's best ocean view hotels, world-class restaurants, boutiques and galleries, spas, premium wine tasting, and exciting nightlife and recreation. The breathtaking coastline of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is the backdrop for every Cannery Row experience. Parking is never a problem and everything is within walking distance. Explore what's new and plan your next visit at [CanneryRow.com](http://CanneryRow.com)



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of something new. And don't forget to stop by one of Cannery Row's four fire pits at dusk, the perfect place to sip, breathe, and admire the splendor.

Perched on the Monterey Bay shoreline, Pajaro Dunes' one and a half miles of pristine beach beckon with blue skies and shimmering waves. Secluded, gated, and located just four miles west of Watsonville, Pajaro Dunes Resort comprises 550 deluxe, private and vacation rental homes and condos, from one to seven bedrooms, to meet your needs. Spread out in an ocean-view home appointed with a rooftop deck, private hot tub, or even a view of a castle. Or tuck yourself into a cozy Pelican Point condo, with views of the Pajaro River flowing into the Pacific Ocean.

Visitors will find plenty to do with private tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts. You can stroll the property's walking paths, or bike the bike paths. And the shores are all yours: The private beach offers panoramic views of the entire Monterey Bay, from Pebble Beach to Santa Cruz.

Properties are available for a variety of festive, elaborate celebrations, from weddings and reunions to corporate events, in Pajaro Dunes Resort's four splendor-filled event halls, which feature grand fireplaces, high-beamed ceilings, and top-rate, full-service catering. You'll find all this in a private location conveniently set near movie theaters, fine restaurants, golf courses, and wine tasting.

## PASO ROBLES: THE LITTLE TOWN OF GRAPES AND SUNSHINE

*Sunset* magazine has just named Paso Robles "The Best Wine Country Town in the West." And it's no wonder. The gem of the Central Coast, Paso Robles offers visitors sunny skies and a warm welcome, along with more than 250 wineries. Travel along the burg's Highway 46 to encounter over a dozen wineries alone. Small boutique producers line the rolling hills, spanning 26,000 vineyard acres.

Named one of the "Top 10 Best Tasting Rooms in America" by *USA Today*, LXV winery spoils its visitors. Proprietors Neeta and Kunal Mittal pair wines with delectable spices, such as garam masala with Viognier, and luscious *herbs de Provence* with Sangiovese rosé. Opolo Vineyards offers pairings and an extensive menu. Sample the fine Pinot Noir and Sangiovese, and leave with a bottle of 2011 Fusion, with hints of



berry. Broken Earth Winery's tasting room pours Chardonnays and Viognier perfect for a sunny day. And visit Adelaida Cellars' new tasting room for an extensive list of reds, whites, and pinks. Definitely worth a stop are Tobin James Cellars, Eberle Winery, Justin Vineyards, and Calcareous Vineyard.

Taking a break from the grapes? Follow the Distillery Trail to taste Azeo Vodka, Bethel Rd. Grappa and aged brandy, Pendray's liqueurs, and a host of other distilleries' whiskeys, bourbons, and more.

Between wineries, visit Pasolivo Ranch to taste locally pressed extra virgin olive oil and tour the olive press. Paso prides itself on farm-to-fork cuisine, using organic fruits and veggies, artisanal cheeses, and heirloom tomatoes. For Saturday or Sunday brunch, stop at Panolivo Family Bistro and relax on a very dog-friendly patio.

Feeling fancier? Feast on Northern Italian cuisine at Buona Tavola, including scandalous bruschetta ai funghi trifolati (grilled garlic bread with sautéed local and imported mushrooms) and linguine with clams, sea scallops, mussels, and shrimp in a white wine garlic and leek sauce. Winner of the best local pub for eight years, Pappy McGregor's will have a little something to serve you when you're feeling parched.

Then get back to fun in the sun. Four and a half star Hunter Ranch Golf Course and Paso Robles Golf Club invite you to tee up. Lake Nacimiento is a top pick for water sports (rent a paddleboard for a challenge) and sports fishing. Paso is also a designated Bronze Bike Friendly Community, featuring a variety of trails and loops: Check out Paso Bike Tours to reserve your own world-class cycling and wine experience. The town also hosts annual cycling events, including the Great Western Bicycle Rally and Eroica California, a weekend of cycling entertainment that includes an ocean-view ride and a Concours d'Elegance for vintage bicycles.

And prepare to stay in style. Elegant Allegretto Vineyard Resort boasts 20 acres of sprawling vineyards and orchards, and the region's best food and wine at Cello Ristorante and Bar. The European-style resort offers luxurious spa treatments and a special wellness program. Classically Mediterranean, La Bellasera Hotel and Suites features 60 oversized rooms along with the luxurious Spa at La Bellasera, so prepare to enjoy a deluxe, full-service retreat.



*In Paso, Taco Tuesday is 7 days a week!*



*Tasted delicious tomatoes straight off the vine.  
-Day officially made.*



*A barrel tasting or three. (No, it's not a turkey baster!)*

**TODAY:**

# Blazing New Trails

Paso Robles – a collection of off-the-beaten-path experiences, new adventures around every corner, and a refreshingly vibrant local spirit that brings out the trail-blazing maverick in all of us.



Free your inner maverick at [TravelPaso.com](http://TravelPaso.com)



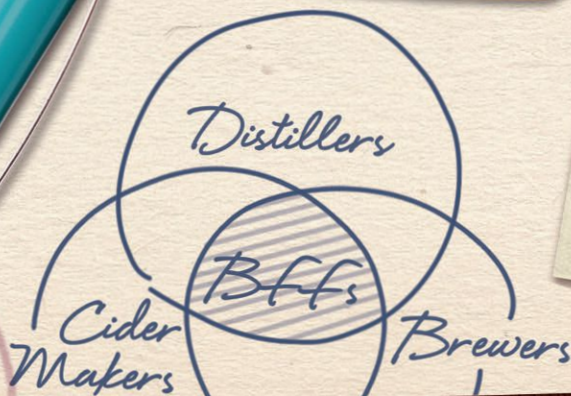
*Art imitating life imitating art...*



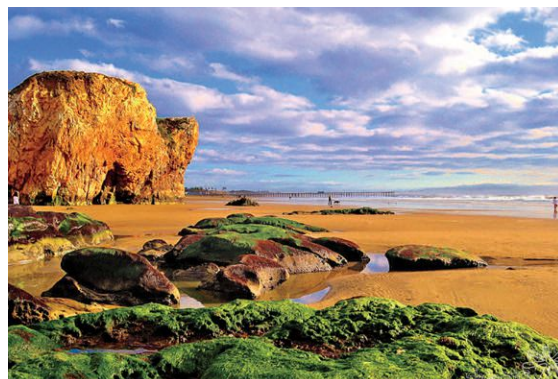
*Beautiful scenery is best explored on two wheels.*



*Tour. Taste. Repeat.*



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**LIFE'S A BEACH IN PISMO**

Everyone—from surfers to sun worshippers to sophisticated wine lovers—flocks to Pismo Beach, a perfect seaside escape from the chilly Bay Area. Get ready to enjoy a variety of restaurants, from fine dining to fast dining, along with wineries, breweries, water sports (fight the chill—rent a wetsuit!), and more. The whole family will love the Monarch Butterfly Grove—the largest in the state—open from November through February. You can spy on tens of thousands of monarchs in their natural habitat at this free attraction along the way to the beach; volunteer docents provide helpful tips and point out the tiny creatures, and telescopes are available.

Life is a beach in this town: Sixty-acre Pismo State Beach invites you to dig your feet into its supersoft sand. Take a swim in the clear water, relax on a towel, or challenge your partner to a race along the shore. Need to dry off? Walk amongst the fishermen on Pismo's historic 1,300-foot-long pier, and take in the town's tradition and coastal air.

By which time you should be plenty hungry. Pismo's ever-popular Splash Café offers coastal standards such as its famous, superhot clam chowder (try it with extra seafood on top) and hearty fish and chips. It's a family fa-

vorite for good reason. Or try the lofty Ventana Grill's Latin American tastes, including fresh tortillas with cinnamon butter, and fancy cocktails. Don't miss the chocolate fondue dessert. Or grab all your friends, order a bucket, and get messy at the paper-lined tables at Pismo's Cracked Crab—bibs provided.

Parched after a day of sunbathing? Pismo Brewing Company has you covered with flights of local suds and plenty of nibbles. Are grapes more your thing? Enjoy vino at Tastes of the Valleys on Price Street, with its knowledgeable service and mouthwatering flights, and wine by the glass. The Sans Liege tasting room serves local small-batch wines by winemaker Curt Schalchlin.

Find your spot to stay, from tent camping to glamour camping; or indulge in a spa retreat. Many places even invite your pup, so bring your dog along to chill, too.

For a luxurious stay, explore the oceanfront, boutique SeaVenture Beach Hotel and Restaurant, where ocean views meet coastal cuisine. The 50-room hotel features private balconies with hot tubs, featherbeds, and fireplaces just steps from the sand for the ultimate beach vacation. Enjoy full ocean-view dining on the third floor, where chef Casey Walcott serves

*more reasons...*

# MORE MEMORIES

Pismo Beach is Classic California. Walk along our historic pier, enjoy miles of beautiful white sand beaches, visit a rich wine region only minutes away or wine and dine downtown at our many restaurants and tasting rooms. There are many reasons to visit and more memories to be made.

Visit [ClassicCalifornia.com](http://ClassicCalifornia.com) to enter the getaway contest and to book your stay.

***Pismo Beach***  
**ClassicCalifornia.com**



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up seasonal coastal cuisine—locally farmed produce, top-notch meat, fish, and seafood—and pairs dishes with local wines such as Edna Valley Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs. Indulge in delicious small plates or the specialty SeaVenture dish: shrimp, scallops, clams, mussels, fish, saffron rice, local sausage, and aromatic tomato fumé.

The hotel also features a massage center and is an ideal destination for meetings—and gorgeous weddings.

**ENJOY WINTER'S BRILLIANCE  
IN BODEGA BAY**

Got the car headed north? Bursting with breathtaking beauty, Bodega Bay makes for a fabulous romantic weekend. Just 60 miles away from San Francisco, this cozy but luxurious fishing town served as the backdrop to Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*. Grab your camera, and enjoy whale watching off Bodega Head Peninsula (October through April), one of the best spots for catching a glimpse of gray whales, which sometimes come close to shore. There's also plenty of hiking and biking, picnicking, kayaking, and sport fishing, and it's one of Mother Nature's prime

spots for sailing a kite. The Wharf offers a fresh seafood market, a specialty food and wine shop, and a snack bar.

The Inn at the Tides is where California Wine Country meets the Sonoma Coast. Featuring 86 spacious guest rooms, the Inn at the Tides offers a serene oceanfront stay, with complimentary full American breakfast, a complimentary bottle of wine, in-room massage, pool, sauna, whirlpool and fitness center, and tranquil grounds. Many rooms have fireplaces where you can relax and listen to the foghorns in the distance.

Dine at the Bay View Restaurant and Lounge, which specializes in classic Italian cuisine and boasts killer Bodega Bay views—and sunsets to remember. All ingredients are locally sourced and organic whenever possible. Enjoy an anti-pasto Dungeness crab and avocado tower, then dive into Vialone Nano risotto and seared scallop, or delectable cioppino. The hungriest should try the grilled filet Hitchcock—a filet mignon stuffed with crab with demi-glace and bearnaise sauce. There's a full bar with specialty cocktails, outdoor patio fireplaces, the Hearthside Lounge, and a special piano bar on Saturday nights. Don't miss the monthly Dinner with the Winemaker, pairing scrumptious food and fine wines.

Nearby, you can golf, go wine tasting, enjoy a spa day, go to the beach, or admire some magnificent coastal redwoods.

Experience a true Scottish style links golf course at The Links at Bodega Harbour, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. The last three holes are played at the edge of the Pacific Ocean and are breathtaking.

In need of a spa day? Then the Osmosis Day Spa Sanctuary beckons. Renown for its signature Cedar Enzyme Bath and its meticulous Zen-inspired meditation gardens, you can relax deeply and enjoy the serenity.

Also worth a stop is neighboring Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, a majestic redwood forest with grand sequoias. Look for the tallest tree (310 feet) and the oldest (1,400 years old), or simply meander through this coastal rainforest using one of several trails.

Whether your travels take you north to Bodega Bay or as far south as Pismo Beach, you are sure to experience the best that California's coastline has to offer. In the water, on the shore, or just within view of the beach these coastal getaways will leave you feeling relaxed and refreshed.

-- Linda Lenhoff

