



RussianRiverTravel.com Presents: YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER 2005

And the award goes to . . .

ANTIQUE SHOP

Mill Street Antiques

Advertising, architectural, furniture, garden items, ephemera, coins, 50's Kitsch, shabby chic, books, Tools and fun collectibles fill this 20,000 square foot mall. Features over 30 dealers.

44 Mill Street, Healdsburg
(707) 433-8409

Notable mention -

Wayne Skala's, Guerneville

ART EVENT

Art Trails

Respected as one of the first and finest open studio programs, ARTrails artists have been inviting the public into their work spaces since 1985. This Sonoma County Open Studios program continues to educate visitors to the creative processes of professional artists.

www.arttrails.org

Notable mention -

Art at the Source, Sebastopol

ART GALLERY

The Quicksilver Mine Co.

Taps into the rich vein of artists and craftspeople who have made the beautiful rolling hills and rugged coastline north of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge their home. They fill their shelves with the very best by artists and artisans living and working in Sonoma County.

6671 Front Street (Highway 116), Forestville
(707) 887-0799

Notable mention -

Upstairs Art Gallery, Healdsburg
Christopher Queen, Duncan's Mills

BAR

Union Hotel Saloon

The history of the Union Hotel is more than the story of Occidental and the family that has called this Italian restaurant their own for five generations. The Union Hotel is also an important piece of history for each of the groups that have enjoyed special occasions under this roof.

3731 Main Street, Occidental
(707) 874-3444

Notable mention -

Willis, Healdsburg

BAKERY

Raymond's Bakery

Raymond's serves a variety of focaccia, French and artisan breads, cakes, tarts, scones, cookies, and assorted other pastries. As the seasons change, so do their offerings! The best focaccia this side of the Atlantic

400 Cazadero Highway, Cazadero
(707) 632-5335

Notable mention -

Wildflower, Freestone

Gold Coast, Duncan's Mills

BEACH, COAST

Goat Rock

Goat Rock, near the mouth of the Russian River, is known for its scenic shoreline and easily accessible sandy beach. Picnic tables and restroom facilities are also available. Goat Rock beach is home to a colony of harbor seals which are fun to watch, especially during pupping season March through August.

(707) 875-3483

Notable mention -

Doran Beach, Bodega Bay

BEACH, RIVER

Johnson's Beach

Johnson's Beach & Resort is located in the casual, little Northern California town of Guerneville on the Russian River. It is downtown within walking distance of shopping and restaurants. A few miles away are hiking trails, redwoods and wine tasting.

16241 First Street, Guerneville

(707) 869-2022

Notable mention -

Public Beach, Monte Rio
Steelhead, Forestville

BIKE TRAIL

West County Trail

The West County Trail is paved for walking, bicycle riding, and roller skating and runs along an abandoned railroad line. An unpaved equestrian trail runs parallel to the paved trail. Designated as a Community Millennium Trail, the trail offers beautiful views of farms, vineyards, and other agricultural lands. Fall and Spring are particularly beautiful times of the year to use the trail.

russianrivertravel.com/parks-westcountytrail.htm

Notable mention -

Armstrong Woods, Guerneville
Pomo Canyon, Jenner

BIKE TOUR

Wine Country Bikes

Experience the California Wine Country by bicycle! Wine Country Bikes offers high quality hybrid, road bike or tandem bike rentals and guided or self-guided bike tours for riders of any ability. The staff are cyclists and travel professionals who love sharing the beauty of Sonoma County with others.

61 Front Street, Healdsburg

(707) 545-7960

Notable mention -

Getaway Adventures, Santa Rosa

BIRD WATCHING SPOT

Bird Walk

The Bird Walk offers those interested in viewing wildlife a unique opportunity to see a new side of Bodega Bay. The Sonoma County Regional Parks

Department has revitalized a salt water marsh adjacent to the Bird Walk that is home to thousands of birds throughout the year.

355 Highway 1, North of Bodega Bay
(707) 565-2041

Notable mention -

Pomo Canyon and
Willow Creek Environmental Sanctuaries
Bodega Head, Bodega Bay

BOOKSTORE

River Reader Inc.

Located in downtown Guerneville. River Reader is a fun independent bookstore with a collection of best sellers, popular books and unique finds. Great for finding a book to relax with on your vacation.

16355 Main Street, Guerneville

(707) 869-0815

Notable mention -

Four Eyed Frog, Gualala

BREWERY

Stumptown Brewery

Bar, brewery and smokehouse. Located on the river just outside of Guerneville. Stumptown brewery is fun and happening. They rotate three of their own micro-brews and keep on tap beers from the area's other local breweries.

15045 River Road, Guerneville

(707) 869-0705

Notable mention -

Bear Republic Brewing, Healdsburg

BRUNCH

River's End, Jenner

Many guests come for breathtaking views and romantic dining. When guests leave they are amazed at the superb yet unpretentious service and wonderful flavors of the food. The dining room is small and intimate, making the view of Goat Rock and the Russian River entering the Pacific Ocean captivating from every table.

11048 Highway 1, Jenner

(707) 865-2484 x111

BURGER

Sequoia Burger

The Russian River's most delicious and affordable burger. Widely recommended by even the most discerning burger lovers. Sequoia Burger wins best of awards from throughout the San Francisco bay area.

1382 Gravenstein Highway, Sebastopol

(707) 829-7543

Notable mention -

Union Hotel, Occidental
Cypress Grill, Gualala

CAFÉ

Howard's Café

Located in Occidental. Howard's Café is the happening spot to be come breakfast and brunch time. The foot is

delicious, the atmosphere is friendly and the scenery is beautiful.

3611 Main Street, Occidental
(707) 874.2838

Notable mention -

Stella's Cafe, Sebastopol
Café LaLa, Gualala

COFFEE HOUSE

Spliff's

Fresh organic coffee served daily. A favorite of locals and visitors alike. It is a hidden place; look for it next to the Mexican restaurant on your right as you are driving out of Guerneville.

16626 Highway 116, Guerneville
(707) 869-2230

Notable mention -

Gold Coast, Duncan's Mills

CAMPGROUND, CAR

Casini Ranch

The award for best campground goes to Casini Ranch, Duncan's Mills. This place is fun! It is on the river, beautiful, there are plenty of well-spaced campsites and they have their own general store. Definitely consider this campsite if for you next trip. You will be pleased.

Moscow Road, Duncan's Mills
(800) 451-8400

Notable mention -

Doran Regional Park, Bodega Bay
Park at Salt Point, North Coast

CAMPGROUND, HIKE IN

Austin Creek State Recreation Area

Discover deep tree-lined ravines cooled by year round streams; grassy hillsides burnished golden by the heat of summer sun and turned emerald by plentiful winter rains; oak capped knolls that seem to float like islands on lakes of lowland fog; and rocky mountaintops that offer glimpses of the Pacific Ocean.

Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville
(707) 869-2015

Notable mention -

Willow Creek Environmental Campground, Jenner

CANOE & KAYAK RENTAL

Burkes Canoe Trips

Located in the heart of the Russian River one mile north of Forestville, just one hour and twenty minutes North of San Francisco. Take off on a ten mile canoe trip through the redwoods, past mountains and warm sunny beaches. Return shuttle service provided at regular intervals.

8600 River Road, Forestville
(707) 887-1222

Notable mention -

Adventure Rents, Gualala
Lotus Kayak Rentals, Jenner

DINING, OUTDOORS

Village Inn

Our dining room overlooks the Russian River and offers a beautiful setting to enjoy a superb meal in a relaxed atmosphere. The Bar and Dining Deck are second to none on the River to meet friends and make new ones in a friendly & comfortable setting while enjoying a meal or libations & lively conversation.

20822 River Boulevard, Monte Rio
(707) 865-2304

DELI

Korbel

Dine on the outdoor patio surrounded by redwoods; enjoy one of their great wines paired perfectly with your meal. Try the Sonoma Greens salad, Orange Ginger Game Hen, or a slice of Hillbilly Pie.

13250 River Road, Guerneville
(707) 824-7000

Notable mention -

Moz, Deli, Forestville
Center Street Cafe & Deli, Healdsburg

DOG FRIENDLY PARK

Ragle Ranch

The park features an outstanding grove of oak trees. A nature trail leads to Atascadero Creek, a great site for bird watching. The park is also the site of a peace garden with a spectacular sculpture created by world-renowned artist, Masayuki Nagase. Dogs must be on a 6 foot leash at all times.

500 Ragle Road, Sebastopol
(707) 823-7262

EVENT

Barrel Tasting

There are no tickets required for Barrel Tasting Weekend, simply purchase a glass at your first winery for \$5.00 and prepare to spend a great weekend tasting wine. Over 100 wineries opening their cellar for your tasting pleasure. Sample wines directly from the barrel, and in many cases you will be able to purchase "futures" if you like what you taste in the barrel.

www.wineroad.com

Notable mention -

Harvest Fair

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Canoeing

The Russian river traverses 70 beautiful miles from north of Cloverdale to the Pacific Ocean at Jenner. There are beaches, fishing holes, rope swings and wildlife. The Russian River is suitable for family trips March through September.

Notable mention -

Armstrong Redwoods, Guerneville
Duncan's Mills Rodeo, Duncan's Mills

FESTIVAL

Russian River Food and Winefest

An all day tasting, sampling and marketplace celebration with cheese makers, chefs, wine makers, farmers, shopkeepers, cookbook authors, bread bakers, resort proprietors, baristas and more where attendees can discover and learn more about what Sonoma has to offer at the peak of its harvest season.

www.russianriverfoodandwinefest.com

Notable mention -

Apple Blossom Festival

FISHING SPOT

Wohler Bridge

Located on the Russian River at 9765 Wohler Road, Forestville. There are many secluded river access points to fish from, a boat launch ramp, picnic tables and a restroom.

(707) 565-2041

Notable mention -

Monte Rio Beach, Monte Rio
Steelhead Beach, Forestville

GIFT SHOT

River Mist

More fun gifts than categories could be listed for here. Entering River Mist is like stepping into another world.

16357 Main Street, Guerneville
(707) 869-0475

Notable mention -

Etc., Etc., Guerneville

GOLF COURSE

Northwood Golf Club

This enticing par 36 nine-hole course was originally created for the exclusive Bohemian Club. Today Northwood nostalgically remains one of the most scenic and challenging courses open to the public. See

the morning mist meander through the redwoods. See the sparkle of the sun on the river. Follow your golf ball as you send it unerringly toward the green.

19400 Highway 116, Monte Rio
(707) 865-1116

Notable mention -

Sea Ranch Golf Links, Bodega Bay

HISTORICAL SITE

Fort Ross State Historic Park

Fort Ross was established in 1812 by Russians as an outpost for sea otter hunters and a permanent trade base. It was the southernmost outpost of a Russian presence in the Pacific Northwest. The Russians remained at Fort Ross until sea otters became scarce in 1841. The holdings were sold to John Sutter, who later became famous when gold was discovered at his saw mill in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

19005 Highway 1, Jenner
(707) 847-3286

Notable mention -

Guerneville Bridge, Guerneville

HORSE RENTAL

Armstrong Woods Pack Station

In private or group rides, beginner through advanced riders enjoy a streamside trail through the peaceful cathedral of giant redwoods. Climbing through woodlands and chaparral to warm mountaintop meadows, riders dismount to rest and enjoy spectacular sweeping vistas. All rides are guided exclusively by the owners, Laura and Jonathan Ayers.

Armstrong Woods, Guerneville
(707) 887-2939

Notable mention -

Chanslor Ranch, Sonoma Coast

HOT AIR BALLOONING

Above The Wine Country Ballooning

Imagine: Your colorful balloon, floating serenely, above the most beautiful place on. Your Nature Walk in the Sky will begin just after dawn. As your hot air balloon sails gently along the wind's highway, spectacular views will delight you. Among the surprises: the Pacific Coast, San Francisco's Skyline, Redwood Forests, Geyser Mountains, the graceful Russian River and lush rolling vineyards.

Santa Rosa
(707) 538-7359

Notable mention -

Up & Away Ballooning, Santa Rosa

ICE CREAM

Flavors Unlimited

Located in Guerneville. Flavors servers up blended ice creams. Choose from a large variety of toppings. The setting sets Flavors apart. You can sit on their deck and take in the beautiful hills of the Russian River Valley, watch white clouds pass through the bright blue sky and soak up the sun.

16450 Hwy 116, Guerneville
(707) 869-0425

Notable mention -

Screaming Mimi's, Sebastopol

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Russian River Jazz Festival

Gear up for the best blues experience! Gates open at 10AM on Saturday and Sunday. Get there early and stake out your special spot on the beach before the crowds arrive. The Jazz starts flowing at 11AM and goes until 6PM. Event takes place in Guerneville.

www.rrfestivals.com/jazz/

Notable mention -

Redwood Coast Whale & Jazz Festival, Gualala

MOVIE THEATER

Rio Theater

The only theater located inside a Quonset hut style building. The theatre is lovingly decorated inside and out with murals by local artists, the simple historic original details of the building are maintained as well--simple neon bedecked vertical sign and marquee, and the modern stucco facade.

20396 Bohemian Highway, Monte Rio
(707) 865-0913

Notable mention -

Airport Cinema, Windsor
Raven Theater, Healdsburg

MUSEUM

Pacific Coast Air Museum

Dedicated to promoting the acquisition, restoration, safe operation and display of historical aircraft and providing an educational venue for students and the community.

2230 Becker Boulevard, Santa Rosa
(707) 575-7900

Notable mention -

Charles Schultz Museum

NATURE HIKE

Kortum Trail

Hike along the Pacific Coast. Trail starts at Blind Beach (enter the Goat Rock beach entrance just south of Jenner and drive 0.8 miles to the Blind Beach parking lot). Approximately 10 miles of trail. Crosses multiple State Beach parking lots.

russianrivertravel.com/hikes.htm

Notable mention -

Pomo Canyon
Armstrong Redwoods

PARK

Armstrong Redwoods

This spectacular redwood forest offers something for everyone. Casual strolls, long hikes, horseback riding, fishing, car or backpack camping, picnicking, biking and more.

Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville
(707) 869-2015

Notable mention -

Sonoma Coast State Beaches
Salt Point State Park

PIZZA

Andorno's Pizza

Andorno's tries to try to make the best pizza possible, using the best and freshest ingredients available. They grind their own vegetables and cheeses, season and cook our chicken and sausage. They make their dough and sauces using our own unique recipes. They stretch the pizza by hand and bake it in a seasoned brick oven.

16205 First Street, Guerneville
(707) 869-0651

Notable mention -

Main Street Station, Guerneville
Union Hotel, Occidental

REAL ESTATE OFFICE

Prudential, Guerneville

Prudential California Realty has been #1 in West Sonoma County Sales every year since 1994. Prudential California Realty has averaged 35% of the market share for the Russian River Valley. What does working with the #1 Real Estate Office mean for you? If you are a seller- more advertising, more buyers and probably the highest possible price for your home.

Main Street, Guerneville
(707) 869-9011

Notable mention -

Frank Howard Allen, Guerneville

REDWOODS

Armstrong Redwoods

This spectacular redwood forest offers something for everyone. Casual strolls, long hikes, horseback riding, fishing, car or backpack camping, picnicking, biking and more.

Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville
(707) 869-2015

Notable mention -

Stillwater Cove
Kruse Rhododendron Park

RESTAURANT

Fife's Roadhouse

The Roadhouse caters to the most discerning palate, serving American standards with a roadhouse flair. Join them in the dining room, in the pub or on our outdoor deck overlooking the pool, under an umbrella during the day or the stars at night.

16467 River Road, Guerneville
(707) 869-0658

Notable mention -

Underwood Bar & Bistro, Graton
Willowood Café, Graton

RESTAURANT, FINE DINING

Applewood

The Inn's Zagat recommended restaurant offers Wine Country dining at it's best paired with an award winning wine list featuring wines from most of the Russian River Valley wineries. Perfect for a wine country honeymoon or a romantic Bed and Breakfast getaway.

13555 Highway 116, Guerneville
(800) 555-8509

RESTAURANT, VIEW

River's End

River's End Restaurant & Inn is perched on a bluff overlooking the mystical Russian River entering the great Pacific Ocean. The vistas are breathtaking and beaches ...endless. Located one hour and 45 minutes north of the Golden Gate Bridge, this haven for lovers of the Sonoma Coast and wine country has been around since 1927.

11048 Highway 1, Jenner
(707) 865-2484

RESTAURANT, WINE LIST

Village Inn

This popular restaurant features "Sonoma Fresh" cuisine which includes locally grown and farmed meats, produce, and dairy products. The Bar and Dining Deck are second to none on the River to meet friends and make new ones in a friendly & comfortable setting while enjoying a meal or libations & lively conversation. They offer a full bar, with 80 Sonoma County wines that are the best around.

20822 River Boulevard, Monte Rio
(707) 865-2304

SCENIC DRIVE

Jenner to Gualala

North from Jenner Highway 1 covers a rugged section of the California coastline. The road curls high up among the dramatic headland hills hovering over the crashing waves below. Many lookout points allow you to stop and admire the views.

Notable mention -

West Side Road *also*
Coleman Valley Road to Coast Highway 1

SCENIC VISTA

Austin Creek State Reserve

Approximately 6,000 acres of open woodlands, rolling hills, and meadows, its topography offers a strong contrast to the dense, primeval redwood forest below. Here you will discover deep tree-lined ravines cooled by year round streams; grassy hillsides burnished golden by the heat of summer sun and turned emerald by plentiful winter rains.

17000 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville
(707) 869-2015

Notable mention -

Lake Sonoma Overlook

SPA

Osmosis

Osmosis is the only day spa in the U.S. that offers the Cedar Enzyme Bath, a rejuvenating heat treatment from Japan. Inspired by a vision of healing, beauty, and inner peace, Osmosis was founded in Sonoma County in 1985. Since that time, many hands have worked together with an abundance of heart to manifest one of the most unique and relaxing spas in the country.

209 Bohemian Highway, Freestone
(707) 823-8231

Notable mention -

Touch of Greene, Guerneville
Hotel Healdsburg Spa, Healdsburg

SUNSET LOCATION

Goat Rock Overlook

Long sandy beaches below rugged headlands, a craggy coastline with natural arches and secluded coves are features that make Sonoma Coast State Beach one of California's most scenic attractions.

Highway 1, Jenner
(707) 875-3483

Notable mention -

Lake Sonoma Overlook, Geyserville
Bodega Head, Bodega Bay

SURFING SPOT

Salmon Creek

Where a lagoon forms as sand closes the mouth of Salmon Creek, is a popular summer destination. Nearly two miles of unbroken, scenic, sandy beach make this an excellent place for surfing, beachcombing, and picnicking.

Notable mention -

People don't easily share all the good spots if they are going to appear in a best of guide

SWIMMING SPOT

Johnson's Beach

The Beach has canoes, kayaks and paddleboats for rent plus umbrellas, inner tubes, and beach chairs. A snack bar is located on the Beach as well as a boat launch. Johnson's Beach is open from 10 am to 6 pm, seven days a week, mid May to early October

16241 First Street, Guerneville
(707) 869-2022

Notable mention -

Monte Rio Beach, Monte Rio
Healdsburg Memorial Beach, Healdsburg

THEATER

Pegasus

Pegasus Theater produces four to six classic to contemporary plays a year. They are a nonprofit, all-volunteer company, with many veteran actors, directors, and designers, who take pride in the quality of their productions.

20347 Highway 116, Monte Rio
(707) 522-9043

Notable mention -

Raven Theater, Healdsburg
Sonoma County Repertory Theatre, Sebastopol

TIDE POOLING

Shell Beach

California's North Coast is a land rich in natural and cultural history, biological diversity and distinctive geology. Explore the local tide pools while seeing a wide variety of flora and fauna.

TOUR

Vine Rover Tours

Vine Rover Tours offers a variety of guided wine tasting tours through out the wine country all in the uniqueness of our custom open air Land Rovers. Specializing in the “boutique” style wineries were often you will have a chance to meet the owners and winemakers. They accommodate 2 to 7 guests per vehicle, providing a personalized service in a fun, friendly and educational environment for the promotion of safe wine tasting experience.

(707) 838-1405

Notable mention –

Getaway Adventures, Petaluma
Flying Horse Carriage Company

VIEW OF THE RIVER

Guerneville Historic Bridge

Look up and down a long, open stretch of the Russian River. To the south is Johnson’s beach, alive with laughter and sunbathers during the summer. To the north are the Russian River hills and green banks of the river. The Guerneville bridge is accessible from the downtown square.

Notable mention -

Duncan’s Mills Bridge, Duncan’s Mills
Myers Grade, North of Jenner

WEDDING SITE

Inn at Occidental

This luxurious Wine Country inn is a wonderful place for any couple to start their new life together. They offer fabulous sleeping accommodations for thirty-six guests and reception space for up to one under people.

3657 Church Street, Occidental

(707) 874-1047

Notable mention –

Ridenhour Inn, Guerneville
Healdsburg Country Gardens, Healdsburg

WHALE WATCHING VISTA

Bodega Head

Bodega Head is the rocky headland that forms the entrance into Bodega Harbor. The harbor side provides a popular crabbing area along the jetty, and the many hiking trails on the ocean side allow access to small, sandy coves and spectacular scenic bluff top views. The high cliffs offer excellent vantage points for observing migrating gray whales.

(707) 875-3483

Notable mention -

Gualala Point, Gualala
Goat Rock, Jenner

WINE, ORGANIC

Porter Creek Winery

Porter Creek focuses on organic, hillside-grown, vineyard designated wines of grape varieties from the Burgundy and Rhone. Porter Creek’s wines are a unique, intriguing expression of the true Russian River Valley terroir.

8735 Westside Road, Healdsburg

(707) 433-6321

Notable mention -

Everett Ridge Vineyard & Winery, Healdsburg
Wild Hog Vineyard & Winery, Cazadero

WINE TASTING ROOM, TOWN

Kendall Jackson

Situated on the tree-lined town square amongst the many bistros and fine dining restaurants, is our Kendall-Jackson Healdsburg Tasting Room. All of their fine wines are offered there with a focus on our Grand Reserve, Highland Estates and Stature wines. Tastings are \$2 per person. Reserve tastings are \$10 per person.

337 Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg

(707) 433-7102

WINE TASTING ROOM, WINERY

J Winery

Their belief is that wine belongs on the table with food, and that wines should enhance a meal. At J you will find an experience unparalleled in all of wine country, food and wine pairing at the Tasting Bar on a daily basis. This is not crackers and a chunk of cheese; we’re talking about delicious, well thought-out pairings. Each of the wines is paired with an appetizer that was made with a particular wine in mind. They also use local and/or organic food products whenever possible and change the tasting menu to reflect Sonoma County’s seasonal offerings.

11447 Old Redwood Highway, Healdsburg

(707) 431-3646

Notable mention -

Iron Horse, Sebastopol

WINERY TOUR

Korbel

A must on any trip to wine country is to visit the historic Korbel Champagne Cellars. This 50 minute expedition goes through the antique vaults and the History Museum. You’ll see where the world-famous Korbel Champagnes were first made more than 100 years ago, how champagne is made, and the history of the Korbel legacy.

13250 River Road, Guerneville

(707) 824-7000

Notable mention -

Kendall Jackson, Fulton
Simi Winery, Healdsburg