

DAY 1: HEARST CASTLE & THE NORTH COAST

After an early breakfast at the Cass House, head up the coast to Hearst Castle. The drive takes roughly 30 to 45 minutes.

1. HEARST CASTLE (HEARSTCASTLE.COM, 1.800.444.4445, SAN SIMEON)

Buy your tickets in advance online, tours book up during the summer and on holiday weekends (tour 1 is great for first time visitors, it is about 1 hour and 45 minutes long).

2. ELEPHANT SEALS

The Piedras Blancas rookery, where the Elephants Seals are located, is about 7 miles north of Hearst Castle. The lookout points are right off the highway.

3. CAMBRIA

Cambria is a quaint coastal town 6 miles south of Hearst Castle. If you are coming from the castle, take a left at the first stoplight (Moonstone Drive). There is an endless supply of shops, bakeries, restaurants, and art galleries. Here are a couple of recommendations:

Restaurants:

Robin's (4095 Burton Drive, 805.927.5007)

eclectic menu, prices range from \$10 to \$12 for Sunday brunch or lunch, Ask for a table on their covered patio.

Indigo Moon (1940 Main St., 805.927.2911)

A gourmet cheese and wine shop with a great selection of sandwiches, soups, and salads. Try the chicken and brie sandwich with caramelized onions or their duck confit sandwich with red onion marmalade.

Black Cat Bistro (1602 Main St., 805.927.1600, closed Tues/Wed, dinner only):

a cozy restaurant with several small dining rooms, a fireplace, and a wine bar. Creative, seasonal menu and great selection of local wines.

Shopping:

Home Arts (727 Main St.): Home decor, local hand made furniture/jewelry and art, gifts, etc.

The Garden Shed (2024 Main; 805/927-7654, next to Indigo Moon): Garden gift shop & small nursery.

Cambria Nursery (2801 Eton Rd., 805.927.4747): Beautiful display gardens, gift shop, and florist.

French Corner Bakery (2214 Main St., 805.927.8227): Perfect for a quick breakfast or pastries to go.

A Matter of Taste (4120 Burton Dr.): Gourmet foods and kitchen supplies.

3. HARMONY

The little town of Harmony is located about halfway between Cayucos and Cambria, be on the look out for the town sign 'Harmony, Pop. 18' because if you blink you'll miss it. There isn't really anything to do but stretch your legs, take a couple of pictures, taste some wine and check out some blown glass, but it's a great stop if you have the time.

Wine Tasting:

Harmony Cellars: The tasting room sits on top of the hill overlooking the town of Harmony, the views are beautiful and the staff is very friendly, it's a great last stop on your way back to Cayucos.

Shopping:

Harmony Glassworks: An art gallery and shop featuring blown glass.

DAY 2: WINE TASTING & LUNCH IN PASO ROBLES

After a hearty breakfast at the Cass House (make sure to drink a lot of water), head inland for a day of wine tasting. The first winery on our list is about a 45 minute drive from the house. Most tasting rooms are open from 11am-4pm Friday through Sunday.

JACK CREEK CELLARS (5265 JACK CREEK RD., 805.226.8283):

One of the only wineries that offers Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in Paso Robles.

TABLAS CREEK (9339 ADELAIDA ROAD, 805.237.1231):

A joint venture between the Haas Family and the Perrin Family (of Chateau de Beaucastel), Tablas Creek began planting rhone varietals in Paso Robles in 1987. If you have time, take a tour of their organically farmed vineyard, grapevine nursery and winery (call in advance to reserve a spot).

L'AVENTURE (2815 LIVE OAK RD., 805.227.1588):

Known for his cabernet sauvignon/ syrah/ petite verdot blends, Stephen Asseo released his first wines in 1998. The tasting room is small and intimate, dedicated to true wine lovers interested in learning about the wines, their winemaking process & terroir. The wines are not easy to find outside of the tasting room and local restaurants, so buy a bottle or two while you can.

BOOKER (2640 ANDERSON RD., 805.237.7367):

The winery and vineyard was named for the Booker brothers who once owned the land and hundreds of acres on Paso's west side. Aside from lending their farming knowledge and manual labor to neighbors and those in need, they were the area's biggest philanthropists, leaving 100% of their estate to charity when they passed. After making wine with Justin Smith of Saxum and Stephan Asseo of L'Aventure, the Jensen family bought the Booker Vineyard and released their first vintage in 2005. The wines are some of the best coming out of Paso right now, and it's no secret, they are very hard to get a hold of. Again, if there are wines available for sale in their tasting room, buy some to take home with you.

LUNCH AT FARMSTAND 46 (3750 HIGHWAY 46 WEST, PASO ROBLES, 805.239.3661):

After a couple wineries and plenty of driving you will have worked up a good appetite. If you are in the mood for a casual lunch close to the wineries this is a great stop. It's close to Lone Madrone, another must see winery. They have an outdoor picnic area, and you can also take their paninis to go if you would rather dine among the vines at a winery (many of them have beautiful picnic areas).

LUNCH OR DINNER AT ARTISAN (1401 PARK STREET, PASO ROBLES, 805.237.8084):

If you are headed to downtown Paso, Artisan is a must. Try their chicken pot pie topped with a sweet potato biscuit, seared yellowfin tuna with fried green tomatoes, or slow roasted pork sandwich with emmentaler cheese. Afterwards, take a stroll around the park in the center of town.

DINNER AT THE CASS HOUSE

Have a late dinner after a much deserved nap at the Cass House. Make sure to reserve in advance, our dining room is small and it fills up quickly.

DAY 3: WINE TASTING IN THE EDNA VALLEY AND DINNER IN SLO

The Edna Valley wine region is about a 45 minute drive from the Cass House, through the town of San Luis Obispo (just past the airport). Edna Valley producers specialize in Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and other cool climate grapes. There aren't as many wineries in Edna as there are in Paso, but it is definitely worth the drive.

OLD EDNA DELI/ SEXTANT TASTING ROOM (1655 OLD PRICE CANYON ROAD, 805.543.0900):

Grab some sandwiches to enjoy in the vineyards or take advantage of their outdoor patio for lunch.

CLAIBORNE AND CHURCHILL (2649 CARPENTER CANYON ROAD, 805.544.4066):

Just down the street from Old Edna, this winery is about as welcoming and down to earth as it gets in the wine business. Their refreshing rieslings and gewurztraminers are the perfect start to a day of wine tasting.

KYNSI (2212 CORBETT CANYON ROAD, 805.544.8461):

Situated in a beautiful corner of the Edna Valley, Kynsi is a great spot for a picnic. They are known for their vineyard designate syrahs and pinot noirs.

TALLEY (3031 LOPEZ DR., 805.489.0446):

You won't want to miss the views of the valley from Talley's tasting room, and if you weren't hungry at Kynsi this is a great spot for a picnic too. The Talley family has been producing critically acclaimed wines since 1986 from the Oliver's, Rosemary's, and Stone Corral vineyards (which are dedicated mostly to chardonnay and pinot noir).

CHAMISAL (FORMERLY DOMAINE ALFRED) (7525 ORCUTT RD., 805.541.9463):

Domaine Alfred's Chamisal vineyard was the first vineyard planted in the edna valley. Their impressive lineup of wines include rose, pinot gris, grenache, and plenty of great blends, but don't leave without trying their califa pinot noir, syrah and chardonnay.

DOWNTOWN SLO

End your day downtown San Luis Obispo. If you happen to be visiting on a Thursday night you're in luck, SLO hosts a lively farmer's market on Higuera St. (downtown) from 6-9pm with live music, crafts, BBQ and of course lots of great local produce. Otherwise, there are plenty of shops, bars, and cafe's to keep you amused for a couple of hours at least. Check out Hand's Gallery for the best showcase of local art & jewelry, Kreuzberg for the best cup of coffee in town, Downtown Brew for live music, and Ambiance for the best selection of women's clothing & accessories (all located on Higuera st.). There are also two movie theaters in town if you are in the mood for a movie.

NOVO (726 HIGUERA ST., 805.543.3986):

A fun, upbeat restaurant with an international menu, NOVO is a great spot to enjoy a casual dinner with your significant other or a group of friends. It may seem as though the restaurant is empty (which is usually not a good sign), but you just have to walk through their dining room to their patio to see that it's the most happening spot in town.

MEZE WINE BAR (1880 SANTA BARBARA AVE., 805.548.8070)

The perfect spot for a glass of wine (the best selection in SLO), a cheese and charcuterie plate or appetizer, and good conversation. It is next to impossible to find a restaurant or wine bar in the county that is as dedicated to sourcing quality products and interesting wines. I highly recommend ordering appetizers, but if you can't stay to eat at least stop in and pick up a bottle of wine and check out their selection of gourmet groceries.