

To visit Paso Robles from greater Los Angeles, take either Interstate 5 to State Route 46 west or take U.S. Highway 101 north. Free *San Luis Obispo County Cities* maps are available at your Auto Club office or at maps.aaa.com.

Paso Robles

By Beth Fhaner ■ Photographs by Lori Anderson

Paso Robles' small-town charm evokes a gentler, quieter California. With more than 170 wineries, however, El Paso de Robles, or "The Pass of the Oaks," midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, is also quickly becoming known as the home of the state's fastest-growing wine country, not to mention a mecca for foodies. After a 6.5 earthquake struck in 2003, the downtown area underwent revitalization. Today, the community's historic buildings, sophisticated shops, inviting wine-tasting rooms, and first-rate restaurants attract many visitors. Although the quaint downtown is easily walkable, pedicabs line the town square on weekend nights—a reminder that Paso Robles hasn't strayed too far from its pastoral roots.

To Do

- Harvest Wine Tour
October 17–19
- Vine Street Victorian Showcase
December 13

SEE

The Paso Robles Children's Museum at the Volunteer

Firehouse 1 has a grape stomp, where kids can "crush" faux grapes. 623 13th Street. (805) 238-7432; pasokids.org.

SHOP

We Olive 2 offers gifts, soaps, and food items, as well as olive oil tastings.

1311 Park Street. (805) 239-7667; weolive.com.

Firefly Gallery 3 sells jewelry, handblown glass, and other crafts by artisans. The gallery is in an inviting loft.

1301 Park Street. (805) 237-9265; thefireflygallery.com.

SAVOR

Artisan 4 offers a seasonal contemporary American menu, including lamb shank and pan-roasted sea bass.

1401 Park Street. (805) 237-8084; artisanpasorobles.com.

Villa Creek's 5 California cuisine includes Hearst Ranch flatiron steak and butternut-squash enchiladas served in a Rancho Mission-style dining room.

1144 Pine Street. (805) 238-3000; villacreek.com.

The Wine Attic 6, a wine shop and tasting room, serves lunch all day in a relaxing flower-filled courtyard.

1305 Park Street. (805) 227-4107; wineattic.com.

STAY

Hotel Cheval 7 has rooms named after famous racehorses and a horseshoe-shaped Pony Club bar.

On Friday and Saturday nights, Chester, the resident Clydesdale, will give guests a carriage ride to dinner.

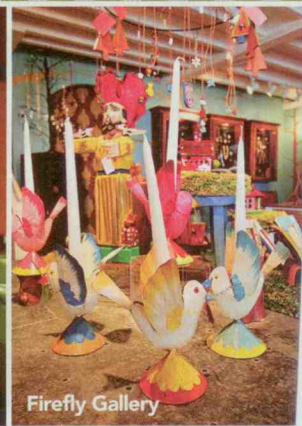
1021 Pine Street. (805) 226-9995; hotelcheval.com.

The **Paso Robles Inn 8**, a historic hotel, has suites with hot springs-fed mineral-therapy spa tubs.

1103 Spring Street. (805) 238-2660; pasoroblesinn.com. **W**



We Olive



Firefly Gallery



Hotel Cheval

Please call to check hours and availability of businesses and attractions before you visit. Paso Robles Downtown Main Street Association, (805) 238-4103; pasoroblesdowntown.org; Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce, (805) 238-0506; pasorobleschamber.com.