



Westways

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THE RESULTS ARE IN
2018 PHOTO CONTEST
WINNERS

WHY GO: Wine, cheese, fun outdoors

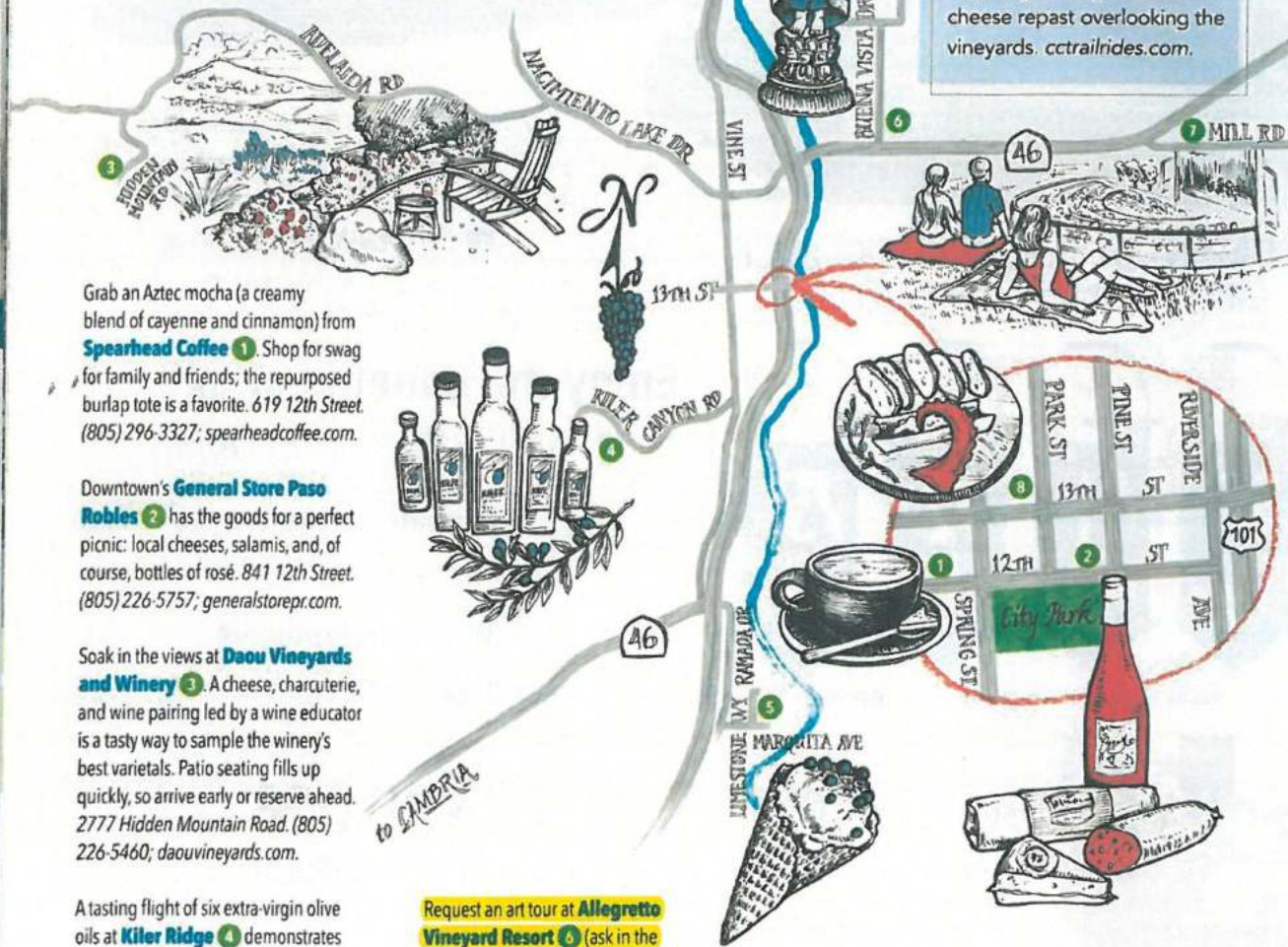
Paso Robles

This charming town tucked behind the Santa Lucia Mountains is home to more than 200 wineries, but Paso Robles isn't just for wine lovers. Located 32 miles north of San Luis Obispo, "Paso" also brims with outdoor adventures, bustling boutiques, and alfresco dining—and plenty of gently rolling hills to traverse or gaze at if you simply want to take life slow.

By Elisabeth Abrahamson | Illustration by Virginia Vallely

Got More Time?

Husband-and-wife duo Brian and Crystal Hallett of Central Coast Trailrides take would-be and experienced equestrians on scenic rides throughout Paso. While away a couple of hours **horseback riding through Halter Ranch**, stopping for a light wine-and-cheese repast overlooking the vineyards. cctrailrides.com.



Grab an Aztec mocha (a creamy blend of cayenne and cinnamon) from **Spearhead Coffee** 1. Shop for swag for family and friends; the repurposed burlap tote is a favorite. 619 12th Street. (805) 296-3327; spearheadcoffee.com.

Downtown's **General Store Paso Robles** 2 has the goods for a perfect picnic: local cheeses, salamis, and, of course, bottles of rosé. 841 12th Street. (805) 226-5757; generalstorepr.com.

Soak in the views at **Daou Vineyards and Winery** 3. A cheese, charcuterie, and wine pairing led by a wine educator is a tasty way to sample the winery's best varietals. Patio seating fills up quickly, so arrive early or reserve ahead. 2777 Hidden Mountain Road. (805) 226-5460; daouvineyards.com.

A tasting flight of six extra-virgin olive oils at **Kiler Ridge** 4 demonstrates that not all olive oil is created equal. Schedule a property tour; you'll think you're in Tuscany. 1111 Kiler Canyon Road. (805) 400-1439; kileridge.com.

Take in **Tin City** 5, Paso's hippest hangout for sampling wines, brews, ciders, and sheep's-milk ice cream. Try the Poly Dolly, a rosé cider from Tin City Cider; or toast to a fun day at Karma, Tin City's only tasting room that offers the bubbly. 3060 Limestone Way. tincitypaso.com.

Request an art tour at **Allegretto Vineyard Resort** 6 (ask in the lobby for a docent). The Italian-style property boasts more than 300 works of art, antiques, and artifacts, with many pieces from India. 2700 Buena Vista Drive. (805) 369-2500; allegrettovineyardresort.com.

The intimate, 3,300-seat **Vina Robles Amphitheatre** 7 also has a sprawling lawn for lounging on blankets and enjoying the musical and comedy acts. 3800 Mill Road. (805) 286-3680; vinaroblesamphitheatre.com.

Strings of twinkling tea lights hover above diners at **Thomas Hill Organics** 8, where chef Kurt Metzger serves up bone marrow and octopus with a pork belly marmalade and melt-in-your-mouth bulgogi-style short ribs with creamy polenta. 1313 Park Street. (805) 226-5888; thomashillorganics.com.

Call to confirm hours and availability of businesses, attractions, and events before you visit. Be sure to designate a driver if you plan to drink alcohol. Free **Cities of San Luis Obispo County maps** are available at an Auto Club branch.

Read about another must-visit San Luis Obispo County town, Cambria, in **Quick Escape** on page 36.