Day Trips

FOODIE FIELD DAY

• **Begin with breakfast at** River Vine at Vintner’s Resort: an eatery set among the vines at the idyllic Vintners Inn. Enjoy a farm-to-table wine country breakfast with the freshest ingredients and lovely views.

• **Bonus Stop: Stock up on produce at a** farmers market: You can get a taste of Sonoma County’s abundant agriculture at dozens of markets in and around Santa Rosa, and there’s a year-round market almost every day of the week. Our favorites are the Santa Rosa Original Certified Farmers Market on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evening. Chat with farmers and artisans and leave with fresh ingredients to plan meals that will whet your appetite for your next Santa Rosa visit.

• **Snag a seat at a gourmet wine & food pairing experience:** St. Francis Winery’s Wine and Food Pairing, available Thursday-Monday, was named one of Open Table’s Top 100 Restaurant Experiences in America in 2019. A creative culinary team creates an assortment of small dishes to pair with hand-selected artisan wines. Guests enjoy stunning vineyard views and a fine dining presentation at a shared table. Each seating is hosted by a friendly wine expert at this relaxing, memorable experience. For another award-winning option, Kendall-Jackson Wine Estate & Gardens offers a five-course pairing experience using many estate-grown ingredients tended by Farmer Tucker Taylor. This tasting is #1 on Open Table’s Diners’ Choice awards for the San Francisco Bay Area based on diner reviews.

• **Tour the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens.** Horticulturist Luther Burbank (1849-1926) spent over 50 years in Santa Rosa, where he created more than 800 unique plant strains, including 100+ types of plum/stone fruit, the spine-less cactus, the Idaho Spud (aka the Burbank potato) and the Shasta Daisy. His home is a National Historic Land-mark. You can visit his one-acre garden year-round or take a docent-led tour of the house April-October. Throughout this itinerary, you’ll see and taste why Burbank called Sonoma County, “The chosen spot of all the earth as far as nature is concerned.”
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- **Dine at Belly Left Coast Kitchen and Tap Room**: Eat like a rock star at this pork-focused seasonal restaurant featuring farm-fresh food and West Coast brews on tap. Before opening Belly, Executive Chef and Owner Chef Gray Rollin worked as a celebrity tour chef for bands ranging from Linkin Park to Tori Amos.

- **Beer Lovers’ Bonus**: Try one of the world’s best beers at **Russian River Brewing Company**. Their flagship, highly-limited beer, Pliny the Elder, is a Double India Pale Ale that attracts beer aficionados from all over the world. It was voted the Best Beer in America for seven years by the American Homebrewers Association. Click here to learn more about Santa Rosa’s beer scene.

- **Grab a whiskey, dessert or both at Beer Baron**: This bar and kitchen in downtown Santa Rosa looks out on the recently-renovated Old Courthouse Square in the heart of the city. A stop at this elegant new spot should be the cherry on top of your delicious day trip. Finish with a bite of something sweet or—if you’re not driving—a decadent nightcap.