



TOP 25

FUN THINGS TO DO IN THE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Summer Edition

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Top 25 Fun Things to Do in the Santa Ynez Valley - Summer Edition

The Santa Ynez Valley is a year-round destination for fun and relaxation. Each season is uniquely special, but locals and visitors really like our summers. The weather is picture-perfect and there is just so much to do that you'll want to keep coming back again and again with your family, friends or significant other.

The Santa Ynez Valley inhabits a perfect world all its own. We offer plenty of activities, small-town charm, California cuisine, and a surprising Danish history - all wrapped into one fabulous adventure. Our six towns of Ballard, Buellton, Los Alamos, Los Olivos, Santa Ynez and Solvang will welcome you in style for a summer [Santa Ynez vacation](#). Summer days are hot, sunny, and clear, so there is plenty of opportunity for outdoor fun. The average daily high temperature is around 83°F, with about 14 hours of sun, and cooler evenings. One point that you will be glad to know is that we have very low humidity levels, even in the summer. Average rainfall is less than an inch per month.

Stop by our website at VisitsYV.com to review our complete listing of [things to do in Santa Ynez Valley](#), [Santa Ynez Valley restaurants](#), and [Santa Ynez hotels and inns](#), or check out our suggestions below for the Top 25 fun things to do in the Santa Ynez Valley this summer.

Top 25 Fun Summer Things to Do In The Santa Ynez Valley

1. **Get Hitched:** Santa Ynez Valley is the perfect location for a glorious destination wedding. Many local wineries, hotels and ranches happily work with you to create the picture-perfect ceremony and/or reception. Hold your wedding at a historical church or a California mission, or even have a Danish wedding at the Elverhoj Museum. We're also perfect for a great bachelorette party or a honeymoon with a romantic package at one of our [hotels in Santa Ynez Valley](#).
2. **Sample Some Wines:** You might enjoy [Wine Tasting with the Summer Pass](#) through August 31. Take your time and enjoy samples at various tasting rooms throughout the Santa Ynez Valley. Participating wineries include Alexander & Wayne, Arthur Earl, Buscador Wine, Ca' Del Grevino, Carivintâs, Casa Cassara Wines, Dreamcôte Wine Company, Imagine Wine, Kalyra Winery, Lincourt Vineyards, Lucas & Lewellen, Lucky Dogg Winery, Rideau Vineyard, and Toccata Wine.
3. **Solvang 3rd Wednesdays:** The community comes together every 3rd Wednesday in Solvang to provide uplifting fun for everyone. Whether it's free admission to the Wildling Museum, free live music in Solvang Park every Wednesday, special sales or charity benefits, it's worth your time to visit. You'll get exclusive 3rd Wednesday 3-course dinner deals at local restaurants with ingredients sourced from the weekly Certified Farmers Market. There are also deals at local merchants including boutiques and gourmet food purveyors, discounts at local hotels, and the best way to take advantage of it all - the popular [Solvang 3rd Wednesday Wine & Beer Walk](#).
4. **Paint in the Vineyards:** Santa Ynez Valley is home to some of the most beautiful and world-renowned vineyards in California. Gypsy Studios invites you to grab a glass of wine and a paintbrush and meet in local vineyards for painting and wine sampling. This is a perfect, stress-free environment that will both inspire your creative spirit and indulge the wine-lover in you. You'll even walk away with a masterpiece of your own to commemorate the occasion.
5. **Be Entertained:** The 700 seat, outdoor, [Solvang Festival Theater](#) provides a space for music, entertainment and [Pacific Conservatory Theatre](#) productions. Scheduled events for summer 2017 include Beauty and the Beast, Lend Me a Tenor the Musical, Newsies the Musical, Twelfth Night, and the Sunday Jazz & Beyond Series.
6. **Celebrate America:** [4th of July in Santa Ynez Valley](#) is special. We've got fireworks, festivals and parades to delight everyone in the family. Local wineries sponsor special events, live music, BBQs and even a good old-fashioned pie eating contest.
7. **Be a Cool Cat:** The [Los Olivos Jazz & Olive Festival](#) takes place on June 3 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Lavinia Campbell Park in Los Olivos. This annual event features wines poured by thirty area wineries, food tastings prepared by thirty chefs, olive products vendors, and, of course, great live jazz by Grammy-nominee Denise Donatelli and some of the biggest names in jazz, for an all-inclusive \$65.
8. **Take a Trek:** The [Wine Country Bike Trek](#) takes place from June 9-11. This is a unique and well-established cycling event that runs throughout the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley wine country and benefits People Helping People. Each day, riders choose from a 30- or 50-mile ride. Volunteers greet you every ten miles with fully catered rest stops. Registration includes meals, snacks, wine, beer, ride t-shirt, and more!
9. **It's Historic:** [Old Santa Ynez Day](#) is a fun-raising day for local schools. Join us on June 10th for this long-standing day of festivities in downtown Santa Ynez featuring a parade, booths, food and FUN.
10. **Try Your Luck:** [Chumash Casino Resort's](#) main attraction is its world-class gaming floor, featuring 2,000 slots, table games, bingo, poker and weekly giveaways. The AAA Four Diamond property features 106 spacious guestrooms and 17 luxury suites. Its award-winning spa offers a wide array of relaxing beauty and restorative treatments. Three

restaurants at Chumash Casino Resort feature casual to gourmet dining. Entertainment this summer includes The Commodores (21+ Event), Theresa Caputo (21+ Event), Bret Michaels, and Happy Together Tour.

11. **Learn About Wines:** The popular [Final Friday Featured Local Winemaker](#) series continues on the final Friday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Los Olivos Wine Merchant Café. On June 30 Eric Mohseni of Zaca Mesa Winery will be pouring tastes of his wines, on July 28 Garrett Gamache of Ground Truth will be pouring tastes of his wines, and on August 25 Jim Clendenen of Au Bon Climat will be pouring tastes of his wines. You can also experience the featured winemaker's wines throughout their designated month by the glass, as a tasting flight, and 20% off online and in our merchant.
12. **Soar Above It All:** Soaring fans from around the world have reached for the skies above the Santa Ynez/Santa Barbara area for more than 50 years. The [Santa Ynez Gliderport](#) has served thousands of people with more than 10,000 flights and enjoys a perfect safety record. Surrounded by the Coastal and San Rafael Mountain Range with ocean, lake, valley and island views, gliding on the Central Coast is breathtaking. Year round soaring offers a variety of lift from thermals to wave. Come see one of the longest running and most desirable sailplane operations on the West Coast and experience the magical feeling of silent flight.
13. **See The Past:** [Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park](#) preserves a sandstone cave adorned with rock art attributed to the Chumash Native Americans. Anthropologists estimate that the paintings date to the 1600's and earlier.
14. **Be a Dude:** As California's premier guest ranch, [Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort](#) transports visitors back to a bygone era. The Alisal has been a hideaway for generations of families, couples and groups since first welcoming guests in 1946. Today, the romance and majesty of the "old west" remain in the Ranch's wide-open spaces and unspoiled natural beauty.
15. **Find Serenity:** The [Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden](#) is dedicated to bringing beauty, serenity and the joys of the physical environment to the community in which we live in ways that encourage appreciation and education in the arts, a deeper understanding of the order of the natural world and the significance of nature in our lives.
16. **Wine Tours:** Wine tasting and touring in the Santa Ynez Valley is a don't-miss experience and a feast for the senses. Meander over sage-scented rural roads with a stunning backdrop of oak-studded golden hills. Stroll through vibrant vineyards and sip, swirl and savor the flavors. You can design your own itinerary, or sign up with a local tour company for a professionally guided tour in a limo, jeep, van, private sedan or even a bike. Many wineries offer outdoors musical entertainment during the summer months.
17. **Bike Tours:** Santa Ynez Valley is a noted bicycling destination. You can take a bike tour, talk to experts in local bike shops, enjoy great rides on scenic country roads, stay in bicyclist-friendly places, or just rent a bike or surrey to ride in and around Solvang.
18. **Golfing:** You'll enjoy the scenic rolling hills and stunning views of the Santa Ynez River Valley while golfing in a beautiful natural environment. With five golf courses nearby and excellent temperate climate year-round, you can practice your putting almost every single day of the year!
19. **Enjoy the Sport of Kings:** The [6th Annual SYV Polo Classic](#) returns to Piocho Ranch at Happy Canyon Vineyard in Santa Ynez on June 24. All guests are invited to dress for the occasion, with creative hats for the ladies encouraged.
20. **Take The Trolley:** [Solvang Trolley](#) & Carriage Company offers a variety of horse-drawn carriage services appropriate for almost any occasion. This is a fun way to see the town of Solvang while sitting inside a 1915 replica Honen (Danish for little hen) trolley pulled by Belgian draft horses as they pass by the boutique shops, wine tasting rooms, Danish

bakeries, international restaurants, and the windmills of Solvang.

21. **Get Foamy:** Three major players in [California craft beer](#) make their brews in the heart of the Santa Ynez Valley wine country. In addition to outstanding breweries, a host of specialty tasting rooms, bars and restaurants offer international beer tastings for a cool summer refreshment.
22. **Get Full:** [Santa Ynez Valley restaurants](#) cook up everything from down-home American to authentic Danish and smorgasbord, to sushi and modern Italian-American cuisine. You'll find restaurants featuring local cuisine, romantic hideaways, family-friendly pancake houses, brew pubs, and plenty of outdoor dining options, often with musical accompaniment.
23. **Get Charmed:** The charming towns of Ballard, Buellton, Los Alamos, Los Olivos, Santa Ynez and Solvang each have their own personalities and colorful histories. Ranching and agriculture as well as Native American, Danish, Spanish and Mexican influences all mix together in a rich heritage. Visit local museums, art galleries, and artistic communities that capture and preserve the nature and wonder of these six distinct towns.
24. **Don't Forget the Souvenirs!** Shop more than 200 independent and family-owned boutiques. Find local artisans' wares, jewelry, apparel and crafts from contemporary to vintage, fine art, glassware, porcelain, silver, wood and garden treasures. Incredibly chic yet affordable women's, men's and kid's clothing, fine leather goods and accessories, shoes, boots, and clogs will keep you strolling. Porcelain figurines, handmade lace, ironworks and music boxes excite collectors. Best of all, there is a year-round Christmas store to celebrate the holidays every day!
25. **Make Yourself at Home:** [Local camping and RV parks](#) offer a range of year-round RV hook-ups, tent, cabin and yurt camping. Enjoy picnicking, boating, fishing and additional activities on-site at many of our local campgrounds and RV parks. Or [stay in comfort](#) in one of our 33 member hotels. You're sure to find a great location within walking distance to fun activities for all.

There are always plenty of summer [things to do in Solvang](#) and the lovely towns of the Santa Ynez Valley. It's not too early to mark your calendar for this year's annual celebration of [Danish Days](#) from September 15-17. Perhaps one of the biggest and best celebrations of all things Danish, this is when we all get to "live like Vikings!"

About Visit Santa Ynez Valley: Visit Santa Ynez Valley provides listings of the [best places to eat in Solvang](#), [best Santa Ynez wineries](#), and lists [things to do in Santa Ynez Valley](#). Visit the website at <http://www.VisitSYV.com> for complete visitor services. "Like" the [Facebook](#) page for ideas on planning [Santa Ynez vacations](#). Send us an email to info@VisitSYV.com for help planning a summer visit to the Santa Ynez Valley.

