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## Suggested Day Trips

Sonoma County is home to more than just world-class wineries. There's incredible food, shops, sightseeing and all kinds of outdoor recreation. Here are a few day trips we find particularly enjoyable. Pick one, then stop by for a glass of wine afterwards and let us know how it went.

### Trip 1: Adventurous Sonoma: Hot air ballooning above the vines



Few experiences rival floating in the crisp morning air while acre after acre of vineyards roll by far below. This event is for early risers - hot air ballooning starts in the wee hours while the air is cool and still. While soaring on gentle air currents for about an hour, you'll see the Pacific Ocean, panoramic views of Sonoma and Napa, perhaps even the San Francisco skyline. And if you have a pressing question to ask someone special, now might be the perfect time. (The balloon pilots have witnessed many "pressing questions.") After landing, both carriers listed here arrange for a Champagne brunch.

In the afternoon, continue your adventure with [a visit to Clos du Bois](#). You'll have plenty of time to make our 2pm tour (be sure to reserve your spot in advance), or just come by to taste and chat about your day.

- ▣ Above the Wine Country Ballooning: [www.balloontours.com](http://www.balloontours.com) or 888-238-6359
- ▣ Up & Away Ballooning: [www.up-away.com](http://www.up-away.com) or 800-711-2998
- ▣ Healdsburg shopping, restaurants & accommodations: Visit [www.healdsburg.com](http://www.healdsburg.com)

### Trip 2: Smalltown Sonoma: Healdsburg's Vintage Americana

For great shopping, dining and in-town fun, there's no place more charming than Healdsburg, eight miles south of the winery and 15 miles north of Santa Rosa. With its tree-lined central square and band gazebo, the town itself is a vintage piece of Americana.

But arrayed around the square and in surrounding blocks are some of the most exceptional restaurants and markets in Northern California. On Saturday mornings, May through November, the square hosts a farmers market. There's the Hand Fan Museum, the first US museum dedicated to the art and craft of fans. And there is all sorts of shopping and antiques, all within easy walking distance.

Itinerary:

- ▣ Book the 10:30 Tour at Clos du Bois (call in advance: 800.222.3189 or [email us](#))
- ▣ Linger in the Tasting Room – soak up the view
- ▣ Stay at the winery for a picnic lunch, or head back to Healdsburg to lunch at one of the wonderful local restaurants or markets
- ▣ Spend the afternoon shopping, antiques or strolling through Healdsburg.
- ▣ Healdsburg shopping, restaurants & accommodations: Visit [www.healdsburg.com](http://www.healdsburg.com)

### Trip 3: Natural Sonoma: Wine country is horse country

With stunning views of the Pacific, white sand beaches and rugged coastline, Sonoma County offers unparalleled natural beauty to match the bounty of its vineyards. And what better way to take in the pounding surf than by horseback? There are a number of outfitters that can put you on a friendly steed and guide you along coastal dune and beach. Or, if you prefer, get them to lead you over Sonoma's stunning hills and dales further inland. In any case, saddle up in the morning, so you'll have plenty of time to motor over for a picnic lunch and tasting at Clos du Bois.

- ▣ Chanslor Guest Ranch: [www.chanslor.com](http://www.chanslor.com) or 707-875-3333
- ▣ Armstrong Woods Pack Station: [E-Mail@redwoodhorses.com](mailto:E-Mail@redwoodhorses.com) or 707-887-2939
- ▣ Victoria's Fashion Stables: [fashionstables@hotmail.com](mailto:fashionstables@hotmail.com) or 707-769-8820

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