

ART IN WINE COUNTRY!

Summer is on its way, and what better way to soak it all up than walking through the streets of Sonoma County and seeing local artwork! Expect to see fascinating neighborhoods, drink some wine, get a bite to eat and even dance to live music during one of these charming community events. Summer is right around the corner – don't miss out on all the wonderful events to enjoy in Sonoma County. These 5 art walks are the perfect date night or for a fun family outing!

Read below for a quick guide to county-wide art walks this summer!

First Friday Art Walk: Guerneville

Monthly event from 3 – 8 pm the first Friday of each month, year round. Local artists, street performers and music, tasting rooms, and shopping. Dress creatively and be ready to join the show!

First Friday Art Walk: Santa Rosa

Monthly event from 5 – 7 pm. Walk throughout downtown Santa Rosa and enjoy art openings and open studio events, music, and refreshments while you admire all the stunning local artwork!

Second Saturday Art Walk: Healdsburg

Monthly event from 5 – 8 pm the second Saturday of each month, running from May-December. Stroll through Healdsburg's historic plaza and experience local art, wine, food, and music.

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts: Santa Rosa

The Luther Burbank outdoor sculpture garden is now open to the public. Come and experience the 16 monumental wood sculptures by Bruce Johnson. Feel free to admire, climb, and take pictures of these magnificent sculptures. (Displays are updated biannually.)

Sculpture Trail: Cloverdale and Geyserville

Choose a trail and experience local artwork while enjoying the great outdoors. Art displays are changed every year in May. Don't miss it!

Need more art? Here are some of my favorites:

Sonoma Valley Museum

551 Broadway, Sonoma
www.svma.org

The Mission Statement for the Museum reads as follows:

"The Sonoma Valley Museum of Art is a magnet of creative energy and cultural inspiration. Its exhibitions and educational programs engage the community in the art and ideas of our time, encouraging curiosity and innovation."

I can personally attest that this is really happening! Not only are the exhibits interesting and engaging but the other programs are certainly enriching the lives of our small town.

Oliver Ranch

Geyserville
www.oliverranchfoundation.org

I hesitate to tell you about Oliver Ranch for the mere fact that it is next to impossible to see. However, there are times that you can take a tour or see a performance in the tower (which I was fortunate to have done a few years ago). Each of the 30 tours a year (spring and fall) benefits a different non-profit organization. Tickets are generally sold through the benefiting group rather than Oliver Ranch, but when there are tickets available, you will be directed to them by the Oliver Ranch website. Take a look at their website, you will find a comprehensive account of the art on the property and a sneak peek into this magical place.



The Donum Estate

Sonoma
www.thedonumestate.com

The Donum Estate has amassed an incredible collection of some of the most respected sculpture artists in the world. To visit the estate is by appointment only and then you will have to decide which is more impressive, the art or the highly rated, limited edition exquisite single vineyards Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

di Rosa

5200 Sonoma (Carmeros) Highway, Napa
www.dirosaart.org

What used to be called the di Rosa Preserve has been shortened to di Rosa. Not sure why the change, but the name always made me think of the beautiful property as the wildlife preserve that was about WILD ART not WILD ANIMALS. Either way, I completely recommend a visit as you will find a dynamic collection of Northern Californian artists like no other. I can remember in our early days in Glen Ellen, Rene Di Rosa used to come over to eat at the bar. He was always so complimentary and enjoyed just about anything we fed him. He opened the di Rosa to the public the same year we opened the girl & the fig in 1997. At that time it was by appointment only, but now you can pop in Wednesday - Sunday from 10 - 4. There is a small charge though you can also take a tour that lasts over an hour and explores what you are not allowed to see on your own.

A nonprofit contemporary art center, di Rosa presents dynamic exhibitions and programs for all ages and houses the foremost collection of contemporary Bay Area art in the world. A wide range of styles, media, and subject matter provides an overview of the creative energy and freedom to experiment that characterize this region of California. di Rosa features three galleries, a sculpture park, and a 35-acre lake, all located on 217 scenic acres in Napa Valley's famed Carmeros region. For more information, visit dirosaart.org.

NOTE: The main gallery will be closed this summer for some renovations. There is still much to see, but I don't want you to be disappointed.

