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The Weekender: Sonoma, California

Hannah Huber

In the sleepy town of Sonoma, a night out consists of bundling up by a roaring fire with a glass of local wine. Days are filled with vineyard-hopping and bike rides around the historic square. It's an idyllic lifestyle that will call to you long after you've left. Don't be surprised if you find yourself pondering leaving your corporate job and taking up shop at a winery, because many of the locals have done just that. But, if you are looking for a quick taste of a slower life where opulent leisure reigns supreme, look no further than Sonoma. Below, our weekend guide to this California gem.

What to Do

If you only have a couple hours, snag an appointment for a vineyard tour at Kamen Wines. Perched high in the thick of Moon Mountain, sample a few of the winery's best blends from a picturesque overlook framing an endless rolling vineyard. On a clear day, you can spot San Francisco in the distance. If you're lucky, the owner himself may pop out to say hello. For art fans, visit The Donum Estate for an exclusive tasting and tour of the grounds. Think Storm King, but on a vineyard. Meander through the works of artists like Keith Haring, Richard Hudson, and Louise Bourgeois while sipping the most delicious Chardonnay and Pinot Noirs grown on property.



The Donum Estate

Wine culture aside, the town of Sonoma is rich with history. Within the tiny central square, what is now <u>Sonoma</u> broke away from Mexico and created the Bear Flag Republic, which is paid homage to on the California State Flag, before being claimed as part of the United States. Explore the Town Hall and spot numerous effigies of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo throughout the small plaza.