

## **SEPTEMBER – SAMPLE SANTA BARBARA’S COASTAL TREASURES!** ***Freshness Guaranteed on the American Riviera®***

September boasts plenty of sea and garden booty and is an excellent time to savor the region’s top flavors! Culinary fare comes full circle as harvest begins for rock and spider crab and farmers bring in spring-sown cantaloupe, apples and kiwifruit. A variety of captivating events focus on local food and wine treasures as well.

### **Festivals & Activities**

It’s back-to-school time! Enroll in a cooking class at **Montecito Country Kitchen’s Ecole de Cuisine** or drive the stoves at one of **Chef Isabelle Alexandre’s** (Citronelle) cooking lessons. Learn why *Ambrosia*, *Athena* and *Alienor* make up the A-list of local cantaloupe types and why Santa Barbara-grown kiwifruit makes the best sherbet and chutney on the planet.

Try the tantalizing **Taste of the Town** event at the Riviera Park & Gardens where 60 outstanding local restaurants and wineries will be perched high on the American Riviera®. Before taking in the activities, breakfast at the captivating **El Encanto Hotel & Garden Villas** across the street. There’s nothing like their view of the Pacific to pump up the palate and stimulate the soul.

For the environmental gourmand, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual **California Organic Festival** features pesticide-free alternative farming methods and includes samplings of ecologically-pristine foods from local restaurants. Talk about *Green greens!*

September’s abundance is also on full display in the spectacular Santa Ynez Valley. Visit the 17 year-old **Apple Lane Farm** and taste local varieties—Gala, Granny Smith, Fuji and Pink Lady. For some of the area’s finest edibles, visit **Los Olivos Grocery** for hearth breads, artisan cheeses and selected wines.

Celebrate the grape harvest early at the **Crush Party at Gainey Vineyard**. Put your fingers and your toes to picking and stomping grapes, and learn straight-from-the-source barrel tasting with the winemaker. Terrific Santa Maria-style tri-tip and chicken barbecue will replenish you after the hard day’s “work.”

For sweet teeth, wind your way to **Solvang’s Danish Days**, a celebration of the city’s rich Danish heritage. Try traditional aebleskivers, those famously addictive raspberry jam pancake balls dusted with powdered sugar. Chef Mogens Mortenson of **Mortenson’s Danish Bakery** pulls out the stops at the **Danish Days Dinner Dance**. Finally, don’t forget **Aalborg’s Akvavit** tasting area to enjoy a sip of the Danish *Water of Life*.

### **Culinary Travel Planner & Visitor Information**

Foodies rejoice! Planning a culinary adventure in Santa Barbara County just got simpler. Contact the Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau ([tourism@santabarbaraCA.com](mailto:tourism@santabarbaraCA.com) or 800.676.1266) for your copy of the 32-page **Get Fresh on the American Riviera®** culinary travel planner. The free-for-the-asking guide highlights culinary attractions and tours, including gourmet food product purveyors, regional seafood specialties, farmers’ markets, cooking classes, food and wine events, wineries, and much more! Visitor and culinary travel information is also available via [www.santabarbaraCA.com](http://www.santabarbaraCA.com) or [www.santabarbarafresh.com](http://www.santabarbarafresh.com).

### **Suggested Itinerary**

Head out on Mission Street towards Mission Santa Barbara and turn right on Alameda Padre Serra. Shortly thereafter, turn left uphill on Lasuen Road and right into the **El Encanto Hotel & garden Villas** for breakfast. Check out the specimen plantings in the hotel's famous 10-acre subtropical gardens.

Head back down past the mission and turn left on Laguna Street, right on Mission Street and left on State Street. Stop for a liquid refreshment, hot or cold, decaf or knock-ye-sox-off regular at **Santa Barbara Roasting Company** (locals call it "ROCO") where small batches of coffee beans (700 pounds each) are roasted daily.

For local fare from the sea, enjoy lunch on **Stearns Wharf** at the **Santa Barbara Shellfish Company**, which boasts the region's finest rock and spider crab. The restaurant's holding tanks are constantly circulating with fresh seawater from the ocean below. Following your seafood feast, stop in at **Stearns Wharf Vintners** for a taste of the area's top vintages.

After lunch, walk or rent a bike and head up State Street, Santa Barbara's famous shopping and people watching venue, for a multitude of culinary enticements and unique shops. For a perfect pairing of wine country cuisine and a stunning line-up of 50+ local wines by the glass, continue north on State Street to Victoria Street, where you'll find **bouchon santa barbara**, a top choice for dinner in a romantic setting.

### **Details**

- **Apple Lane Farm:** 1200 Alamo Pintado Rd., Solvang, 805.686.5858
- **bouchon santa barbara:** 9 W. Victoria St., Santa Barbara, 805.730.1160, [www.bouchonsantabarbara.com](http://www.bouchonsantabarbara.com)
- **California Organic Festival:** Sept. 17, Santa Barbara, 805.963.1625, [www.organicfestival.com](http://www.organicfestival.com)
- **Citronelle:** 901 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, 805.966.9856
- **Gainey Vineyard:** *Crush Party* Sept. 17, 3950 E. Hwy. 246, Santa Ynez, 805.688.0558
- **El Encanto Hotel & Garden Villas:** 1900 Lasuen Rd., Santa Barbara, 805.687.5000, [www.elencantohotel.com](http://www.elencantohotel.com)
- **Los Olivos Grocery:** 2621 W. Hwy. 154, Los Olivos, 805.688.5115, [www.losolivosgrocery.com](http://www.losolivosgrocery.com)
- **Montecito Country Kitchen:** 805.569.1021, [www.montecitocountrykitchen.com](http://www.montecitocountrykitchen.com)
- **Mortenson's Danish Bakery:** 1588 Mission Dr., Solvang, 805.688.8373
- **Santa Barbara Shellfish Co.:** 230-A Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, 805.966.6676
- **Santa Barbara Roasting Co.:** 321 Motor Way (State St. & Gutierrez St.) or in Paseo Nuevo Shopping Mall (State St. & Canon Perdido St.), Santa Barbara, 805.962.0320, [www.sbroco.com](http://www.sbroco.com)
- **Solvang Danish Days:** Sept. 16-18, Solvang, 800.468.6765, [www.solvangusa.com](http://www.solvangusa.com)
- **Stearns Wharf Vintners:** 217-G Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, 805.966.6624
- **Taste of the Town:** Sept. 11, Riviera Park & Gardens, Santa Barbara, 805.892.5556, [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)