



## **BIKING: Paso Robles, SLO and Santa Ynez Vly – 5 Day Itinerary**

### **Day One – Paso Robles Northeast Loop Ride – 20-40 miles**

Northeast of Paso Robles lies a bicycling and wine tasting region that features quiet country roads, relatively forgiving cycling terrain and plenty of small, friendly wineries that boast award winning red wines. A spin north along a quiet road along the Salinas River starts the day before you turn east and into the vineyard country. Rolling hills separate such wineries as Villa San Juliette (a great spot for lunch in a spectacular location), Ranchita Canyon and J&J. There are also several options explore even further into scenic ranchland as well as make a visit to historic Mission San Miguel. Later in the day you'll pass by Le Vigne, where you can do a cheese paring with your wines.

### **Day Two – Paso Robles Westside Loop Ride – 32 miles (elevation +2320 / -2320 ft)**

The Westside of Paso Robles abounds in small wineries set among beautiful secluded oak studded hillsides. The terrain is more challenging for a cyclist compared to the Eastside, but the rewards are well worth it. You'll feel like you are well off the beaten track as you climb the hills out of town to the Far Out Wineries group, including an optional out and back to the stunning Justin Winery. Halter Ranch and Tablas Creek also beckon. You can also taste olive oil at Pasolivo. Those up for even more miles (and hills) can tackle the very remote (and virtually traffic free) Klau Mine Loop. On the way back to Paso Robles you'll reap the benefit of all the climbing earlier in the day on longer downhill stretches through the oaks and vineyards.

### **Day Three – SLO Wineries Loop Ride – 20-40 miles**

The Edna Valley just south of SLO features both superb cycling and many award winning small wineries. Located closer to the cooling breezes of the Pacific Ocean, wineries in the Edna Valley produce many award winning chardonnays and pinot noirs. Cycling from SLO, you'll encounter vineyards almost immediately. You can keep the mileage short and focus on wine tasting at wineries like Baileyana, Kynsi and Saucelito Canyon. You can also explore more of the area on isolated country roads. Returning to SLO, the ride yields beautiful views of the Nine Sisters, a line of craggy volcanic hills stretching from SLO to Morro Bay.

### **Day Four – Santa Rosa Road – 20 miles, or more (elevation +1107 / -861)**

Santa Rosa Road is a gem of a ride in the Santa Ynez Valley wine country. After a shuttle from SLO (a little over 1 hour), we start riding along the Santa Ynez River Valley on a very lightly trafficked road through vineyards and nut orchards. Although there are some hills, the views of the valley are quite dramatic. Wineries such as Alma Rosa, LaFond and Sanford tempt us along the way. Home for the night could be the Danish themed town of Solvang or the smaller hamlets of Los Olivos, Ballard or Santa Ynez. Those up for more miles can tackle the secluded Alisal Road.

## **Day Five – Santa Ynez Valley – 20-40 miles**

There are many options for cycling today. The area is a training area for professional cyclists and includes many isolated country roads as well as more challenging climbs, all passing through idyllic vineyards and ranches with views of the dramatic San Rafael Mountains in the distance. Foxen Canyon is a classic ride and includes many well known wineries, including Fess Parker. Happy Valley gets out into horse ranch and olive oil growing areas. Those up for an epic climb can tackle Figueroa Mountain Road. Ballard Canyon offers a short steep climb followed by a rollicking downhill through vineyards and ranches sporting exotic cattle.

### **Tour Start/End Logistics**

- This tour usually meets in SLO and includes short shuttles during the tour to link up the different cycling areas.
- We usually end with a shuttle back to SLO at the end of the tour.

### **John's Tour Thoughts**

- Many groups also like to add a day of coastal riding between the Paso Robles and SLO segments. The best way to do this added day is to shuttle in the morning from Paso Robles out to the coast north of Cambria and ride down Highway One. Hearst Castle and Piedras Blancas elephant seal colony are along the way.



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