

FREE

# AMADOR

GOLD COUNTRY CALIFORNIA

# COUNTY

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Adventure  
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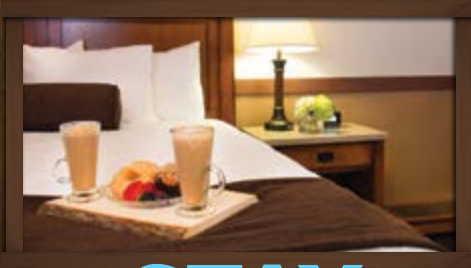
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Amador Council of Tourism  
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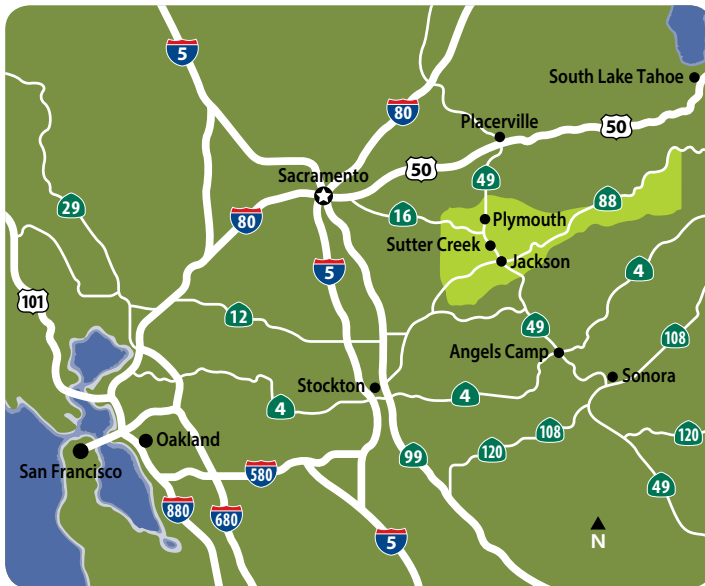


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# Welcome to Amador County



*Plan your Amador Adventure. Paddle a lake, sip barbera wine, explore a cave, shop boutiques, pan for gold. Wake up inside a historic hotel. Enjoy gallery openings, farmers' markets and farm-to-fork dining at locally-owned restaurants. Switch it up with gaming at Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort, historic tours, or Main Street events. Start here.*



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## Amador Council of Tourism

**Phone:** 877-868-7262 | 209-267-9249

**Visitor's Center:** 460 Sutter Hill Road | Sutter Creek, CA 95685

**On-line:** VisitAmador.com

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*Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this guide, please contact the businesses, services, and event coordinators for specific details, verification, and the most up-to-date information.*



# Amador County California

is in the heart of Gold Country, California and is the first (and only) county in the state named after a native Californian - Jose Maria Amador. Many other 'California firsts' happened here, too. (See box, far right).

## What is your Amador first?



**ONE** free mobile app! All things Amador on your phone - events, where to eat, and directions.

Get **VisitAmador** from your app store.



**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY** in California



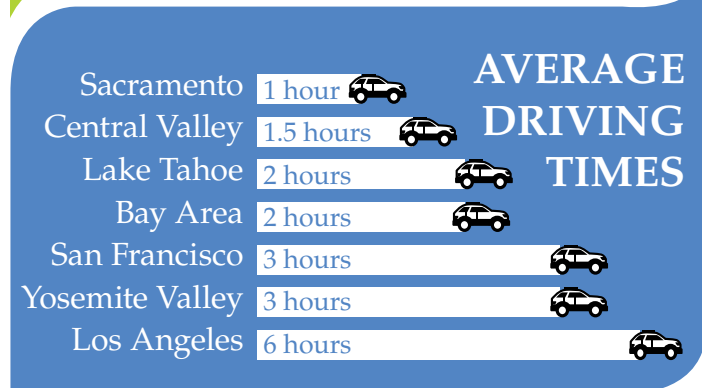
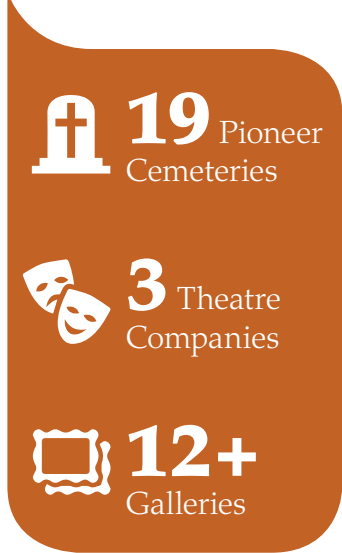
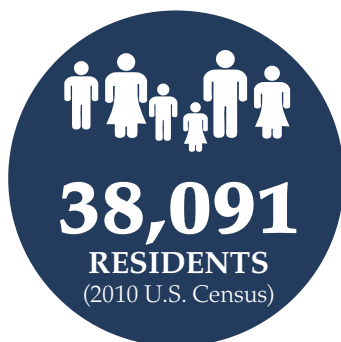
**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**RENTAL LIBRARY** in the country



**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**SERBIAN ORTHODOX Church** in the United States



# Amador Shopping Plaza



CuteCloset

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**BUY ONE GET ONE**  
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Buy one pattern and get a second pattern of equal or lesser value free!

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209.223.2002 | create@miystudio.net

**cricket**

**2 UNLIMITED PLANS & FREE HEADSET**

Visit Cricket Wireless in Jackson to receive 2 unlimited talk, text, & data plans for \$80. No Activation required. Present this coupon to receive a FREE Headset.

**Expires: December 31st, 2020**

Bring this coupon into Cricket Wireless in the Amador Shopping Plaza to redeem.

cricketwireless.com | 209.257.9561

**SUBWAY**

**FREE 6"**

Buy one, get any one regular 6 inch sandwich for FREE with purchase of 30.oz beverage.

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**FREE SUB**

Buy one, get any one ANY sandwich of equal or lesser value for FREE with purchase of 40.oz beverage.

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Open Every Day | 209.223.7874



**BUY ONE GET ONE**  
**99¢ CONE**

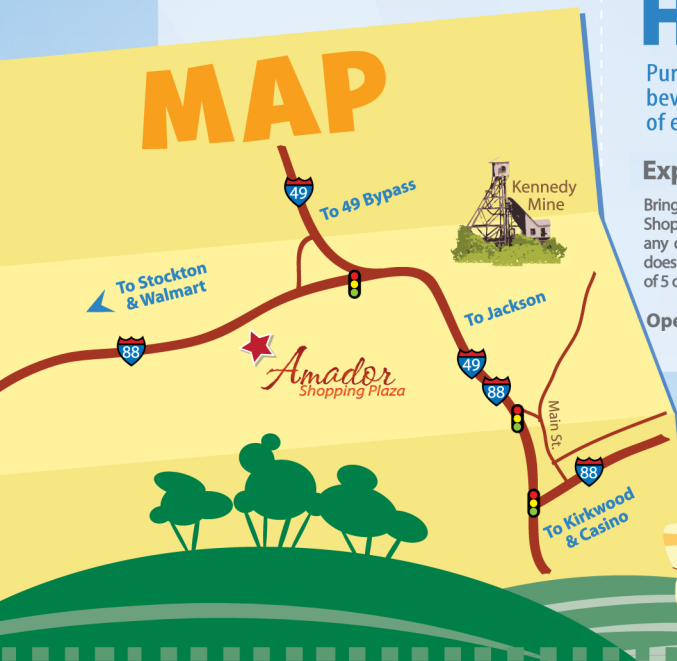
Buy any cone & get a 2nd of equal or lesser value for 99¢

**Expires: December 31st, 2020**

Bring this coupon into Baskin Robbins located in the Amador Shopping Plaza to redeem. Limit one coupon per purchase per customer. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Consumer must pay applicable tax. Good at this location only. Some restrictions apply. While supplies last. May not be combined with any other coupon discount or promotion. Coupon may not be reproduced, copied, purchased, traded or sold. Cash redemption value 1/20 of 1 cent.

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**MAP**



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**MORE Dining**



**HWY 88 Martell • Near the HWY 49 Intersection**



## **Kennedy Gold Mine**

offers tours March through October on weekends. Group tours are available on weekdays with advance reservations. During the summer, a local theater company produces plays in an outdoor amphitheater located on the property.

# Rich Amador History is About More Than the Gold Rush

By Editorial Staff



*Quartz rocks' veins, called the Mother Lode, ran deepest and richest between Amador's bordering rivers, the Cosumnes and the Mokelumne, and produced \$160 million in gold between 1851 and 1942. Kennedy and Argonaut Mines in Jackson were close to 6,000 feet deep and the deepest mines in the Mother Lode.*

For untold generations the small bands of Miwuk Indians inhabited the hills, rivers, alpine lakes and Sierra peaks of today's Amador County. Miwuk men hunted, fished, and seasonally moved their bands to escape lowland heat or follow the harvest of acorns. Miwuk women made home out of various rancherias, and ground acorns at grinding rocks near creeks and streams. Some of the legacy has been preserved and exhibited at Chaw-Se Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park, near Volcano, the state's only park dedicated to the culture of Miwuk. Its feature is a 7,700 square-foot limestone monolith with more than 1,185 mortar holes which Miwuk women made by grinding their acorns for hundreds of years. More than 363 petroglyphs are also etched into nearby rocks.

On January 25, 1848, at Sutter's saw mill in Coloma, James Marshall spied that celebrated chispa which led to the "world rushing in." Miwuk Indians, non-Indian Californios, Sonorans from Mexico, Kanakas from Hawaii, Mormons and American soldiers tried their luck at scooping placer gold, gold loosened from the source rock, in rivers, creeks and gulches throughout the Sierra foothills. One of the native Californios who left rancho to mine in what is now Amador was Jose Maria Amador,

former majordomo of San Jose Mission lands, who mined on a small creek in 1848 and early in 1849. His presence named the creek "Amadore" or "Amador" and would later name the county when it split off from Calaveras in 1854. Another prominent history-maker mining here was John Sutter. It's documented that he, and his party including Native Americans and Kanakas, mined a creek in the summer of 1848.

*They formed the county anyway and never looked back.*

In spring of 1851, gold fever was reignited with discoveries of gold in quartz rock. Experienced miners followed loose gold to its source, or located quartz rock outcroppings which they uncovered and hounded through the earth. Amador's first quartz discoveries were along Amador Creek. Those discoveries and others along the mother lode veins made permanent many Amador camps which might have vanished. Amid that second rush was born Amador County, a scion of Calaveras County, on June 14, 1854. Although Calaveras officials never approved the contested results of the election, it didn't deter Amador's new leaders. They formed the county anyway and never looked back.

*When the county of Amador was organized in 1854, legislators picked the name of Amador over Washington, honoring the first non-Indian Californio. And John Sutter, whose name belongs to Sutter Creek, sent workers into the area well before gold's discovery, forming the first non-Native American settlement in the Sierra.*

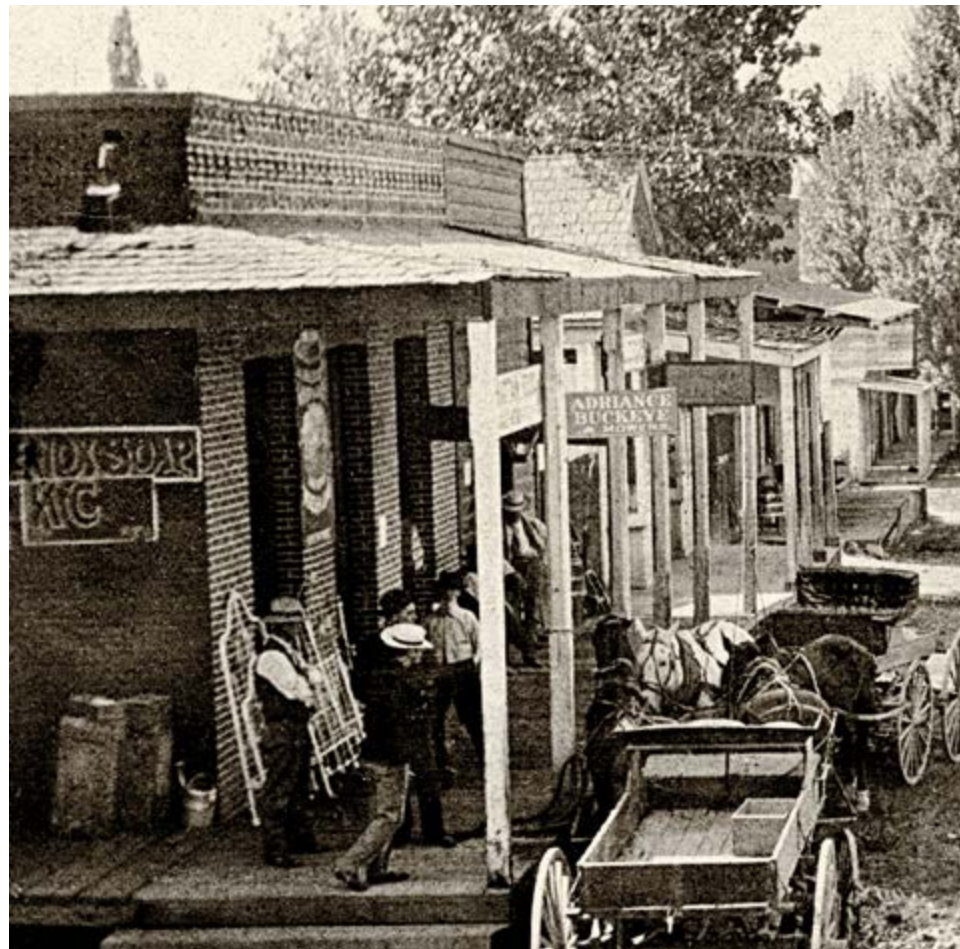
The 1850s saw some mines hit rich pockets of ore, and then fail when the gold pocket pinched out. Most quartz mines cost their partners more than they made. In the late 1850s Sutter Creek attorney, Alvinza Hayward, hit paying rock, bought out the adjoining Eureka, and formed the Hayward Amador Mine, the richest mine in the state. Another mine, the Keystone, got its start in 1853 and, from the 1860s into the 1890s, was the county's most productive mine. In Sutter Creek, the Summit Mine evolved into the Central Eureka and it reaped dividends until after World War II. It was the last major Amador mine to close. Plymouth had its rich mine, the Empire, which before an 1888 fire was perhaps the state's richest mine and made the new town of Plymouth the mining center of the county. More celebrated in gold mining history were the

gemini of Amador mines, the adjoining Kennedy and Argonaut near Jackson. Both got started in the 1850s, the latter as the claim of African-American men.

After various ownerships, both mines finally struck steady pay chutes in the late 1880s and early 1890s. They made owners wealthy and produced great profits until World War II closed them, never to reopen. In the Argonaut Mine, in 1922, occurred the state's worst mining disaster when a deep mine fire trapped 47 miners working below the flames. A valiant rescue effort from the Kennedy finally reached the men, as the world watched newsreels and newspapers for the result. Alas, they had all died from gases loosed by the fire just hours after they were trapped. In Jackson's Serbian



*Chew Kee is a Chinese rammed earth structure established as an herb shop during the Gold Rush.*







*Amador County Museum showcases Gold History Exhibit, historic fashions, and a Mine Model Exhibit.*

Orthodox, Catholic and Community cemeteries lie the 47 victims of the tragedy and fitting memorials.

World War II changed everything. All the mines closed in 1941, and men and women were needed for the war effort. After the war, when the mines didn't reopen – the county looked toward tourism, gambling and girls to boost the economy. The latter lasted until the mid-1950s, when timbering and lumber mills took center stage.

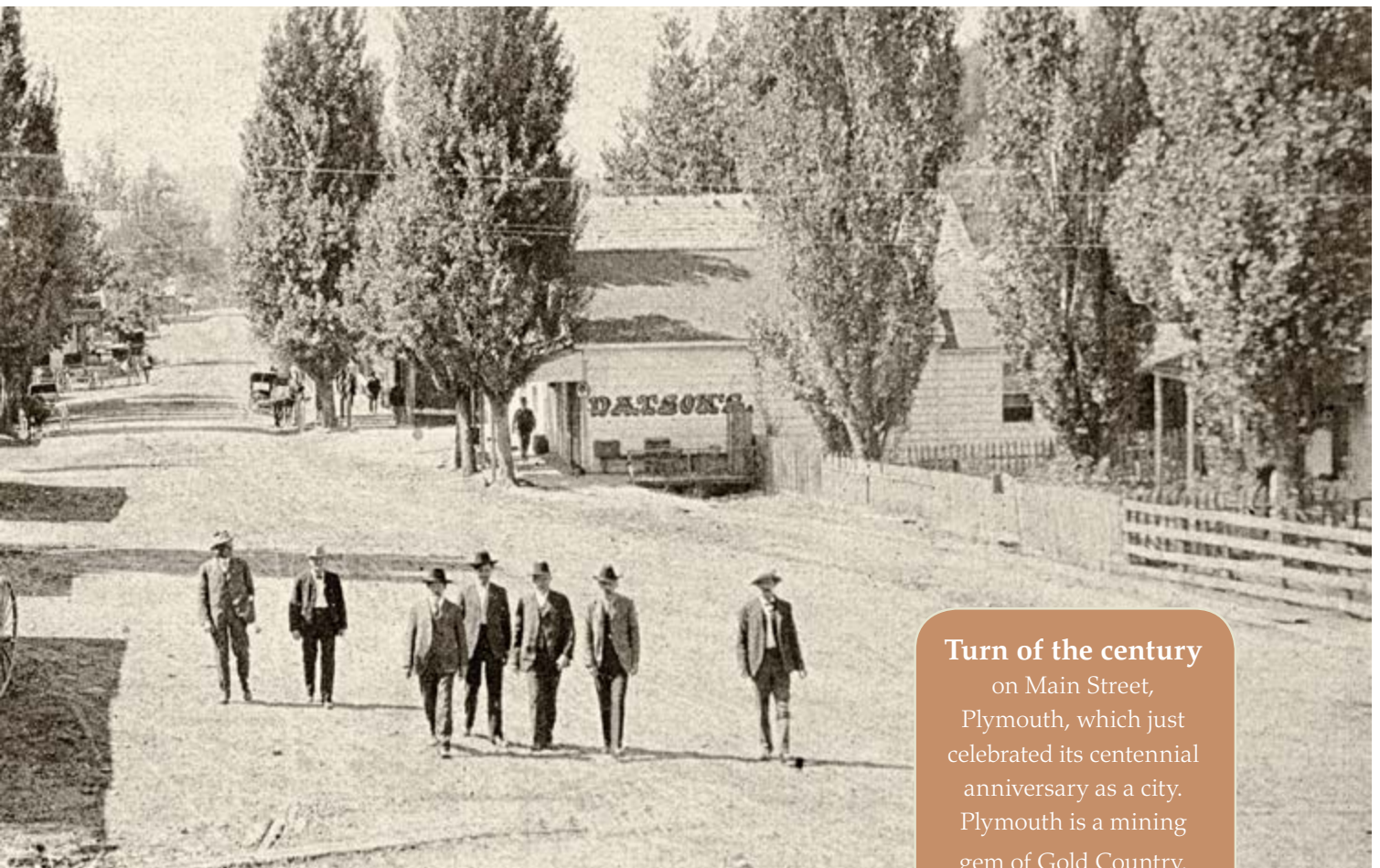
Amador lured many to its gold towns and other attractions, ranging from near sea level to almost 10,000 feet in the Sierra. The construction of dams backing Lake Amador and Lake Camanche in the 1960s added

fishing and water sports. The McLaughlin and Lucot families turned their private family Daffodil Hill garden into a regional magnet each spring luring thousands. And, in the 1970s, Kirkwood Ski Resort was developed at Zach Kirkwood's old meadow and surrounding peaks, necessitating opening of Highway 88 year round.

Today, visitors experience gold rush history walking downtown, taking a tour at a gold mine, panning for gold in the river, or listening to an old-timer tell stories about their family. The birth of California statehood, started in this Gold Country region, and the pioneer spirit continues today in this close-knit community, proud of its roots and passionate to share the story. ■

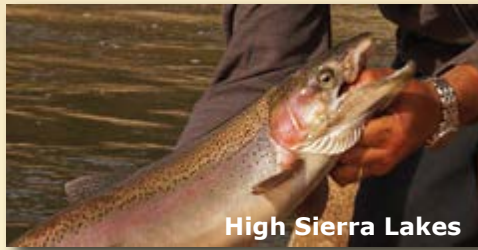


*St. Sava Church, the first Serbian Orthodox church in the western hemisphere, was founded in 1894 by Serbian immigrants.*



**Turn of the century**  
on Main Street,  
Plymouth, which just  
celebrated its centennial  
anniversary as a city.  
Plymouth is a mining  
gem of Gold Country.

# Your AMADOR ADVENTURE begins here!



High Sierra Lakes



Kirkwood Mountain Resort



Historic National Hotel

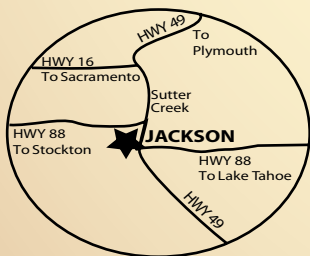


Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort

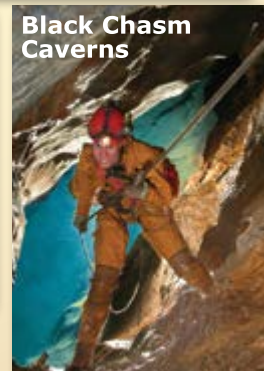


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 Plan your Amador County Adventure at  
[www.touramador.com](http://www.touramador.com)

*"A great, off-the-beaten-path place to retire..."*  
 USA Today, August 2014

*Voted Best Place to Live in the Motherlode, 2014*  
 Sierra LodeStar Magazine



# Amador City

California's Smallest Hometown — Incorporated 1915

"Amador City stands today among the liveliest and most go-ahead towns on the Pacific Coast."

- Sacramento Daily Union, 1879

"If you like Gold Country towns with history, charm and a sense of being buggered from the noisy outside world, Amador City is as good as it gets."

- Peter Fish, SF Chronicle, 2017



Unique Shops • Wine Tasting • Hotel, Saloon & Restaurants • Bakery • Museum • Events

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**Parades down Main Street** happen all year long. Italian Picnic Parade is the first Sunday in June. For more than 135 years, the Italian Benevolent Society has celebrated Italian food and culture at their picnic grounds.

# Big Hearts in Small Towns are the Norm in Amador County

By Editorial Staff



*Amador County has five incorporated cities, three towns and a village named Volcano. Pine Grove, Pioneer and Kirkwood are communities along scenic Highway 88. Many settlers arrived in Gold Country along this road. Pioneer families of Amador claim six generations of providing warm hospitality to visitors.*

## Jackson

At the crossroads of Scenic Highways 49 and 88, Gold Country adventures begin and end in Jackson. Charming, 150-year old Main Street boasts one of California's oldest and most notorious establishments, the newly renovated National Hotel. Antiques, the Amador County Museum, gift shops, popular eateries, even a steam punk-themed bookstore attract shoppers and history buffs. A Gold Country adventure isn't complete without experiencing the miner's way of life on a tour of the legendary Kennedy Mine. Minutes from Main Street, the Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort features top name entertainers, and Jackson's location on beautiful Highway 88 makes it the ideal base camp for High Sierra camping, fishing, and snow sports.

## Sutter Creek

"Although John Sutter's sawmill was about forty miles away, Sutter Creek is in the heart of the California Gold Country. Sutter made camp here, trying to avoid the gold rush crowds, but miners soon spilled in and made the town. Mining boomed and then faded... making way for today's contagion: wine fever... In and around Sutter Creek you can mosey along sidewalks shaded by filigreed balconies."<sup>1</sup> Sutter Creek is 100% walkable. A simple

stroll down Main Street leads you to quaint Bed and Breakfast Inns, wine tasting, locally-owned boutiques and galleries, antique stores, Victorian residential neighborhoods and tiny beautiful churches. <sup>1</sup>(*The New York Times: 36 Hours - 150 weekends in the US and Canada*)

## Amador City

A symbol of true 49'er gold-mining heritage, tiny Amador City stands today in its lovely creekside location with an array of historical buildings housing unique shops and eateries. Most buildings date from 1878 and offer up-to-date shopping, two great wine tasting venues, and a European-style bakery.

Vestiges of old mines like the Keystone are here for you to discover. Town provides a self-guided walking tour. Hiking and biking trails abound. Nature is always a show in this neck of the woods! Amador City calls itself "The Hidden Nugget of the Mother Lode."

## Ione

In 1853, Thomas Rickey subdivided land on the stage road from Sacramento and named it Ioneville. Before '53, miners panned for gold along all creeks in the valley. Historians differ, but most likely "I own it" evolved into

*Veterans Day Parade down Main Street in Jackson includes everyone. And the weather can be amazing, too.*



Ione. By 1894, the iconic Preston Castle began as a reformatory for youth, housing inmates from San Quentin and Alcatraz. In 1904, a short-line railroad company, Ione & Eastern, constructed eleven miles of track from Ione to Martell. Among Ione's finest are Ernie Bonham, New York Yankee pitcher, and jazz giant, Dave Brubeck, who attended Ione High School.

## Drytown

Drytown was the first community established in northern Amador County and dates from 1849. Although the creek may have run dry during the summer months, legend has it the town never did, as an old story claims some twenty-six saloons wet the miners' whiskers during the early 1850's.

## Plymouth

City names Pokerville and Puckerville preceded Plymouth along the old stage road between Fiddletown and Sacramento. When the Plymouth Mine hit rich rock by 1870, a new village named Plymouth rose, adjacent to the mine. Plymouth is home to Amador County Fairgrounds, established in 1938 by the late Harold Colburn and other citizens. Grape growing and wine making began in the county in the early 1850s. Plymouth hosts the oldest planting of Zinfandel grapes in the United States. An agricultural history museum, Shenandoah Valley Museum, is located at Sobon Estates, the longest-running winery in Amador County.

## Fiddletown

The legend is that fiddle-playing miners from Missouri named the flat and town. By the

late 1850's, Fiddletown had a sizable Chinese community and a rare Chinese rammed earth adobe. Today that adobe is the Chew Kee Store, with a collection of a Chinese Herb doctor's medicinal artifacts. Once a year musicians arrive from near and far to play music at the Fiddlers Jam. This free event brings plenty of audience to listen and applaud. Foot-stomping and clapping encouraged.

## Volcano

Barely 115 people live in Volcano today. Volcano was a rip-roaring gold town with more than 5,000 inhabitants. Nearly \$100 million was extracted from the area. During the Civil War, a cannon was brought to Volcano to protect outgoing gold shipments to the Union side. It's still there. Notable firsts for Volcano include: first theater group in the state, California's first debating society, first private school, first law school, and first astronomical observatory. Nearby, Black Chasm Cavern is a National Natural Landmark open year-round.

## Upcountry: Pine Grove to Kirkwood

For many generations Northern Sierra Miwok lived, traded and traversed the foothills and mountains of the Sierra Nevada. In 1844, non-Native Americans first crossed the high Sierra when Fremont's Expedition, in deep snow, surmounted the range, thanks to several mountain-man immortals- Kit Carson, Alex Godey, Thomas Fitzpatrick.

With the arrival of early immigrants the ancient well-worn Miwok foot-paths transitioned to rutted roads, then to the highest trans-Sierra route in the state;

Photo: Caroline Somary



*Amador's historic downtowns offer self-guided walking tours. Local volunteers love to share their knowledge of the history. Stop by the visitor center on Main Street for your tour brochure, dining options, and recreation spots.*

California State designated Scenic Highway 88, also known as Carson Pass Highway. With the opening of Kirkwood Ski Resort in the early 1970s Highway 88 became a year-round trans-Sierra route for the first time.

During the Civil War, Highway 88 was a major route through the mountains shipping timber, food and gold to the east. In 1848, a California remnant of the Mormon Battalion forsook gold fields and returned to Salt Lake valley. The party pioneered a new route over the Sierra. Tragedy struck a three-man advance party, slain by Indians at Tragedy Spring.

The search for gold spread east and into the mountains. Miners and gold-panners could be found all over the Upcountry; in Pine Grove, along the Mokelumne River, in Buckhorn, or in long-gone places called Tom & Dick or Pick and Drill.

In 1853, French immigrant, Ramón Pierre Plasse, built a home on Silver Lake that has continued to be a resort for 161 years, Plasse's Resort. In 1861 Zachary Kirkwood built a log cabin at his summer ranching operations. In 1864 he added a hostelry, post office, stagecoach depot serving many travelers throughout the Sierra in the late 1800s. Today, the Kirkwood Inn still serves Upcountry travelers.

For almost two centuries, people have been attracted to Upcountry; the sparkling mountain lakes; grassy meadows with glassy smooth ponds; profuse wildflowers; deep river canyons; dramatic mountain passes; and the rich diversity of recreation and history to be found. ■

## Insider's Tips

**When we have family and friends visiting from out of the area, this is where we take them:**

- **Jackson:** Baker Street West, on the second floor of Hein & Co. Books, will immerse you in Sherlock Holmes' London.
- **Sutter Creek:** Stop by Miners' Bend Park for a self-guided tour of historic mining equipment. Sample local wine on Main Street.
- **Amador City:** Dine on the patio of the Imperial Hotel; then stroll to find locally-made products, including handcrafted breads, and friendly shopkeepers.
- **Jone:** Stop by Clark's Corner to see Amador County's cattle brands on the back wall. Great place for cycling, fishing and golf.
- **Drytown:** Ride your motorcycle to Drytown Club for live music on weekends.
- **Plymouth:** The Farmers Market, Thursday nights in August and September, has music, dinner, wine and local produce.
- **Fiddletown:** View Gold-Rush era Chinese buildings or enjoy the annual Fiddler's Jam and Street Fair.
- **Volcano:** Black Chasm Cavern is a steady 57 degrees all year-round.
- **Pine Grove:** Pan for gold along the Mokelumne River at Roaring Camp Mining Company.
- **Pioneer:** Jump off to year-round recreation, all along scenic Highway 88.

Wine tasting, country roads,  
fishing, boating & camping ...



# IONE



Gateway to the Gold Country!

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at Castle Oaks Golf Club...

Enjoy Gold Rush-era Main Street's  
friendly restaurants, saloons  
and shops!

Paranormal adventures  
at Preston Castle...



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The Big Crush—1st weekend in October

HOME OF THE  
*Amador County Fair*  
Last weekend in July

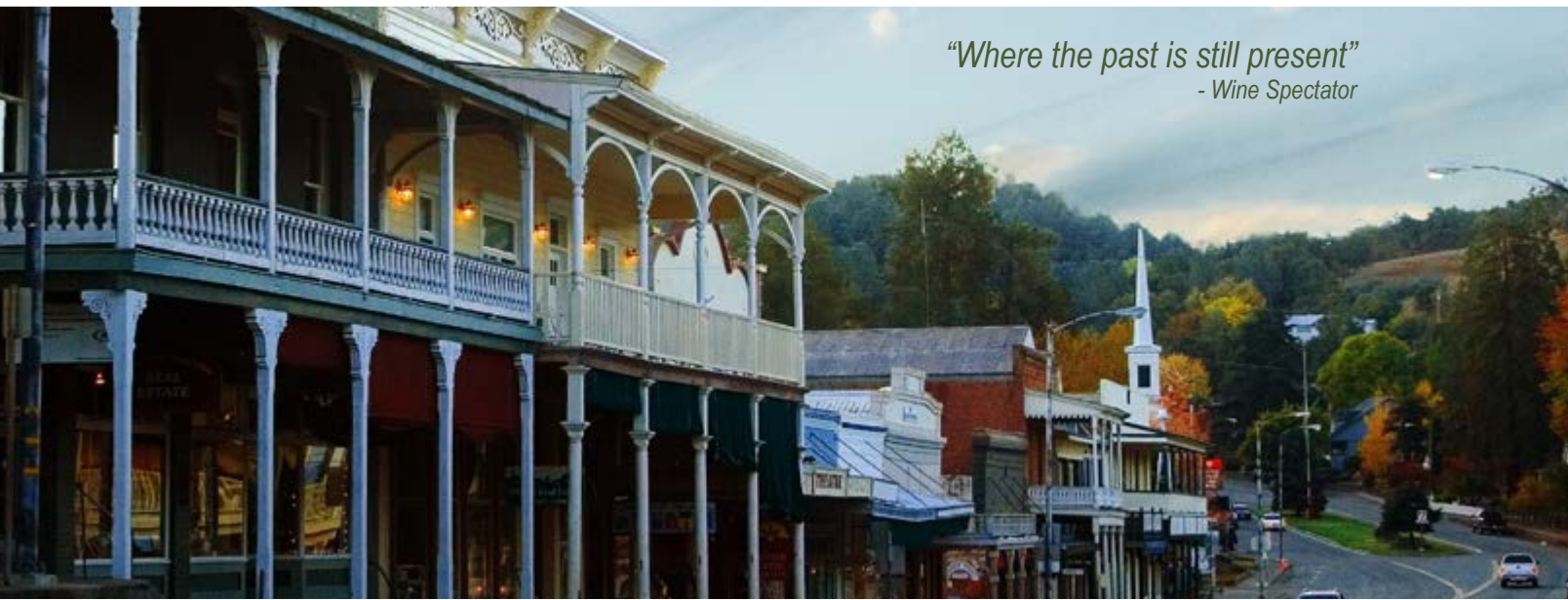
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*Charming historic gold country town with plenty to enjoy all year around.*



*"Where the past is still present"*  
- Wine Spectator



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OUTDOOR SUMMER FUN



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HOLIDAY CHARM

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World-class local wine tasting on Main Street and nearby in the Shenandoah Valley

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# Discover



# BELLA GRACE VINEYARDS



Photograph by Susan Raines

**Bella Grace** is a family owned winery, whose hand crafted wines have earned numerous prestigious awards. Experience the unique, relaxed hospitality at our Sutter Creek tasting room or our Wine Cave in the Shenandoah Valley outside of Plymouth.



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shared moments, among friends  
and family, is a bottle of  
Bella Grace wine.**

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WHERE THE RHÔNE VALLEY MEETS THE SIERRA NEVADA

# E A S T O N



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The style of our wines emphasizes deep color, balanced flavors, full middle palate, and a long finish, with power and finesse. Our goal is to make the finest wines possible from our region that can be placed on the table with the best wines of the world.

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TCP 37644A



**Amador vines are** planted in volcanic Sierra Series soils, primarily sandy clay loam derived from decomposed granite, which allows most growers to dry-farm vineyards. Vines are planted on rolling, oak-studded hillsides ranging from 1,200 to 2,000 feet in elevation

# Award-winning Wineries are Part of the Landscape

By Jennifer Pechette



*Just 35 minutes east of Sacramento and less than two hours from Reno and the Bay Area, Amador County Wine Region is home to wines of great distinction, and unparalleled hospitality. Drive the region's picturesque back roads dotted with family-run and specialized wineries.*

Meet owners and winemakers as they share wines that flourish in our sun-drenched vineyards. Plan to stay a while and enjoy a picnic under an old oak tree, between craggy stone landscapes, with the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains as your backdrop. Enjoy a wide selection of entertainment provided by our wineries, including two of the region's annual and much loved events, Behind the Cellar Door and the fall harvest festival, The Big Crush.

Amador's wine country roots run deep. Long before other wine areas were established in California, winemaking was a way of life in Amador. Some of America's first fine wines were produced amidst its rolling hills. In the 1850s, gold fever gripped the state, drawing prospectors from around the world. Many were Europeans who brought the vine cuttings and knowledge required to establish wineries in America. In a few years, there were more wineries in Amador than anywhere else in the state!

Italian immigrants were particularly fond of the area because it reminded them of winegrowing districts in Italy's famed Tuscany region. Winemaking in Amador flourished until the decline of gold mining at the end of the 19th century, and almost ceased with Prohibition in 1920. But in the 1960s, a new

generation of winemakers began migrating to the Sierra Foothill region, drawn by the region's temperate climate and volcanic, decomposed granite soils.

Over forty wineries have transformed Amador County into one of California's most notable wine-growing regions. Families like the Sobons and Deavers have reawakened the lost art of winemaking by invigorating old vineyards. Their deeply rooted, head-trained vines produce tiny crops of small-berried grapes. Significant among them is Zinfandel, California's heritage grape. Tracing its roots back to the 1800s, "Zinfindall" was exhibited at the California state fair in 1858. Now, it is one of the most widely planted varieties in the Sierra Foothills, producing a robust red wine revered worldwide. Nearly a quarter of Amador's vine acres hold Zinfandel vines over sixty years old. Italian varietals like Sangiovese and Barbera are also popular, as are classic French varieties, such as Syrah and Viognier, originating in France's Rhône Valley.

Today, the next generation of winemakers are adding their passion and progressive winemaking skills to the region. They offer memorable wines that reflect the authentic character of the land and the people here.

**Learn more at [www.amadorwine.com](http://www.amadorwine.com)** ■




Winetasting events fill the calendar. Amador City's Downtown Wine takes place on the second Friday evening in August.

# Amador Ales and Amador Wines

complete your experience here in the heart of the Gold Country. Try Italian varietals, like Barbera, Tempranillo, or Sangiovese. Ready for fun? Rosés, dry to sweet, provide a refreshing take on a summer wine.

In addition to wineries and tasting rooms, Amador County is home to several breweries and alehouses with many of the same amenities as the our wineries.

Alehouses												
<b>Amador Brewing Co.</b> Ione	209-507-1900 amadorbrewingcompany.com		•	•						•		
<b>Brickhouse Brews</b> Jackson	209-223-3580	•	•	•							•	
<b>Ione Public House</b> Ione	209-332-0770		•									
<b>Jamison's Ale House</b> Amador City	209-267-8293 jamisonsalehouse.com	•	•	•						•		
<b>Sutter Creek Provisions</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-8034	•	•	•							•	
<b>Volcano Union Pub</b> Volcano	209-296-7711 volcanounion.com	•	•	•						•	•	

Wine Tasting Rooms and Wineries												
<b>1850 Wine Cellars</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-8114 1850winecellars.com	•						•		•		
<b>24 Brix Wines</b> Plymouth	209-680-9035 24brixwines.com	•			•			•	•	•		
<b>Amador 360 Winery Collective Tasting Room</b> Plymouth	209-245-6600 amador360.com	•						•				
<b>Amador Cellars</b> Plymouth	209-245-6150 amadorcellars.com	•	•		•	•		•		•		
<b>Andis Wines</b> Plymouth	209-245-6177 andiswines.com	•	•		•	•		•	•	•		
<b>Avio Vineyards &amp; Winery</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-1515 aviowine.com	•	•		•	•		•	•	•		
<b>Baiocchi Wines</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-5523 baiocchiwines.com	•						•		•	•	



Tasting



Food



Weddings



Limos/Buses



Events



Vineyard



Picnic Area



Tasting Fees



Dog Friendly













Tours

## Wine Tasting Rooms and Wineries

<b>Bella Piazza Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-4600 bellapiazzawinery.com	•	•				•		•		
<b>BellaGrace Tasting Room</b> Plymouth	209-267-8053 bellapiazzawinery.com	•		•			•		•	•	
<b>BellaGrace Vineyards</b> Sutter Creek	209-681-2103 bellagracevineyards.com	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	
<b>Binz Wines</b> Amador City	209-296-2191 binzwines.com	•									
<b>Borjon Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-308 borjonwinery.com	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		
<b>Bray Vineyards</b> Plymouth	209-245-6023 brayvineyards.com	•	•				•		•		
<b>C.G. Di Arie Vineyard &amp; Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-4700 cgdiarie.com	•	•		•		•		•		
<b>Charles Spinetta Winery &amp; Wildlife Art Gallery</b> Plymouth	209-245-3384 charlesspinettawinery.com	•	•		•				•		
<b>Cinque Wine Tasting</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-0900 cinquewines.com	•					•		•		
<b>Clos du Lac Cellars</b> Ione	209-274-2238 closdulac.com	•	•						•		
<b>Convergence Vineyards</b> Ione	209-245-3600 convergencevineyards.com	•	•		•		•		•		
<b>Cooper Vineyards</b> Plymouth	209-245-6181 cooperwines.com	•	•		•	•		•	•		
<b>Deaver Vineyards</b> Plymouth	209-245-4099 deavervineyard.com	•	•		•	•		•	•		
<b>Dillian Wines</b> Plymouth	209-245-3444 dillianwines.com	•	•		•				•		
<b>Distant Cellars</b> Fiddletown	209-245-8687 distantcellars.com	•	•		•		•	•	•		
<b>Dobra Zemlja</b> Plymouth	209-245-3183 dobraz.com	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		
<b>Driven Cellars</b> Plymouth	209-245-4545 drivencellars.com	•	•				•		•		
<b>Drytown Cellars</b> Drytown	209-245-3500 drytowncellars.com	•	•		•			•	•		
<b>Estey Family Vineyards</b> Plymouth	209-245-3450 esteyfamilyvineyard.com	•	•		•			•	•		
<b>Feist Wines</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-8020 feistwines.com	•		•			•	•	•	•	
<b>Helwig Vineyards &amp; Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-5200 helwigwinery.com	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	
<b>Il Gioiello Winery &amp; Morse Wines</b> Fiddletown	209-245-3395 morsewines.com	•	•						•		
<b>Iron Hub Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-6307 amadorfoothill.com	•	•		•		•	•	•		
<b>Jeff Runquist Wines</b> Plymouth	209-245-6282 jeffrunquistwines.com	•	•		•				•		

-  Tasting
-  Food
-  Weddings
-  Limos/Buses
-  Events
-  Vineyard
-  Picnic Area
-  Tasting Fees
-  Dog Friendly
-  Tours

Wine Tasting Rooms and Wineries											
<b>Karmere Vineyards &amp; Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-5000 karmere.com	•	•		•	•			•		
<b>Legendre Cellars</b> Amador City	209-292-1212 legendrecellars.	•					•		•		
<b>Le Moulet Rouge Wine Tasting</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-5838 lemouletrouge.com	•					•		•		
<b>Le Moulet Rouge Vineyard &amp; Winery</b> Fiddletown	209-267-5838 lemouletrouge.com	•	•				•		•		
<b>Leoni Farms</b> Sutter Creek	209-256-5175	•							•		
<b>Miller Wine Works</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-5457 millerwineworks.com	•					•		•		
<b>Nua Dair Vineyards</b> Ione	209-245-5567 nuadair.net	•	•								
<b>Prospect Cellars</b> Plymouth	209-245-5567 prospectcellars.com	•		•	•		•		•		
<b>Rancho Victoria</b> Plymouth	209-600-2557 ranchovictoriavineyard.com	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
<b>Rombauer Sierra Foothills</b> Plymouth	800-622-2206 rombauer.com	•	•	•			•	•	•		
<b>Scott Harvey Wines</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-0122 scottharveywines.com	•					•				
<b>Scott Harvey Wines</b> Plymouth	209-245-3670 scottharveywines.com	•	•				•		•		
<b>Sera Fina Cellars 2</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-0900 serafinacellars.com	•			•		•		•		
<b>Sera Fina Cellars Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-4300 serafinacellars.com	•	•				•		•		
<b>Shenandoah Vineyards</b> Plymouth	209-245-4455 shenandoahvineyards.com	•	•		•			•	•		
<b>Sierra Ridge Wine and Cullinary</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-8168 sierraridgewine.com	•			•				•		
<b>Sobon Estate</b> Plymouth	209-245-6554 sobonwine.com	•	•		•			•	•		
<b>Stonehouse Vineyards and Winery</b> Plymouth	530-391-0411 stonehousewines.com	•	•		•			•	•		
<b>Story Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-6208 zin.com	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		
<b>Tanis Vineyards</b> Ione	209-274-4807 tanisvineyards.com	•	•				•	•	•		
<b>Terra D'Oro/Montevina</b> Plymouth	209-245-6942 terradorowinery.com, Montevina.com	•	•		•			•		•	•
<b>Terre Rouge &amp; Easton Wines</b> Plymouth	209-245-4277 terreropegwines.com	•	•		•		•	•	•		
<b>TKC Vineyards</b> Plymouth	209-245-6428 tkcvineyards.com	•	•		•			•	•		
<b>Turley Wine Cellars</b> Plymouth	209-245-3938 turleywinecellars.com	•	•		•		•	•	•		



*When you're headed to Amador wineries, bring snacks and bottled waters along; restaurants are located outside of the vineyard region.*

Wine Tasting Rooms and Wineries											
<b>Uphill Wine Tasting Room</b> Sutter Creek	707-718-1121 uphillvinyards.com	•					•		•		
<b>Villa Toscano Winery</b> Plymouth	209-245-3800 villatoscano.com	•	•				•		•		
<b>Vino Noceto</b> Plymouth	209-245-6556 noceto.com	•	•		•	•		•	•		•
<b>Wilderotter Vineyard</b> Plymouth	209-245-6016 wilderottervineyard.com	•	•		•		•	•			
<b>Wine Tree Farm &amp; Corinne's Wines</b> Amador City	209-783-5049 winetreefarm.com	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	
<b>Yorba Wines</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-8190 YorbaWines.com	•					•		•		
<b>Youngs Vineyard</b> Plymouth	209-245-3005 youngsvineyard.com	•	•		•			•			

# Wine 101

## New to Tasting Rooms and Wineries? Here are some tips.

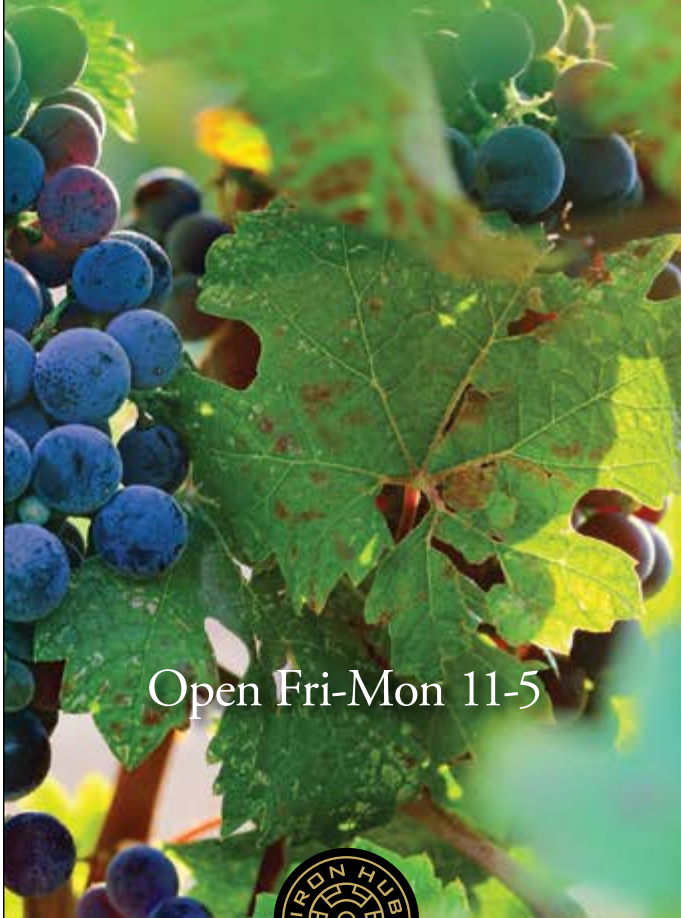
- **Ask away.** Winetasting staffers love to answer questions. They are passionate about the wines they pour and want you to feel the same way.
- **Swirl, smell and sip.** When wine is swirled in a glass it coats the glass and allows the nose to smell more of the aromas. Take a sip and spend a moment to notice the differences between what your nose told you and what your mouth told you.
- **Three sip protocol.** First sip cleanses your palate. Second sip prepares your palate to taste. Third sip allows you to taste the wine. Now what do you think?
- **Dump bucket is your friend.** Do feel free to dump the wine once you have tasted it. Your pourer will not be offended and will recognize your empty glass as a signal to pour the next taste.
- **Pack a picnic.** Many wineries have wonderful places to sit and enjoy a meal. Your host winery is happy to uncork their wine and provide fresh glasses to go with your meal.
- **Plan to purchase.** Wineries are in the business of selling wine. Show them some love by buying wine you love.
- **Wines don't like heat.** Amador gets warm in the summer. Bring a cooler filled with cold waters and to keep your wines cool.

**Relax, it's fun. Folks at Amador wineries want you to enjoy yourself and their wines. Smile and they will smile back.**



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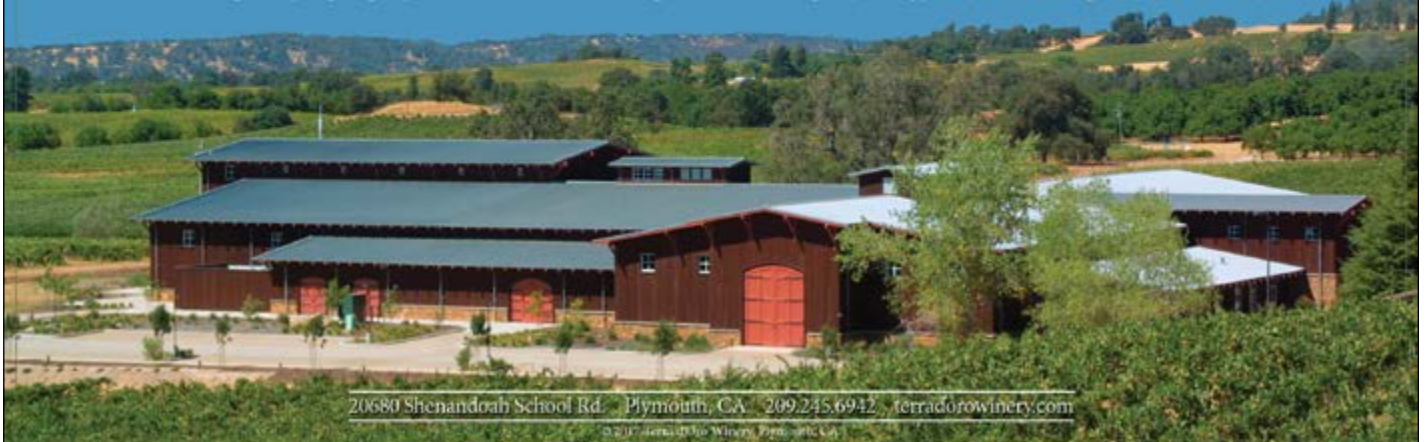


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- Kirkwood Mountain Resort
- Black Chasm Cavern Tours
- Bowling at Gold Country Lanes
- Golf at Castle Oaks Golf Course
- Summer Fishing in Silver Lake
- Winter Fishing in Lake Camanche
- Summer Hiking in Eldorado National Forest
- Winter Hiking on Mokelumne River

# Elevate Your Fun with Outdoor Recreation and Play

By Editorial Staff



Photo: Serena Deininger

*Elevations from 900 to nearly 9,000 feet provide outdoor playgrounds for everyone from active toddlers to extreme athletes. Kayaking, swimming, fishing and just enjoying the scenery are all available with a short drive from lodging in Amador towns.*

## Lower Elevations

Plymouth and Ione start around 900 feet. Ione is often used as the start point for bicycle rides. A fifty-mile ride would start in Ione, go to Plymouth, Fiddletown and Volcano, then down to Sutter Creek and finish up in Ione.

Lakes Amador and Camanche have year-round fishing; Lake Pardee is open February to October. Pardee and Camanche rent boats. Check the front gates for fishing report and rental prices. Hiking and horse trails are also available in these areas. An agency named East Bay Municipal Utility District manages them. Permits are required and include a map; visit [ebmud.com/recreation](http://ebmud.com/recreation) for information. Click on 'Sierra Trails' for hikes in the area.

The last Saturday in September, Tri-Amador has Olympic, Sprint, individual and team participants at Lake Camanche.

## Middle Ground

Hills separate Sutter Creek, Amador City, and Jackson and not many miles between them. Runners, walkers and cyclists use back roads between towns, planning to finish up at a local eatery.

At Black Chasm Cavern, beautiful crystal formations and cool cavern temperatures are the perfect escape from summer heat or meander through a hydraulically- mined garden of marble.

The 49er Bypass Run is the first 5K/10K in the calendar year and a favorite because it takes place on Highway 49, the Gold Rush highway.

River swimming in the Mokelumne River or hiking the canyon along the banks is a local activity. For minnow swimmers, try one of the city pools in Jackson, Sutter Creek, Ione, or Plymouth.

## The Peaks

Breathtaking views without the crowds are part of Eldorado National Forest and Mokelumne Wilderness. The Coast to Crest Trail crosses through Amador County at Carson Pass and Highway 88 and has fabulous views.

Fishing moves to higher elevations as the weather warms. Locals spend time at Plasse's Resort every summer, a jumping-off point for recreation. Kayak and boat rentals are available and the restaurant on-site allows for nights off from cooking.

With the deepest, driest snow around and some of North America's most diverse and challenging terrain, Kirkwood Mountain Resort offers big mountain riding or black-diamond ski runs with small town attitude.

**Pick your elevation and your season.  
Every day is full of recreation in  
Amador County. ■**

# Your Amador County Adventure

Amador County's nearly 10,000-foot rise in elevation from west to east makes it an ideal place for year-round recreation. Cycle through golden, rolling hills, ski or snowboard on the slopes of Kirkwood, fish in rivers and lakes, or play a round of golf. Find plenty of Gold Rush history and family-run wineries to round out your Amador adventure.



Amador Council of Tourism

877-868-7262

VisitAmador.com

VISITORS CENTER:

460 Sutter Hill Road  
Sutter Creek, CA 95685



Our partners offer local information at the following visitor centers:

Amador County Chamber of Commerce

Sutter Creek Visitor Center



# Adventure Starts Here.



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# The Calendar is full of Free Family Friendly Events Year-Round



By Lucy Hackett

*Ask anyone who has moved to the Gold Country from “the city” and they’ll tell you – they’ve never been busier! Enthusiasm for fun, vintage town sites, picturesque countryside and Amador County’s 259 sunny days a year keep everyone hopping from one memorable event to the next.*

The first daffodils show their faces in early spring and by then, everyone at my house is champing at the bit for a fresh air outing. When much of California is foggy and gray, the sun shines in the foothills – so even in early March we pack kids, sandwiches and cameras and head to Daffodil Hill to witness an amazing display of the golden flowers. Spring is also time for a grown-up picnic and tasting the newest vintages “Behind the Cellar Doors” of Amador County’s award-winning, mostly family-operated, wineries.

Local history and bargain hunting are two of my favorite pastimes and I never miss Jackson’s Dandelion Days in March or the Plymouth Flea Market in May, where “junque” and real Gold Country antiques leap into my shopping bag. More goodies can be unearthed at Sutter Creek’s Trash to Treasures.

Smack in the middle of trendy California, Amador County has somehow maintained small town life ala Norman Rockwell. Picture this: a relaxing drive in the country, park anywhere, and join in the day’s festivities with some of the friendliest people you’ll ever meet. Kids and pets welcome almost everywhere.

Italian Benevolent Society Parade in Sutter Creek is picture perfect Americana from

beginning to end, and Jackson’s Third of July celebration is watermelon-eating, water-balloon-tossing, fireworks-gazing family fun at its best (yes, we know, everyone else celebrates on the Fourth!).

In the summer, our thoughts turn to corn dogs. And the Tilt-A-Whirl. The Amador County Fair is a big part of community life. Local couples can tell you their “Fair Anniversary” – the year they first kissed on the ferris wheel or behind the livestock pens. In Plymouth, it’s held at one of the most beautiful fairgrounds in the state.

Amador County has its own real haunted castle, but as far as I know, ghosts and poltergeists have never stopped any of the many events held at Preston Castle in Ione. The former reform school’s Romanesque Revival architecture is a dramatic setting for ghost hunting, music, and food and wine events (even weddings!) all year long.

On Friday evenings in the summer, we wind down the week at T.G.I.F. Music in the Park. A different band in a different park each week – free, but donations benefit Amador Arts. Bring dinner, wine, a lawn chair and let the kids play nearby until dark. You’ll find yourself dancing barefoot on the lawn!

*Continued next page*

*Raise a toast to Summer at Supper Under the Stars in Volcano. This sell-out event happens the first Sunday in August.*



**Not long ago**, the king of Amador County wines was Zinfandel. Today, the region's celebrated wine makers are branching out. The Barbera Festival in September is now hugely popular, and in the fall, The Big Crush celebrates harvesting grapes of all persuasions, with grape stomps, music and fabulous food countywide.

You'd think we'd all be worn out by the end of the year – but, no... it's time for The Holidays! Every town holds a holiday open house, each with its own special twist. Volcano's Scot's

Walk, Sutter Creek's Parade of Lights, Amador City's Calico Christmas, Jackson's Christmas Delights, and Ione's Christmas Parade – the calendar is packed from Thanksgiving to the New Year.

**Amador Council of Tourism has the most complete list of events and details on the [VisitAmador.com](http://VisitAmador.com) website. You're invited to join us! ■**

# Walking Tours, Guided Tours and Demonstrations

**Love to learn and explore** and come away knowing how it's done or how it used to be? Try some of these activities and experience Amador up close and personal:

- Start with 'older than dirt,' Black Chasm Cavern, and move up the timeline to Chaw'se Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park. Next tour Kennedy Gold Mine and Preston Castle for more 'recent' Gold Rush history.
- Try your hand at gold-panning, with an all-day trip in the Mokelumne River Canyon, at Roaring Camp Mining Company.
- Take a walking tour of any downtown Main Street. Or take a drive. Follow the Gold Mine Trail or Pioneer Cemeteries. Brochures at local visitor centers.
- Visit Munnerlyn's Ice Creamery, Biggest Little Kitchen Store, or Chaos Glassworks studio for a behind the scenes look.
- Agritourism tours: Amador Flower Farm for daylilies, Amador Olive Oil for olive trees, Vino Noceto for farm to glass.

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Summer storm builds over Thunder Mountain and Thimble Peak at Silver Lake, Amador County.













# Make a Play Date at these Parks and Campgrounds





























































*From playgrounds to tent camping, Amador County has you covered. City parks have playgrounds, room to run and safe play structures for kids. Camping in Eldorado National Forest provides a great base for outdoor recreation, with plenty of hikes for all abilities and fishing spots galore.*

Eldorado National Forest													
<b>Lower Blue Lakes</b> Blue Lakes Road, 12 miles off Highway 88 817-444-6777 <i>June–October</i>	•		16		40'		•	•		•	•		
<b>Middle Creek &amp; Middle Creek Expansion</b> 13 miles off Hwy. 88, on stream between upper/lower Blue Lake 209-223-6349 <i>June–October</i>	•		39	34	40'		•	•					
<b>Mokelumne Campground</b> 38 miles east of Jackson on Highway 88 209-295-4251 <i>Year-round</i>	•		13	8	50'			•		•	•		
<b>Pipi Valley</b> N. South Road, off Omo Ranch Road, 26 miles east of Jackson 209-295-4251 <i>April–October</i>	•		51	31	70'		•	•		•	•		
<b>Shot Rock Vista</b> Highway 88, 46 miles east of Jackson 209-223-6349 <i>May–October</i>												•	
<b>Upper Blue Lake</b> 15 miles off Highway 88 916-386-5164 <i>June–October</i>	•		32		40'		•					•	
<b>White Azalea</b> Ellis Road, 37 miles east of Jackson off Highway 88 209-295-4251 <i>Year-round</i>	•		5		40'							•	•
<b>Woods Lake</b> South off Highway 88, near Carson Pass 209-295-4251 <i>July–October</i>	•		25		40'		•			•	•	•	

-  Camping
-  RV Sites
-  Water
-  Swimming
-  Play Structures
-  Max. RV Length
-  Flush/Vault Toilets
-  Pets
-  Total Sites
-  Dump Station
-  Showers
-  Store within 5 miles

























Fiddletown																
<b>Fiddletown Park</b> Jiboom St. 209-223-6349 <i>Year-round</i>					•					•	•					•
Ione																
<b>Camanche North Shore</b> 200 Camanche Road 209-763-5121, 866-763-5121 <i>Year-round</i>				•	•	682	168	50'		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Howard Park</b> Church Street & Highway 124 209-274-2412 <i>Year-round</i>					•	10	10	60'		•	•				•	•
<b>Lake Amador</b> 7500 Lake Amador Drive 209-274-4739 <i>Year-round</i>				•	•	100	25	34'		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Pardee Reservoir Recreation Area, Lake View Campground</b> 4900 Stoney Creek Road 209-772-1472 <i>February–October</i>				•		60		40'		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Pardee Reservoir Recreation Area, The Oaks Campground</b> 4900 Stoney Creek Road 209-772-1472 <i>February–October</i>				•	•	40				•				•	•	•
Jackson																
<b>Detert Park</b> Highway 88/49 209-223-1646 <i>Year-round</i>					•						•	•		•	•	•
<b>Gold Ridge Park</b> Alpine St., opposite the intersection with Michelle Ct. 209-223-1646 <i>Year-round</i>					•						•				•	•
<b>Jackson Rancheria RV Park</b> 11407 Dalton Road 800-822-9466 <i>Year-round</i>				•	•	100	100	60'		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Kennedy Tailing Wheels</b> Jackson Gate Road 209-223-9542 <i>March 1–October 31</i>											•	•			•	•
<b>Petkovich Park</b> Broadway, across from Jackson Civic Center 209-223-1646 <i>Year-round</i>												•			•	•
<b>Vista Point</b> Hwy. 49 <i>Year-round</i>											•				•	•
Kirkwood																
<b>Kirkwood Lake Campground</b> Highway 88, 57 miles east of Jackson 209-295-4251 <i>June 15–October 15</i>				•		12					•	•			•	•
<b>Kirkwood Mountain Resort</b> 1501 Kirkwood Meadows Drive 209-258-6000, 800-967-7500 <i>Year-round</i>											•				•	•

-  Camping
-  RV Sites
-  Water
-  Swimming
-  Play Structures
-  Max. RV Length
-  Flush/Vault Toilets
-  Pets
-  Total Sites
-  Dump Station
-  Showers
-  Store within 5 miles

Pine Grove													
<b>Chaw'Se Indian Grinding Rock</b> 14881 Pine Grove-Volcano Road 209-296-7488 <i>Year-round</i>		•		22	22	27"		•	•	•		•	•
<b>Gold Country Campground Resort</b> 13026 Tabeaud Road 209-296-4650 <i>Year-round</i>		•	•	113	80	60'	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Lake Tabeaud</b> Tabeaud Road, 5 miles south of Highway 88 209-223-6349 <i>Year-round</i>												•	•
<b>Pine Grove Park</b> Highway 88 209-296-7189 <i>Year-round</i>			•					•	•				•
<b>Roaring Camp Mining Company</b> 13010 Tabeaud Road 209-296-4100 <i>May–September</i>		•	•	8				•	•	•	•	•	•
Pioneer													
<b>Pioneer Park</b> Buckhorn Ridge Road 209-223-6349 <i>Year-round</i>			•					•	•			•	•
Plymouth													
<b>Far Horizons 49er Village</b> 18265 Highway 49 800-339-6981 <i>Year-round</i>		•	•	329	300	45'	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Milos Sharkey Begovich Park</b> Main Street 209-223-6349 <i>Year-round</i>			•					•	•			•	•
<b>Veterans Memorial Park</b> Highway 49 209-223-6349 <i>Year-round</i>			•									•	•
Sutter Creek													
<b>Bryson Park</b> Bryson Dr., off old Highway 49 <i>Year-round</i>			•					•	•			•	•
<b>Italian Society Park</b> Highway 49 209-267-0206 <i>Year-round</i>			•					•	•			•	•
<b>Lions Park</b> Church Street, 5 miles outside Sutter Creek 209-223-6349 <i>Year-round</i>								•	•			•	•
<b>Minnie Provis Park</b> Church Street 209-223-6349 <i>Year-round</i>			•					•	•				•
Upcountry													
<b>Bear River Lake Resort &amp; Campground</b> 40800 Highway 88, 42 miles east of Jackson 209-295-4868 <i>May 1–October 31</i>		•	•	150	120	40'	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



RV camping with all the amenities can be found at these centrally-located RV Parks: 49er Village in Plymouth, Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort, Chaw'se Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park, and Gold Country Campground in Pine Grove.

Upcountry, continued												
<b>Bear River Reservoir, South Shore Campground</b> Bear River Road, 40 miles east of Jackson, off Highway 88 209-295-4251 <i>May 15–October 15</i>	•		22	7	40'		•	•		•	•	•
<b>Pardoes Point</b> Bear River Road, off Highway 88, 40 miles east of Jackson 209-295-4251 <i>May 1–November 15</i>	•		10				•	•		•	•	•
<b>Lumberyard Campground</b> Ellis Rd. off Highway 88, 37 miles east of Jackson 209-295-4251 <i>May–October</i>	•		5							•	•	•
<b>Plasse's Resort, Silver Lake</b> 30001 Plasse Road, 50 miles East of Jackson, off Highway 88 209-258-8814 <i>Year-round</i>	•	•		109	45'	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Salt Springs Reservoir</b> Salt Springs Rd., Highway 88, 55 miles east of Jackson 209-295-4251 <i>Mid May–Mid November</i>	•		13	8	40'		•	•		•	•	•
<b>Silver Lake</b> Hwy. 88 209-295-4251 <i>June–October</i>	•		60		40'		•	•		•	•	•
<b>Silver Lake East</b> Highway 88, 52 miles east of Jackson 209-295-4251 <i>June–October</i>	•		62	25	40'		•	•		•	•	•
<b>Silver Lake West</b> Highway 88, 52 miles east of Jackson 530-644-2545 <i>Mid May–Mid October</i>	•		42	21	24'		•	•		•	•	•
<b>Tiger Creek Reservoir</b> Tiger Creek Powerhouse Road, off Highway 88, 3 miles East of Jackson <i>Year-round</i>								•				
Volcano												
<b>Volcano City Park</b> Main Street 209-481-9681 <i>Year-round</i>							•	•				•

## Get away without being far away:

- **Jackson's Detert Park** has it all: Playground, swimming pool, outdoor stage and a library.
- **Sutter Creek's Minnie Provis Park** has the famous Sutter Creek running through it.
- **Lake Tabeaud in Pine Grove** has a three-mile loop around the lake, which is dog-friendly and a good outdoor run.
- **Milos Sharkey Begovich Park in Plymouth** has a playground for all ages. Thursday nights in August and September, enjoy a weekly Farmers Market with music, boxed dinners and glasses of wine to purchase.
- **Howard Park in Ione** has a horse arena, soccer and baseball fields and skate park. The horse arena is used for events year-round.

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# Go All in for Arts in Amador's Thriving Arts Scene

By Penny West & Terra Forgette

*New residents to Amador County are pleasantly surprised to find a thriving artists community, in addition to the historic preservation efforts of a handful of dedicated citizens. The hardest part is choosing which activity, because the event calendar is full most of the year.*

The Amador art scene offers everything from fine painting and hand-blown glass to unique small town festivals and gigantic historic murals. Beauty can be found in the weathered remnants of Gold Rush history, the stunning landscapes of wildflowers, river canyons, lakes, and the snow-capped Sierra Nevada vistas, reached by wooded, hilly backroads. Tranquil foothill landscapes are home to a large number of professional artists whose work can be found in galleries and on theater stages throughout Amador County.

Three theatre companies offer productions throughout the year, entertaining families, adults and visitors with clever comedies and classic dramas on charming community stages. Cast members come from all over northern California to perform with Main Street Theatre Works, whose summer shows are held in the shade of oak trees at Kennedy Mine Amphitheatre. Volcano Theatre Company manages a year-round schedule and presents summer shows amongst granite boulders in the Volcano Amphitheatre, as well as winter performances in the tiny, historic Cobblestone Theatre, seating just 50 people.

Sherlockian plays are Baker Street Players' specialty. Sherlock Holmes and his comrade in crime, Dr. John Watson, star in full-length plays three to four times a year; Dinner Mystery

Theatre is performed throughout the year. Both are performed in an intimate setting on the second floor of Hein & Co Books, Main Street, Jackson.

You can enjoy music by local talents and well known musicians in Amador County, indoors and outdoors, in all seasons. Bring the family, the dog and a picnic dinner to the AmadorArts TGIF Free Summer Concert Series, featuring a different band in a different local park every Friday evening. Find well-known bands and musicians at Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort Concerts or at Helwig Winery Concerts. Enjoy classical concerts and chamber music by the Mother Lode Friends of Music, the Amador County Concert Band or a holiday concert by the inspiring Amador Choraliers.

Amador County is home to more than twelve art galleries. Local artists of all disciplines find inspiration in the charming towns, beautiful landscapes and rich stories of our region. The work of painters, photographers, pastel artists, fiber artists, jewelry designers and writers is on display at galleries, in wine tasting rooms, and businesses all over the county.

The best way to see the local arts scene is to take the Amador Art Trek. A passport map of the Amador Art Trek is available through AmadorArts, the AmadorCounty Arts Council

Photo: Menka Belgal



TGIF concert in Kennedy Mine Amphitheater. Concerts move to a different Amador park each week.

Photo courtesy of AmadorArts.



*The best way to see the local arts scene is to take the Amador Art Trek. Follow the old highways and winding mountain roads to take a tour of local galleries, tasting rooms and businesses featuring local artists.*

([amadorarts.org](http://amadorarts.org)), or at the Amador Council of Tourism ([visitamador.com](http://visitamador.com)).

Take the Art Trek anytime, but catch special artist receptions the first Saturday of each month, when many galleries roll-out a new featured artist or exhibit.

Art and history intertwine in Amador County at many local museums and locales. Jackson and Sutter Creek City

Halls showcase murals depicting important historic events of each town, painted by local artists. A full room-wrapping mural, charting the history of Sutter Creek welcomes visitors to the offices of the local arts council, AmadorArts, in the Monteverde Store Museum. The Chaw'se Regional Indian Museum, located in Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park, features an assortment of handmade baskets and contemporary Native American art. ■

## Museums, Galleries, and Theaters

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Not quite the 'Twelve Days of Christmas,' but enough to keep locals and visitors 'dancing' between locations most of the year.

- TGIF Free Summer Concerts also fit the bill for families and date night. Bring a picnic and prepare to be entertained.
- You will be surprised by how much public art is in place in Amador, inside civic buildings or on outside walls of public and private enterprises. Art is valued here as much as history by Amador citizens.
- Outdoor summer shows are a great way to introduce young ones to theater without the worry of wiggling and giggling.
- Rated G for general audiences, summer plays are lighthearted and include time for picnicking before the show starts.

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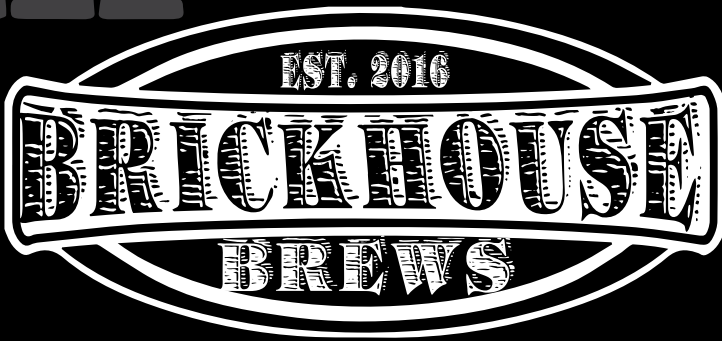
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**Outdoor dining** is possible nearly year-round. This balcony is above Hotel Sutter and allows you to watch the world go by, while enjoying local wines and food with friends.



# Local Food in Historic Settings Add to Your Amador Experience

By Editorial Staff

Photo: Menka Belgal



*Local restaurants have evolved from roadside diner up to fine dining as Amador wines have gained recognition. Restaurant owners are skewing younger, too, and bring a fresh vision for eats inside historic buildings. Stroll down Main Street, or stop in Kirkwood along Highway 88 to find your favorite spot.*

A pub scene is on the rise in Ione, Jackson and Sutter Creek. Ione Public House is the newest arrival with ‘bottoms up’ taps. Food is scarce here so plan to drop in to Don Luis or Ole Frosty later for a full meal. Brickhouse Brews in Jackson has beers and local wines served up with hamburgers, prime rib, or taco salad. Sutter Creek Provisions provides beers on tap, including nitrogen ales, and wine by the glass. Step next door to the grocery store for a choice of noshes, plus more wine, beer or sodas.

The toast of Amador County, Taste Restaurant, greets you on Main Street, Plymouth and pairs a sophisticated atmosphere with a memorable dining experience. Taste prides itself in providing flavorful, and seasonal meals. It has been selected as one of the Top 100 Wine Restaurants in America by Wine Enthusiast Magazine! Sitting at what is considered to be the gateway to Amador County’s wine country, the Shenandoah Valley, it makes a good finish after a day of tasting Zinfandel, Barbera, and Syrah.

The Imperial Hotel lies at the “crook of the arm” in Amador City, California’s smallest incorporated city. It is historic, elegant, and boasts years of fine dining. Wednesdays are

‘local’s night’ and winemakers often convene here at the end of the day.

Historic Amador City is also the setting for “The Best Bakery of The Gold Country and Beyond!” Andrae’s Bakery & Cheese Shop sits on the bank of Amador Creek. Andrae’s specializes in handcrafted breads and from-scratch pastries and desserts baked daily. To take advantage of this Gold Country gem, arrive between Thursday and Sunday. Who needs Paris?

Constructed in 1858, the building hosting Hotel Sutter in Sutter Creek has a diverse past. After many transmutations, it has now settled graciously into a hip venue with a new name. Enjoy cocktails on its Main Street balcony before dining in its snazzy restaurant; then seal the perfect meal with a late night drink in the Cellar Bar.

Looking for the best pizza in town? There’s no need to look any farther than Sutter Creek’s Gold Dust Pizza. Voted Amador County’s Best Pizza for two years, it offers a fine array of mouthwatering “pies,” made fresh with the finest quality cheeses, vegetables, meat, then baked to perfection!

Element Kitchen inside Hanford House in Sutter Creek is an exciting blend of ‘technology meets gourmanderie.’ Open

*Travelling with your canine best friend is easy in Amador when it's chow time. Dine al fresco at the Imperial Hotel or Andrae's Bakery in Amador City; Volcano Union Inn or the Sutter Creek Ice Cream Emporium; Teresa's Place, Jackson; and at Amador Vintage Market in Plymouth.*

Wednesday through Sunday mornings, you can expect a fusion of international flavors from their menu, with names from Sutter Creek destinations.

Amador County has a rich tradition of Italian cooking. A star among many is Teresa's Place in Jackson. Teresa's has been family-owned and operated since 1921. Its specialty is family-style dining. Sit down and forget the Internet, the cell phone, and the traffic outside if just for an hour. It's easy there.

If lunching during the week, Bistro Bella Cucina in Jackson must not be missed. A fresh, seasonal menu features rustic casual cuisine. Enjoy micro brews on tap and a wonderful selection of wines and gourmet specialty coffees. The interior is equally as pleasing as the patio out front.

Stanley's Steakhouse at the National Hotel is Jackson's historical flagship. Built in 1852, the National Hotel was rebuilt after a fire 11 years later. This grand structure was visited by travelers of many origins throughout the Great California Gold Rush. Enjoy fine, tender steak cooked to perfection with all the trimmings, vegetarian fare flawlessly prepared, and locally produced wine from Stanley's extensive wine cellar.

Rosebud's Café in Jackson represents "family." They grow food on their farm, collaborate with local purveyors, and serve farm-fresh organic produce, old fashioned eggs, local artisan breads, vegetarian and vegan specials, antibiotic and hormone-free meats, single-origin locally roasted coffee, award-winning Amador County wines, and craft beers.

Need to cool off? Munnerlyn's Ice Creamery in Pine Grove boasts it is "saving the planet one lick at a time." Munnerlyn's offers the only hand-crafted frozen desserts in the Motherlode. Fresh, local, and organic fruits

are used when available. All cups, spoons, and straws are biocompostable, and Munnerlyn's uses 75 percent solar power!

Located in Volcano, the St. George Hotel, built in 1862 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is home to the Whiskey Flat Saloon, with interesting historical memorabilia on the walls and ceiling. Also in Volcano, Kneading Dough Bakery provides gluten free breads and pastries, as well as traditional items. Paninis outdoors on the cobble stones are a memorable treat.

Volcano Union Inn started out as a boarding house for local miners in the 1880s. Today it is a California pub and four-room bed and breakfast. Expect casual dining with fresh, seasonal ingredients, with local wines and beers available by the glass to wash it down.

The Kirkwood Inn & Saloon, at elevation 7,800 near Kirkwood Ski Resort, located at the intersection of three county lines – Amador, Alpine, and El Dorado- can't help but be unusual. The Inn is a log cabin, its fireplace is made of stone, and the furniture made from timber. It's a great place to warm up after a day of snow play or cool off after a hike in the Sierras. ■

*Taste Restaurant's bar is where local winemakers go after work.*



Photo: Andrew Rutherford



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**Shopping in historic downtowns** becomes an exercise in learning to stroll, smile, enjoy and purchase. Each shopkeeper greets you warmly making your visit special. Foodies, collectors, bookworms—all will find a shop to enjoy.

# Bring your Passion for Shopping Local to Amador's Main Streets

By Lisa Klosowski

*Step out of your normal shopping mode and experience small-town hospitality. The stores in Amador County are independently owned and operated by residents who love what they do. No big box stores on Main Street. You'll meet creative people who opened a shop that reflects their passions.*

Passion to create a small Main Street business is almost a forgotten concept in 'e-tail' America, but not here. Amador County is enriched with shopkeepers, whose passion is displayed on every shelf or rack. Each business owner hand picks items for their store, making the store a reflection of the owner's passion. Every individual piece speaks to them, and the image that they want to convey. These items are available for you to enjoy and purchase.

Often, the person behind the counter is more than they seem. They retired and began a new career on Main Street. They are world travelers. They owned a chain of shops and decided to simplify and live in a small community, where they make a difference. Amador's shopkeepers are a wealth of life experience and heart. The shop can wait when your child is getting an award at school, or mom needs to go to the doctor. You might find a note on the door telling you so.

Whether you are into antiques or chic fashions or something in between, it's all here. Each year, events are hosted by the local business associations. These events take place inside the

shops and amp up your shopping experience. Two times a year, Sutter Creek hosts 'Ladies Night,' second Saturdays in April and October. Visit participating businesses and enter the drawings. Later in the evening is a raffle where prizes and gift certificates are won; no purchase necessary. Black Friday is called 'Plaid Friday' locally. Businesses all over the county celebrate shoppers that choose to stay local, by offering discounts, or gifts with a purchase. Just wear plaid and you can participate. In the month of December, holiday open houses are held on each Main Street in the historic downtowns. These are free and a thank you to all who supported the stores throughout the year.

Visit a kitchen store and find that tool you didn't know existed. When you step inside Biggest Little Kitchen Store in Jackson, plan to challenge their knowledge of cooking, by asking about the latest utensils for your favorite cuisine. Gifted, in Jackson, carries items that are locally crafted and made in the USA. Get lost in a shop with thousands of music boxes and collectibles, Sutter Creek Music Box Company. Discover Baker Street West with eight shops decked out in a Sherlockian theme, upstairs at Hein & Co. Books in

Photo: Menka Belgal



*With hundreds of small businesses to explore, it could take you days to enjoy them all. Each Gold Rush town has its own flavor of shopping: arts, clothing, wine, antiques. The stores you find are unique and diverse, and rival any metropolitan area for quality and personality.*

*Inside Sutter Creek Music Box Company are music boxes, rhythm clocks, and collectibles.*

Jackson. Bellflower Garden in Amador City and Antique Gardener in Sutter Creek enhance their gardens with sculptures and garden décor. Prepare your taste buds as you enter a cheese shop that samples exotic cheeses for free, or a wine tasting room that has olive oil

tasting. Discover an antique store that has a large warehouse you can wander through or small antique stores with articles dating back to the 1800s.



From shabby chic to western to just plain Chic, you can find a range of fashion boutiques. For first-time visitors, the experience can be overwhelming as you go door to door, and each business floods your senses with different items. If you forget where you saw something, ask a shopkeeper, they will know where it is.

**Discover the hospitality of our small-town shops. You'll feel the passion for yourself in Amador County. ■**

*Strolling Main Street while shopping is fun and shopkeepers provide the 'Personal Shopper' experience.*



Photo: Menka Belgal

## **BARGAIN HUNTING** requires a love for 'the hunt' and plenty of hunting grounds are available here in Amador County.

- Two times a year, Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, bargain hunters can be seen stalking yard sales and sidewalk sales all over the county. Buy & Sell, a weekly ads paper available online, prints on Wednesdays and is the local source for thrifty souls.
- 'Trash to Treasures' on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend in Sutter Creek is what it says, a search for your personal gems.
- 'Dandelion Daze,' mid-March, closes Main Street in Jackson for a street fair with bargains galore, music, and food.

### **Don't miss Amador's Main Streets, which have plenty of thrift shops and antique dealers:**

- Hein & Company, Jackson
- Hospice of Amador & Calaveras, Jackson
- Interfaith's Great Finds, Sutter Creek
- Antique Gardener, Sutter Creek
- Water Street Antiques, Sutter Creek
- Victorian Closet, Amador City
- Lone It Now, Lone



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the next adventure.



# Choose Your Lodging Based on Your Style and Itinerary

By Editorial Staff

*A local innkeeper, Sandy Anderson of Eureka Street Inn, says, "I know my guests are not here solely to stay inside the four walls of my inn. They are here to experience Amador County and relax at my Bed and Breakfast afterwards." Hospitality is warm and owners provide a place to establish base camp.*

What style of lodging do you prefer? If the answer is hotel, Amador County has both historic and modern lodging choices. Historic hotels are available in most of the towns in Amador County: National Hotel in Jackson, Hotel Sutter in Sutter Creek, Imperial Hotel in Amador City, St. George Hotel in Volcano, and Ione Hotel. Both the National Hotel and Hotel Sutter have recently completed significant renovations to the buildings, maintaining the historic feel, while adding modern conveniences, like elevators. Imperial Hotel in Amador City is the 'grande dame' of the town. Nestled at the bend in Highway 49 it includes the Oasis Bar, where locals stop by on Wednesday nights. St. George Hotel is the first building you see when you drive into Volcano. Small weddings are held on the lawn behind the historic building and romance is easy to find there.

Modern hotels available are Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort, Days Inn Sutter Creek, Holiday Inn Express in Jackson, and Shenandoah Inn in Plymouth. Jackson Lodge is independently owned and has cottages as well, for those who like to have a kitchen with their lodging. If you are on a ghost-hunting trip, please ask the hotel staff about paranormal lodgers and their

stories. Take in the ambience, even if you don't get an introduction to the spiritual realm.

Bed and Breakfast Inns are found mostly in Sutter Creek, Volcano and Plymouth. Eureka Street Inn, Foxes Inn, Grey Gables Inn, Hanford House (pictured above), and Sutter Creek Inn are located in Sutter Creek. Volcano Union Inn has four rooms above a gastro-pub restaurant. Locals enjoy a getaway to Volcano, as much as out-of-town visitors do. Summers, the restaurant can supply guests with a boxed dinner to take to the play in Volcano Theatre Company's outdoor amphitheater.

Traveling with family or a larger group can be a challenge unless you book a cabin or cottage. Sutter Creek has the Fournier House, which holds eight. Motto-Ros Cottage, Sutter Creek Cottage, or Opal House will hold smaller groups. In Plymouth, 49er Village has studio and one-room cabins, providing easy access to the wine region.

**Lodging is your base camp for adventure and the beginning of your stay in Amador County. ■**

Photo by William Foster



Number of Units

Breakfast

TV

Pet Friendly

Number of Beds

Air Conditioned

Wireless

Asking Rates

Non-Smoking

Pool/Hot Tub

In-room Refrigerator

\$ - under \$100  
 \$\$ - \$101-\$240  
 \$\$\$ - \$241 and up

Bed and Breakfasts													
<b>Amador Harvest Inn</b> Plymouth	209-245-5512 amadorharvestinn.com	4	4	•	•	•			•	•			\$\$
<b>Carriage House at Avio Vineyards</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-1515 aviowine.com	1	1	•				•	•		•		\$\$
<b>Casa de la Pradera</b> Fiddletown	209-245-6042 fiddletownfarms.com	2	2	•	•								\$
<b>Eureka Street Inn</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-5500 eurekastreetinn.com	4	4	•	•	•			•	•			\$\$
<b>Foxes of Sutter Creek</b> Sutter Creek	800-987-3344 foxesinn.com	7	7	•	•	•			•	•	•		\$\$ \$\$\$
<b>Grand Reserve Inn</b> Plymouth	209-245-5466 grandreserveinn.com	5	5	•	•	•			•	•			\$\$
<b>Grey Gables Inn</b> Sutter Creek	800-473-9422 greygables.com	8	8	•	•	•				•			\$\$\$
<b>Hanford House</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-0747 hanfordhouse.com	16	16	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$\$ \$\$\$
<b>Plymouth House Inn</b> Plymouth	209-245-3298 plymouthhouseinn.com	7	7	•	•	•			•	•		•	\$ \$\$
<b>Sutter Creek Inn</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-5606 suttercreekinn.com	17	17	•	•	•			•	•			\$\$
<b>Volcano Union Inn</b> Volcano	209-296-7711 volcanounion.com	4	4	•	•	•			•	•			\$ \$\$
Cottages and Cabins													
<b>Caples Lake Resort</b> Amador County	209-258-8888 capleslakeresort.com	9	12	•	•			•		•	•		\$\$ \$\$\$
<b>Davancy Chateau</b> Plymouth	209-223-8874 www.davanchateau.com	1	6	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		\$\$\$
<b>Enolas Cottage</b> Sutter Creek	enolascottage.com	1	2	•		•			•		•	•	\$\$
<b>Far Horizons 49er Village RV Resort</b> Plymouth	209-245-6981 49ervillage.com	15	29	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$\$
<b>Fournier House</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-5567 fournierhouse.com	1	3	•		•			•	•	•		\$\$\$
<b>Gold Country Campground</b> Pine Grove	209-296-4650 goldcountrycampground.com	15	27	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$ \$\$
<b>Jackson Lodge</b> Jackson	866-333-0486 thejacksonlodge.com	8	16	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$ \$\$
<b>Kit Carson Lodge</b> Silver Lake	209-258-8500 kitcarsonlodge.com	27	73	•	•					•	•		\$\$ \$\$\$
<b>Motto Ros's Cottage</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-9252 thecreelcottage.com	1	1	•	•	•			•	•	•		\$\$
<b>Opal Street House</b> Sutter Creek	415-519-3033 airbnb.com/users1276798	1	2	•		•					•	•	\$\$
<b>Pioneer Resort Lodge</b> Pine Grove	209-295-3490 pioneerresortlodge.com	19	45	•		•			•	•	•		\$
<b>Rancho Cicada Retreat</b> Plymouth	209-245-4841 ranchocicadaretreat.com	2	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		\$\$

Detailed descriptions about Amador's lodging can be found at [VisitAmador.com](http://VisitAmador.com).  
 If you need help deciding, call our office at 877-868-7262 for concierge service.  
 When you tell us your plans for your visit to Amador, we can suggest the best location for the most fun.

Cottages and Cabins, continued												
<b>Roaring Camp Mining Co.</b> Pine Grove	209-296-4100 roaringcampgold.com	20	40	•		•	•	•	•	•		\$\$\$
<b>Silver Lake Family Camp</b> Pioneer	209-227-0082 stocktonfamilycamp.org	50	300	•	•				•	•	•	\$\$
<b>Sutter Creek Cottage</b> Sutter Creek	209-296-7176	1	2	•		•		•		•	•	\$\$
Hotels and Motels												
<b>Best Western Amador Inn</b> Jackson	209-223-0211 bestwestern.com	116	198	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$ \$\$
<b>Country Squire Motel</b> Jackson	209-223-1657	12	12	•	•	•		•		•	•	\$ \$\$
<b>Days Inn Sutter Creek</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-9177 daysinn.com	52	107	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	\$
<b>El Campo Casa Motel</b> Jackson	209-223-0100 elcampocasa.com	15	22	•		•	•	•	•			\$
<b>Holiday Inn Express</b> Jackson	209-257-1500 ihg.com/holidayinnexpress	51	90	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		\$\$
<b>Hotel Sutter</b> Sutter Creek	209-267-0242 hotelsutter.com	21	25	•		•		•	•			\$\$
<b>Imperial Hotel</b> Amador City	209-267-9172 imperialamador.com	9	9	•	•	•			•	•		\$\$
<b>Ione Hotel</b> Ione	209-274-6082 ionehotel.com	14	14	•		•		•	•	•		\$ \$\$
<b>Jackson Lodge</b> Jackson	866-333-0486 thejacksonlodge.com	28	28	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$ \$\$
<b>Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort</b> Jackson	800-822-9466 jacksoncasino.com/lodging	86	124	•		•	•	•	•	•		\$ \$\$
<b>Kirkwood Resort Hotel</b> Kirkwood	800-967-7500 kirkwood.com	130	200	•			•	•	•	•		\$ \$\$\$
<b>Linda Vista Motel</b> Jackson	209-223-1096	21	21	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$
<b>National Hotel</b> Jackson	209-223-0500 NationalHotelJackson.com	34	37	•	•	•		•	•		•	\$\$ \$\$\$
<b>Old Well Motel &amp; Grill</b> Drytown	209-245-6467	7	7	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	\$
<b>Pioneer Inn &amp; Suites</b> Pine Grove/Pioneer/Upcountry	209 295-3490 pioneerinncalifornia.com	26	26	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	\$ \$\$
<b>Rest</b> Plymouth	209-245-6315 hotelrest.net	16	16	•	•	•		•	•		•	\$\$ \$\$\$
<b>Shenandoah Inn</b> Plymouth	209-245-4491 theshenandoahinn.com	47	70	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$\$
<b>St. George Hotel</b> Volcano	209-296-4458 stgeorgevolcano.com	22	22	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	\$ \$\$

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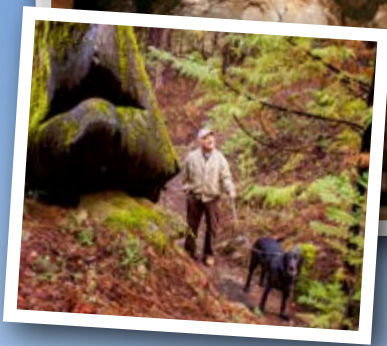
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Photos by Dave Bunnell and Menka Belgal



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