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Sonoma Art Walk – Relaunch First Thursdays

Sonoma Valley Welcomes Back the Popular Monthly Art Event, Starting October 3rd

Sonoma, CA – The celebrated Sonoma Art Walk will return to the Historic Sonoma Plaza on the first Thursday of each month beginning October 3rd through April 3rd. The event will take place from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m., offering attendees the chance to explore plaza shops, sip local wines, and experience the work of local artists. Art Walk is a celebration of Sonoma's vibrant business community and its rich artistic culture. This beloved event is made possible through a collaboration between the <u>Sonoma Community Center</u>, <u>Sonoma Valley</u> <u>Museum of Art, Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, City of Sonoma, Arts Guild of</u> <u>Sonoma, Euphoria Retreats, Creative Bridges and Sonoma Plein Air Foundation</u>.

"We are thrilled to welcome the Art Walk back to the historic heart of our city," said Sonoma Mayor John Gurney. "This event brings together the best of Sonoma—our rich history, creative talent, and the incredible community spirit that makes our city so special."

To kick off the Art Walk season, the October event will feature an Art Walk Passport, where participants can collect stamps from various venues around the plaza. Completed passports can be turned in for a chance to win special prizes from local businesses and artists.

"We are proud to be part of this important community event," said Vanessa Rognlien, Executive Director to the Sonoma Community Center. "The Art Walk creates opportunity for artists, local businesses, and unifies our community. It is an evening a month centered around art and community- what could be better." Held in and around the Sonoma Plaza, participating wine-tasting rooms, galleries, retailers, and restaurants will showcase the works of local artists. Some of the venues will also feature interactive demonstrations, such as live music and poetry readings, making it a dynamic experience for attendees. "Many local businesses are already displaying amazing works of art on their walls or are otherwise helping to showcase the work of the local artisans," said Mark Bodenhamer of the Sonoma Chamber. "This event is a monthly opportunity for the participating businesses to shine an extra spotlight on Sonoma's creatives, and it provides the residents an experience around the Plaza."

Each Art Walk kicks off with a reception at a designated host venue. The hosts for the first three months are:

- October 3rd: Hola Vida Collective, 539 First Street West
- November 7th: <u>Sonoma Valley Museum of Art</u>, 551 Broadway
- December 5th: The Passdoor, 452 First Street East

The Sonoma Art Walk is free to attend and open to all. Each month, participating venues are updated and listed on HipMaps, an interactive map app. To get the latest details, simply download HipMaps and enter the code "Artwalk." Printed maps can also be picked up each month at participating locations, and guests can look for the signature "Sonoma Art Walk" flags to easily identify event stops. Guests are welcome to begin their Art Walk journey at any location.

For more details, including information for attendees as well as businesses and artists interested in participating, visit the Sonoma Art Walk website <u>sonomaartwalk.org</u>.

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