

## The Arts of Sonoma Valley

*Visual, performing, musical and literary art is abundant in Sonoma Valley*

Blessed by near perfect weather, elegant vineyard and hillside vistas, historic settings and architecture, and small-town ambiance, expressions of Sonoma Valley's artists can be found on canvas, in a sculpture garden, in a brass quintet, at a Shakespeare play, at an author's reading or at a Broadway performance in a park.

In and around the town of Sonoma, galleries, restaurants, wineries and retail shops regularly exhibit paintings, sculpture, pottery and other artwork by local artists. In addition to regularly scheduled juried art shows, Sonoma's historic plaza hosts a grand food, wine and art festival each summer.

Shakespeare and other drama, comedy, and musicals provide local and San Francisco Bay Area acting talent with plenty of opportunity to perform. "Theater at the Center" presents first class drama throughout the year, in addition to stand-up comedy and smaller black-box productions. Two professional companies offer the wit and wisdom of Shakespeare with summer repertory performances in magical winery settings.

Transcendence Theater Company's "Broadway Under the Stars," which debuted in the summer of 2012, is bringing magic and wonder to the Valley of the Moon. Broadway performers from WICKED, LES MISERABLES, 42ND STREET, MARY POPPINS, MAMMA MIA and more perform in concerts under the stars in the historic Jack London State Park. Taking place June through August in the majestic open-air winery ruins of the park, these concerts also feature pre-show wine and picnicking.

From the Opera lover to the Rock-and-Roll fan, entertainment featuring local musicians can be found throughout Sonoma Valley. Listen to jazz playing at the Farmer's Market or enjoy traditional Celtic folk singing at the local pub.

For writers and poets, Sonoma is a literary feast. Well-known (and little known) authors regularly appear for readings at local bookstores. Sonoma's annual summer poetry festival is open to amateurs and professionals alike.

A Sampling of Sonoma Valley Art Organizations:

- Sonoma Valley Museum of Art: (707) 939-7862, [www.svma.org](http://www.svma.org)
- Arts Guild of Sonoma: (707) 996-3115
- Sonoma Plein Air Foundation: (707) 933-9756
- Sonoma Shakespeare: (707) 996-3264, [www.sonomashakespeare.com](http://www.sonomashakespeare.com)
- Sonoma City Opera: (707) 939-8288
- Transcendence Theater Company: (877) 424-1414, [www.transcendencetheatre.org](http://www.transcendencetheatre.org)