

## **10 Spectacular Spring Getaways in Sonoma County**

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Here are our favorite spring getaways — from farm tours to cooking classes — for those who love to celebrate good food.



The courtyard at Gold Ridge Organic Farms in Sebastopol. (Gold Ridge Organic Farms)

## Spring's Apple Blossoms

The buzz these days may be all about bud break in the vineyards—but long before there were grapes in Sonoma County, there were apples. So many apples. At Gold Ridge Organic Farms in the rolling hills of Sebastopol, apples still reign supreme. "The apple orchards in spring erupt in a sea of flowers, ushering in one of my favorite sensory spectacles of the year," says owner and farmer Brooke Hazen. "I am undecided which is more beautiful: the cornucopia of flowers in spring or the apples themselves in summer."

With more than 12,000 apple trees and about 75 heirloom varieties, blossoms emerge in every imaginable shade of pink, violet, and white, providing food for honeybees and native bumblebees. Hazen leads walks through the rows to celebrate the season; taste his love for the versatile fruit in farm-fresh products including apple cider syrup, apple cider vinegar, and apple cider balsamic vinegar. Mandarin kumquats, Meyer lemons, and 13,000 olive trees also grow on the property. The farm hosts a "Spring Is Blossoming" celebration Saturday April 27.



Gold Ridge Organic Farms. 3387 Canfield Rd., Sebastopol, 707-823-3110, goldridgeorganicfarms.com

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