

Cambria

FOOD AND WINE ARE PART OF THIS QUAIN
CALIFORNIA SEASIDE VILLAGE BY VANESSA KOGEVINAS



View from Fiscalini Ranch Preserve on Cambria's bluffs just off Highway 1.

PERCHED ON THE CLIFFS of the Pacific Ocean and nestled near hills that boast extensive Monterey pines sits the quaint village of Cambria—formally known as Cambria Pines by the Sea. Located equidistant between Los Angeles and San Francisco in San Luis Obispo County, Cambria's 6,000 residents relish the perfect balance between seaside and wine country living, and visitors come seeking the same.

Cambria's Moonstone Beach Boardwalk—home to a plethora of bed and breakfasts, inns and hotels—beckons strolls along its rocky shoreline and beaches, which are graced by unmatched sunsets and an abundance of

sea life, including seals, sea otters and tide pools teaming with sea urchins, starfish and crabs.

The town itself divided into the East Village and West Village is unspoiled—no commercialism to be found, but rather unique restaurants, gift shops, boutiques, art galleries and, of course, wine tasting rooms.

Three such rooms are located directly in town—Black Hand Cellars, Moonstone Cellars, and Twin Coyotes Winery, which make up part of the Pacific Coast Wine Trail. The rest of the trail includes Harmony Cellars in the neighboring town of Harmony, Cayucos Cellars in nearby Cayucos, Hearst Ranch Winery in San Simeon and Stolo Family Vineyards &



Winery, located just outside town to the east in the rolling vineyard hills that lead down Route 46 to Paso Robles. Many of the tasting rooms, including Wine Taste in the East Village, double as gift boutiques presenting carefully curated curios and inventory for wine enthusiasts.

Food offerings in Cambria are plentiful. Robin's Handcrafted Global Cuisine is described as 'creative meets local... international inspiration collides with the season's bounty.' Madeline's—voted as the 'Number 1 restaurant in Cambria' by Trip Advisor—has perfected the art of casual fine dining featuring American/French influenced cuisine that is based on locally sourced and seasonably

available products. Indigo Moon serves modern American cuisine using fresh seafood, grass fed beef and locally raised poultry with distinctive tastes and a creative style served in their heated garden or one of a few indoor dining rooms. Cambria Pub and Steakhouse satisfies even the most discerning meat-lovers cravings.

Some of the area's best beef is raised at Hearst Ranch Winery, located in San Simeon's foothills below famed William Randolph Hearst's, Hearst Castle built by architect Julia Morgan to Hearst's specifications to showcase his legendary art collection. By 1947, the monument boasted 165 rooms and 127 acres of gardens, terraces, pools and walkways. Today, tours

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Stolo Family Vineyards, Hillside Vineyard Syrah block, with the Santa Rosa Creek foothills in the distance; Madeline's restaurant featuring American/French influenced cuisine on its menu; The historic East Village of Cambria, which offers quaint shops, art galleries, tasting rooms and diverse dining experiences.

RIGHT A
fresco wine
picnic set from
tasting room
and gift shop
Wine:Taste.

BELOW The
old schoolhouse
on Main Street
reinvented as
an art gallery.

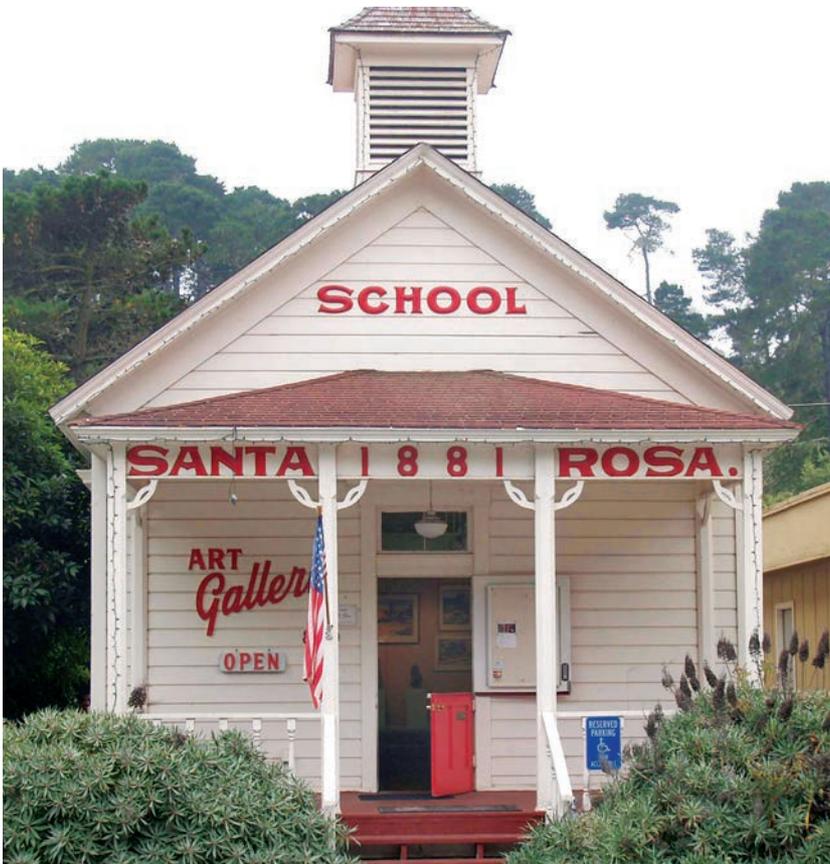


PHOTO: MERLE BASSETT OF CAMBRIA

expose the visitor to the architectural masterpiece and its twenty five thousand artifacts.

A short drive up the coast the Northern Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedras Blancas is a sandy bed for hibernating seals.

For accommodations at the nexus of it all—El Colibri Boutique Hotel & Spa—just off Highway 1, and right between Cambria Village and Moonstone Beach, features contemporary design with a naturally open, bright, and fresh atmosphere.

In short, a visit to the area reveals a world where nature, wine, food, and history blend symbiotically to produce an experience that these days is becoming increasingly difficult to find—one that is true to itself and its roots. **CH**



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