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# Wine, Dine & Divine Times



By Travel Correspondent Sharon Walters

Driving into Los Olivos, you're astounded by the small-town feel and quaint, picturesque feeling of stepping back in time. The tranquil and scenic region, surrounded by rolling vineyards and nearby Santa Ynez Mountains, makes this an immersive experience.

Just a short drive from Santa Barbara lies the charming village of Los Olivos. With its rustic beauty and quaint atmosphere, this small town is a hidden gem in the heart of California's renowned wine country. Known for its vineyards, tasting rooms, and exquisite natural surroundings, Los Olivos offers visitors a delightful escape into the world of wine, art, and rural charm.

Los Olivos may be small in size, but it's big in character. The town's main street, Grand Avenue, is lined with historic buildings dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These beautifully preserved structures now house an array of boutique shops, art galleries, and tasting rooms. Strolling down the street feels like stepping back in time as you explore the unique offerings of each establishment.

After exploring for a while, it was time to stop and enjoy some local sweet treats. [Oliver's Bakery](#) is among the most delicious in the area. Upon stepping inside Oliver's Bakery, you are greeted by the enticing aroma of freshly baked goods. The display cases are filled with pastries, including flaky croissants, buttery danishes, and decadent chocolate éclairs. Their selection often varies, featuring seasonal favorites and classic staples, ensuring there's always something new to discover. Decidedly happy, it's time to move on.



One of the newest additions to Los Olivos is the delightful and lush [Inn at Mattei's Tavern and Auberge Resorts Collection](#). The Inn is steeped in history. The property has been meticulously restored to preserve its original charm and architectural details. From the vintage photographs on the walls to the antique furnishings, every aspect of the inn reflects its storied past, creating an ambiance that transports guests to a bygone era. This is a place to rest your head in luxury; nothing is amiss, from the cozy linens to the tastefully curated amenities.

As part of the esteemed Auberge Resorts Collection, [The Inn at Mattei's Tavern](#) offers top-notch experiences, attention to detail, and a commitment to guest satisfaction. Your experience will include thoughtfully designed rooms and suites combining modern comforts and classic elegance. Each accommodation boasts its unique character and is furnished with luxurious touches, ensuring a relaxing and indulgent stay.

One of the highlights of The Inn at Mattei's Tavern is its exquisite dining experience. The on-site restaurant showcases farm-to-table cuisine celebrating the region's local flavors and ingredients. The menu is carefully crafted by talented chefs who create culinary masterpieces that showcase the best of Santa Ynez Valley's bountiful produce, including fresh seafood, premium meats, and organic produce. The restaurant's warm and inviting ambiance adds to the overall experience, making it a popular choice for guests and locals. The food is fresh, local, and seasonal.

Los Olivos and the Inn at Mattei's Tavern offers a unique blend of history, natural beauty, culinary delights, and relaxation, making it an appealing destination for those seeking a memorable and enjoyable experience. I am excited to visit again and again.

