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Relaxed Getaway in Mendocino

By [Jenna Scatena](#) [Hotels + Resorts](#), [Food + Drink](#), [Road Trips](#) [Comments](#)



Less than two hours north of San Francisco, this chilled-out county is a world away. Here, where to take it all in.

Get Outdoors: Overlooking a rocky sweep of the Pacific Ocean, [Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens](#) (*Fort Bragg*) is home to 150 species of birds (ash-throated flycatchers; savannah sparrows) and rhododendrons that thrive in the foggy air.

Book a Room with a View: Want a panorama of the sea? Ask for the Kensington Room at the five-suite [Blue Door Inn](#) (*Mendocino*; \$), which seems plucked from the English countryside—it's surrounded by lemon trees and white picket fences.

Eat (Really) Local: “Everything we need we can find in a neighbor’s backyard,” says chef Patrick Meany of the menu at [Stone & Embers](#) (*Philo*; \$\$). Most dishes, from the thin-crust margherita pizza to the madeleines, are wood-oven-fired.

Taste the Terroir: Mendocino grows the largest variety of grapes in the United States—which makes for a bounty of tasting rooms. We love the Frank Lloyd Wright–inspired [Baxter Winery](#) (*Philo*), a newcomer known for its single-vineyard Pinot Noirs, and [Balo Vineyards](#) (*Philo*), where you can sip rosé while playing a game of bocce.

Go Wild: If you squint at the 100-acre [B Bryan Preserve](#) (*Point Arena*), you might think you’re in Kenya. One big difference: here, visitors on Land Rover drives can hand-feed giraffes.

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