



Santa Rosa
CALIFORNIA



Keep in the Snoop

Happy 60th Birthday, Snoopy!

By Sandy Robins

Santa Rosa is a wonderful Fido-friendly destination set in the heart of gorgeous Sonoma wine country in California. It's also the birthplace of Snoopy, America's most iconic canine who turns 60 years old this year. So there's no better time to enjoy the many attractions that inspired Snoopy's creator Charles M. Schulz.

The city itself boasts five dog parks for unleashed fun and games as well as numerous recreational areas such as the Prince Memorial Greenways situated in the heart of town along the Santa Rosa creek, a tranquil area dotted with interesting sculptures and benches. The Howarth Memorial Park offers 25 acres of lakeside greenery dotted with picnic places, and both biking and hiking trails.

Many of the places that inspired Snoopy's creator are popular tourist attractions, like the baseball field that's nearby the famous Charles M. Schulz Museum, a Mecca for Snoopy fans from around the world. And there's the ice rink, too, now called Snoopy's Home Ice. Sadly the latter two are not open to canine visitors.

However, to mark Snoopy's 60th birthday, the city of Santa Rosa invited 30 local artists to create statues of Lucy that have been placed all over the city along with dozens of existing statues of Snoopy as Joe Cool, Woodstock and his nest and Charlie Brown that have been erected over the years. In the past, local residents were allowed to bid for them and thus many stand outside businesses and well as in private gardens. Be sure to pick up a map from the local Santa Rosa Convention and Visitor's Bureau to help you locate the latest additions. Then take a walk around town and photograph your dog with as many as you can find.

Fido will be a welcome guest at the Pacific Coast Air Museum, that inspired Snoopy's aviator dreams, as the museum has more than 30 vintage aircraft on display. The third weekend of every month hosts a Climb Aboard event when members of the public can climb into the cockpits of certain aircraft and recreate Snoopy's Red Baron flying days for themselves.

The Russian River that winds through Sonoma wine country is great place for canoeing with canines and enjoying other aquatic fun and games. Soar Russian River Adventures, located just outside of Santa Rosa, will sell you a life jacket for Fido if you forget to bring your pooch's gear. It's advisable to book ahead because there's a limited number of canoes allowed on the river. Santa Rosa has a wonderful selection of restaurants and wine bars that offer live music, many with outdoor patios that welcome canine patrons, too. Be sure to try one of the many locally brewed beers or a glass of vino that made this part of the country world famous. 

IF YOU GO

STAY

DOUBLETREE HOTEL SONOMA WINE COUNTRY

One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928; (707) 584-5466; Pet fee: \$35 a day per pet; maximum two dogs per room not exceeding 50 pounds each. www.dtsonoma.com.

RUSSIAN RIVER GETAWAYS (VACATION RENTALS)

14070 Mill Street, Guerneville, CA 95446; (800) 433-6673; www.rrgetaways.com; Pet fee: none.

BEST WESTERN GARDEN INN

1500 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404; (800) 929-2771; Pet fee: \$15 a day; maximum two pets. www.thegardeninn.com

DAWN RANCH LODGE

16467 River Road; Guerneville CA 95446; (707) 869-0656; Pet fee: \$25 per day for one night or a flat rate of \$50 for two nights or more; no limit on number of pets allowed. www.dawnranch.com.

PLAY

THE PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM

2230 Becker Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403; Pet policy: dogs on leashes. www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org.

THE CHARLES M. SCHULZ MUSEUM

www.charlesmschulzmuseum.org. 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

SOAR RUSSIAN RIVER ADVENTURES

20 Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg, CA; Reservations: (707) 543-3292. www.soar1.com/rradventures



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