

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club

Paso Robles Wine Country Tour 2019

Dates: Orientation Saturday evening, April 6, 2019, Ride April 7-13, Departure April 13.
Leaders: Becky Bottino, Ken Condray **SAGS:** Melissa Collins, Cindy Alvarez
Rating: Intermediate/Advanced, ~50 miles per day, 2300-4100 ft. climbing
Pd Riders: 30
Price: \$1,390 (Double occupancy); \$450 at Registration; Remainder due by 2/4/19
Single Supplement +\$695 (+50%). Standard cancellation policy applies.

OVERVIEW

You are invited to join your fellow Heartcycle cyclists for a fixed base tour through California's fastest growing wine region – Paso Robles. This area is home to more than 250 wineries, many of which are small boutique producers that dot the countryside amongst 26,000 vineyard acres. In addition to wine the area is known for its distilleries and walnut, olive oil and cheese tasting rooms. The town is packed with excellent restaurants. The majority of the riding is on quiet, winding, hilly back roads through vineyards, farms and forests. There are few short stretches on major roadways. The daily mileage is ~50 miles with 2,000 – 4,000 ft elevation gain. Since mileage is relatively short there will be ample opportunity to stop and sample the local fare.

LODGING & MEALS

Seven nights lodging is provided at Paso Roles Holiday Inn Express. The hotel is within a mile of restaurants, shopping, wine tasting, and entertainment. The property has a heated pool and Jacuzzi. All rooms are equipped with microwave and mini-fridge. Continental breakfast is provided daily at the hotel. The tour will provide both snacks and lunch on riding days. Dinner is on your own.

WEATHER

The average high temperature in April is 73° with an average low temperature of 41°. Average monthly rainfall in April is 0.67 inches. These averages predict beautiful, sunny cycling weather but mornings will be cool. As usual, riders should also be prepared for rain.

GETTING THERE

Paso Robles is located about half way between San Francisco (190 miles) and Los Angeles (213 miles.) AmTrac's Coast Starlight makes two stops daily both southbound and northbound in San Luis Obispo. United Express and US Airways fly to San Luis Obispo Airport. We will make one trip on each Saturday to shuttle riders to and from the SLO airport and train station.

ITINERARY Mileages and climbing are approximate. The order of the rides is subject to change.

Day 1, Tobin James Winery Loop, 53 miles; 2300 ft.

Today we head south out of Paso Robles on quiet roads past many of the most popular wineries in the region – Cass, Hansen, Sarzotti, Pomar Junction and Bubank. Our lunch stop is at Tobin James Winery which is one of the few wineries in the region that still offers free wine tasting. The return trip to Paso Robles is through vineyards on some of the quietest roads in the region. www.tobinjames.com



Day 2, Chimney Rock 48 Miles 2,700'

Today's route will take you south out of town through some of the most popular area for wineries and ending up in olive tree country. Along the way we stop at Pasolivo Olive Oil pasolivo.com to sample some olive oil.

Day 3, Lake Santa Maria ~50 miles, ~3000 feet

Today's ride is a remote start. We will drive to the starting point about 20 miles south of Paso Robles. HC will transport bikes and people for those who do not have a car. If you cherish pedaling long, uninterrupted miles on quiet back roads, through beautiful forests, with next to no cars, you will love today!

Day 4, Wednesday – Day Off Things to visit in Paso Robles:

City Park with its Carnegie Library, completed in 1908.

Estrella Warbird Air Museum (4251 Dry Creek Rd)

Paso Robles Pioneer Museum (2010 Riverside)

Studios on the Park (1130 Pine St) Over 20 artists and craftspeople display and sell an eclectic variety of art for almost every taste

Paso Robles Walking Food and Wine Tour <https://www.zerve.com/CCFoodTours/Paso>

Wineries, wineries, and more wineries.

Day 5, Peachy Canyon Loop, 47 miles, 4100'

Today's ride is highlighted by beautiful rolling hills on quiet back roads lined by ancient oaks. Since the roads are so quiet, wildlife sightings are expected. Watch out for tiny mule deer and wild turkeys! We'll have lunch at a winery along the way. On the return to Paso Robles we will follow roads used in the Tour of California and find out how much fun they had! For those who want a shorter ride, there is an option to bypass one 13 mile loop.



Day 6, Sculpterra Loop, 53 miles, 2500'

The day starts on quiet, winding roads through countless vineyards. The first stop will be in the town of Santa Margarita to refuel before continuing through winding, hilly forested roads then past pristine horse ranches to Creston for lunch. The afternoon ride will pass Sculpterra Winery where we will stroll through their larger than life granite and bronze sculptures.



Day 7, San Miguel Loop, 48 miles, 2400 ft.

Mission San Miguel Arcangel (founded in 1797) and Rios Caledonia Adobe (founded in 1835) are today's destinations. The route heads for Hog Canyon where you may see the remains of old Almond orchards, as well as old buildings and equipment from the early farming days. The ride back to Paso is along the Salinas River, the world's largest underground river, called the "upside down river" by locals. Hopefully it will have water flowing after a wet winter!



For additional information, contact. Becky Bottino bbottino7@gmail.com or Ken Condray condray3@gmail.com