

Taking it SLO
Down the Coast

Berry Delicious
Jam & Jelly Love

Classic Homes
Keeping Character

PUNCH

SPIRIT OF THE PENINSULA

zing

APRIL 23

Special
Neighborhoods
Section

the phoenix-like rebirth of lake lagunita
cliffside concerts with hmb's piano man

{ due west }
TRAVEL & WELLNESS



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SLO COAST WINE COLLECTIVE

GETAWAY
SLO it down

words by SOPHIA MARKOULAKIS

The allure and charm of the Central Coast is as varied as its topography—fertile valleys from Salinas down past Ojai are protected and buffered by various mountain ranges. This 300-mile region between the Pacific Ocean and the Los Padres National Forest is a playground for visitors looking for recreation and relaxation. Early spring is an ideal time of year to make your way down U.S. 101. Our destination for a weekend getaway was San Luis Obispo (SLO), and our plan was to enjoy the charming downtown while also exploring the region’s agricultural riches through food, farms and wineries.

WHERE TO STAY

To soak up the essence of SLO, we booked a stay at **Hotel San Luis Obispo (Hotel SLO)**, a bustling downtown property that feels like an urban oasis. With only 78 rooms, the space boasts a boutique-y atmosphere, yet has all the amenities of a full-service hotel with a spa, coffee bar and live entertainment. Its location, a block from **Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa** and within the city’s historic **Chinatown**, is close enough to shops and restaurants for easy access, yet once inside, feels a world away.

Our room was bright and airy with plenty of space to spread out. **An outdoor balcony with table and chairs offered views of the surrounding hills and historic terracotta-tiled roofs. We enjoyed every square inch of the property, from the rooftop High Bar to the casual restaurant Piadina and the elegant steakhouse, Ox + Anchor.**

