



THE BEST KEPT SECRETS

Face painting and fine art. Guinea pigs and Ferris wheels. Cotton candy and Plain White T's (July 9). However you do the Fair, you're crushing it, California. For true Fair insiders, here's a preview of the newest and most exciting food offerings, exhibits, tours and entertainment.

The Grill in The Kaiser Permanente Farm presented by Save Mart Supermarkets:

Local celebrity chef Keith Breedlove feeds the crowds with cooking demos using produce grown a few feet from the stage.

Save Mart Supermarkets California's Kitchen:

Wander in for rotating tasting stations featuring California's best produce and culinary products.

NEW \$2 Tastes of the Fair: Every food vendor will offer a \$2 tasting item every Wednesday and Thursday until 4 p.m.

NEW California on the Move: Air, Land &

Sea: Explore how Californians travel in this exhibit that looks into the past and future of personal and commercial transportation.

Moo U Barn Tours: Livestock experts lead barn tours through the Tractor Supply Co. Big Barn, answering all your cow queries.

Off the Chain Bike Bus Tours: Stop and sample suds throughout the Fair on this bike pub crawl.

NEW The Sky Ride: The Sky Ride returns for the first time since 2008 — a \$7 wristband is your ticket to unlimited gliding over the Fair through the summer sky.

NEW Family-friendly entertainment:

Enjoy the food-centric Magic Bean Show, Farmtastic and the Jest In Time Circus stage featuring variety show entertainment.

NEW California State Fair Cornhole Championships:

Gather a team for this event, July 23.



BRINGING THE Best TO CALIFORNIANS

ALL THAT'S MISSING IS YOU

by Matthew Craggs

In preparing for the biggest party of the summer, the California State Fair (July 8-24) has curated creative artists, delicious food and electrifying entertainment from across the Golden State. The only thing left — the secret to any great party — is the guest of honor: YOU.

What makes the California State Fair the best part of summer is up to your imagination. With 17 days of the best of California packed into 350 acres, fairgoers' options are as diverse as the state and the people the Fair celebrates.

You may want to sip Irish red ales and saisons — award-winners from the California Commercial Beer competition — during the **Best of California Brewfest (July 16)**.

Meet the 8-year-old student who wants to create social media campaigns to improve their

community after spending hours poring through STEM projects at the **California Student Showcase**.

Relive high school and cheer on the home team through the warm, summer nights when **Pro Rugby Sacramento** take on Pro Rugby Ohio (July 9) and Pro Rugby San Diego (July 23) at Bonney Field.

Collect carnival ride wristbands day after day, until they're a colorful fashion statement!

Travel the state through the **county exhibits**, discovering places you've yet to visit.

Witness a young dancer's first-in-a-lifetime **onstage performance**.

Sample as many **gastronomical delights as you can** before collapsing on a **Footsie Wootsie** until the quarters run out.

Get a jump start on **holiday shopping** with gourmet spice mixes, jewelry and innovative products not yet "As Seen On TV."

Feel humbled by **one-ton cows** and **towering llamas**.

Foster a love of gardening in the next generation with a seedling from the California Forest Center. Plant it with the kids in the backyard, and watch the tree grow almost as fast as they do.

Or, go on a date that can become something more when Oakland's own **The Pointer Sisters (July 20)** sing, "I'm so excited. And I just can't hide it!"

And when you think you've seen it all, turn to a friend, ask them for their favorite Fair moment, and then make it the first, new thing you do tomorrow.



PACK LIKE A PRO

GEAR AND FAIR AMENITIES FOR MAXIMUM COMFORT

by Matthew Craggs

Hot days and hot nights are the price we pay for California's fun in the sun. With our Fair packing list and tips on how to be comfortable, you can indulge in all the Fair fun at full speed, without overheating.

PACKING LIST

Pack efficiently and use Fair lockers to lighten your load.

- » **Sun protection.** Hats, sunglasses and sunscreen.
- » **Water bottles.** Empty, reusable bottles can be refilled throughout the day.
- » **Comfortable shoes** to traverse 350 acres of fun.
- » **Download the California State Fair app** to pre-plan your exhibit and entertainment schedules, as well as pinpoint your favorite food vendors and treats.
- » **Food and drink.** Small ice chests are allowed; no glass, aluminum or alcohol.
- » **Reusable bags** for carrying swag, samples and Carnival stuffed animals.
- » **Buy a Season Pass online** to skip the ticketing lines each of the 17 days.
- » **A light coat** in case the night brings a breeze off the cool river.
- » **Lastly, pack your friends and family in the car.** The more the merrier — and the more to help you carry everything.

COMFORT TIPS

Balance fun in the sun with air-conditioned exhibits and shopping.

- » **Cool off** with water misters at the Coca-Cola Food Promenade, Camp Smokey and Save Mart Supermarkets Wine Country.
- » **Mommy Lounges** — offering a quiet, air-conditioned place to nurse — are located in the Dream Big exhibit in the center of the California Buildings.
- » Aching feet and sore back? Take a break and let the experts at **So Relax California** massage your cares away in Building D and along the upstairs walkway between Buildings A & B.
- » Take advantage of expanded **shade and seating areas** throughout the Fair, including the Coca-Cola Food Promenade.
- » Too much sun? **Head inside**, where air-conditioned exhibits, kitchen demos and shopping await.
- » **Free public Wi-Fi** in the California Buildings and charging stations throughout the Fairgrounds keep you posting, liking and sharing the best of California.
- » **Drink plenty of water** during the day, or cool down with a wine slushie at the Save Mart Supermarkets Wine Country.
- » Sky Ride and Carnival **wristbands** save time and money.
- » **The Fair's First-Aid Station**, near the main entrance, is prepared to get you feeling better, stat!

BEST FUN FINDER

THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR APP IS YOUR DIGITAL GUIDE TO THE BEST OF THE BEST

With the California State Fair overflowing with the Golden State's best art, food and innovation, finding the best of the best is only a click away. Yes, there's an app for that.

The free California State Fair app is available for Android and iOS devices, providing guests with a portable guide to the Fair. Before visiting, check the app's weather forecast and use the ticketing link to skip the admission line in fashion. Inside, never miss the big show with a customizable entertainment and exhibit schedule.

With a simplified interface, fairgoers can easily find the perfect snack or feast on the Fair map or through searchable menus from close to 100 food vendors. Isn't it time to swipe right on that corn dog you've been craving?



BEERS AND CHEERS

CALIFORNIA'S BEST BREWS FLOW FREELY AT THE FAIR

Living in the birthplace of the craft beer revolution, Californians enjoy numerous varieties of local beers — from Belgian dubbels and sours to Baltic porters and barleywine. In the Golden State, there are as many possible pours as there are ways to enjoy a cold beer — and the California State Fair has them all on tap.

Start your sudsy stroll at the **Craft Brew Pub** with a rotating lineup of taps and comfortable, shaded lounge chairs with nightly live entertainment.

The Craft Brew Pub is also one of four stops along the new **Off the Chain Bike Bus Tour** (\$39, includes Fair admission). This popular pub crawl on a communal bike offers a behind-the-scenes look at the Fair with three 5-ounce tastings along the way.

Additional tastes can be had at the **Best of California Brewfest** (July 16, \$35-\$50, includes Fair admission), where fairgoers can sample award-winning beers from the California Commercial Beer competition. Victors of its sister competition, **California Homebrew**, can be found on display in California's Kitchen.

So buy a round for neighbors and raise a glass. Here's to you, California. Cheers.

FARM-TO-Fair

Discover the state's culinary bounty

by Matthew Craggs

Bringing together California's newest agricultural innovations, skilled professionals and home chefs, and great food from various cultures and regions, the Fair is Northern California's biggest and best food festival.

Sacramento's reputation as America's Farm-to-Fork capital is reflected in the Save Mart Supermarket's California's Kitchen and The Kaiser Permanente Farm presented by Save Mart Supermarkets — an on-site, 3.5-acre farm that supplies produce to many of the Fair's cooking demos during the Fair, and to the Sacramento Food Bank at other times throughout the year.

"We placed California's Kitchen so that right outside the back door is The Farm," Michael Marks says. "We need fresh basil? Let's cut a few sprigs."

Better known as television's Your Produce Man, Marks emcees the Fair's cooking events, which will feature some of the state's best chefs — including California State Fair Official Chef Keith Breedlove.

At The Grill in The Kaiser Permanente Farm presented by Save Mart Supermarkets, Breedlove feeds and educates fairgoers by connecting them to the food he serves.

"I love talking about The Farm," says Breedlove, who also owns and operates Sacramento's Cülinerdy Crüzer food truck. "Getting really deep into tomatoes, how they grow, the different varieties. Really helping people understand where our food comes from."

For California's best chefs, and the judges who oversee the Fair's live cooking challenges and amateur and commercial competitions, this farm-to-fork knowledge is another unique tool in their arsenal. Marks believes that by watching and asking questions, fairgoers can learn to wield this tool and many others.

However, perhaps the best way to expand your culinary knowledge is through taste. Start by sampling exemplary California products at tasting stations throughout California's Kitchen. One day you may find an award-winning cheese; the next, fresh avocados from a family farm.

Outside, hunt down your favorite Fair food — corn dogs, cinnamon rolls, turkey legs — using the California State Fair app. Then find new favorites, like ceviche, pizza salad, steamed artichokes, from more than 80 food vendors. All of the food vendors offer \$2 tastes (Wednesdays and Thursdays, open-4 p.m.).

"I love talking about The Farm ... [and] really helping people understand where our food comes from."

Keith Breedlove
Official State Fair Chef and
Cülinerdy Crüzer food truck owner

"The California State Fair is so diverse in what it features, but it's all focused on California style," Breedlove says.

A wealth of mouth-watering foods paired with enlightening information and innovation, that's how California does a food festival.

Whether the Fair feeds your mind or body — or a healthy portion of both — there's one thing Marks never tires of hearing from fairgoers.

"Wow, I had no idea that could taste so good."

Eat up, California.





Fair Pairings

FIND THE PERFECT ACCOMPANIMENT TO YOUR FAIR FOOD
by Matthew Craggs

If anyone can pair the perfect wine with a corn dog, it's Mark Chandler. With close to 40 years in the wine industry, the chief judge of the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition is one of more than 50 judges who collectively taste close to 3,000 bottles of California wine every year at the Fair. From California's best bottles, Mark has suggested perfect pairings for some of your favorite Fair foods.

CHURRO	Lodi Albariño	A white Spanish varietal with enough spice to handle the cinnamon.
GRILLED CORN	Napa Chardonnay	Napa emphasizes chardonnay's buttery flavor; a fun match with butter-soaked corn.
COTTON CANDY	Off-dry Rosé or Riesling	Choose a wine sweeter than the food, otherwise the food's sweetness will make the wine taste flat.
CORN DOG	Sierra Foothills Barbera	The bright acidity of the wine will cut through the fatty meat and mealy corn dog batter.
DOUGHNUT BACON CHEESEBURGER	Coastal Shiraz	The richness of big-bodied wines, high in acidity and tannins, will cut through the salt and fat of the bacon and cheese.
TURKEY LEG	Zinfandel	The youngness of the zin will pair well with the spicy grilled meat.
SHRIMP CEVICHE	Lodi Grenache or El Dorado County Roussanne	A medium-weight wine with bright acidity tastes great with this lighter entree.



TOMORROW'S ARTISTS, SCIENTISTS AND MAKERS

STUDENT SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTS THE DIVERSITY AND TALENT OF CALIFORNIA'S YOUTH

by Anne Stokes

California's young people have a bright future, and the State Fair gives them the encouragement to keep chasing their dreams of being the best.

The California State Fair Student Showcase is a testament to their talents in the arts, sciences, technology and math. One young artist, 15-year-old Amy Dimas, entered several pieces into last year's student competitions — and took home three ribbons.

"It was incredible. It was a really good feeling to have something like that out there," she says. "I thought it was pretty interesting and amazing that they picked out my art piece from many other amazing ones."

Amy's multimedia piece "Albatross" (at left) is made with 2,000 plastic bottle caps.

Originally a biology class project created to highlight the importance of recycling and reducing plastic use, the piece placed third and picked up a special award from the State Parks Foundation.

"These kinds of competitions definitely allow for the students' hard work to be showcased, appreciated and recognized," says Alison Wells with the California State Fair. "I think putting [an entry] together and submitting [it] into

a competition really shows diligence and pride in people's projects."

Previously, students could enter separate competitions such as youth arts or industrial technology and education. As judges started to see an increase in the number of youth entries that combined elements of art and science, such as Amy's "Albatross," youth competitions were merged into a Student Showcase covering science, technology, engineering, arts and math categories.

California students from kindergarten to community college are now eligible to compete in traditional categories, such as fine arts and woodworking, as well as new ones like college fundraising and social media campaigns.

Judging panels are made up of industry professionals who are qualified to give students constructive feedback.

Amy says that her success has made her feel more confident in her art.

"Being able to see, as people walk by the art piece, their reaction, that was the best part of it," she says.

See this year's Student Showcase winners at the Fair on display at the Expo Center Buildings.

"These kinds of competitions definitely allow for the students' hard work to be showcased, appreciated and recognized."

Alison Wells

California State Fair
Student Showcase Coordinator



FIND YOUR HANGOUT AT THE FAIR

by Kate Gonzales

Do you long for a night in Baja, California, sipping margaritas? How about a down-home evening with friends, dancing to country music under the stars? Or maybe you want to see your favorite team beat their rival. At the California State Fair, there's a place for everyone to enjoy drinks, dance to great music and have a fantastic time!

Hussong's Cantina

You don't need to go south of the border to get the taste and feel of Mexico — just stop by Hussong's Cantina. Located between the Center Stage and Palm Avenue, the cantina features a deejay playing upbeat Hispanic music until 5 p.m. every night, when a Norteño band takes the stage to play authentic Mexican music you can't help but dance to.

Be sure to grab a Baja-style taco and don't miss your chance to sip on a real margarita, made with the same ingredients used in the first margarita created in the 1940s.

Blues and Brews

Even if you're singing along with the blues, you're bound to enjoy yourself with a cold brew in hand and good friends by your side at the Blues and

Brews area, located between the Nature Exhibit and the Kids Park.

Catch local legend Mick Martin and his band, the Blues Rockers, Fridays through Sundays, 5 to 8 p.m. Terry Hanck — recipient of the 2016 Blues Music Awards for Best Horn — hits the Blues and Brews stage every night of the Fair from 8 to 11 p.m.

Jack Daniel's Honky Tonk Saloon

Toss on a cowboy hat and c'mon over to the Jack Daniel's Honky Tonk Saloon, located between the Horse Arena and the Kids Park, where popular country music will be playing all day. Each night, a live country band will perform to keep the boot-stompin' good times rolling from 6 to 11 p.m.

The Sports Bar

Take a breather from the Fair sights and sounds, grab a beer and watch your favorite sports team on one of the Sports Bar's nine televisions. The Sports Bar is inside the Coca-Cola Food Promenade building, left of the main entrance gate.

We all need a little break and a chance to socialize. Call up your squad and have them meet you at the Fair!

PARTY LIKE A ROCK STAR WITH LIVE KARAOKE

Ever fantasize about fronting a rock band? You can make that dream a reality during the California State Fair with Rock On! Live Band Karaoke. Take center stage as thousands of fairgoers cheer you on. Here's what founder Adam Donald had to say about playing backup for California's best wannabe rock stars.

Q: Tell me about the band's history.

I started it seven years ago, on a lower scale. We were just having fun and playing some shows. (Now) we go all over — we've done gigs throughout the U.S.

Q: What's the atmosphere for the singers?

It's a really nice stage, it's big. We did (the Fair) last year and there was anywhere from 2,000 to 4,000 people every time we played it. We have costumes, feather boas, fake fur jackets. People take on that rock star persona and they go nuts.

Q: What's on your playlist?

Bruno Mars, Journey, Jason Aldean, Miranda Lambert, Joan Jett, all those classic ones that people do. We add new songs every month, so right now we have about 300.

Sign up to perform a song with Rock On! Live Band Karaoke Saturdays at the SMUD Promenade Stage during the Fair. Sign ups start at 7 p.m., and performances begin at 8 p.m.



CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR, JULY 8-24

HOURS & ADMISSIONS

HOURS

Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.
Friday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–10 p.m.

Carnival Hours

Monday, Wednesday–Thursday,
2 p.m.–11 p.m.
Tuesday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.
Friday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–12 a.m.

Kids Park Hours

Monday, Wednesday–Thursday, Opens 12 p.m.
Tuesday, Friday–Sunday, Opens 11 a.m.

Monorail Hours

Monday–Thursday, Opens 11 a.m.
Friday–Sunday, Opens 10 a.m.

Fireworks presented by Dish Network

Friday–Saturday, 10 p.m.

ADMISSIONS

Adults, \$12
Seniors (62 and better), \$10 and
\$8 on Fridays before 8 p.m.
Youth (5–12), \$8
Child (4 and under), Free
Monorail, \$5 single ride
Auto Parking, \$10
Motorcycle Parking, \$5
Coupon Book, \$5

Fairgoers are welcome to bring outside food and
drinks onto the fairgrounds (but why would you want
to?). Ice chests will be searched at the entrances. No
glass, aluminum cans or outside alcohol are allowed.

Unlimited Ride Wristbands:

Monday–Friday, \$30
Saturday–Sunday, \$35

Best of California Brewfest – VIP (includes Fair admission), \$50

Best of California Brewfest – General (includes Fair admission), \$35 (in advance), \$40 (day of)

CASTATEFAIR.ORG

THE GREATEST HITS

Yeah, the rhythm feels good. This year's Toyota Concert Series on the Golden 1 Stage kicks off with Oakland-based R&B group Tony! Toni! Toné and doesn't stop until Loverboy has you "Working for the Weekend." In between you'll be walking the "Streets of Bakersfield" with country's Dwight Yoakam (July 17), missing "Delilah" with Plain White T's (July 9) and saying "Come Sail Away" with Styx (July 18). The Golden 1 Stage also has the next best thing with tribute acts Journey Revisited (July 12), Queen Nation (July 16) and Matchbox Twenty Too (July 19).

**July 8 – Tony! Toni! Toné
and special guest
Heatwave***

July 9 – Plain White T's*

July 10 – Sebastian Maniscalco*

July 11 – Chaka Khan*

July 12 – Journey Revisited

July 13 – Tower of Power*

July 14 – Parmalee*

**July 15 – Creedence Clearwater
Revisited***

July 16 – Queen Nation

July 17 – Dwight Yoakam*

July 18 – Styx*

July 19 – Matchbox Twenty Too

July 20 – Pointer Sisters*

July 21 – Lincoln Brewster*

July 22 – Don Felder*

July 23 – Joe Nichols*

July 24 – Loverboy*

* Visit CAStateFair.org for Gold Circle reserved seating pricing and tickets.

