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Experience Fall in Solvang, California, "The Danish Capital of America:" Comedy, Concerts, and Classic Cars, Vintage(s) and Vikings, Harvest, Heritage, and Halloween Celebrations

-- Europe-in-America, Travel "Dupe" Destination along California's Central Coast Offers Scenic Storybook Settings and Seasonal Entertainment for Multigenerational Visits --

August 22, 2024 – **Solvang, CA** – Solvang, California, the Danish-settled village in Santa Ynez Valley wine country, is ushering in the fall season with its annual heritage, harvest, and Halloween festivals, concerts and comedy, classic cars, vintage finds, and new museum exhibits, all seasonally set for September through November. Solvang's slate of fall happenings will all take place in the Central Coast city known for its European-style ambiance, Danish-inspired architecture, rich California history, and road trip-worthy attractions.

"Solvang has so much to celebrate this fall. We have experiences for all ages, from truly one-of-a-kind, cultural heritage festivals to seasonal events that showcase the wine country setting of this California travel destination," said Randy Murphy, Solvang City Manager. "Solvang's European vibes make it such a unique event location for all sorts of private and public gatherings, and the added entertainment of our many annual happenings are enjoyed by both locals and visitors."

Cultural Community Celebrations:

Solvang's edutourism appeal is highlighted during the fall season with multiple chances to experience and learn about the varied cultures that have mixed to make the city so unique. Native American roots were followed by Spanish settlers and eventually, Northern European immigrants, all of which maintain a community presence in today's Santa Ynez Valley.

Each year's **Solvang Danish Days** festival (www.SolvangUSA.com/things-to-do/Danish-Days), which celebrates its 87th return in 2024, honors the 1911 establishment of Solvang by Danish-Americans. The weekend-long event takes place throughout downtown

Solvang, **Friday through Sunday**, **September 20-22**, **2024**. The festival is free to attend with just a few paid portions of the event weekend.

Solvang Danish Days 2024 will feature fan-favorite food events surrounding Æbleskiver, the iconic Danish pastry rounds; a Danish-style beer and wine garden; an axe throwing arena; interactive history lessons at the Elverhøj Museum of History & Art; story time sessions with Hans Christian Andersen; an Old World artisanal crafts marketplace; plus plentiful free entertainment with three parades, Danish folk dancers and musicians performing at locations all over town, and live concerts on the Midgaard Pavilion Stage in the middle of downtown Solvang. Solvang Danish Days is a family-friendly event with pastimes to match, including the popular, and shaded, LEGO activity tent in Solvang Park, and a two-day Solvang Danish Days LEGO Building Competition.

Part of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the family-oriented, music- and dance-filled **Santa Ynez Valley Hispanic Heritage Celebration** will be held in Solvang Park (*Mission Drive at First Street*), on **Sunday**, **October 6**, **2024**, and on **Saturday**, **October 12**, **2024**, **Sabor del Valle Latino Food & Wine Festival** pops up at Solvang Theaterfest, highlighting the region's Hispanic winemakers and Hispanic cuisine.

Harvest and Halloween "Haunts" in Solvang:

The Solvang Farmer Pumpkin Patch (@solvangfarmerpumpkinpatch) **reopens** for the 2024 season **in late-September**, with pumpkins ranging in size and variety from Wee-B-Littles up to hundreds of pounds. **Open daily through the weekend following Halloween**, **10:00 AM to 6:00 PM**, the Pumpkin Patch also features a corn maze of more than a dozen acres, a kiddie version of the maze, and freshly grown, freshly popped popcorn and kettle corn. The "Patch," located at 1035 Alamo Pintado Road, will also hold Night Corn Mazes at the end of October (*dates TBA*).

The 15th annual **Solvang Scarecrow Fest**, **part of** the larger **SYV Scarecrow Fest** (www.SYVscarecrows.com), runs **October 1 through October 31**, **2024**. During the month-long Scarecrow Fest, Solvang businesses and organizations will participate in the contest by featuring a scarecrow of their own creation posted at their location. The 2024 festival includes the use of QR codes and a digital voting system so locals, tourists, and area merchants may vote for Solvang scarecrow winners in six different categories, such as "Best Scarecrow Photo Opp," "Best Use of Recycled Materials," and "Most Danish." Past SYV Scarecrow Fests have featured upwards of 100 of the friendly field guards stationed throughout the Santa Ynez Valley.

The City of Solvang Parks & Rec will open its "doors" to the 30th annual **Solvang Haunted House** on **Friday**, **October 25**, **and Saturday**, **October 26**, **2024**. Locals and visitors are welcomed to the maze-like Haunted House which carries a different "theme" each fall, with this year's twins-based theme of "Lost Shadows." Winding its way through Solvang Festival Theater and the adjacent grounds (*420 Second Street*), the Solvang Haunted House is open from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM both evenings with a kid-friendlier version of the run-through from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

Classic Cars and Vintage Treasures:

Antique collectors and automobile enthusiasts will have chances to view, and possibly acquire, new pieces during Solvang visits this fall. **Saturday**, **October 19**, **2024**, sees the

second return of the **Annual Viking Classic Car Show**, with cars displayed throughout downtown Solvang from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Flying Miz Daisy Vintage Popup Market sets up shop at Old Mission Santa Inés (*1760 Mission Drive*) on the Saturday of Solvang Danish Days weekend (**September 21, 2024**), from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Free admission and parking affords browsers and buyers ample opportunity to snag authentic vintage and uncommon goods, on the grounds of one of Solvang's most revered cultural sites.

Comedy, Concerts, Cats, and Quilts:

The open-air **Solvang Festival Theater** will host a handful of shows this fall, showcasing a variety of sounds and stars. Emmy and SAG-nominated actor and comedian, and Saturday Night Live alum, **Kevin Nealon** takes to the alfresco stage on **Wednesday**, **September 18**, **2024**, and on **Sunday**, **November 3**, **2024**, singers / songwriters, **Shawn Colvin and KT Tunstall**, both appear in concert for a special Solvang performance.

Currently on display at the **Elverhøj Museum of History and Art**: ***The Lion Has to Be Happy: Contemporary Danish Ceramics***, by renowned artist and ceramist Marianne Steenholdt Bork. The artist's unique, hand-crafted sculptures in clay are testament to Steenholdt Bork's profound connection with nature and her deep fascination with the relationships between humans and animals. Central to Steenholdt Bork's collection is her iconic *Filihankat*, a recurring motif of the lion in various shapes and forms. Running through October 27, 2024, the North American debut of the traveling exhibit is sponsored by the National Foundation of Danish America and ScanDesign.

California Nature Art Museum's current exhibit, ***California, Quilted: Wild in the Oak Woodland***, features new and recent works by artist Julia Laraway. The exhibit, on display through January 13, 2025, is a collection of Laraway's fabric collages and quilts featuring flora and fauna of the coastal oak woodland, a habitat that supports thousands of animal species all over California, inspiring Laraway's works depicting its creatures, colors, and lines of the land.

Solvang Anniversaries:

Capping the annual food and wine extravaganza, **Taste of the Santa Ynez Valley**, will be a **Sunday**, **September 29**, **2024**, **20th Anniversary Screening of** the award-winning, Santa Barbara wine country rom-com, ***Sideways***, **at the Solvang Festival Theater** (*5:00 PM-9:00 PM; 420 Second Street*). The September 29 event will include a pre-screening wine tasting and bites from Solvang's MICHELIN-listed restaurants and other eateries, plus an introduction to the film by Virginia Madsen, Oscar-nominated actress and *Sideways* cast member.

Solvang Festival Theater also has reason to celebrate this year: The only performing arts facility of its kind on the Central Coast, the open-air **"Solvang Theaterfest" turns '50'** in 2024.

Dog-friendly and ideal for kids, Solvang is known for its Danish-American heritage, architecture and design details, pastries and bakeries, and array of wine tasting options. Solvang also boasts dozens of unique boutiques, restaurants, and gourmet food purveyors. Carefully curated indie booksellers mingle with fairy tale-like children's stores and museum gift shops. Solvang's foodie destinations offer everything from

elevated street cuisine – like locally-sourced fish tacos on handmade tortillas, and comforting ramen noodles – to European-style pretzels and sausages, to Italian standbys or iconic Danish dishes, to elevated new-Californian fare in the form of MICHELIN-honored menus. Solvang visitors sip small-batch, locally roasted coffee, shop for exotic, hand-bottled spice blends, or enjoy Tiki cocktails and craft beer, all part of an indulgent and one-of-a-kind California Central Coast shopping and playing escape.

About the City of Solvang

Known as "The Danish Capital of America," the City of Solvang is located in the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County, California. Founded by a group of Danish-Americans in 1911 and later incorporated in 1985, Solvang offers a taste of Denmark in Southern California. Danish design and Old World charm fill Solvang's numerous interior courtyards, cozy communal spaces, and open-air venues, where vacation itineraries for all unfold. The walkable town features plentiful free parking options for locals and day-trippers, and more than 20 lodging options for staycation-ers, weekenders and midweek travelers, at all vacation budget levels. The Solvang Visitor Center, located at 1639 Copenhagen Drive, is open daily, 9:30 AM-5:30 PM (*closed briefly for lunch*). For more information, including travel itinerary ideas and inspiration for things to do, where to eat and drink, and places to stay, follow our adventures on Instagram and Facebook: @SolvangUSA and facebook.com/VisitSolvangUSA.

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www.SolvangUSA.com/Events · facebook.com/VisitSolvangUSA · @SolvangUSA

***Please Note:** Always check the status of events and all event updates prior to making travel plans.*

SOLVANG EVENTS // FALL 2024

September 2024

- **Elverhøj Museum of History & Art**, ***The Lion Has to Be Happy: Contemporary Danish Ceramics***, by artist and ceramist Marianne Steenholdt Bork (*now through October 14, 2024*)
- **California Nature Art Museum**, ***California, Quilted: Wild in the Oak Woodland*** (*now through January 13, 2025*)
- An Evening with **Kevin Nealon** at the **Solvang Festival Theater** (*September 18, 2024*)
- **Solvang Danish Days** (*September 20-22, 2024*)
- **Flying Miz Daisy Vintage Pop-up Market** at Old Mission Santa Inés (*September 21, 2024*)
- Taste of the Santa Ynez Valley **20th Anniversary Screening of *Sideways*** (*September 29, 2024*)
- **Solvang Farmer Pumpkin Patch** (*late-September through the weekend following Halloween 2024*)

October 2024

- **SYV Scarecrow Fest** (*October 1-31, 2024*)
- **Hispanic Heritage Celebration**, Solvang Park (*October 6, 2024*)

- **Sabor del Valle Latino Food & Wine Festival**, Solvang Theaterfest (*October 12, 2024*)
- **Second Annual Viking Charities Classic Car Show** (*October 19, 2024*)
- City of Solvang Parks & Rec **Halloween Haunted House** (*October 25 and 26, 2024*)

November / December 2024

- **Shawn Colvin and KT Tunstall** at the **Solvang Festival Theater** (*November 3, 2024*)
- **Salute to the Vets** (*November 9, 2024*)
- **Solvang Julefest** (*November 29, 2024-January 5, 2025*)