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Art, Live Music, and Theater Events Take Seasonal Center Stage in Solvang, California, "The Danish Capital of America"

-- Cultural Happenings Join Springtime Races and Summer Parades in the Europe-in-America, Storybook Setting of the Santa Ynez Valley Village --

May 6, 2024 – **Solvang, CA** – Solvang, California (www.SolvangUSA.com), the Danish-settled village in Santa Barbara County wine country, is gearing up for seasonal celebrations of all kinds with the announcement of its line-up of late-spring and early-summer happenings, slated for May through early-July 2024. Currently-planned events covering the next few months literally "run" the gamut from a half marathon to Pride festivities, to other, returning cultural affairs, offering family-friendly entertainment and experiences set in the California Central Coast town known for idyllic nods to its Danish roots through storybook-worthy scenery.

Runners take to Solvang's streets for this year's **Santa Barbara Wine Country Half Marathon**, presented by Chumash Casino Resort, on **Saturday**, **May 11**, **2024**. The scenic 13.1-mile course starts and finishes in the heart of historic Solvang, running through the town of Los Olivos, past horse ranches, fruit orchards, farms and vineyards, along Ballard Canyon roads to the grand finish on Solvang's Copenhagen Drive. Runners aged 21+ can purchase a ticket to enjoy the exclusive post-race wine festival in Solvang Park, featuring local wineries from Santa Ynez and Santa Barbara's wine country. The May 11 Santa Barbara Wine Country Half Marathon begins at 7:00 AM; the post-race wine festival is 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. More information and race participant registration is available at www.RunSipSantaBarbara.com.

Solvang's spring-into-summer events have a noted focus on seasonal arts with museum exhibits that spotlight California life and nature topics. On display **through July 7, 2024**, the **Elverhøj Museum of History & Art**'s new gallery exhibit, "**Under the Same Sun: From Low-Riders to Farm Workers**," features works by five Southern- and Central California-based visual artists, Priscilla S. Flores, Narsiso Martinez, Oscar Pearson, Luis Ramirez, and Jacqueline Valenzuela, "whose practices each reflect a unique facet of the jewel that is California life. The works are vignettes that relate to our contemporary moment in California, serving as an acknowledgement that we are all a part of this everyday experience, a diverse but merely a small slice of things happening today in California all in a day's work, under the same sun."

Recently rebranded, the **California Nature Art Museum** currently has two exhibits speaking to vital, natural topics. On view **through July 8, 2024**, "**California's Changing Landscape: The Way of Water**," is a solo exhibition by renowned photographer George Rose, and on exhibit **through September 2, 2024**, "**The Birds and the Bees and More: Pollinators**."

Solvang Festival Theater (aka "Solvang Theaterfest"), celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, sparkles with warm-weather entertainment opportunities. The open-air venue, the only performing arts facility of its kind on California's Central Coast, will see the return of **Pacific Conservatory Theatre**'s ("PCPA") summer shows with the **June 13**, **2024**, **PCPA opening performance of *Little Shop of Horrors*** (*June 13-July 7, 2024*), followed by *The Play that Goes Wrong* (*July 12-July 28, 2024*), *Cabaret* (*August 2-August 25, 2024*), and *The Agitators* (*August 29-September 8, 2024*). On **Saturday**, **June 15**, **2024**, **Solvang Theaterfest and PCPA Golden Anniversary Celebration** join to celebrate 60 years of world-class theater on the Central Coast, plus 50 years of magic under the stars with a gala dinner and auction at the Solvang Festival Theater.

Kicking off **Wednesday**, **June 19**, **2024**, running **5:00 PM to 8:00 PM every Wednesday through August 28**, the **Solvang Chamber of Commerce's Music in the Park** program will entertain locals and tourists in Solvang Park. Eleven different bands are scheduled for the series with music styles ranging from cello blues and soul, to country and classic rock, performing free family-friendly, alfresco concerts that present picnic-perfect opportunities. Lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and snacks are welcome.

Wednesdays in Solvang also bring the weekly **Santa Barbara Certified Farmers Market**, which runs during the summer from **2:30 PM to 6:30 PM** along the block of First Street directly adjacent to Solvang Park. Regional farmers, ranchers, and other local food and beverage crafters sell their fresh-from-the-farm wares, many of which are ideal snacks to sustain Music in the Park audiences.

"We love that our visitors really want Solvang *experiences*. We're not just a charming village full of unique-to-Southern California, European-inspired photo opps. We also have immersive offerings like our weekly Farmers Market, where locals and tourists can chat with our area's agricultural community and get to know the direct source of their food," commented Solvang City Manager, Randy Murphy. "And of course, there are also our many wine tasting rooms, wine bars, wineries and vineyards, where guests will often be able to meet with the winemakers themselves or attend educational sessions on specific varietals and food pairings."

Produced by local nonprofit, **SYV Pride**, the 2024 edition of **SYV Pride month begins Saturday**, **June 1**, with an event line-up to include multiple happenings throughout the Santa Ynez Valley, as well as the month's main attraction: the **Saturday**, **June 22**, **SYV Pride Parade and Festival**. The third annual SYV Pride Parade starts at 11:00 AM at Alisal Road and Oak Street, and will roll through downtown Solvang with floats, music, and more, ending with a family-centric Pride Festival (12:00 PM) in and around Solvang Park. Open to adults and kids of all ages, the festival will feature live music, food trucks, a beer and wine garden, bounce houses, face painting, vendors, and *more*. SYV Pride updates and event schedule details, as well as ticket information for certain SYV Pride events, will be available at www.SYVPride.org and @syv.pride.

Summer in Solvang heats up with one of the city's most popular parades, **Solvang Rotary's annual July 4th Parade** (11:00 AM), and post-parade BBQ. Dozens upon dozens of parade entrants such as classic cars, prancing horses, dance troupes, drum lines, and brass sections travel along the July 4th Parade route as it winds its way through town traversing most of Solvang's main thoroughfares. High school marching bands, motorcycle and car clubs, floats crafted by local businesses, and animated farm animal and pet entries put on their best patriotic display. As night falls, **Santa Ynez**

Valley Rotary's fireworks festival lights up the Solvang sky in a show based next to historic Old Mission Santa Inés.

Visit www.SolvangUSA.com/solvang-events for a listing of upcoming and recurring Solvang events. Additional summer and fall events will be added to the calendar in the coming months.

Solvang, known for its Danish-American vibe, architecture and design details, pastries and bakeries, and array of wine tasting options, also boasts dozens of unique boutiques, restaurants and gourmet food purveyors. Carefully curated indie booksellers and high-end home goods suppliers 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 hand-made 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, year 'round shopping and playing escape.

About the City of Solvang:
Referred to 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 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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Please Note: *Hi-res Solvang images are available upon request from solvang@stilettomarketing.com*

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