OVER 500 WINES REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE PAGE 105

# WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

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RINK NOW

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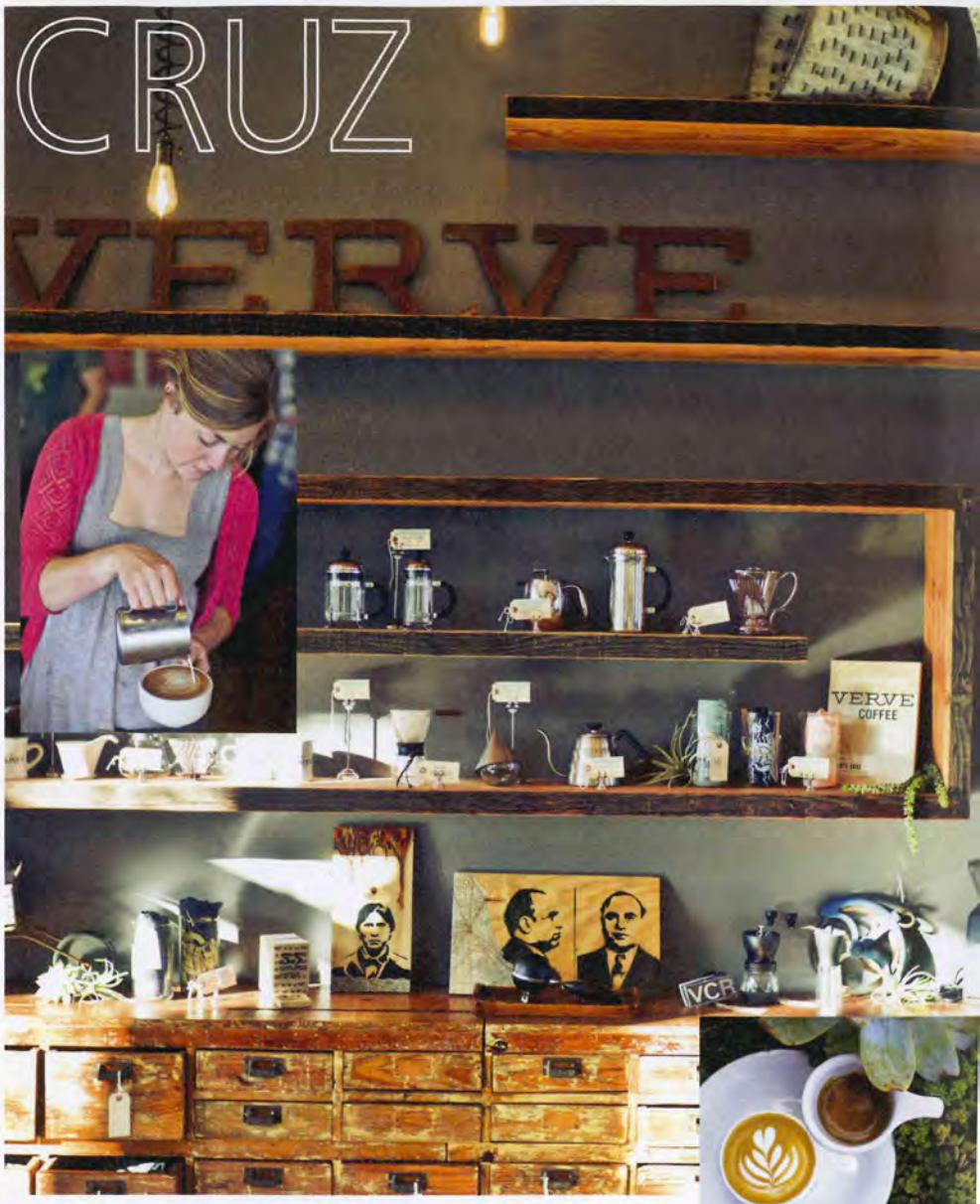
# SANTA CRUZ

With award-winning local wines and eats, this surf city is having a moment. Here's your gastro guide to S.C.




**EAT:** Sleek, sparse **Solaire Restaurant and Bar** (*solairerestaurant.com*) within the new Hotel Paradox offers farm-to-table-inspired dishes—divided into such themes as Field and Farm, and Garden and Grower. Downtown, **Laili** (*lailirestaurant.com*) fuses Mediterranean and Afghan flavors in a romantic courtyard setting. If you're up for some Italian, try **La Posta** restaurant (*lapostarestaurant.com*), a local favorite, where charcuterie is made in-house, the menu is packed with farm-raised fare and live chickens roam the restaurant's yard. World-famous **Manresa** (*manresarestaurant.com*) in nearby Los Gatos is a destination unto itself, and is the French Laundry of the central coast. For dessert, be sure to drop some coin at one of three **Penny Ice Creamery** spots (*thepennyicecreamery.com*) for killer classic and seasonal scoops like black sesame and Meyer lemon poppyseed. Also, the donut holes are life-changing. Order extras. Trust.

Penny Ice Creamery

**DRINK:** Downtown's **Soif Wine Bar** (*soifwine.com*) is a solid spot to try a range of well-selected, small-production wines. Local labels to try: Mount Eden, Kathryn Kennedy and Rhys. To see vineyards, head into the mountains to visit Santa Cruz pioneers **Ridge Vineyards** (*ridgewine.com*), **Bonny Doon** (*bonnydoonvineyard.com*), **Thomas Fogarty** (*fogartywinery.com*) and **Testarossa** (*testarossa.com*). The up-and-coming subregion of Corralitos is where to discover new Pinot Noirs—a good place to start is **Windy Oaks** (*windyoaksestate.com*). Visit the taproom and beer garden at **Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing** (*scmbrew.com*), which makes seasonal ales and is dog friend In nearby Soquel, the **Osocalis Distillery** (*osocalis.com*) makes, bottles and pours heritage grape and apple brandies.

Verve Coff
Roaste

**BRUNCH:** Grab a cup at **Verve Coffee Roasters** (*vervecoffeeroasters.com*). Try one of the house blends like The 1950 (hint of brown sugar and pecan). Next: Companio Bakeshop (*companionbakeshop.com*) for buttery buttermilk scones and organic sourdough bread. —*Virginie Boone*