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THE LOS ALTOS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

47<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL



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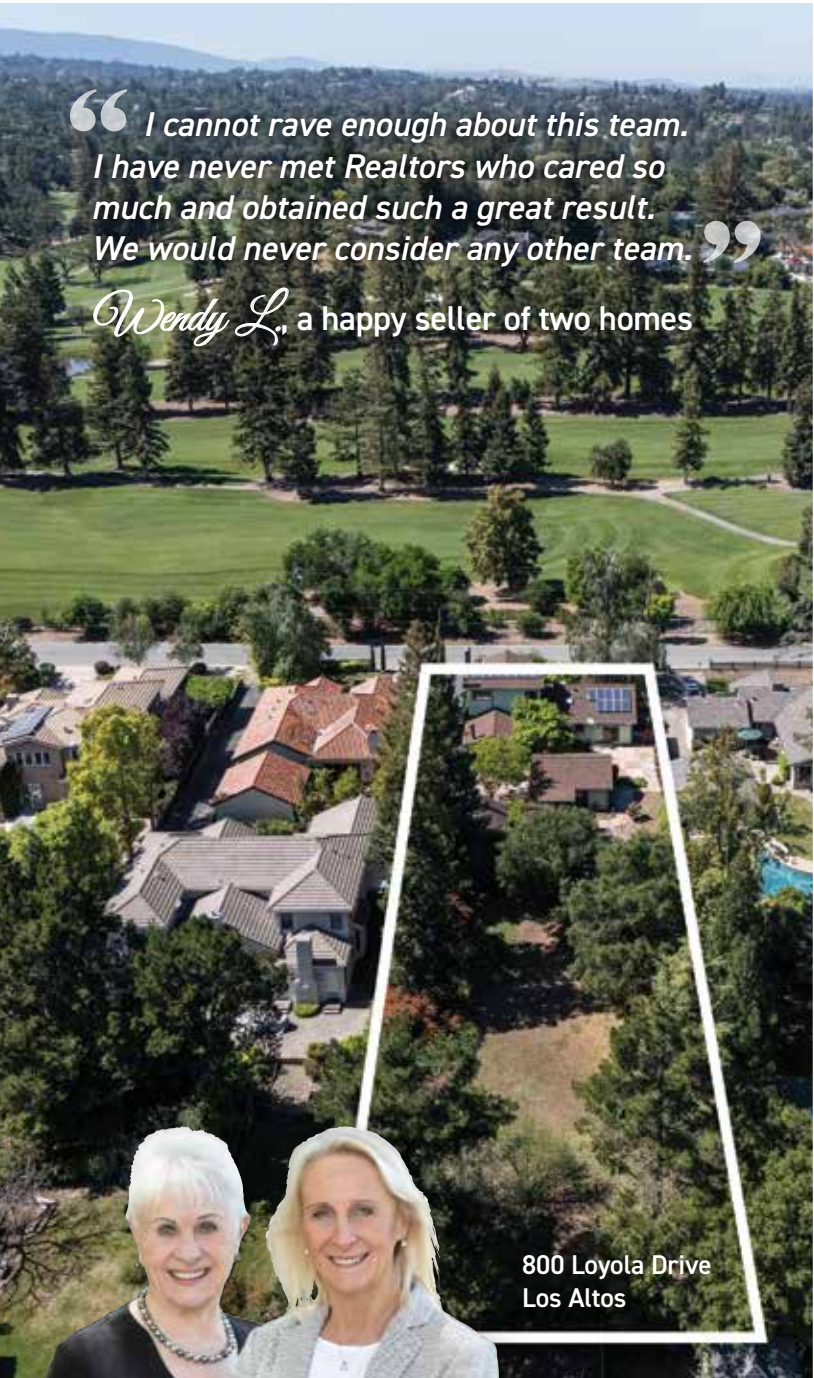
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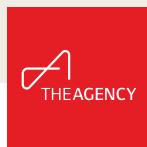


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# LOS ALTOS ARTS+WINE FESTIVAL MAGAZINE

A LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER PUBLICATION

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# Los Altos Town Crier

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**COVER:**  
Courtesy of Los Altos Village Association

# WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2026 Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival in beautiful Downtown Los Altos—a summer celebration filled with exceptional wines, outstanding artists, delicious food, and family-friendly fun. Here you will find a lively weekend of creativity, music, flavor, and community spirit. This year's festival also showcases the artistry woven throughout Downtown Los Altos, from vibrant murals to striking sculptures. We invite everyone to contribute and help create a community collage curated by Arts Los Altos.

This year marks the 63rd year of the Los Altos Village Association (LAVA) championing Downtown Los Altos. Made up of local business owners, property owners, and community members, LAVA is a 501(c)6 nonprofit dedicated to promoting Downtown Los Altos as a vibrant place to shop, dine, explore, and discover. Year-round, the association works to strengthen the downtown experience and celebrate what makes Downtown Los Altos unique.

For the first time, CulturAsia joins the Arts & Wine Festival, bringing a vibrant infusion of color, culture, and creativity. Their presence expands the festival's artistic landscape with performances, demonstrations, and experiences that highlight the richness and diversity of Asian arts. You'll find CulturAsia in Plaza 4 between First and Second—be sure to stop by and discover something new.

To help sustain community events and downtown promotions, the Los Altos Village Association established the Los Altos Village Fund through the Los Altos/Mountain View Community Foundation (LAMVCF). Donations support the experiences, beautification efforts, and seasonal traditions that make Downtown Los Altos special year-round. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law and may be made online through [www.LAMVCF.org](http://www.LAMVCF.org) or by calling the LAVA office at (650) 949-5282 for more information.



While you're here for the 2026 Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, we hope you'll enjoy all that Downtown Los Altos has to offer—from exceptional local shops and inviting restaurants to the charm and hospitality that define this community. Be sure to follow Downtown Los Altos on Instagram (@DTLosAltos) for the latest events and happenings, and visit [www.DowntownLosAltos.org](http://www.DowntownLosAltos.org) for more information and to join our mailing list. We look forward to welcoming you to a memorable festival weekend.

Scott Hunter  
*Executive Director*

Liz Williams  
*Marketing and Event Manager*



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- **HEAD WEST Marketplace**  
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11 am-5 pm on State St.,  
thru October 25
- **Downtown Summer Sale**  
August 1-17
- **Wild West Whiskey & Bites Stroll**  
September 18
- **Corvette Spectacular**  
September 20
- **Witches & Warlocks Wine Stroll**  
October 23
- **A BOO-tiful Downtown Halloween**  
October 30
- **Holiday Stroll**  
November 13
- **Small Business Saturday**  
November 28
- **Holiday Tree Celebration**  
December 4
- **Downtown Holiday Market**  
December 10 and 17



# RIDGE VINEYARDS

## JOINS FESTIVAL FOR FIRST TIME

BY NIAZ ALASTI  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Sitting high above the hustle of the Bay Area atop Montebello Road in Cupertino is Ridge Vineyards, an internationally recognized winery. This weekend, the winemaker is heading down the Santa Cruz Mountains to share its wines at the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival for the first time.

Ridge Vineyards was founded in 1962 on Monte Bello Ridge and has since expanded to Sonoma County and Paso Robles. Emphasizing organic, preindustrial winemaking,

Ridge wines have been widely praised by sommeliers and the winery has received awards for its Zinfandels and Cabernet Sauvignons, including first place at the 2006 Judgement of Paris.

But at this summer's festival, Ridge will be pouring two wines that are uncommon, according to Monte Bello tasting room manager Joshua Chan.

"Both wines are wines that are not your usual Californian cabernets, but are just a little bit off the beaten path but are extremely delicious," Chan said. "You can taste the wines blind,

and you know that you are drinking two very different wines because each of the wines come from its own distinct vineyard, it has its own personality and it shows through."

One of the wines Ridge will be featuring is the 2023 Sandy Lane Carignane. The wine is made with 100% Carignane grapes from a Contra Costa County vineyard that's nearly 200 years old.

The wine has notes of raspberry, garrigue and pepper, according to the tasting notes on Ridge's website.



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# #1

Producers in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills<sup>1</sup>

# Top 100

Producers in 2025<sup>1</sup>

# Top 250

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“At Ridge, we love working with these sites where it reflects some part of California’s history,” Chan said. “You’re really getting a taste of California history (with this wine).”

Ridge will also be pouring the 2020 Mazzoni Home Ranch, a members-only wine that blends Zinfandel, Carignane and Petit Sirah. The wine has “rich aromas of tropical fruits, red licorice, cherry and sweet oak,” according to the tasting notes.

“We are just going to be featuring some friendly, friendly wines,” Chan said. “You don’t have to be a sommelier or a wine connoisseur to enjoy this type of stuff.”

The festival is one of Ridge’s first attempts to connect with wine drinkers outside of the tasting rooms since the end of the pandemic, according to Chan.

“Whether it is with Los Altos or with some other wine festivals, we do want to bring a few more wines down from the mountain and keep



making our wines accessible because we really believe in the wines that we make,” Chan said. “(People) keep coming back to Ridge because they know (we) bring people together. That’s what makes people so happy to visit us over and over again.”

The addition of Ridge also represents the growth of the festival.

According to Los Altos Village Association’s Executive Director Scott Hunter, the organizers are always

looking for ways to enhance the event, and Ridge was one of the wineries they have been most excited to host.

“Wineries all the time are looking to join us, and we usually don’t have the space,” Hunter said. “However, Ridge has always been on our list of wineries we’d love to have here. We’re definitely excited to have them here for the first time, and I think it will certainly be a draw for the festival overall, but for wine drinkers in particular.”

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At Ridge, we love working with these sites where it reflects some part of California’s history.”

– JOSHUA CHAN,  
Tasting Room Manager,  
Ridge Vineyards

Chan hopes the festival will introduce more people to Ridge and its winemaking style.

“We have this genuine belief that there’s a glass of wine for everybody,” Chan said. “When you see someone get a big smile on their face after they taste your wines, (or) someone’s eyes just get a little bit wider, that’s why we do what we do.”

*For more information on Ridge Vineyards, see [ridgewine.com](http://ridgewine.com).*



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# CASA



# CIRCULO CULTURAL

**BRINGS FOLKLORICO DANCE TO THE KIDZONE**

BY SKYE DEAN

Town Crier Editorial Intern

**C**asa Circulo Cultural's folklorico dance group will take the KidZone stage Saturday to celebrate Latino culture.

The performance will mark the organization's first appearance at the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival.

"All of us Latinos should be showcased in different communities, because during this administration, there's several things that are expressed that don't go with who we really are," said Verónica Escámez, Casa Circulo Cultural founder and executive director. "So every time we go to a

place, we want everybody to know the discipline and everything that our kids can do in the performances... to change the vision that groups have about Latinos."

The performance will include more than 20 dancers divided among two groups by age, each showcasing distinct folklorico dance styles – traditional compositions reflecting regional Mexican culture through musical pieces, costumes and choreography.

"You can see Mexico represented through the north and the south,"

Escámez noted.

She said that the older group will perform a Yucatán folklorico style, a blending of Mayan costumes with Spanish and Mexican influences. The younger group will perform a folklorico style from Jalisco.

Lori Moitié, the KidZone entertainment curator, said the group's vibrant performance style made it a strong fit for the festival.

"These guys bring their A-game 100%, every time. And it's really good. They come, they are prepared, they want to wow the audience," she said.

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The Casa Circulo Cultural's folklorico dance group that will perform on the KidZone stage Saturday. PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI MOITIE



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Moitie has a longstanding relationship with Casa Circulo Cultural, having contracted the group for multiple events prior to the festival. Throughout their partnership, she said the group's energetic spirit has remained constant.

"It feels like it's brand new each time," Moitie said.

However, the folklorico dance group is only one facet of the organization's larger mission.

"These kids are from unincorporated San Mateo County, which are considered underserved communities," Escámez said. "They come here and they don't only do dances, but they do music, multimedia, painting, manual arts, theater. All the artistic expressions they can experiment with here. They're interested in the education of this community, and that's what we want to protect."

For Moitie, it was the group's deeper commitment to community enrichment that drew her in.

"I like to add flavor. I like to add color. And these guys happen to be more than just a dance group," she said. "They're an incredible organization. It's a community. They educate. They have a lot of culture. They have art. They do taekwondo. They sing. They have dancing. They have everything."

Moitie added that she's hopeful she can bring the group back to the festival next year.

Casa Circulo Cultural is set to perform at 2 p.m. Saturday in the KidZone.

*For more information, see [casacirculocultural.org](http://casacirculocultural.org).*



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# Los Altos Stained Glass Maven

reflects on the colors of a post-professional passion

BY GIUSEPPE RICAPITO  
Town Crier Staff Writer

**J**ulia Kahan, one of Los Altos' premier stained glass makers featured at the 47th Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, spent three decades as an orthopedic surgeon before discovering her passion for glass artistry.

What attracted her to the stained glass was a similar attention to

intricacy needed as a surgeon, she said.

"The complexity of what I do, that's what appeals to me. You have to love what you're doing because it takes so many hours," she said.

A Los Altos resident since 1993, Kahan's work recalls her affection for wildlife advocacy, her passion for color and a penchant for emotional

resonance. The pieces span hue-sheened nature scenes, pet profiles and natural wonders, brought to life with narrative depth belied by a mystical color and textural palette.

"For someone to stand back and say it's really beautiful, to have people really appreciate it, that's what means the most," she said.



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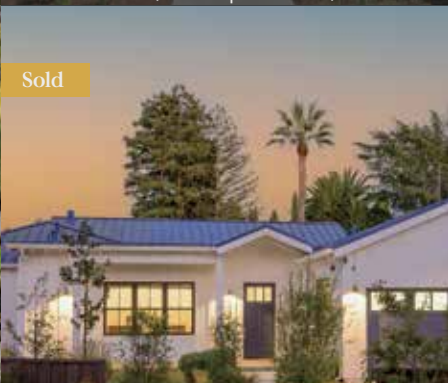
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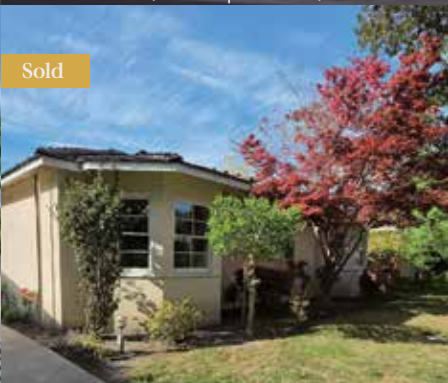
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Above: Julia Kahan's process involves piecing together the glass and soldering them to each other with a copper foil border. Left: Kahan's stained glass pieces are often driven by her passion for wildlife ecology. She donates proceeds of her work to various foundations. PHOTOS COURTESY JULIA KAHAN



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Kahan first began working with stained glass in 2017. She trained in stained-glass artistry at Aanraku Glass Studio in San Mateo and has since been recognized by the Los Altos Art Club and has competed nationally in the Delphi National Art Glass Competition.

It didn't take long for her work to receive attention. As people approached her with commissions, a hobby evolved into a nearly full-time endeavor.

She said the customers always tend to approach commissions with emotion and passion – often the subject is something they hold dear to their hearts – which was an impetus for her to keep improving and refining her skills.

“The commission part is just so emotional for people because it’s something that means a lot to them,” Kahan said.

One of her personal favorite pieces is called “Swim Team,” which, in a tide of turquoise and azure, shows a girl swimming with dolphins. The driving passion underlying her work is wildlife and environmental advocacy, with all of the proceeds from the work being contributed to various animal rescue societies.

“The more you do it, the more you know how to do it,” Kahan said. “Being able to create these pieces is very fulfilling for me and allows people to connect with it. It kind of checks all the boxes for me, it’s fun and I’m passionate about it.”

The crafting process is incremental and fragile. A





Julia Kahan's piece "Swim Team" was a commission piece she said was emotionally resonant to her because of her connection to the ocean.  
PHOTO COURTESY JULIA KAHAN

general picture has the lines drawn where the glass pieces will go, and Kahan makes selections based on color, sheen and optics. When the pieces have been selected, the outlines of the pieces are scored on the glass, broken out, then ground down around the edges to make it fit the template. Each piece is then wrapped in copper foil tape, which allows the pieces to be soldered together for the final product. Then it is cleaned, burnished and set with its final accoutrements as a finished product.

Kahan recalled peers discussing their art pieces that they could finish in an afternoon. But stained glass work, which uses between 30 and 400 pieces, can take between 40 to 60 hours of work depending on the project, she said.

It will be Kahan's fourth year at the art and wine festival.

"I always have a good time. Even the artists up and down behind me, we have a good time," she said. "It's like a big party. It's a lot of work but it's a lot of fun." 🐾

“Being able to create these pieces is very fulfilling for me and allows people to connect with it. It kind of checks all the boxes for me, it’s fun and I’m passionate about it.”

– Julia Kahan, Stained Glass Artist



Julia Kahan will feature in the 47th Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival this summer with her stained glass artwork.  
PHOTO COURTESY JULIA KAHAN



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- 12:00 pm...**Mai Lin & the Magic Brush Puppet Show**  
Based loosely on an old Chinese tale, this is the story of a young girl who is given a magic brush that can make anything she paints come to life!
- 1:00 pm....**Magic Show with Germar**  
An award-winning stage show that blends heartfelt comedy, mind-bending magic, and nonstop fun. Packed with clever props and endless laughter.
- 2:00 pm...**Casa Circulo Cultural Dance Experience**  
Get ready to move! Casa Circulo Cultural serves up bilingual Latino dance vibes, community energy, and Bay Area flavor — all in one unforgettable experience!
- 3:00 pm...**Mai Lin & the Magic Brush Puppet Show**  
Based loosely on an old Chinese tale, this is the story of a young girl who is given a magic brush that can make anything she paints come to life!
- 4:00 pm...**Magic Show with Germar**  
An award-winning stage show that blends heartfelt comedy, mind-bending magic, and nonstop fun. Packed with clever props and endless laughter.
- 4:45 pm ...**Lori & RJ – Wrap Up the Day!**  
Clap, stomp, and wiggle along! Singing and dancing that's silly, funky, and fun for little ones — with happy moves, groovy grooves, and lots of giggles!

## Sunday, July 12

- 11:00 am ...**Lori & RJ - Kids Music with a Twist – (Emcees for the Day)**  
Prepare to experience music that's catchy and infused with irresistible funkiness. Get ready to groove and move to the beat... all for kids.
- 12:00 pm...**Tales of the Panchatantra Puppet Show**  
The show features classical and Bollywood music from India. A fun show for everyone.
- 1:00 pm....**Wendy Waller Voice Studio**  
Featuring students performing live! Unlock your vocal potential with expert coaching for all levels. Build confidence, expand your range, and find your authentic voice. Your spotlight starts here!
- 1:30 pm ....**Magic Show with Germar**  
An award-winning stage show that blends heartfelt comedy, mind-bending magic, and nonstop fun. Packed with clever props and endless laughter.
- 2:30 pm ...**Fantasy Dance Troupe**  
With global rhythms and enchanted moves, Fantasy Dance Troupe brings the world's cultures to life in one spellbinding performance. Expect dazzling costumes, international choreography, and nonstop energy.
- 3:15 pm.....**Tales of the Panchatantra Puppet Show**  
The show features classical and Bollywood music from India. A fun show for everyone.
- 4:00 pm...**Magic Show with Germar**  
An award-winning stage show that blends heartfelt comedy, mind-bending magic, and nonstop fun. Packed with clever props and endless laughter.
- 4:45 pm ...**Lori & RJ Music**  
Clap, stomp, and wiggle along! Singing and dancing that's silly, funky, and fun for little ones — with happy moves, groovy grooves, and lots of giggles!



WENDY WALLER VOICE STUDIO



MAGIC SHOW WITH GERMAR



FANTASY DANCE TROUPE



CASA CIRCULO CULTURAL



MAI LIN & THE MAGIC BRUSH



PANCHATANTRA PUPPET SHOW



Star One Credit Union

# MAIN STAGE



THE HOUSEROCKERS

## Saturday, July 11

11:30 am – 1:30 pm .... **The Wanderers**  
thewanderers.band/the-band.com

2:00 pm – 4:15 pm..... **Michelle Lambert**  
michellelambert.com

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm... **The Houserockers**  
svhouserockers.com

## Sunday, July 12

11:00 am – 12:30 pm... **Fully Funded**  
fully-fundedband.com

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm .... **Shake It Booty Band**  
shakeitbootyband.com

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm... **The Megatones**  
themegatones.net



THE WANDERERS



MICHELLE LAMBERT



SHAKE IT BOOTY BAND

# COMMUNITY PLAZA STAGE



BLUE HOUSE

## Saturday, July 11

10:30 am – 12:00 pm **The Jazz ConneXion**  
thejazzconnexion.net

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm .. **Blue House**  
bluehouse.com

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm... **Tom Rigney & John R Burr**  
tomrigney.com

## Sunday, July 12

11:00 am – 12:30 pm... **Colby Pollard**  
colbypollard.com

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.... **Mary Ellen & Thom**  
maryellenmusic.com

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm ... **The Breaux Show**  
breauxshow.org



TOM RIGNEY & JOHN R BURR



COLBY POLLARD



THE BREAUX SHOW

# DOWNTOWN LOS ALTOS



## MAP LEGEND

- |                   |                          |                             |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Margaritas        | Community Mural          | Parking                     |
| Beer              | Entertainment            | Handicapped Parking         |
| Soda/Water        | Information/Lost & Found | Rideshare Drop off/Pick up  |
| Glassware         | First Aid Station        | ATM Locations               |
| Food Villages     | Police                   | Free Speech                 |
| Spirits           | Restrooms                | Sustainability Square       |
| Wine:             | Handicapped Restrooms    | Bike/Stroller Valet Parking |
| W1 Byington       | Chill Zone               |                             |
| W2 Domenico       |                          |                             |
| W3 Naumann        |                          |                             |
| W4 Page Mill      |                          |                             |
| W5 Qvevri         |                          |                             |
| W6 Ridge          |                          |                             |
| W7 Thomas Fogarty |                          |                             |
| W8 ShunYi         |                          |                             |

### Artists Spaces numbered on map by streets:

- 100s: On State between 1st – 2nd Streets
- 200s: On State between 2nd – 3rd Streets
- 300s: On State between 3rd – 4th Streets
- 400s: On Main between 1st – 2nd Streets
- 500s: On Main between 2nd – 3rd Streets
- 600s: On Main between 3rd & State Street
- 700s: On Main between State & Edith

## DIRECTIONS & PARKING

Limited parking is available in Downtown. Please plan to park at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Avenue.

From 280, take the El Monte exit, left on Foothill Expressway, right on San Antonio Road, right on Hillview Avenue, park at the Los Altos Community Center.

From 101, take San Antonio Road, cross El Camino, left on Hillview Avenue, park at the Los Altos Community Center.



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# FOOD VENDORS

**Olde Tyme Kettle Korn**-Second St., FS7  
Kettle/Caramel Popcorn, Boba and Thai Ice Tea

**XOT Belong**-Second St., SBT6  
Hot Sauces

**Street Stix**-Second St., FS1  
Pork & Veggie Lumpia, Fish and Lobster Ball,  
Chicken Katsu & Tonkatsu Rice Bowls, Ube &  
Pandan Glazed Turon, Ube & Pandan Halo Halo

**Aroma Concessions**-Second St., FS10  
Fried Artichokes, Fried Zucchini, BBQ Sausages,  
Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs, Smoked Turkey Legs,  
Oysters, Sausages, Garlic Fries

**Dippin Dots**-Second St., FS11  
Dippin Dots Ice Cream

**Chef Chu's** - Los Altos Rotary-Second St., FS3  
Chinese Chicken Salad

**JC's Holey Donuts**-Second St., FS4  
Mini Donuts, Milk

**Coastal Paella**-Second St., FS5  
Seafood Paella, Ribeye or Shrimp Skewers

**Aki Sushi Taco**-Second St., FS6  
Sushi Tacos

**Barrett's Lemonade**-Various Locations  
Second St., FS6, FT3, FT7 and FM1  
Handshaken lemonade, strawberry or blueberry

**Thai Street Food**-Second St., FS8  
BBQ Honey Chicken and Pork, Thai Stick, Satay  
Chicken, Thai Taco Pork and Chicken, Roti, Papaya  
Salad, Basil Chicken, Pad Thai

**Willie D's**-Second St., FS9  
Sweet & Savory crepes, Baked potatoes & Sweet  
potatoes, Tacos, Asada Fries, Pineapple teriyaki bowl,  
Churros and Pretzels

**Delightful Foods**-Third St. SBT4  
Pies, Cookies

**B Food International**-Third St., FT1  
Gyros, Philly Steak, Vegetarian, Falafel, Cane  
Asada Fries, Curry Fries, Sasuage 1/2lb

**Gourmet Faire**-Third St., FT2  
Crab Rolls, Corn (Turkey or Hot Link) Dogs, Crab  
Garlic Fries, Beer Batter Garlic Fries, Breaded  
Chicken Tenders

**Mediterranean Delight**-Third St., FT4  
Filet Mignon Kabob Plates with Rice and Salad;  
Garlic Chicken Kabob Plates with Rice and Salad;  
Crab Salad: Lobster Garlic Fries; Ribeye Steak Fries

**Alex Grilled Tacos**-Third St., FT5  
Grilled Asada, Al pastor and Chicken Tacos

**Tropical Hut**-Third St., FT6  
Non-alcoholic Pina Colada in a Pineapple, or  
Coconut

**Twisted K's**-Third St., FT8  
Soft Serve Ice Cream, Dole Whip

**Nan's Gourmet Foods**-Third St., SBT1  
Aged and Infused Balsamic Vinegars, California  
Blended Olive Oils, Handcrafted Flavored Pasta

**Blissful Bite LLC**-Third St., SBT2  
Baklava, Mixed Nut Baklava, Vegan Baklava

**Sam's Gourmet Jams**-Third St., SBT3  
Various Pre-packaged Jams

**Mike & Niki's Honey**-Third St., SBT5  
Honey, Honeycomb, Honey Sticks, Creamed Honey  
in assorted flavors

**Jerky Jerks Jerky Hut**-Third St., SBT7  
40 Flavors Gourmet Top Sirlion Jerky, 15 Flavors  
Exotic Game Meat Jerky, 5 Flavors Beef Sticks 15  
Flavors Corn Snax

**Primo's Gourmet Food**-Third St., SBT8  
Dips, Spices, Olives, Mustards, Sauces, Pickled  
Veggies, Balsamic Vinegars, Marinades

**Natures Candy Co.**-Third St., SBT9  
Flavored nuts & dried fruit



# FESTIVAL EXHIBITORS

Scan QR code for booth number location



# THANK YOU

With heartfelt appreciation, the Los Altos Village Association thanks the many dedicated individuals, partners, and community members whose generosity, time, and enthusiasm helped bring the 47th Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival to life. Their support throughout the year—and especially during festival weekend—help create a vibrant, welcoming celebration for artists, visitors, merchants, and neighbors alike.

Ricardo Archila  
 Anthony Carnesecca  
 Valerie Cairns  
 Faye Chapman  
 Belinda Chung  
 Jim Clark  
 Maria Crowder  
 Sue Culbertson  
 Joe Fusco  
 Arlene Garcia  
 Shannon Geary  
 Stephen Gonzalez  
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Harry Guy  
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 Marc Sidel  
 Jennifer Springer  
 Millie Talledo  
 Melany Thompson-Zaro  
 Fran Vella  
 Art Whipple  
 Liz Williams  
 Read Zaro  
 Karen Zucker



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

We extend special appreciation to the Los Altos City Council and City staff for their continued support and sponsorship of this beloved community event. We are especially grateful to the Los Altos Police Department, whose thoughtful planning and dedicated presence help ensure a safe, smooth, and enjoyable Festival for everyone. Our sincere thanks go to Police Chief Saskia Lagergren, Sergeant Mike Taylor, and the officers who generously devote their weekend to supporting our patrons, artists, and vendors.

We also gratefully acknowledge our friends at the Assistance League of Los Altos for their support of the Festival and Downtown Los Altos and for providing a home for the event warehouse.

Our deepest thanks go to our volunteers—nearly 300 strong—whose energy, dedication, and community spirit make this Festival possible year after year. Many return annually and generously mentor new volunteers, helping carry forward the welcoming spirit that defines this event. We are grateful for the students, parents, and community organizations from across Los Altos—including GreenTown Los Altos, the Los Altos Rotary Club, and the local Los Altos Ham radio team—who give their time so generously. We also extend our appreciation to the Board of Directors of the Los Altos Village Association for their leadership and support throughout the year.

Last, but certainly not least, we thank our Downtown business owners for their patience, partnership, and continued support of the Festival, even as it brings changes to the usual rhythm of a weekend in Downtown Los Altos. Their ongoing commitment helps make Downtown Los Altos such a special destination, and we encourage everyone to support them during the Festival and throughout the year. Shop! Dine! Explore! Discover! Downtown Los Altos!

For a complete list of our member businesses and to learn more about the Los Altos Village Association, please visit our website at [www.DowntownLosAltos.org](http://www.DowntownLosAltos.org).

# CulturAsia

## *Celebrates*

### Multicultural Heritage

#### at Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival

BY MAYA DUTT

Town Crier Editorial Intern

**C**ultura Fest hosts its first Asian cultural celebration at the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival this weekend.

The celebration, called CulturAsia, kicks off with a multicultural parade Saturday morning. This is followed by musical performances, exhibits and food throughout the weekend, according to event organizer Layla

Ouk. The parade is set to start at 10 a.m. Saturday on State Street and end at CulturAsia's venue in Parking Plaza 4, located between First and Second streets.

Performers include vocalist Katherine Ho, whose music was featured in the movie "Crazy Rich Asians," and Rose Crelli, who plays her violin at local sports events,

including this year's Super Bowl halftime show with Bad Bunny.

Ricardo Archila founded Cultura Fest two years ago in San Carlos. A first-generation American whose parents are from El Salvador, Archila's goal is to reconnect people with their cultural roots while embracing life in the U.S., according to Cultura Fest's website.



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He told the *Town Crier* that the organization wants to participate in the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival because Asians are the second largest community living in the city and there are rarely events that celebrate their culture.

“(The Los Altos Village Association) has been producing (the festival) for 47 years, but they’ve never had a cultural component,” Archila said. “Indian, Korean and Chinese are the biggest Asian communities there, and so we thought it’d be cool to celebrate that.”

Musicians will rotate throughout the two days, with three to four musicians on-stage each day, Ouk said. During her performance, Ho said she will sing Mandarin versions of popular American songs, including Taylor Swift and Coldplay, which has been her specialty since performing a Mandarin rendition of Coldplay’s “Yellow” in “Crazy Rich Asians.”

“Being a part of this soundtrack changed my life and made me proud to be Asian in a way that I didn’t always feel growing up,” Ho said. “This personal and professional journey since singing for ‘Crazy Rich Asians’ has let me into a lot of cool spaces



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---



## Stand with Our LGBTQ+ Community

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[LAMVCF.org](https://lamvcf.org)



Cultura Fest seeks to reconnect people to their cultural roots. Cultura Fest hosts its first Asian cultural celebration at the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival this weekend. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC VALLE



to collaborate with other entertainment entities that uplift AAPI and Chinese culture. It has also prompted me to explore my own identity in the content that I create.”

Meanwhile, Crelli said she will perform renditions of Bay Area hip hop and R&B songs on her electric violin. Crelli added that she hopes to bring more representation for Asian American adoptees who may not have had a strong connection with their culture growing up.

“As a person who was adopted, I think it’s important for adoptees to have representation in the Asian American community,” Crelli said. “Growing up, I never had anyone who I knew who was also adopted, and it was a very isolating experience. I’m hoping to give some representation to other people who were adopted from different countries and might feel alone.”

Archila hopes CulturAsia will help community members feel proud of their heritage and bring more awareness about Asian culture to the Los Altos community.

“I haven’t seen a lot of celebration of the many cultures in Los Altos, so I’m hoping that as people see themselves reflected in the performers, the youth get to see the arts and performers that are within their own communities and that they feel inspired,” Archila said.

*For more information, see [cultura-fest.com](http://cultura-fest.com).*



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# SHAKE IT BOOTY BAND

— MAKES ITS FESTIVAL  
DEBUT SUNDAY —

BY OLIVIA LEVESQUE OUELLETTE  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

While several bands will be returning to perform at this weekend's Los Altos Art & Wine Festival, there will also be a new musical act taking the Main Stage.

The Shake It Booty Band is set to perform from 1-2:30 p.m. on Sunday. The San Francisco-based band plays covers of 1970s disco and funk songs.

Vocalist Peggy Dove said the band often plays popular songs to encourage audience participation.

"We have a blast on stage, so if we are having a good time, then the (audience) will have a good time, like we're really building energy for each other," Dove said. "Now and then, we have some songs that involve a little bit of crowd participation that might involve some background instrumentation like whistling or dancing."



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Scott Hunter, executive director of the Los Altos Village Association, which puts on the festival, said the band was asked to perform last year but could not make it.

“We’re always looking for high-energy bands,” Hunter said. “There’s a large dance floor. It really usually has a lot of folks up and dancing around, and so that’s really what we’re looking for, entertainment that people can get into. We want people to get up and have a good time.”

Formed in 2012, the band comprises eight members. Keyboard player Deb Hungerford is the lone original member.



**“WE HAVE A BLAST ON STAGE, SO IF WE ARE HAVING A GOOD TIME, THEN THE (AUDIENCE) WILL HAVE A GOOD TIME...”**

**-PEGGY DOVE**, Vocalist, Shake It Booty Band

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# De Mattei

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The Shake It Booty Band is set to make their debut on the Main Stage of the Los Altos Art & Wine Festival on Sunday. The San Francisco-based band plays covers of 1970s disco and funk songs. PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATRINE SPANG-HANSEN



## Art & Wine Festival Sale!

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Drummer Katrine Spang-Hanssen said she joined in 2013 after going to one of the band's shows.

"I've been doing this for a long time, so I'm not nervous because I have a sense of, 'Oh, this is what's going to happen,'" Spang-Hanssen said of performing. "When I play with this band, I just get excited about the opportunity to play for folks who want to have a good time. I mean, in these times we find ourselves in, we need joy. We need community, and that's what I think this band is good at providing."

The group does not have a consistent set list; Spang-Hanssen said the members choose songs based on the audience in front of them.

Playing about 25 shows per year, Spang-Hanssen said the band's close bond radiates to the crowd, creating a pleasant musical experience.

"I think the big thing that I really love about performing with this band in particular is that we're all ... super good friends, and so it's very joyous," Spang-Hanssen said. "It's fun because you get to make music that is joyful and gets people excited, and you get to do it with people that you love, I mean, what's better than that?"

*For more information, see [shakeitbootyband.com](http://shakeitbootyband.com).*

# Ryan Gowdy

## REPRESENTATION WITHOUT EGO

As one of the top agents in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, I provide personalized, hands-on service from start to finish. I'm the one answering the phone, hosting tours, and overseeing every detail. No assistants—just my direct expertise and commitment to your success. From open houses to negotiations, I'm your full-service partner, always placing your interests at the forefront. And the results speak for themselves.

## TESTIMONIALS

You will not find a harder-working agent anywhere. If you have Ryan sell your home, he will work day and night to get your home in the best condition for the sale. He's a Los Altos native, knows everybody and has the connections to get any job done right. Have a special request? Need a favor? Ryan is on it. Nobody does more to earn their commission, and I would consider no other agent to sell my home.

**-ERIC & ALICE | LOS ALTOS**

It was an absolute pleasure to work with Ryan. Both the smooth process and the amazing result of our Los Altos home sale exceeded our expectations. Nobody knows the area like Ryan does, and his first-hand involvement in preparing us for the process, prepping the home and being onsite to personally sweat the details was incredibly valuable – especially since we had moved out of the area and essentially sold the house "remotely" with Ryan's local guidance. Bottom line—if you want a stress-free/excellent outcome experience, with a partner that's super-easy to work with, call Ryan!

**-TOM & LINDA | LOS ALTOS**

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### **RYAN GOWDY**

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# A SOMMELIER'S GUIDE — TO YOUR ART AND WINE — TASTING JOURNEY

BY ANDREW SPARLING  
 Wine and Beverage Manager,  
 LAGCC Sommelier

## THE ART OF THE POUR

The Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival returns to downtown Los Altos for its 47th year. For one weekend every July, Main and State streets transform into an open-air gallery of art, handcrafted works and tantalizing foods. People travel from all over to join one of Northern California's largest street festivals. Yet, some of the finest art lies in an invisible gallery: the wine glass. Winemaking is a profound art form where the canvas is the climate, the brush is the vineyard, and the paint is a complex palette of living chemistry. Every bottle poured represents a time-bound sensory masterpiece.

## LOCAL HERITAGE AND COASTAL ELEGANCE

To experience this artistry, start your tasting journey with a nod to local history. Operating as a festival fixture since 1979, Page Mill Winery holds deep roots in Los Altos Hills. Relying on traditional, hands-on production methods, their lineup features a crisp, structurally balanced Sauvignon Blanc alongside a Chardonnay with exceptionally clear fruit character. For red wine enthusiasts, they deliver a bold, robust Zinfandel and an intricate, savory GPS Rhône Blend displaying old-world complexity.

Moving from the hills toward

the coast, you will find a different expression of California terroir. Enveloped by towering coastal redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Byington Vineyard & Winery crafts artisanal, small-lot wines by treating each vineyard block independently. Their lineup highlights a sparkling Estate Blanc de Blancs crafted from high-elevation grapes alongside a vibrant, tropical Sauvignon Blanc bursting with citrus strokes. Rounding out the selection are a silk-textured Chardonnay offering a pure representation of mountain fruit, and a light, highly expressive Estate Pinot Noir perfumed with cranberry and raspberry aromas.



LOS ALTOS HILLS  
COUNTY FIRE  
DISTRICT

# PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS

## PROTECTING LIFE, PROPERTY, AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE HILLS FROM WILDFIRE

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District serves the Town of Los Altos Hills and surrounding unincorporated hillside communities, where homes, roads, and infrastructure are interspersed with vegetation with varying degrees of fuel loading. Because of this landscape, much of the community is exposed to wildfire risk.

The Fire District's Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment and Rebate Program helps residents take practical, property-specific steps to improve wildfire safety around their homes.

Residents who sign up receive an on-site assessment from a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)-certified assessor, along with a personalized report outlining recommendations tailored to their home and landscape. This educational program is available to all Fire District residents, and rebates are available to help support wildfire risk-reduction efforts.

*Register for an assessment at [lahcfd.org/hiz](http://lahcfd.org/hiz). Questions? Contact [hiz@lahcfd.org](mailto:hiz@lahcfd.org).*

**Check whether your property is located within the District boundaries  
by entering your address at [lahcfd.org/map](http://lahcfd.org/map).**



LOS ALTOS HILLS  
COUNTY FIRE  
DISTRICT

For more fire safety and emergency preparedness information, visit  
Los Altos Hills County Fire District at [www.lahcfd.org](http://www.lahcfd.org) or call (650) 949-1044.

## ICONS OF THE PENINSULA AND URBAN INNOVATIONS

Further up the ridge, high-altitude winemaking reaches spectacular heights. Overlooking the Bay Area from Skyline Boulevard, the iconic Thomas Fogarty Winery delivers a masterclass in micro-climate viticulture. Their diverse selection features an aromatic, texturally rich Gewürztraminer, a vivid Rosalee Rosé of Pinot Noir boasting firm acidity, and an alkaline-driven Estate Chardonnay bursting with yellow plum and Meyer lemon. Completing the presentation are a clean, mineral-driven Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir focused on pure environmental expression, and a structured Cabernet Sauvignon from their sister label, Lexington Wine Company, built for longevity.

In sharp contrast to these rural

hillside estates, the festival also highlights modern, urban innovation. Bringing a sophisticated winemaking flair from San Carlos, Domenico Winery specializes in Italian varietals that offer a unique niche within California's landscape. Their Lodi-sourced Pinot Grigio opens with delicate aromas of citrus and pear, while the Barbera Rosé provides a beautifully dry, fruit-forward profile balanced by bright acidity.



Rounding out the lineup, the robust Mambo Italiano red blend envelops the palate with rich aromas of sweet ripe cherries, plum and cigar box.

## GLOBAL LEGENDS AND CULTURAL CROSSROADS

For a taste of world-renowned tradition, stop by the booth of a global winemaking legend. Ridge Vineyards focuses on single-vineyard, pre-industrial winemaking and traditional, hands-off fermentations that preserve historic California vineyards.

Their Sandy Lane Carignane is a deeply expressive, old-vine red focusing on intense fruit purity and earth, while the Mazzone Home Ranch delivers a classic, field-blended Zinfandel-based mix showcasing complex spice and structure. Together, these wines deliver profound depth and highlight the unique characteristics of their historic sites.



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The artistic bridge across different terroirs continues with producers who view winemaking through a multicultural lens. Named in honor of ancient imperial heritage and built on humility and integrity, Shun Yi Cellars sources fruit from premier coastal valleys to craft highly expressive, small-batch wines. Their festival lineup features a voluptuous Santa Lucia Chardonnay presenting a harmonious blend of green apple, lemon and white peach, alongside a silky, well-balanced Santa Lucia Pinot Noir offering bright cranberry and pomegranate flavors. Rounding out the selection is a luxurious Napa Valley Cabernet, a bold and structurally complex flagship red that seamlessly bridges these regions.

## DEEP ROOTS: FROM GEORGIA TO SILICON VALLEY

Finally, no exploration of liquid art is complete without paying homage to the absolute birthplace of the craft. More than 5,500 years before the Greeks brought winemaking to France, Georgia had already been the epicenter of wine production for two millennia, making it the oldest known wine region in the world. For thousands of years, they have produced over 500 indigenous varietals in large clay vessels known as qvevri, buried underground for natural fermentation.

Representing this incredible legacy, Koncho has cultivated endangered and indigenous Georgian vine varieties since 1737, after being founded by the royal winemaker for the king. A taste through this diverse selection showcases traditional Georgian winemaking across crisp, mineral whites (Koncho White and Koncho Black), an aromatic ancient Kisi, and a structured, tea-like amber wine. It also features a lively, floral rosé alongside a deeply rich, clay-aged Saperavi red. Together, they offer a balanced mix of regional purity and distinct, history-driven flavors.

## A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION WITH A PURPOSE

When you raise your glass this July at the corner of Main and State streets, you aren't just enjoying a beautiful weekend in the Bay Area sunshine – you are directly investing in the vibrant cultural fabric and history of Los Altos. Every sip supports the local community and celebrates the living, breathing art form of the vine. Cheers! 🍷

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Nearly half the adults in our community have prediabetes. And most of those who have it don't even know it, because it doesn't show. But here's the good news: prediabetes is reversible.

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# YOUR GUIDE TO A GREAT WEEKEND

## TOWN CRIER REPORT

**W**elcome to the 47th Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival! Whether this is your first time or you're a seasoned regular, a little insider know-how goes a long way. Here's everything you need to have a fantastic weekend.

### RESTROOMS

Good news: you won't be hunting for facilities. Festival organizers have set up more than 40 portable restrooms for the weekend, conveniently placed near the numbered streets – First, Second, and so on – inside the parking plazas in downtown Los Altos. Handwashing and sanitizing stations are right nearby, too. And as a neighborly courtesy, please skip asking area merchants to use their restrooms – the portable facilities have you covered!

### PETS

We know – your pup is basically family. But the festival floor is a whirlwind of summer heat, excited little ones and weaving strollers, and that combination can be genuinely overwhelming for four-legged friends. The kindest thing you can do for your

pet this weekend is leave them home in the cool and comfort they deserve. They'll be happily waiting when you get back.

### PARKING

Finding a spot is easier than you think. Parking is available in the downtown Los Altos parking plazas, and the Los Altos Community Center at 97 Hillview Ave. is another great option – it's just a pleasant short walk to all the action. If you're crossing San Antonio Road on your way in, use the marked crosswalks and take a moment to look both ways. Safe crossing, smooth start!

### RIDESHARE

Skipping the parking hunt altogether? Smart move. Designated rideshare drop-off and pick-up is next to Village Park on Edith Avenue, near the corner of San Antonio and Main. Tell your driver, hop out, and you're steps from the festival. It really is that easy.

### BICYCLES

Every year, hundreds of locals ditch the car and pedal their way to the festival – and honestly, it's the

best way to arrive. Bicycles park for free in the bike and stroller valet area, a guarded corral courtesy of GreenTown Los Altos, so your ride stays safe all day. Strollers are welcome there too! You'll find the corral in the Parking Plaza South area, just off Third Street near Main. Roll in, drop off, and enjoy.

### STREET CLOSURES

Here's the scoop on getting around downtown this weekend. The downtown Los Altos triangle closes to all vehicle traffic starting at 5 p.m. Friday – with Central Plaza closing a little earlier at 2 p.m. – and streets reopen at 10 p.m. Sunday night. The closures cover Main and State streets, Central Plaza, and Second and Third streets between Main and State. Plan your route in advance and you'll be golden.

Want more info? The Los Altos Village Association is happy to help – give them a call at (650) 949-5282 or explore everything the festival has to offer at [losaltosartsandwine.com](http://losaltosartsandwine.com). Now get out there and have a wonderful weekend. 🍷

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