



# PCA Spring Treffen Sonoma 2024

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY TOSH KANNO



Lovely views of the Host Hotel, Sonoma Fairmont.



I always look forward to the opportunity to drive down to California. The destination has the sweet spot of a long drive but not too far and a place familiar but still filled with new roads to explore.

Coming into Sonoma, the traffic was crazy-slow, stop-and-go busy. I was getting concerned that abundant road work might affect the quality of our upcoming drives. We checked into the Sonoma Fairmont the day before registration for Treffen. This was nice, as it gave us a day and a half of free time to get settled and review the activity agenda for the week. We met our ORPCA friends Bill and Anne Rasnake for lunch and I did a quick wash of my Macan before Treffen registration started at 3pm. We all hung out at the Breezeway reception where we also met more ORPCA friends: Joe Angel and Susan Cory and the Schroeders, Becky and David. This was a comforting start to our driving days.

Next morning with an 8:15 start time, we drove to the Viansa Winery parking lot for the first drive. Everything



*(Top to Bottom) Lining up for the first drive; Oregon PCA members, Joe Angel and Becky and Dave Schroeder; Treffen Registration Check-In day.*



was very organized, and we even had the CHP help with the traffic as we exited the winery. Our chosen route for the day was the “Napa Valley Mountains and Lake” tour. Many friendly and chatty volunteers kept us entertained and on time for departure. They declared that it had been raining on every pre-drive before today’s drive, so we were very lucky to have blue skies and dry roads. Our route took us first to Napa via Fremont Drive, circling the city of Napa, then Union, and Salvador, past Vichy Springs, meeting with Highway 121. We drove past expansive scenic countryside of vineyards and cattle pastures to northbound Highway 128. We continued on beautiful country roads alongside Lake Berryessa. These are easy roads with some fun curves thrown in. As I mentioned, the roads were in perfect shape. Some parts felt like it was just repaved and striped just for us.

We continued onto Pope Canyon Road for our last stretch to our luncheon destination at Maxwell Winery. But before we got to lunch, there was a rest stop at the Turtle Rock Bar & Café, a very popular and rustic place with unique character. The whole inside roof is adorned with dollar bills stuck to the ceiling and walls by the patrons of this rest stop. Perfect funky bikers bar.







(Ready, set, go!

Arriving at Maxwell Winery, this newly constructed, elegantly huge winery is a hidden gem in the Saint Helena Mountains. Maxwell has great views overlooking valley poppy fields and a lake. It was a perfect place for our picnic. Our winery tour guide informed us that their business model is to create a large remote facility for fermentation and storage of wines in their extensive caves for other major wine producers, while slowly building up clientele and recognition for their own branded wines. This is a big operation with a big long-term plan.

After a nice restful lunch and tour of the facility and extensive underground caves, we headed back to the Fairmont for a mixer on the Breezeway lawn and our first dinner event. The food was great but the best part was meeting and talking to club members from across the nation as we started to recognize now-familiar faces of new friends. It's fun to find out who your travel buddies are and how they enjoyed negotiating the roads. We also talked a lot about our grandkids! Among our new friends are Steve and Marsha, Chesapeake Region Board President; John and Liz from Lone Star Region, and Mark, a past representative of Zone 6.

The next day's drive was the "Wine Country Grand Tour". What a great route! We headed out again from the Vianse parking lot following Sonoma Highway



Turtle Rock Bar & Café.

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*Your arms get a workout keeping the Porsche on the road.*

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to Calistoga Road. Roads were suburban until we got past the residential areas and then they began to climb up into some very quick turns. This was a very enjoyable road to Calistoga and a quick rest stop. We continued on Calistoga Road to Petrified Forest Road, then to the famous Silverado Trail. Then we drove south on Silverado towards Napa. We passed so many large commercial wineries: BR Cohn, Kunde, St. Francis, Rombauer, Duckhorn, Joseph Phelps, Heitz Cellars, Titus, Mums, Stag's Leap, Silverado Winery, really too many to name. The drive really felt special amid the history and provenance of this legendary wine region. Then we turned west to Oakville Grade, and to the wonderful Trinity Road, a very winding switch-back road with lots of back-to-back 10 mph curves. Your arms get a workout keeping the Porsche on the road. Then we headed back on Highway 12 to Vianse Winery for our lunch.

Next day was "Navigators Day Off" so we were free to do what we wanted. Bill and Anne met us for lunch at El Molino, highly recommended by volunteer Greg from Redwood Region as the best Mexican restaurant in the valley, just a few blocks away from the Sonoma Fairmont. After lunch, Bill and Anne drove us to a great private tasting event at Revana and Ehlers wineries. We got back in time for our shuttle to a great Closing Dinner event at the Sonoma Golf Club.

When driving into Sonoma, I was worried about the traffic and all the road construction going on, but we always had a clear route with no traffic, the roads were pristine, and the weather was dry and perfect. We were very lucky to have the opportunity to share this experience with so many fellow PCA members.

Thanks to Redwood Region for a great Treffen. Also, thanks to new and old friends we met on this Treffen. We had a great time! Enjoy the photos. ■



*Day 2, ready to drive again.*



*Bill Rasnake ready to go.*



*Tosh's wife Wendy was having a blast.*



*ORPCA members at the last dinner. Dave and Becky Schroeder, Joe Angel with Susan Cory, Tosh, Anne and Bill Rasnake and Wendy.*