

Bars, Dives & Easy Beer

Fourteen places to drink between the lake and home

Sonoma County is sold as wine country. This guide is deliberately the other thing — dive bars with real history, breweries with shade, and places that will not blink at ten people, two kids and three dogs walking in off a boat.

The shortlist. With three dogs in August heat, shade is the whole ballgame — a dog cannot wait in a hot car and cannot sit on scorching pavement. **Brewsters** in Petaluma is the single best fit for this exact group. **Russian River Windsor** is the best beer. **Dry Creek General Store** is the only one you pass twice.

Closest to the lake

The Bar at Dry Creek General Store ★ BOTH WAYS

3495 Dry Creek Rd, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Fri–Sat 7 AM–5:30 PM · dogs OK outside · kids fine

Beer and wine inside an 1881 general store, with a front porch over the valley and a back garden. You drive past it going in and coming out — the only stop on this list you get two shots at.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Geyserville Gun Club Bar & Lounge 21+ · OPENS 5 PM

21025 Geyserville Ave, Geyserville, CA 95441

Daily from 5 PM

Rustic cocktail bar next door to Diavola, live music Saturday nights, no cover. Two catches: it opens at 5 PM, and it is 21-and-up — so it is off the table with Beck and Casper along.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

John and Zeke's Bar DIVE

420 Healdsburg Ave, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Hours unverified — call ahead

The real Healdsburg dive — pool tables, locals, and a hard exit from plaza tourism. Call (707) 433-3735 before routing a group here; hours could not be verified.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Windsor — the best drive-home cluster, right off 101

Russian River Brewing Co. — Windsor ★ BEST BEER

700 Mitchell Lane, Windsor, CA 95492

Sat 11 AM–10 PM · dogs on patio · groups over 10 need a reservation: (707) 545-BEER

The production brewery, not the crowded downtown pub. Large outdoor beer garden with a dog bowl and water-bottle filling station, full kitchen, self-guided tours 12–5 that kids actually like.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Tavern Off The Green at Oliver's Market

9230 Old Redwood Hwy, Windsor, CA 95492

Daily 11 AM–8 PM · kids fine

A family-friendly tap room attached to a grocery store. Underrated logistics: buy ice, sunscreen and lunch, then drink a beer, without moving the car.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Barrel Brothers Brewing

9238 Old Redwood Hwy, Suite 128, Windsor, CA 95492

Sat 12–8 PM · dog/kid policy unpublished

Indoor and outdoor seating with a street-food kitchen. Solid backup if Russian River is slammed, which on an August Saturday it will be.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Santa Rosa

Fogbelt Brewing Company **DOG PATIO**

1305 A Cleveland Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Sat 12–9 PM

Explicitly advertises a dog-friendly patio, keeps fresh water out, and has a resident lab-pit named Scout. Full kitchen — burgers, tacos, wraps — so the kids eat properly.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Shady Oak Barrel House **DOGS INSIDE**

420 1st St, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Sat hours unverified

Well-behaved leashed dogs allowed *indoors* as well as in the beer garden, which is genuinely rare. Arcade games and food trucks.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

The Wagon Wheel **ON FILM**

3320 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

A dive with a story: it historically gave free drinks to people just released from the county jail. It also appears in *Phenomenon* (1996), so you can drink inside the shot. Taco truck on site.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

The Tipsy Triangle **DIVE CRAWL**

Gary's At the Belvedere, 727 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Three dive bars at one intersection — Gary's, the 440 Club (435 College Ave) and Round Robin (616 Mendocino Ave), all older than most of their patrons. A crawl you can do on foot in an hour.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Petaluma and the last stretch home

Brewsters Beer Garden ★ TOP PICK

229 Water Street North, Petaluma, CA 94952

Sat 11 AM–10 PM

Three hundred and fifty seats in a tree-shaded open-air backyard with string lights, plus a Southern BBQ kitchen. Their own copy says “bring your kids (and your dog).” Dogs, kids, shade, a party of ten, no reservation anxiety — nothing else on this list checks every box.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

HopMonk Tavern Novato LAST STOP

224 Vintage Way, Novato, CA 94945

Sat 11:30 AM–9 PM · (415) 892-6200

Large beer garden under old oaks with published Tavern Rules for Dogs. The last good stop before the bridge, and the right call if you are pushing for the 6 PM art party.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Washoe House EST. 1859

2840 Roblar Rd, Petaluma, CA 94952

Established 1859 as a stagecoach stop, with a ceiling papered in dollar bills and business cards. Clint Eastwood filmed *True Crime* here in 1999.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Ernie's Tin Bar DIVE

5100 Lakeville Hwy, Petaluma, CA 94954

A roadside bar attached to a working garage. It gained its outdoor seating and BBQ after a truck drove into the building — an improvement nobody planned.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Volpi's Ristorante & Bar SPEAKEASY

124 Washington St, Petaluma, CA 94952

A former general store with a genuine Prohibition speakeasy behind it. The escape door to the alley is still there.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Eight Ball NEON

8 Charles St, Cotati, CA 94931

Widely held to have the best neon sign of any dive bar in Sonoma County. That is the entire pitch and it is enough.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Do not drive to these — they are closed

Bear Republic Brewing — Healdsburg brewpub CLOSED

345 Healdsburg Ave, Healdsburg

Closed November 2019 and later liquidated. Still recommended in a lot of older trip write-ups.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

St. Florian's Brewery CLOSED

7704A Bell Rd, Windsor

Permanently closed — last check-ins date to 2022. It still appears in current brewery-patio roundups because those listings are stale.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Ruth McGowan's Brewpub / Cloverdale Ale Co. CLOSED

131 E 1st St, Cloverdale

Closed. Appears in dog-friendly bar lists that have not been updated.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Sources

- [Sonoma Magazine — Sonoma County dive bars](#)
- [Russian River Brewing — Windsor](#)
- [Brewsters Beer Garden](#)
- [HopMonk Tavern Novato](#)
- [Fogbelt Brewing](#)
- [Sonoma County — pet-friendly breweries](#)
- [Bear Republic brewpub closure — Brewbound](#)
- [St. Florian's — Untappd \(permanently closed\)](#)