Santa Rosa, California, is located 55 miles north of San Francisco in Sonoma County, which is known for its many wineries. Santa Rosa’s first known permanent European settlement was the homestead of the Carrillo family. In 1840, the Carrillo family built an adobe house on their land grant east of what became downtown Santa Rosa, which they named Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa. The Carrillo Adobe still stands.

Santa Rosa was later home to Luther Burbank, a renowned horticulturist, and Charles M. Schulz, creator of the Peanuts cartoon strip. Exhibits at the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens focus on Burbank’s numerous introductions of plums, prunes, and plumcots—an area of his particular interest. Other on-site gardens include medicinal, spineless cactus, edible landscape, and wildlife habitat gardens. The Charles M. Schulz Museum displays Schulz’s original comic strips and a replica of Schulz’s art studio and shows animated Peanuts specials and documentaries.

The Children’s Museum of Sonoma County is also located in Santa Rosa. The Sonoma County Museum contains an art collection that focuses on artists who have influenced the artistic culture of Sonoma County and a collection that represents Sonoma County’s history and culture from early Native American settlement to the present. Pacific Coast Air Museum has 30 primarily Cold War- and Vietnam era restored aircraft and aviation-related materials and historical artifacts.

The Santa Rosa Junior College Museum focuses on multicultural education, with traditional Native American art comprising the greatest portion of the collection. Santa Rosa Junior College also houses the Robert F. Agrella Art Gallery. The Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is home to several theater companies and offers performances in music, theater, dance, comedy, and family programming. The 6th Street Playhouse and Imaginists are community theaters. Located nearby, Weill Hall at the Green Music Center of Sonoma State University is the performance home of the Santa Rosa Symphony. Cinnabar Theater offers opera, musical theater, and drama and is home to the Cinnabar Chamber Singers.

**Neighborhoods**

Located in downtown Santa Rosa, Railroad Square contains significant architectural buildings that represent the influence the railroad had on the community. Bronze statues of various Peanuts characters are featured around the area.

Several historic districts are adjacent to the downtown. McDonald Historic District features beautiful turn-of-the 20th-century mansions along wide, tree-lined streets. Homes in the St. Rose historic district date between 1872 and the 1940s and represent a cross-section of Santa Rosa’s residential building histories. The bungalows located along Lincoln Street were built in the 1920s for Santa Rosa’s small business owners, seven 19th-century homes are also located in this district. The historic West End Preservation District has a mix of small bungalows, Queen Anne cottages, and newer two-story homes. Ridgeway and Burbank Gardens are historic neighborhoods with smaller homes on smaller lots.

Home styles in the Junior College neighborhood include Queen Anne Victorians, classic Craftsman Bungalows, Gothic Revival, Pueblo, and Mediterranean-influenced homes of the Art Deco period. The oldest homes date from the 1870s and many others from the 1920s and 1930s.

The many neighborhoods of Fountain Grove are situated on the land that was formerly the utopian colony of Fountain Grove founded by Thomas Lake Harris in 1875. Fountain Grove features newer contemporary-styled large homes, custom-built homes on large lots, condominiums, and apartment developments.

The Bennett Valley neighborhood backs up to Annadel State Park and offers large single-family homes on large lots, condominiums, ranches, a golf course, and vineyards.

**Parks and Recreation**

Santa Rosa has 65 parks, 2 community centers, Bennett Valley Golf Course, 2 year-round swim facilities, and 7 dog parks. Other park amenities include tennis and basketball courts, soccer and baseball fields, and playgrounds. Howarth Park is a 152-acre community park that offers a lake for fishing and boating; a softball field; tennis courts; picnic areas; unique playground structures; hiking and jogging trails; and an amusement area featuring a miniature train ride, carousel, animal farm, and pony rides.

The Redwood Empire Ice Arena is commonly known as Snoopy’s Home Ice because it was originally owned by Charles Schulz.

Two Sonoma County parks are also located in Santa Rosa. Hood Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve consists of 1,750 acres of wilderness with hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails. Spring Lake Regional Park features trails for walking, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding as well as a lagoon for summer swimming and a lake for boating and fishing. Amenities also include a par course and the Environmental Discovery Center.

The nearby Annadel State Park offers miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and trail riding and a large variety of wildflowers. Safari West offers an opportunity to explore the Sonoma “Serengeti” on a wildlife safari alongside herds of exotic wildlife.

Sonoma County is known for its wineries and the Santa Rosa Wine Trail is a collection of eleven wineries.

**Education**

Santa Rosa City Schools educates more than 16,000 students in 10 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 5 high schools. The district also operates 5 alternative schools. The city is also served by the Bennett Valley Union School District, Rincon Valley Union School District, Bellevue Union School District, Kenwood School District, Mark West Union School District, Piner-Olivet Union School District, Roseland School District, and Wright Elementary School District.

Higher education is available at the University of San Francisco’s Santa Rosa Branch Campus, which offers bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in selected fields for working adults. Empire College focuses on career training in business, law, and several medical fields. Santa Rosa Junior College grants associate degrees and offers a general education program for students planning to transfer to 4-year institutions and career skills certificate programs that prepare students for the workforce. The nearby Sonoma State University offers many undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs.

**Health Care**

Santa Rosa is served by St. Joseph Health–Sonoma County Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, which has 278 beds, and Kaiser Permanente Santa Rosa Medical Center, which has 173. Formerly located within the city, Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital recently built a new 84-bed facility outside of the city limits.

The city also has an adult and adolescent behavioral health facility.