Santa Cruz Sentinel EAT+DRINK

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The Dish

Lovely lavender



We're not sure when it happened, but lavender festivals are a thing.

During the Lavender Harvest Festival at Carmel Valley Ranch on July 21, you can partake harvesting and distillation demos, lavender-inspired cocktails and nibbles

(hello, tequila-lavender cured wild salmon) plus make your own lavender sachets and eye pillows. Don't miss lavender-Prosecco mimosas during Sunday brunch (all July) at the property's Golf Clubhouse:

www.carmelvallevranch.com

Farther north, at Matanzas Creek Winery in Santa Rosa, the Season of Wine & Lavender runs through July 31, with complimentary access to the estate's world-renowned lavender gardens for strolls and picnics. Ticketed events include honey bee labs, wine pairings and dinner celebrations; www.matanzascreek.com