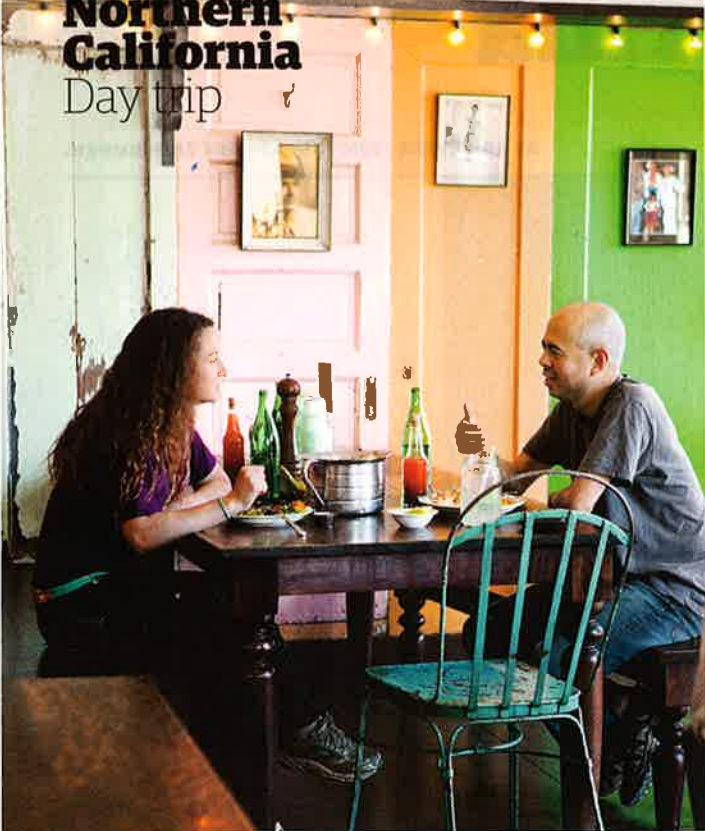


Northern California Day trip



2. Lunch with the locals

Sol Food turns dining on savory Puerto Rican fare into a communal activity. Order your roast pork and ham sandwich, or tender chicken with rice and garlic fried plantains, at the counter, then grab a seat at one of the shared tables and mingle. \$; 901 Lincoln Ave.; 415/451-4765; other locations at 903 Lincoln Ave. (takeout only) and 811 Fourth St.



Take it home

The vinyl revival has few better champions than the guys at **Red Devil Records**. Vintage music posters fill the walls, and dozens of bins brim with albums by everyone from Sinatra to Sonic Youth. Serious collectors will swoon over the selection of rare 45s. 894 Fourth St.; 415/457-8999.

3. Popcorn palace

The three screens of the restored art deco **Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center** (known locally as the Smith Rafael) flash the latest indies, foreign films, and documentaries. The 74-year-old movie house hosts film fests and special screenings throughout the year with filmmakers such as *Winter's Bone* director Debra Granik. cafilm.org/rfc



4. Market value

Sprawled beneath the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Civic Center, the Sunday **Marin Farmers Market** packs in nearly 200 vendors. Local artisanal stalwarts—Cowgirl Creamery, Prather Ranch—mix with small producers of cherries, oysters, olive oil, and honey. This month, look for lots of fresh-cut proteas. 8–1 Sun; 3501 Civic Center Dr.; agriculturalinstitute.org



3 tiny Marin towns worth a stop

SMELL THE ROSES IN ROSS
Ross has played home to celebs Sean Penn and Huey Lewis as well as the **Marin Art & Garden Center** (above). Horticulture hounds will dig the 11-acre green scene that grows everything from agaves to English roses. magc.org

GET THE SCOOP IN FAIRFAX
Follow the 1.8-mile loop around **Lake Lagunitas** (\$3/vehicle; ¼) and you're almost guaranteed to see western pond turtles sunning themselves. Afterward, hit **Fairfax Scoop** (63 Broadway Blvd.; 415/453-3130) for organic vanilla honey lavender ice cream.

SHOP SAN ANSELMO
Presh Designer Collective (closed Sun; 560 San Anselmo Ave.; 415/251-9088) shows off rhinestone leather bracelets and teardrop earrings, while artists of all ages can paint pottery at **Doodlebug** (641 San Anselmo; 415/456-5989). **Dogville** (554 San Anselmo; 415/454-2090) caters to canines with shampoos, chew toys, raincoats, and cheesesteak-flavored biscuits.

Getting there

San Rafael is about 20 miles north of S.F. Take U.S. 101 north to the Central San Rafael exit.

