

Southern California weekend

Inside Orchard hopping in Oak Glen » New reasons to check out the Channel Islands » Trina Turk's Palm Springs »



1. The prize apples

White colonial farm buildings, rosebushes, and an apple orchard with 80 varieties: Welcome to **Riley's Farm**. We like the sweet-'n'-tart Winesap, thick-skinned Arkansas Black, and crispy-sweet Red Delicious. *Closed Sun; U-pick apples from \$8 for a half-peck; 12261 S. Oak Glen Rd.; rileysfarm.com*

BY CHANTAL LAMERS | PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREA M. GÓMEZ

Day trip Oak Glen

Why go now: It's apple harvest time in the San Bernardino Mountains. **Location, location, location:** Apples thrive in the mile-high mountain climate.

Number of apple varieties in the area: About 80 **Favorite scenic drive:** Oak Glen Road has a dozen orchards and farms along its narrow 5-mile stretch. **Fruit stand to stop at:** Mr. Law's

Apple Stand (38392 Oak Glen Rd.; 909/797-3130) has 35 kinds of apples. **In season:** Along

with apples, pumpkins, corn, and maybe some late-season raspberries. **What to expect on**

the farm: Several acres to wander and a bucket or basket for picking. **Picker's apparel:**

Lace up your tennis shoes, and dress in layers. Carry a walking stick, and people will peg you for a regular. **Savory pie we like:**

Chicken potpie at Hawk's Head Public House at Riley's Farm (\$; closed Sun; 12261 S. Oak Glen Rd.; rileysfarm.com). **Party not to**

miss: Live bluegrass and a BBQ lunch every Saturday and Sunday at Riley's at Los Rios (\$; 39611 Oak Glen Rd.; losriosrancho.com).

Explore more on page 24 »

Southern California

Day trip



2. Life of pie

We'll never turn down apple pie à la mode, unless we're at **Law's Oak Glen Coffee Shop**, where the homemade double-crust pie is even better with the sweet cinnamon sauce. The sauce is also good on the pancakes, French toast, and apple nut bread. Savory options include chili or meatloaf. \$; 38392 Oak Glen Rd.; 909/797-1642.



3 more spots for a slice in SoCal ...

LOS ANGELES

The **Apple Pan** is the cure for burgers and pie cravings. Apple pie (\$5.50 slice, \$18 whole) is made fresh daily from 6 pounds of tart apples baked in a crust that's flaky on the top and crispy on the bottom. Expect lines during the lunch rush. \$; 10801 W. Pico Blvd.; 310/475-3585.

PASADENA

When you dig into a cobbler, the juicy makings should run all over the place. So say the owners of the **Gourmet Cobbler Factory**, a family-run shop whose Southern-style recipes have been plumping waistlines since the 1970s. Each deep-dish cobbler (from \$5.50) is baked with fresh fruit and a handmade crust. Peach, served year-round, gets devoured most frequently. Closed Sun; 33 N. Catalina Ave.; 626/795-1005.

SANTA YSABEL

At San Diego County's **Julian Pie Company**, you can peer in as a machine peels, cores, and slices apples while bakers prep dough. This production is best enjoyed over Apple Mountain Berry Pie (\$2.95 slice, \$13 whole)—loaded with raspberries, strawberries, boysenberries, and apples, then crowned with a well-browned streusel topping. 21976 State 79; 760/765-2400.

Take it home

Swing by the **Village Candy Kitchen** for caramel apples to enjoy at home. The apples are dipped in caramel blended with heavy cream, then covered with a crunchy pecan, almond, or cashew coating. From \$2.99; 39062 Oak Glen Rd.; 909/797-4817.



3. A drop in the bucket

The mark of a successful afternoon at **Snow-Line Orchard** is fingertips stained from plucking raspberries right off the bush. At the apple shed, toss back a handful of apple cider mini doughnuts, deep-fried and coated with cinnamon sugar. U-pick raspberries \$13 for 3 pints, weather permitting; 39400 Oak Glen Rd.; snow-line.com

4. Pick out a pumpkin

Riley's at Los Rios has 20 varieties of pumpkins you can snip right off the vine. Our favorites are the Cinderella, a French heirloom; Jarrahdale, with pale blue skin and fluorescent orange flesh; and perfect-for-pies Small Sugar. From \$2 for a mini; 39611 Oak Glen Rd.; losriosrancho.com



Getting to Oak Glen

The Oak Glen community is near Yucaipa, 80 miles east of Los Angeles. From I-10, exit on Beaumont Ave. and head north until it turns into Oak Glen Rd. **INFO** oakglen.net

SHARE YOUR WEEKEND FINDS. Favorite new restaurant? Local hike? Email your suggestions to the weekend guide editor at wgeditor@sunset.com