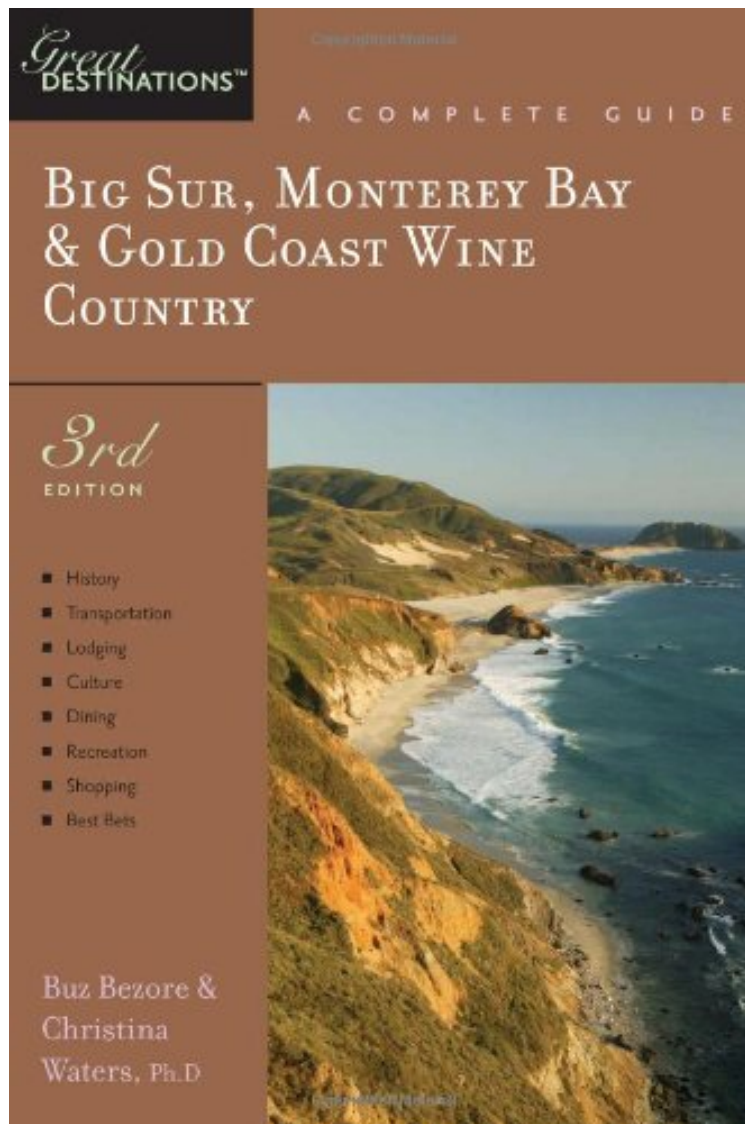


(Download) Big Sur, Monterey Bay Gold Coast Wine Country: A Complete Guide, Third Edition (Great Destinations)

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Buz Bezore, Christina Waters

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Buz Bezore, Christina Waters : Big Sur, Monterey Bay Gold Coast Wine Country: A Complete Guide, Third Edition (Great Destinations) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Sur, Monterey Bay Gold Coast Wine Country: A Complete Guide, Third Edition (Great Destinations):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Deceiving TitleBy J. OgdenThis book is fine in many ways, but I

bought it in anticipation of a trip to Big Sur. After all, that's the beginning of the title. I had already chosen a book about hikes in the area and selected this for guidance on inns and restaurants. However, only about 6 pages out of over 300 deal with Big Sur. Admittedly, Big Sur is sparsely populated, but there are a number of other places they could have reviewed. Regardless of that, if they only saw fit to include 6 pages on the subject then why the title? The publisher deserves some blame for this as well. So if you want lots of reviews of areas like the Monterey peninsula and wine country, this should be good, although I can't speak to the accuracy of the reviews. But don't buy it if you are just interested in Big Sur. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A great destination indeed. By Chrijeff. Most people, when they think of California, probably think of Los Angeles, San Francisco, perhaps San Diego. But the bulk of the state remains more or less unspoiled wilderness, farmland, and charming small towns, and this guide takes you through what may be one of the most accessible examples of that fact. (There are currently 20 more volumes in the Great Destinations series, which you can see at [...]) The so-called "Central Coast" stretches from Santa Cruz (now almost a bedroom community for the Frisco Bay area) down through Santa Barbara (unfortunately the book doesn't include much information on the latter) and is notable for its scenery, wineries, history, quirky shopping opportunities, and delicious eats. The authors live and work in the region and their expertise is obvious. They begin with a look at the history, fauna and flora, and general geography and character of this 300-mile stretch, then devote separate chapters to the principal divisions of the southward drive--Santa Cruz, Monterey Bay, San Luis Obispo and the Santa Ynez Valley--plus one on the wineries that have recently come into prominence there. Each chapter includes a local map, lodging suggestions (mainly small inns and B&B's), idiosyncratic places to dine (with prices ranging from "inexpensive," up to \$15, to "very expensive," \$50 or more), bakeries, coffeehouses, farmers' markets, and purveyors of frozen desserts, a long section on culture (architecture, cinema, gardens, historic places, walking tours, kid stuff, museums, music, nightlife, and stage), another almost as long on recreation (beaches, bicycling, bird-watching, boating, fishing, golf, hiking, surfing, tennis), shopping (everything from books to fashion), and seasonal events arranged month-by-month. There are phone numbers for everything that has one, and many websites listed too. A closing chapter provides general information on things like banks, hospitals, and the general trends of the weather, plus a bibliography of suggested reading. There don't seem to be a great many guides that focus on this oddly out-of-the-way (considering that it lies smack-dab between the state's two most famous cities) region, but if you want to find a place in California where you can enjoy a laid-back, relaxing stay, this is the book to get to plan your trip.

The essential insider's guide to exploring the Central Coast's wineries, restaurants, recreation, culture, and accommodations. The Central Coast is internationally recognized as one of the natural treasures of the West, offering craggy cliffs, ancient redwoods, and endless beaches to explore. This book, written by fourth- and fifth-generation Californians, takes travelers to some of the most sought-after destinations, including shops, inns, restaurants, and wineries known only to the locals until now. With a down-to-earth appreciation for their own stomping grounds, the authors write as enthusiastic guides, eager to share what they know and love about the region. Rich in detail, covering everything from the autumnal monarch butterfly migration to opera festivals, the best honky-tonk blues joints to fine dining steeped in tradition and elegance, this book homes in on an eclectic selection of what makes this strip of coastline one of the most desired destinations in the world. 60 black-and-white photographs, 6 maps

About the Author Buz Bezore, a fourth-generation Californian, is an award-winning newspaper editor and writer. He lives in Santa Cruz, California. Christina Waters, Ph.D., a fifth-generation Californian, has written about the California central coast region for the past 20-plus years, winning nominations for three James Beard Foundation awards in the process. She lives in Santa Cruz, California.