

April 2011

# Country Living

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# out and about

An antiquing weekend, pet advice from our country vet, and Real Estate Samp

## The Thrill of the Hunt

This April 30, score vintage bargains—and soak up the coastal scenery—at California's Remnants of the Past show.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREA WYNER

Moose antlers, giant clamshells, and driftwood mix it up with champagne buckets and architectural salvage at Pat Story's booth.

*Continued on next page*



## Ready, Set, Shop...

When antiques dealer Judy Watkins launched her biannual vintage fair four years ago, she worried people might not come. Fat chance! Held on a 150-year-old farm flanked by vineyards and citrus groves in rural Nipomo, California, Remnants of the Past features more than 50 vendors offering crystal chandeliers, botanical prints, Victorian armoires, sparkly 1950s brooches, and much more. "I'm biased, of course, but it's a great show," says Watkins. "You can't beat the selection or the prices, plus we're so close to San Luis Obispo that a lot of folks stay the whole weekend to sightsee along the coast." For a peek at what you're likely to discover at the one-day event, read on. Then turn the page for tips on where to stay, eat, and explore.



▲ **EUROPEAN TREASURES** Heather Bullard carries romantic finds from abroad, like these 1960s Russian letters (\$3 each), plus English transferware and floral Limoges china.

▼ **GREEN-THUMB GEAR** Old floral frogs, flowerpots, and garden ornaments fill Tattered House's shelves.



▲ **FINE LINENS** Stitched from early-19th-century ticking and grain sacks, Daniela Davis's handmade throw pillows, bolsters, and shams start at around \$50.



▲ **PRODUCE AND POSIES** At Rutiz Family Farms' stall, load up on vegetables, fruits, and flowers, all picked from the vendor's fields in nearby Arroyo Grande.





**BOUDOIR ESSENTIALS**  
 Judy Sorenson specializes in feminine, French-inspired furniture, like the caned seating and upholstered headboard seen here. She's also a great source for vintage mirrors.



**STERLING SILVER**  
 Melissa Blue prices her baby cups from \$12 to \$22 each. This trophy, dated 1922, went for \$78 last spring.

**PAPER EPHEMERA** Pick up early-1900s apothecary labels (\$8 a spool), '50s flash cards, and Victorian-era sheet music at show founder Judy Watkins's booth.



**RECYCLED FURNITURE** The Junk Girls fashion one-of-a-kind tables from reclaimed wood and transform cast-off hardware and cutlery into folk art and jewelry.



## When You Visit...

Make San Luis Obispo your home base for the Remnants of the Past show. Near beaches and vineyards, this historic city's got a restored 1772 Spanish mission and a busy downtown that hosts a popular Thursday night street fair with local musicians, food vendors, and a farmers' market. For more, log on to [visitslo.org](http://visitslo.org).



**▲ WHAT TO DO** Wade in the Pacific and stroll along the old-fashioned fishing pier at nearby Avila Beach, above (visit [avilabeach.com](http://avilabeach.com)). Or hike past grazing cows and wildflowers on the scenic Johnson Ranch trail, just off Route 1. There are also some 200 wineries to visit in the Paso Robles area, a 30-minute drive to the north ([pasowine.com](http://pasowine.com)).



**◀ WHERE TO STAY** Just blocks from the shops and cafés downtown, the charming, family-run Petit Soleil offers 15 Provençal-style rooms. (From \$159 per double, full breakfast included; 805-549-0321, [petitsoleilslo.com](http://petitsoleilslo.com))

**▲ WHERE TO EAT** Enjoy grilled steaks and salmon on the breezy creekside deck at Novo (805-543-3986). Or hit DePalo & Sons, a gourmet shop near the show, for thick Reubens (above), pasta salads, and local wines (805-773-1589).

## Getting to the Show

Remnants of the Past takes place April 30, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., at the Dana-Powers House in Nipomo, California; admission is \$7. For directions, visit [remnantsofthepast.com](http://remnantsofthepast.com). If you're traveling by plane, book a flight into the San Luis Obispo airport and plan on renting a car.

