

SOLVANG-BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA

Nestled in the beautiful coastal Santa Ynez Valley of California, in the middle of almost 40 vineyards, sit the sister cities of Solvang and Buellton. Solvang is a popular vacation getaway location for Southern California. The area was settled by Danish immigrants in the early 1900s and was built in traditional Scandinavian style—a charm it retains today. The cities sit only a dozen miles from the closest California state beach and are within 30 miles of Santa Barbara with its whale-watching cruises and tours of Channel Islands National Park.

The area has many beautiful hiking trails, bike paths (with all types of bikes for rent) and a large lake close by for those who like boating. There are about 30 vineyards that offer tours (and wine tasting) along with a large variety of restaurants. For the children, there is OstrichLand USA, a miniature horse farm and various other attractions.

The Santa Ynez Valley Marriott will be our host hotel for the Feast, but there is a variety of housing available. You may look at the area by going to the following websites:

- solvangusa.com
- visitsyv.com
- visitbuellton.com.

Solvang and Buellton are only about two hours northwest of the Los Angeles International Airport, yet you are in a small-town, country area and out of all the Southern California traffic. It is truly an almost millennial setting for the Feast of Tabernacles and one that you will long remember.

Tax rate for accommodations: 10 to 12.5 percent.

Connect with fellow Feastgoers at facebook.com/cogwafotsolvang.

Mike Blackwell

Days Inn Windmill 805-688-8448 800-946-3466 **daysinn.com** 114 E. Highway 246 Buellton, CA 93427

\$63 flat rate, 1-4 people

Amenities: Shopping nearby, laundry facilities, outdoor pool, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, free Wi-Fi, refrigerator and microwave in each room, continental breakfast included.

Distance from meeting hall: 0.5 mile

Flying Flags RV Resort & Campground 805-688-3716 877-783-5247 flyingflags.com 180 Avenue of the Flags Buellton, CA 93427

\$650/week1-bedroom cottage, 1-4 people\$750/week1-bedroom + loft cottage, 1-4 adults

Amenities: Restaurant on premises or adjacent, shopping nearby, laundry facilities, pets allowed, outdoor pool, free Wi-Fi, full kitchen, fire pit, gas grill, children 12 and under stay free.

Distance from meeting hall: 0.4 mile

Motel 6 805-688-7797 motel6.com 333 McMurray Road Buellton, CA 93427

\$60 flat rate, 1-4 people

Amenities: Restaurant on premises or adjacent, shopping nearby, outdoor pool, king or queen beds, free Wi-Fi, within walking distance.

Distance from meeting hall: 0.1 mile

Pea Soup Andersen's Inn

805-688-3216 800-pea-soup (800-732-7687) **peasoupandersens.com** 51 E. Highway 246 Buellton, CA 93427

\$69 weeknight flat rate, 1-4 people\$89 weekend night flat rate, 1-4 people

Note: If you want a patio, balcony or first floor room, you must request it when making reservations.

Amenities: Restaurant on premises or adjacent, shopping nearby, laundry facilities, equipped for handicapped, outdoor pool, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, free Wi-Fi, refrigerator and microwave in each room, continental breakfast included.

Distance from meeting hall: 0.5 mile

Quality Inn 805-688-0022

qualityinn.com/hotel-buellton-california-CA238

630 Avenue of the Flags Buellton, CA 93427

\$92 flat rate, 1-4 people

Amenities: Shopping nearby, laundry facilities, equipped for handicapped, outdoor pool, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, free Wi-Fi, children stay free. Mini-fridge in all rooms, hot breakfast included.

Distance from meeting hall: 0.75 mile

Santa Ynez Valley Marriott 805-688-1000 800-638-8882 syvmarriott.com

555 McMurray Road Buellton, CA 93427

\$129 1 king or 2 queens, 1-4 people

\$179 king or queen suite, 1-4 people

Amenities: Restaurant on premises or adjacent, shopping nearby, laundry facilities, equipped for handicapped, outdoor pool, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, suites, mini-fridge in each room, microwaves available on request, elevator, free Wi-Fi, children under 17 stay free, online reservations available—enter COGCOGA (for standard room) or COGCOGB (for suite) in the group code box.

Distance from meeting hall: on-site

Svendsgaard's Lodge, America's Best Value Inn 805-688-3277

tinyurl.com/svendsgaards

1711 Mission Drive Solvang, CA 93463

\$74 weeknight flat rate, 1-2 people

\$127 Friday/Saturday night flat rate, 1-2 people

Note: A cheaper rate may be available with America's Best Value Inn Value Club card, available online at **americasbestvalueinn.com/ValueClub**.

Amenities: Restaurant on premises or adjacent, shopping nearby, equipped for handicapped, outdoor pool, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, suites, mini-fridge in each room, elevator, free Wi-Fi, continental breakfast included.

Distance from meeting hall: 3 miles

Viking Motel

805-688-1337 866-779-1773 **vikingmotelsolvang.com** 1506 Mission Drive Solvang, CA 93463

\$54.95-\$69.95 1 bed, 1-2 people \$74.95-\$79.95 2 beds, 2-4 people

Amenities: Restaurant on premises or adjacent, shopping nearby, pets allowed, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, mini-fridge and microwave in each room, continental breakfast included.

Distance from meeting hall: 3 miles



2015 FESTIVAL HOUSING GUIDE GOALS & GUIDELINES



he Feast of Tabernacles 2015 is now only a few months away. With five new U.S. sites, we realize many of you in the Church are anxious to look over the list of accommodations as you try to decide on the site you'll attend and what housing will best fit your needs. We spend more time at the Feast in our housing unit than we do anywhere else! Our housing is used not only to sleep, but also to entertain and to fellowship with other members.

Our Feast coordinators understand the importance of housing as a vital part of the overall Feast experience. Each coordinator makes a diligent effort to obtain nice, affordable housing for his site—it's a priority in our Feast planning each year. The results of this effort may be seen in the pages of this housing guide. We work hard each year to procure housing that's in close proximity to the Feast site and that will satisfy most tastes and budgets.

With so many new sites, there is a lot of brand-new housing in the lists. Even at the repeat sites there may be new establishments included, while some of the establishments we have used in the past are no longer listed.

There can be a variety of reasons for changing the housing listing in the guide. Each year the coordinators review all the housing from the previous year based on the housing surveys returned at each site. After considering the surveys, and in many cases talking with the establishment, we may decide not to include an establishment for the next year. In other cases we have to discontinue use of an establishment because it no longer cooperates with us regarding rates. Or there may be a change of management, or the establishment may be closed. Each year we are trying to improve the value, service and variety of housing establishments we feature.

In preparation for the Feast, we recommend that you review all the housing at the site you will be attending to see what fits for you. This may be dictated by price, by amenities an establishment features, by closeness to the meeting hall, or perhaps by other considerations. We encourage you to go online and look at the websites of the establishments (most listings in the guide include their web address). This will enable you to be sure of what you are getting and not be disappointed when you arrive. Some websites even have an area for reviews from people who have stayed at the facility so you can see their impressions.

Each Feast site coordinator makes every effort to secure the best available housing options based on quality, value,

amenities and proximity to the meeting facility. When you book from the listings in the housing guide, it can often help lower the cost of the meeting space and help with future housing negotiations. However, we also realize that you may have hotel membership points that you'd like to use to stay in a facility not listed. Or the options listed simply may not meet your family's needs. In any of these cases the Internet can help you find the housing you need.

As you make your housing arrangements, please remember these important reminders:

- 1. In general, please do not attempt to make reservations prior to the opening day and time for reservations, which is May 19 at 10 a.m. in the time zone of the site you are attending. The establishments have been asked to not accept reservations prior to the agreed upon time.
- Those with disabilities, health problems or other special needs that require specific types of facilities may make early housing reservations beginning May
 (Check with your local congregation's Feast adviser for guidelines and to see if you qualify.) Several sites require a password in order to make early reservations. Please check with your local Feast adviser to see if this is the case for the site you plan to attend.
- 3. When making your reservations, identify yourself as a member of the "Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Feast of Tabernacles." Be sure to give your arrival and departure dates and be prepared to pay a deposit (or secure it with a credit card). Don't forget to ask for a confirmation number.
- 4. Please take notice of the maximum number of occupants allowed in a room and do not exceed that number. Exceeding the number, such as having six people in a room designed for only four people, violates fire codes, creates extra work for housekeeping and violates our agreement with the establishment. If you have questions, be sure to ask the establishment—don't just assume you are okay.
- 5. Make only one housing reservation at one Feast site. Making duplicate reservations at multiple establishments is selfish and blocks others looking for housing. If your plans to attend that site change, be sure to cancel your housing reservations as soon as possible to free up the housing for someone else.

Festival Planning Team

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What if I can find cheaper housing elsewhere—such as online?

A. It may be possible to find cheaper housing online at times. For instance, an individual wanting to rent out his privately owned condo may offer it for less than the condos we list in the brochure. Members need to realize, though, that the quality and cleanliness of these properties may or may not be as good as what we list. In the event of problems, it may be more difficult to get your money back. In some cases, renting privately can also require a weekend-toweekend stay, making the overall cost higher. There are a few hotels that offer "come-on" rates that are cheaper, but what you get may be an inferior or smaller room. We encourage you to use housing that is listed in the brochure for a number of reasons.

Q. What are the benefits to using housing from the housing guide?

A. First, the quality and price are assured. Each year we check out and examine some rooms at each establishment we use to ensure quality, cleanliness and price. The Church has added bargaining power, based on representing several hundred people, that an individual does not have.

Second, many of our meeting facilities require us to book a certain number of rooms in order to use the meeting hall or get it at a reasonable rate. Members utilizing those establishments get a good price, help us fulfill our commitment (rooms booked through third parties will generally not count toward fulfilment of our room block), and in some cases help the Church to incur a lower cost for the meeting facility. There have been cases where we almost lost some sites because not enough people stayed in the host establishment. Hotels and resorts make most of their money on services and amenities rather than the rent of meeting space. If we utilize their meeting space but not their sleeping rooms and other facilities, they see their costs increase and may not welcome us back.

Third, utilizing and reserving a property from the housing list generally ensures there will be other Church brethren staying there with whom you can get acquainted and spend time.

Finally, securing your accommodations from the COGWA Feast housing list means the Church can assist you in resolving any potential difficulties you run into with your housing. Over the years this has proved to be a real advantage to our members.

Q. We like to camp at the Feast. Why aren't there more campgrounds listed in the brochure?

A. While very few members camp anymore during the Feast, those who do camp are generally equipped to find all the campgrounds in the area and select one that fits their needs. Some campgrounds cater to tents while others are almost exclusively for motor homes and trailers. The Church does not generally list campgrounds because of the limited requests and because we don't use enough to have any bargaining power.

Thanks very much for cooperating and working together as God's family to make this Feast of Tabernacles the "best Feast ever!"

