FUN IN THE INLAND EMPIRE



above: The historic Filippi Winery cellar, site of special events such as this winemaker's dinner, is home to giant casks each holding enough wine for nearly 130,000 bottles.

JUST A FEW MINUTES from SkyWest service at the Ontario International Airport, the bustling burg of Rancho Cucamonga serves as a hub for SoCal's Inland Empire. The home of five recently opened business-class hotels, it offers ample leisure diversions as well. Consider these possibilities.

THE AWARD-WINNING JOSEPH FILIPPI WINERY, a Rancho Cucamonga landmark for more than 80 years, offers daily tours and tastings. Located at 12467 Base Line, it's less than five minutes from I-15 and I-10. For more information, visit www.josephflippivinery.com

THE WINE TAILOR, as the name indicates, offers patrons custom-designed labels. More than 20 wines may be sampled before teaming vintage with visage. Open every day except Monday, 8916 Foothill Boulevard. Visit www.thewinetailor.com for more information.

ROUTE 66, REVISITED. It's been a long time since folks' got their kicks' along famed Route 66, but the legend lives on. America's first notable east-west highway passes through Rancho Cucamonga and is celebrated at the Route 66 Visitors Center, 2418-D Foothill Boulevard. Nostalgia and history mingle here. Watch for the neon sign. You'll learn much about America's open-road heritage and have the chance to buy your fill of neon and other memorabilia once inside. Call 909-383-1256 for more information. ■