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Hopland: Mendocino Brewing Company and other attractions



January 6, 9:28 AM Mendocino Region Travel Examiner Jay Gordon

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The Hopland Brewery, at the south end of Mendocino County, features Red Tail and other fine ales Jay Gordon

Anyone headed north across the Golden Gate Bridge along Highway 101 will reach Hopland in a couple of hours. This is a town worth more than slowing down. There are several places for snacks, groceries, and dining -- for starters.

For anyone but the designated driver, a major attraction is The Hopland Brewery, a brewpub that is the birthplace of Mendocino Brewing Company's Red Tail Ale and other ales named for birds of prey. They are proud to be "pioneers in the American Craft Brewing Renaissance and even greater pride in our range of ales that beer lovers all over the country have made Legends."

Their brewery is now located in Ukiah, California -- just up the road.

Let the friendly staff educate you about local ales. They also have menus from Hopland restaurants offering tasty food that can be brought in to enhance your ale tasting experience. The Ale House also has pre-packaged snacks.

You can't miss the building: it's a handsome 100-year old brick building on the right side as you pull into town. Be sure to poke your head into the Red Ale Gift Shop. It's never too early to start your souvenir shopping. The Hopland Brewery is at 13351 So. Hwy 101, Hopland, CA 95449. Phone 707.744.1361 for more information.

If you appreciate fine wines and happen to be driving through Hopland Saturday or Sunday, May 1 & 2nd, 2010 -- learn about the "Hopland Passport". It's a special event from 11A-5P each day. Enjoy special wine tastings, food pairings and entertainment for just \$35 per person for the 2-day event, all for a two-day price of just \$35 per person. Get more information about Mendocino County and the best deals on lodging at GoMendo.

All photos by Jay Gordon

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