

THE MEXI-MILE
SANTA ROSA'S MEXICAN FOOD MECCA P.54

AFTER THE FIRE
HOW ARE WE DOING? P. 37

COOKING WITH SEAWEED P.60
UNDER THE SEA

sonoma

The Heart of Wine Country

TAKE ME TO
the
River

SAVORING SUMMER ON
THE RUSSIAN RIVER AND
HONORING THOSE WHO
PROTECT IT



JULY/AUG 2018 \$5.95



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LAUGHS

COMEDY HAS A HOME IN SONOMA COUNTY – and Bay Area comedians know it. The gigs are plentiful, and the audiences are gracious, receptive, and eager to be entertained. Comic producers are no less eager: Someone's always hosting a comedy night. And while you can definitely enjoy a traditional comedy club experience here, you can also find comedy at various nontraditional venues like breweries, distilleries, wineries – even a bowling alley.

–Mina Rios



Anjelah Johnson

The Luther Burbank Center, Santa Rosa

Ranked among the world's top 100 performing arts presenters, Luther Burbank plays a huge part in bringing some of the biggest names in comedy to the North Bay. On August 9, Jim Gaffigan returns to the stage for The Fixer Upper Tour. Tickets are \$59-\$75. **50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, 707-546-3600, lutherburbankcenter.org**

6th Street Playhouse, Santa Rosa

Performed monthly by the 6th Street Playhouse theater group, The Gentlemen Basterds' Big-Ass Comedy Variety Show is a real hoot, featuring magic acts, musical performances, and stand-up. Tickets are \$15. **52 W. Sixth St., Santa Rosa, 707-523-4185, 6thstreetplayhouse.com**

Sally Tomatoes, Rohnert Park

Comic Casey Williams hosts Sally Tomatoes' Laughing Tomato Comedy Showcase every first and third Tuesday. No cover. You can also catch Williams and local comic Steve Ausburne on their weekly Barrel Proof Comedy podcast, during which the duo tastes whiskey while discussing pop culture. **1100 Valley House Drive, Rohnert Park, sallytomatoes.eventbrite.com, barrelproofcomedy.com**

The Laugh Cellar, Santa Rosa

The Laugh Cellar has been crushing it since its July 2017 launch thanks to comedy production company the Crushers of Comedy, which presents a variety of themed comedy shows including the Wine Country Comedy Fest. Sold out two years in a row, the third annual event is set for July 19-22. Tickets are \$28 for one night, \$135 for a four-day pass. **5755 Mountain Hawk Drive, Suite 102, Santa Rosa, 707-843-3824, crushersofcomedy.com**

D'Argenzio Winery, Santa Rosa

D'Argenzio offers comedy hosted by local comic/producer Brian Thomas, with featured guests every third Friday of the month. 21 and up. \$12 cover. **1301 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-546-2466, dargenziowine.com**



Scott Capurro

HopMonk Tavern, Sonoma and Sebastopol

Opportunity awaits aspiring comics at HopMonk's Open Mic Tuesdays in Sebastopol, with host Bill DeCarli, and Open Mic Wednesdays in Sonoma, with host Matt Piazza. All ages. No cover. **230 Petaluma Ave., Sebastopol, 707-829-7300, hopmonk.com/sebastopol; 691 Broadway, Sonoma, 707-935-9100, hopmonk.com/sonoma**



Judah Friedlander



Matt Lieb

Steve Ausburne

Chey Bell

Palooza Brewery and Gastropub, Kenwood

Once summer arrives, Sonoma Valley showcases stand-up with Punchline Palooza every first Friday through September. Tickets are \$20. 8910 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, 707-833-4000, paloozafresh.com

Rincon Valley Tap Room & Bottle Shop, Santa Rosa

The taproom draws loyal fans to its popular Jokes on Tap show on second Saturdays featuring host/producer Martin Marruf and various guest comics. 21 and up. No cover. Outside food is welcome, as are well-behaved dogs. 4927 Sonoma Highway, Santa Rosa, 707-595-5516, rvtaproom.com

Fogbelt Brewery, Santa Rosa

When former rapper C-Smitty, aka Cody Smit, came to terms with being tone-deaf, he turned to comedy. He now hosts the Smit Show Comedy Nights at Fogbelt Brewery, featuring top Bay Area comics, on the first Sunday of each month. 21 and up. \$5 cover. 1305 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-978-3400, fogbeltbrewing.com

Griffo Distillery, Petaluma

This producer of small-batch, handcrafted spirits offers signature concoctions showcasing their gold-medal-winning gin and whiskeys and quality stand-up every month. Recent guests have included Matt Lieb and Chey Bell of San Francisco's Sketch Fest and Judah Friedlander from NBC-TV's "30 Rock." The next show is July 15. 1320 Scott St., Suite A. Petaluma, 707-879-8755, griffodistillery.com

Double Decker Lanes, Rohnert Park

San Francisco comic legend Tony Sparks hosts the Kingpins of Comedy in the Lounge every second Tuesday. No cover. 300 Golf Course Drive, Rohnert Park, 707-585-0226, doubledeckerlanes.com/comedy-night

Spancky's Bar, Cotati

Striving to move past its biker bar image, Spancky's has created a series of ongoing events including Open Mic Mondays and Comedy Showcases on the last Sunday of every month. Both events are hosted by comic Chris Ferdinandson. 21 and up. No cover. 8201 Old Redwood Highway, Cotati, 707-664-0169, spanckysbar.com

Jim Gaffigan

