



*Stimulating the Minds and Nurturing the Souls of Readers*

## **Sonoma Valley Authors Festival Information - August 26-28, 2022**

**We look forward to seeing you at the Sonoma Mission Inn!**

**Here are some tips to make your time with us as enjoyable as possible:**

### **Before you come:**

- Dress is business casual, such as slacks and a shirt with a collar for men, and something similarly suitable for women. With cool temperatures in the morning, a rise of 40 degrees during the day, and a drop again after windy times at sundown, bring layers. Also, air conditioning can be uneven in the Pavilion and breakout rooms. By the time we enjoy Poetry by the Firepit with Tracy K. Smith and Stargazing with Alex Filippenko, it could be quite chilly.
- Personal water bottles: SMI has filtered water stations with a supply of glasses that they wash in their kitchen and reuse. Due to the high volume over the weekend, you may want to bring your own water bottle.
- Plan for heavy traffic: As COVID restrictions evaporate, Sonoma Valley is buzzing with weekend activity. Weddings are being held at venues all over and lodging and restaurants are booked. Sonoma Raceway will be holding events as well. Exacerbating congestion are summertime road repairs. Allow a minimum of 2.5 hours from SFO to Sonoma and 2 hours from San Francisco to Sonoma. Travel at peak times could be longer, starting Friday at 1:00 pm.
- Mobility: SMI can accommodate guests with mobility issues. Please let us know in advance if you need assistance.

### **When you arrive:**

- Parking: SMI allocated a small number of valet parking passes to guests not staying at the hotel; they have been distributed. Allow time to self-park in the connected above-ground lot, or overflow lots nearby. We've arranged for our team and volunteers to park offsite in deference to our pass holders and guests.
- Check-in will begin at 10:00 am. No passes were mailed or emailed; we will simply check your name on our list. Each attendee will receive their nametag with a lanyard, a tote bag, and a program with the schedule. Access to all festival venues is limited to those wearing name badges; please wear them at all times.

### **Enjoying the weekend:**

- Meals: Complimentary continental breakfasts and lunches will be served on the lawn. During the festival, attendees will enjoy complimentary coffee, iced tea, lemonade, water, fresh fruit, and snacks.
- Open to those who have Sponsor passes and all authors, speakers, and their families and guests, the Author/Sponsor dinner will be held in the Pavilion on Friday evening. SMI will remove the theater seating and reset the room with buffet food stations, tables, and chairs for dinner beginning at 7:15 pm. All sponsors may come and go as they wish and mix and mingle at a level at which they are comfortable as they enjoy the gourmet fare. Open seating will be available both indoors and out.
- Festival Seating: We encourage festival attendees to take their seats at least a few minutes before the start of each presentation. Sponsors have priority seating; reserved areas will be marked
- Electronic devices: Use of audio and visual recording devices of any kind (including smartphones) is strictly prohibited during the presentations. Part of the joy of coming to the festival is disconnecting from the outside world for a couple of hours. You will be asked to *turn off* rather than silence all cell phones and other digital devices during presentations. In addition to being a distraction, interference from these devices can cause problems with our wireless microphones and recording equipment.
- Between sessions, we invite you to post on social media; our handles are
  - FB [@svauthorsfestival](#)
  - IG [@svauthorsfest](#)
  - TW [@svauthorsfestival](#)
  - LI [@svauthorsfestival](#)
  - Hashtag is: **#SVAfti0ti1**
- Bookstore: Book Passage, our partner and onsite bookseller for the Festival, will be in Harvest Suite Friday through Sunday. Just steps from the Pavilion and open at 7:30 am each morning, stop in to browse and purchase before the crowds arrive. Select books to give for Christmas gifts and holiday vacation reading, then have them personalized. Go straight to the front of the book signing line on the adjacent patio when your favorite author will be signing. Book Passage staff have great ideas plus they will store your book purchases or will wrap and ship them for you. What a gift!

**Enjoy your weekend and feel free to call us with questions at (707) 282-9028**