



# News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **FANDANGO! A Festive and Historic Dance Celebration**

*-Petaluma, CA*

Are you looking for a way to celebrate the end of summer in Sonoma County? Welcome autumn's arrival by experiencing dance and music of the 1840's. Join us on Saturday, September 21, from noon to 4pm at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park for a traditional dance party! Experience the spirit and fun of Mexican California's *rancho* era, while learning dances on the grounds of the largest historic adobe structure in the United States.

*Fandango* is a yearly event held on park grounds surrounded by nature and history, with its countryside surroundings and the country's largest adobe building. This is a great event to bring your family and a picnic. "*Fandango* was not only a dance but also the name given to an informal dancing party. Holding a *fandango* during autumn was a tradition at General Mariano Vallejo's *Rancho de Petaluma*, now Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park," explains Jennifer Hanson, State Park Guide I.

The *fandango* celebrated the work of Native Americans, Mexicans, and *Californios* who operated Vallejo's successful enterprise. It was held to honor the end of the harvest and the *matanza*, the slaughtering season. The cattle of the *rancho* were used to produce the mainstays of early California's economy, cattle hides and tallow.

Dances of the 1840's are performed and taught by **Baile de California** of Santa Barbara and **Yesteryears Dancers** from California and Nevada. Both groups aim to preserve the spirit and fun of Mexican California's *rancho* era by encouraging audience participation. The traditional folk-instrument ensemble, **Flor y Canto Duo**, will accompany the dancers with live music.

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is located at 3325 Adobe Road, Petaluma. The park entrance is located on Adobe Road between Casa Grande and Frates roads. Admission for adults is \$3.00, children (6 to 17) is \$2.00, age 5 and under enter free. Light refreshments will be served. Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic and dress for variable outdoor weather. For the safety and comfort of all visitors, please do not bring pets.

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Facebook.com/PetalumaAdobeStateHistoricPark

[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)



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California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact: Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park at (707) 762-4871. 711, TTY relay service. Additional information is available [www.parks.ca.gov/petalumaadobeshp](http://www.parks.ca.gov/petalumaadobeshp) .

