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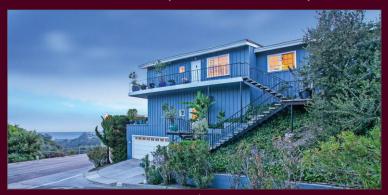
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NEWPORT BEACH Contents

Magazine

JUNE/JULY 2014

BEST of the BEACHES

52. Summer Lovin'

From its idyllic vistas to its romantic restaurants, Newport Beach offers ample ways to fall in love this season. By Kirsti Correa

58. Battle of the Balboa Bars

Famous for offering their own takes on the classic Newport frozen treat, two beloved establishments on Balboa Island go head to head every summer. By Lauren Matich

64. Making a Splash

This summer's swimsuit trends are offering women versatile and flattering looks for days spent basking under the sun—tan lines not included.

By Bria Balliet

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The Newport Beach Junior Lifeguards program celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2014.

By Taylor Dutch



ON THE COVER
LOCATION: PACIFIC EDGE HOTEL, LAGUNA BEACH
PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVID JAKLE; FASHION DIRECTOR: JULIE FRENCH,
ONE-PIECE SUIT FROM LA PERLA, SOUTH COAST PLAZA

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Newport's historic movie theaters are some of the last remaining symbols of the city's past.

By Tess Eyrich

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The owner of Newport's iconic surf shop, The Frog House, proves that it takes a character to run a local landmark. By Karlee Prazak

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Citizen science projects at Crystal Cove State Park engage visitors and students alike in research that helps preserve this special place.

By Sharon Stello

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Hitch a ride on a road trip through some of Southern California's most celebrated surf towns.

By Tess Eyrich

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Shakespeare by the Sea transforms open parks into theatrical arenas as it travels across Southern California each summer.

By Peter A. Balaskas

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INSPIRED STYLE

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partial listing



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JUNE/JULY 2014

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- **30.** HOME: A local designer focuses on sustainability at a LEED Platinumcertified home in Corona del Mar.
- 34. OUT & ABOUT: Charity pursuits and coastal happenings

114. My 24 Hours in Newport

A PR rep by day and queen of the OC pop culture blogosphere by night, Kate Casey of Love and Knuckles shares her perfect day on the town.



19. BUZZ



114. MY 24 HOURS IN NEWPORT





26. TREND

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editor's letter

Singing a Song of Cheer

When June comes around, I'm reminded of the old Nat King Cole song: "Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer; those days of soda and pretzels and beer. ... You'll wish that summer could always be here."

As a Chicago native, that last line was particularly meaningful to me—especially on those days we'd get hail, rain and snow when the forecast said it would be 70 degrees and sunny. I experienced the full glory of each season growing up in the Midwest: colorful autumns with crisp red and orange leaves; icy, subzero winters; wild and unpredictable springs; and, of course, hot, sticky summers where the air is so thick with humidity that you almost don't want to breathe. There were four distinct seasons, and I knew that for a fact.

So, imagine my surprise when I moved to Orange County 15 years ago and found that the "somewhere" in the saying, "It's always summer somewhere," really referred to Southern California at any given time of the year. Here in Newport Beach, summer means just another lazy morning riding around on a beach cruiser and laying out by the ocean. It means taking a walk around the block and dining outdoors whenever



I feel like it because the weather is actually perfect year-round (save for the two or three days of rainfall, when it's the end of the world).

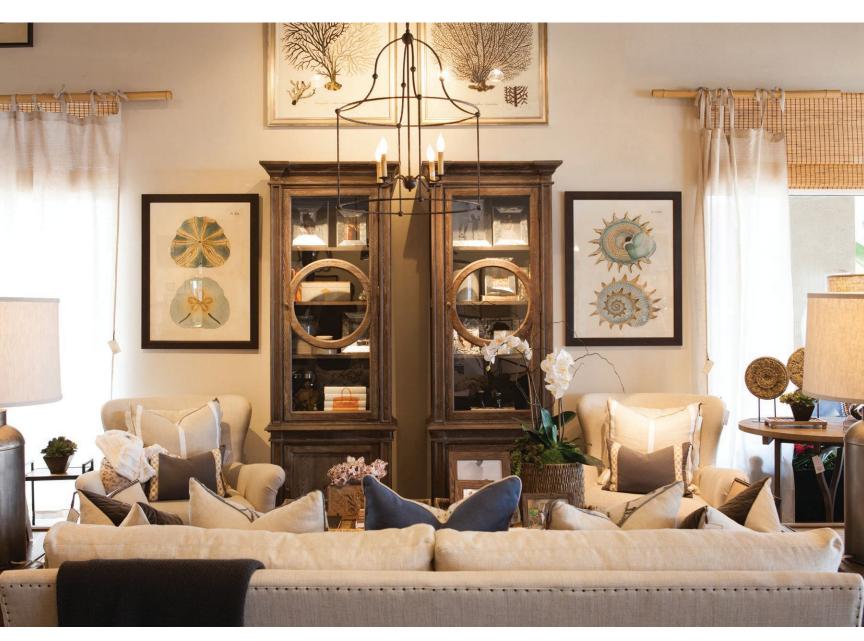
My obsession with Newport's weather aside, I can't think of a more incredible place to spend a summer. Not only do we have all the qualities typical of a beach town—great waves, sunshine and the like—but we also have traditions and local institutions that have taken root over the decades.

In this issue, we're celebrating the "best of the beaches"—the little things that make this city one of a kind. Our assistant editor, Karlee Prazak, spent some time recently with the legendary Frog House's figurehead T.K. Brimer, who gave her a sneak peek inside his colorful slice of our surfing community ("Business in the Shop, Party on the Waves," page 46). Meanwhile, our editorial assistant, Lauren Matich, conducted in-depth research of her own on Balboa Island to compare and contrast iconic ice cream and chocolate delights from two favorite purveyors ("Battle of the Balboa Bars," page 58). And, if you listen to a few couples that associate editor Kirsti Correa chatted with for this issue, summer in Newport offers much more than just miles of sandy shores—it's a time to visit the treasure trove of date spots where love can blossom and grow, from the first date to a marriage proposal ("Summer Lovin," page 52).

I'm just a little biased, but we have it all—and I'm not afraid to call it like I see it. I hope you enjoy this special issue paying tribute to everything we know and love about Newport, and may your summer be filled with nothing but "lazy, hazy, crazy" days of your own.

Warm regards, Allison Hata Editor, Newport Beach Magazine allison@firebrandmediainc.com





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NewPort Beach

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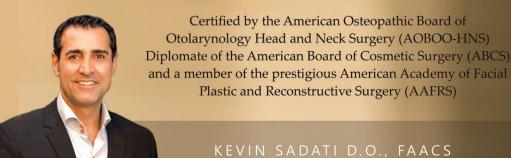
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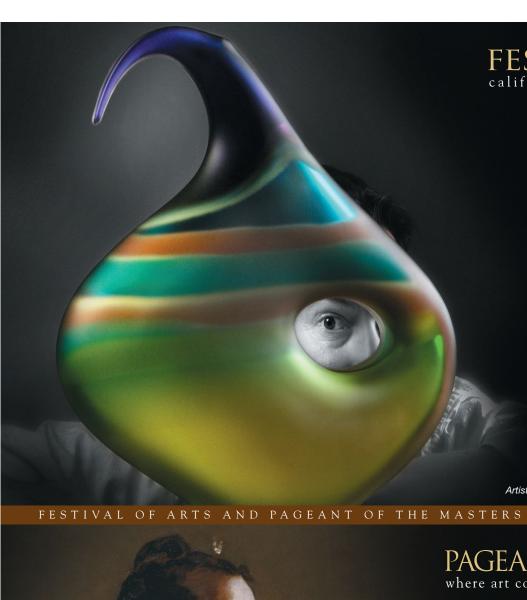
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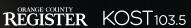
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Detail of *Madame X* by John Singer Sargent © Metropolitan Museum of Art









BUZZ 19 HAPPENINGS 25 TREND 26 HOME 30

KEEPING CURRENT ON THE COAST



BIRTHDAY BASH

The largest birthday party in Newport—and across the country—is right around the corner. Celebrate America's freedom on July 4 with patriotic festivities taking place throughout town.

Beginning at 1 p.m., Newport Harbor fills up with hundred of vessels during the annual **Old Glory Boat Parade** hosted by the American Legion Yacht Club. Boats are bedecked with flags, banners and streamers, and cruise around the harbor as onlookers cheer on their favorites. (alyc.com)

For another **festive boating experience**, spend the day on a specialty cruise that sails alongside the Old Glory Boat Parade through Newport Bay and out to the open ocean. The two-hour cruises, which start at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., offer guests a sampling of snacks and refreshing drinks from the bar onboard. (949-673-1489; cruisenewportbeach.com)

The **55th annual Fourth of July Extravaganza** at the Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina is also in full effect over the weekend. The event features a carnival-like setting with games, face painting, crafts and a specialty performance by KC and the Sunshine Band. Cap off the night by gazing at the cascade of fireworks that burst in the air from the resort at 9 p.m. (949-729-3863; newportdunes.com) –*K.C.*

AND THE WINNER IS ...

Industry experts, festival staff and the audience voted on the top submissions at the 15th annual Newport Beach Film Festival, which concluded its eight-day run last month. Here's an abbreviated list of festival favorites, from best films to most talented actors:

JURY AWARDS

Selected by a panel of local film experts

Best Feature Film: "The Sublime and Beautiful" Best Actor: Blake Robbins, "The Sublime and Beautiful" Best Actress: Aunjanue Ellis. "Una Vida"

FESTIVAL HONORS

Chosen by Newport Beach Film Festival staff

Best Feature Films:

"Break Point." "Fort

Bliss, "The Goodbye (La Despedida)," "Cas & Dylan" **Best Acting:** Elizabeth Moss, "The One I Love" **Best Directing:** Sarah Spillane, "Around the Block"; James Gray, "The Immigrant"; Darren Grodsky and Danny Jacobs, "Growing Up and Other Lies"

AUDIENCE AWARDS

Based on filmgoer ballots collected after screenings Best Feature Film: "Chef" Best Documentary:

"Taking my Parents to Burning Man"

Best Short Film: "The Boy and the Bus"



It's been said that 95 percent of the ocean waters are still unexplored, which is why ExplorOcean, a nonprofit ocean education institution located on the Balboa Peninsula, is encouraging kids—and adults—to start getting curious. Recently, the California Coastal Commission recognized **ExplorOcean** as the No. 1 California-based nonprofit teaching children about ocean literacy with its prestigious Whale Tail grant award. In addition to its numerous public programs that incorporate hands-on, interactive learning—including a robotics program that has been nationally recognized by the U.S. Navy Office of Naval Research—ExplorOcean offers single and multiday camps, after-school classes, school field trips and monthly lectures and seminars, which all take place in its 33,500-square-foot facility and 25,000-square-foot commercial marina. Yet, the organization doesn't want to stop there—future plans, dependent on grants and donations, include a 7,000-square-foot "floating classroom" on the waterfront as well as a LEED-certified 18,000-square-foot community meeting center. (949-675-8915; explorocean.org) —A.T.



SAGE HILL SCHOOL

IN NEWPORT BEACH PLACED 82ND OUT OF 2,000 ON THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANNUAL LIST OF AMERICA'S MOST CHALLENGING HIGH SCHOOLS, MAKING IT THE HIGHEST RANKED PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL IN ORANGE COUNTY.

AN ELECTRONIC CHAPTER

The Newport Beach Public Library introduced a new gadget aimed at keeping young adults entertained and educated to its shelves in February. With the help of Friends of the Library, 10 Nook tablets are now available for checkout, and branch librarian Rebecca Lightfoot says the tablets are in high demand. "Within a day, [the Nook tablets] were all checked out with a hold list, and there are still customers on that hold list," she says. "They were very well received and have been guite popular."

The **Newport Beach Public Library** Nooks can be checked out for two weeks at a time and come loaded with 10 young adult novels, including the popular "Divergent" trilogy by Veronica Roth. Once the demand for the current titles, which are the same on each tablet, dies down, Rebecca says new titles will be added. The library also offers six Nook Simple Touch e-readers, which Rebecca says are catered to adults with more advanced selections. (949-717-3800; newportbeachlibrary.org) –*K.P.*





*AN INSPIRED TAKE ON COASTAL CUISINE | JULY 2014 OAKGRILLNB.COM



After 18 years of inspiring at-risk youth through athletics and housing one of the most substantial sports memorabilia collections around, the nonprofit

Newport Sports Museum

is closing its doors. The decision comes after a long, introspective look by owner and expert collector John Hamilton following an unfortunate burglary paired with personal health and financing issues.

"It's very sad ... but it's also a great relief for me as well," John explains. "It was a lot of

stress and a lot of financial pressure. What I'm focusing on now is the great 18 years that we had; the thousands of kids that got good instruction from heroes who talked to them about responsibility and staying in school; and all the great athletes ... and friends that helped throughout the years."

This mission of inspiring through example remains at the forefront of John's athletic involvement though, which is why he plans to carry on two of the museum's programs-the

legacy leadership program and a mentoring program-through his affiliation with the collegiate Ronnie Lott Impact Trophy.

As for the expansive collection, John, who operates his real estate business from the same building, plans to auction off a majority of the items online through SCP Auctions and rent out the space the museum previously occupied. He will also keep a handful of items for himself and return some items to the owners who donated them to the museum. (scpauctions.com) -K.P.

BECKSTRAND CANCER ASSOCIATION IS CELEBRATING ITS 40TH YEAR WITH A NEW, EXPANDED OFFICE LOCATION ON MACARTHUR BOULEVARD IN NEWPORT, IN ADDITION TO OTHER EXCITING EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2014.





The older we get, the wiser we become, as the old adage goes. There is a downside that goes hand in hand with age, though: wrinkles. Luckily, Monica Bonakdar, a Newport Beach cosmetic physician, has invented a skin care line to restore ageless beauty. Sold exclusively at her Newport Beach practice, MonBon **products** address a variety of conditions from aging and sun-damaged skin to sensitivity and acne.

The skin care line, which ranges in price from \$40 to \$150, features targeted cleansers, topical treatments, hydrating agents and sunscreens for a four-step maintenance solution. A typical skin care routine begins with a gentle, hydrating or clarifying cleanser, followed by an exfoliating daily pad, hydrating gel and Shade All Day sunscreen.

Using leading ingredients such as hydroxy acids, antioxidants and retinoids, Monica, who has more than 20 years of experience in the industry, created products that would be simple enough for clients to use at home yet are powerful enough to treat major skin care concerns. (949-721-6000; bonakdarmd.com) -K.C.



*A NEW WAY TO PLAY | JULY 2014 AQUALOUNGENB.COM

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THE ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART CONCLUDED ITS EIGHT-MONTH INTERNATIONAL SEARCH FOR A NEW CEO AND DIRECTOR; **TODD DESHIELDS SMITH**, AN ART INDUSTRY VETERAN FROM THE TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART, WAS APPOINTED BY THE BOARD IN MAY AND BEGINS AT OCMA IN EARLY AUGUST.



UPTOWN LIVING

The industrial buildings sand-wiched between John Wayne Airport and the intersection of Jamboree Road and MacArthur Boulevard are slated to receive a substantial upgrade over the next two years. The city partnered with The Shopoff Group to conceptualize what William Shopoff, the group's president and CEO, refers to as "a vibrant mixed-use residential community." Deemed **Uptown Newport Village**, the new community broke ground

earlier this year in March.

"Uptown Newport will provide public parks and opportunities for residents to enjoy a pedestrian-friendly living environment with neighborhood-serving retail shops in close proximity to employment opportunities within the airport area," William says.

The endeavor will take the 25 acres of land and ultimately transform them into a walkable community complete with 1,244 luxury homes, 11,500

square feet of retail space and two parks. The innovative layout, which is a first for Newport Beach, will allow for residents to easily and safely walk to restaurants, shops and recreational areas, mirroring the community plans of high-density cities like downtown Los Angeles. The construction is separated into two phases, the first of which is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2016. (shopoff.com) –K.P.



ROCK POOL RESEARCH

Children are invited to touch sea stars, anemones and urchins while learning about marine life starting this summer with the launch of a traveling tide pool, offered by the city of Newport Beach, and a shark mobile, organized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The traveling tide pool can be found at Big and Little Corona beaches from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily this summer, as well as on weekends and holidays throughout the year.

The program is also hitting the road to visit schools and camps with a focus on environmental education. A grant-funded **Interactive Sealife Outreach pod**(ISOpod) will present the program from the 16-footlong truck is equipped with four aquarium tanks (including two touch tanks) and media/technology capabilities to provide information about the ocean. –*S.S*



AS OF MAY, **ORANGE COUNTY'S TOLL ROADS**—THE 73, 133, 241 AND 261—NO LONGER ACCEPT CASH, HAVING REPLACED BOOTHS WITH FOUR NEW ALL-ELECTRONIC TOLLING OPTIONS THAT RANGE FROM THE ALREADY AVAILABLE FASTRAK TO PREPAID, CHARGE OR INVOICE METHODS WITH EXPRESSACCOUNT OR ONE-TIME ONLINE PAYMENTS.

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PHILANTHROPY

ROLLING FOR WISHES

June 13

The seventh annual Rolling For Wishes at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach is presented by Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire. Enjoy an evening of lively casino action, silent auctions, entertainment and more.

NEWPORT BEACH ART EXHIBITION

June 14

Hosted at the Newport Beach Civic Center, the exhibition is a flurry of paintings, photography and sculptures created by local artists. A portion of the sales will benefit community arts programs.

FASHION FOR BREAKFAST

July 17

Slip out of your pajamas and into a trendy ensemble for a breakfast complete with style advice from film and fashion historian Kimberly Truhler at The Pacific Club. The event supports Costa Mesa-based nonprofit Working Wardrobes.

WEDDINGS

FOR THE BRIDE-TO-BE

The newly engaged can check out the Something Lovely Wedding event at the Orange County Museum of Art on Aug. 3; events include an exclusive runway show, menu tastings and a Q-and-A session.





AROUND TOWN

OC FAIR: "SUMMER STARTS HERE"

Ditch organic foods and cleanses for fried everything at the OC Fair, which is in town from July 11 to Aug 10. Open Wednesdays through Sundays, the fair brings not only favorite foods but also a headlining summer concert series, tribute bands, action sports, wine tasting, rides and carnival games.

REVVING THE ENGINES

BALBOA CAR SHOW

Every Sunday

Cruise down to the Balboa Fun Zone parking lot from 7-9 a.m. to check out vintage cars and motorcycles.

SEVENTH ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW

June 15

Check out classic cars, a barbecue buffet, a full bar and a father/son tire changing competition-all on Father's Day at Balboa Bay Resort.

RUSSO AND STEELE COLLECTOR CAR AUCTION

June 18-21

Start-or add to-your car collection at this four-day event at Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort. Remind your significant other it's for a good cause; a charity preview on June 18 benefits Children's Hospital of Orange County.





IN SEASON

CAMP NEWPORT BEACH

All summer long

Not sure how to entertain the kids? Send 'em to camp. It's the perfect time of year to surf, bike or play sports, while indoor options like robotics are great for those who want to stay out of the sun.

SUMMER READING **PROGRAM**

June 21 - Aug. 8

Don't let young brains off the hook just because it's summer. Stop by any Newport Beach Public Library branch for weekly entertainment, book reviews and prizes.

CONCERTS ON THE GREEN

June 22, July 6 and Aug. 17

Sink into a beach chair or blanket on the Newport Beach Civic Center lawn from 6-7:30 p.m. The summer series kicks off with a performance by the Hutchins Consort on June 22. NBM

COASTAL ESSENTIALS

Dive into summer with beach-inspired accessories ideal for the sun, sand and sea.

SECTION BY JULIE FRENCH



Clarke sunglasses in denim, \$209, at Kaenon (949-574-7918; kaenon.com)



Vitamin A Amalia hat, \$85, at Molly Brown's Swimwear, Newport Beach (949-673-9004; mollybrownswimwear.com)



Camilla Sacred Charm pocket skirt dress, \$575, at Novecento Boutique, Crystal Cove Shopping Center (949-715-1700; novecentofashion.com)



Vita Riva wicker car bag, \$398, at Kate Spade, Fashion Island (949-219-0785; katespade.com)



Cynthia Rowley wetsuit, \$330, at Razor Reef Surf Shop, Costa Mesa (949-706-9383; razorreef.com)



Clos on the Go wine tote with foldable reclining sun chair, \$98, at Trina Turk, Fashion Island (949-717-7881; trinaturk.com)

A POP OF PETALS

From prints to jewels, floral motifs are blooming across wardrobes this season.



Guipure diamond earrings, price upon request, at Harry Winston, South Coast Plaza (714-371-1910; harrywinston.com)





Silk organza dress with laser-cut and hand-sewn silk organza flowers, \$1,500, at Jessica Barkley Atelier, Laguna Beach (949-338-1408; jessicabarkley.com)





Flower ring featuring a 40.30-carat round melo pearl and 3.5 carats of brilliant cut diamonds set in 18-karat white and yellow gold, price upon request, at Lugano Diamonds (949-720-1258; luganodiamonds.com)



Paul Farnham Slipper Orchid (left) and Wildcat and Dancing Lady Orchid (right) brooches with diamonds, prices upon request, at Tiffany & Co., South Coast Plaza (714-540-5330; tiffanyandco.com) ивм

THE RETAIL

Take an inside look at the latest grand openings and designer debuts in and around Newport.

BY BRIA BALLIET



REVAMPED VALENTINO

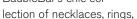
Valentino's South Coast Plaza location has undergone a lavish renovation, recently reopening its second-floor boutique, which now embodies the luxury brand's new direction. Placing an emphasis on personal space and a unique experience that is unlike that of traditional shops, the new Valentino boasts multiple rooms, each one dedicated to a different aspect of the label's collection. Featuring women's ready-to-wear, handbags and shoes, the sections are united by the Venetian terrazzo flooring throughout the store. (714-751-3300; valentino.com)



BRILLIANT BAUBLES

Fans of statement jewelry at modest price points have flocked to collect the latest and greatest goodies from fashion jewelry retailer BaubleBar. Now, the brand's assortment of stunning and unique pieces-which

is updated with new baubles weekly-has arrived at select Nordstrom department stores across the country, including South Coast Plaza. BaubleBar's chic col-



bracelets and earrings debuted at Nordstrom this spring via in-store pop-up shops and recently became a part of the retail giant's regular inventory. (Nordstrom, South Coast Plaza: 714-549-8300; nordstrom.com) (BaubleBar: baublebar.com)



The understated yet luxe Swiss brand Lorenz Bach has been a staple among the elite in the tiny Alpine town of Gstaad-where the brand was founded-for several years. Now in a period of expansion that includes debuting lines in shops in Brooklyn, London, Austria and more, the Swiss brand's autumn/winter collection arrives at A'maree's along Mariner's Mile in Newport. The fine fabrics and expert designers that the brand employs-most from Gstaad or Paris-make for an extremely versatile line that is as approachable as it is chic. Expect Italian dress shirts and linen jackets, and cashmere sweaters with the company's signature wool cross to be on display at the local boutique. (A'maree's: 949-642-4423; amarees.com) (Lorenz Bach: lorenzbach.com) NBM







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A KITCHEN WITH A CONSCIENCE

A local designer focuses on sustainability at a LEED Platinum-certified home in Corona del Mar.

BY SHARON STELLO

rom eco-friendly homes to the Sundance Film Festival, Orange County interior designer Rachel Hulan has dedicated her work to green projects for the better part of a decade.

"I've always had a focus on sustainability in the general sense," says Rachel, who graduated from the Interior Designers Institute in Newport Beach, where she's now a professor. "I became more aware of health issues that were being caused by products I was recommending."

In OC, about 360 residences and apartments are LEED certified at any level—and of those, only four are in Newport Beach, including the LEED Platinum-certified home of Wayne and Shannon Inouye in Corona del Mar that Rachel worked on.

When planning the design, the kitchen—which is visible from the front entryway and flows from the great room—was the focal point. Rachel says her clients were open to using nontraditional materials such as linoleum and LED lights, but they also wanted products that would last and were made locally or in the U.S. whenever possible.

Adhering to the local theme, pendant lights were made by Santa Ana-based glass blower Caleb Siemon of Siemon & Salazar. To achieve a colorful look with the backsplash—one that included no grout lines for easy cleanup—Rachel opted for back-painted sheets of tempered glass created by John Steed Homes' suppliers Advance Glass Co. in Costa Mesa and Mr. Paint of Laguna Niguel.

For the best results with sustainable design, Rachel recommends researching products and planning early on in the project. "If you do that, there's absolutely no reason for green design to be any more expensive or difficult [than traditional design]," she says.

All the elements of the Inouyes' kitchen blend well with the rest of the house, which incorporates walnut repurposed from a bowling alley for the stairs and 78 rooftop solar panels, for truly "green" living. With that project behind her, Rachel is applying many of the same sustainable approaches to another Corona del Mar house for the Inouyes, who plan to sell the second home in order to spread the principles of eco-friendly living to another family. NBM





MOST WANTED

NATURE MADE

Decorate your kitchen and help the environment at the same time with eco-friendly yet trendy pieces suited for everyday living.

BY SHARON STELLO

Artfully made of reclaimed peroba and Australian hardwoods, the PALOMA II DINING TABLE combines natural grain with a range of dark and honey brown tones, and is large enough to seat eight, \$1,999, at Crate and Barrel, South Coast Plaza. (714-825-0060; crateandbarrel.com)



Giving new life to old glass, the RECYCLED GLASS BALL LAMP provides an attractive accent with its translucent, smoky blue base, \$625, at Bliss Home and Design. (949-566-0380; blisshomeanddesign.com)





The waterproof SUCCULENT WALL PLANTER is a living piece of art with a commercial-quality living chamber system, top irrigator, water collection tray and wood frame, \$349, at Roger's Gardens, Corona del Mar. (949-640-5800; rogersgardens.com)





Whether it's used as a decorative piece or to serve up a first course at the dinner table, the TOTALLY BAMBOO SALAD BOWL is a naturally beautiful item made of a quick-growing sustainable material, \$119.95, at Sur La Table. (949-640-0200; surlatable.com)





Made from recycled paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, this set of three EPICUREAN ECO CUTTING BOARDS is sturdy and lightweight to help chefs get the prep work done, \$49.95, at Williams-Sonoma. (949-464-2168; williams-sonoma.com)



Available in a rainbow of colors and incorporating recycled glass bottles, Oceanside Glasstile's HANDCRAFTED TILES are perfect for adding luxe designs to backsplashes or counters, from \$27 per square foot, at Materials Marketing. (949-729-9881; mstoneandtile.com)

Made of reclaimed Brazilian peroba rosa wood, the Symbol Audio TABLETOP HIFI STEREO combines natural beauty with quality speakers for big sound with a small carbon footprint, \$1,800, at Environment, South Coast Collection, Costa Mesa. (714-557-3100; environmentfurniture.com)





Handmade in the U.S. out of recycled glass, the AURORA VASE by Fire & Light serves as an elegant display piece or lightcatching flower holder, available in a rainbow of colors, \$94, at Tommy Bahama Home, Fashion Island. (949-706-9928; tommybahama.com)



For earth-inspired decor, the AMETHYST BOWL lends a natural accent to a tabletop, \$1,299, at Between the Sheets. (949-640-9999; betweenthesheetsinc.com) NBM

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CHARITY PURSUITS AND COASTAL HAPPENINGS





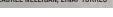


SPEAKEASY SOIREE

Guests at Big Canyon Country Club were invited to step back into the 1920s on May 17 for the CHOC Glass Slipper Guild's annual gala. In the driveway of the exclusive club, a vintage Lincoln Zephyr convertible greeted visitors, the first of the evening's many era-appropriate touches. More than 440 attendees joined the Glass Slipper Guild for a lively cocktail hour, which featured classic signature drinks like the French 75 and a Champagne bar. Inside an elegant draped tent on the golf range, chandeliers glittered overhead as guests enjoyed dinner, a raffle and live auction. The evening took an inspirational turn with a touching speech by special guest and guild member Kara Kipp, who shared how CHOC saved her son's life when he was diagnosed with a rare pediatric liver cancer. The event raised \$330,000 for CHOC Children's, which will be used to fund the 6,400-square-foot post-anesthesia care unit for the hospital. -A.H.









JENN CURTIS, WENDY BOWIE, ELAINE BOWIE



DEBBIE ELDRIDGE, KATIE DUFFY, BOBBIE GARZA

PATRICK ROGERS SARAH AND TOM MCELROY, PAUL MILLER



CHAMPIONS TO CUREDUCHENNE GALA

A heartfelt evening saw more than 250 quests gather in the Balboa Bay Resort's Grand Ballroom on March 29 to raise awareness and funding for the Newport Beach-based national nonprofit CureDuchenne. The night began with cocktails and a silent auction, leading up to a four-course dinner conceptualized and executed by local celebrity chef Jamie Gwen. CureDuchenne founders Paul and Debra Miller addressed the guests throughout the gala, honoring avid supporter Doug Freeman and the CureDuchenne "champion," 10-year-old Tyler Armstrong, who summited three mountains to raise awareness for the disease. Duchenne is a progressive muscular dystrophy disease affecting one in 3,500 boys who end up wheelchair-bound by age 10; most don't survive their mid-20s. As there is no FDA-approved treatment, the live auction toward the end of the evening served as an open platform to support funding treatment programs. What started with a \$50,000 bid garnered a grand total of more than \$360,000 in support of efforts. Celebrity advocate and American Idol contestant Sarah Burgess concluded the night with a performance of her song "Run Away," which she wrote for CureDuchenne and boys with the disease, including her recently diagnosed 7-year-old brother. -K.P.









DANCING FOR TOMORROW'S STARS

Community leaders strapped on their dancing shoes for the Assistance League of Newport-Mesa's seventh annual Dancing for Tomorrow's Stars fundraiser at The City National Grove of Anaheim. Raising more than \$150,000, the March 29 event brought together 300-plus attendees, including performers Ben Anderson, head of BCA Development; Brad Davidson, vice president of metabolism and performance research at Stark; Lisa Heil, an Orange County philanthropist; Lauren Kear, a private investor who lives in Newport Beach; Marco Antonio McAleer; and Marisa Wayne, daughter of John Wayne. As guests enjoyed dinner, the dancers took the stage to compete in front of a panel of judges, which included Alfredo Molina of Black, Starr & Frost. Lisa was named the best female dancer as well as the fan favorite, while Brad took home the award for best male dancer, Proceeds from the event fund the organization's four philanthropic programs for children in need in Newport Beach and Costa Mesa. Programs include Operation School Bell, which provides school supplies and uniforms, and the Cheri Harris Children's Dental Health Center, where children in need are referred to receive a full range of dental and orthodontic services as well as dental hygiene instruction. -A.H.





MOTI FERDER, MARY CRAMER, IDIT FERDER



BET ON THE WHEELS

Local arts programs won the jackpot at the The Guilds of Segerstrom Center for the Arts Bet on the Wheels event, an evening of casino-style gaming, auctions, dining and dancing to the Jet Set Quintet at the Hotel Irvine on April 12. The evening raised more than \$250,000 for Segerstrom's arts education programs. In addition to playing poker, blackjack, craps and roulette, attendees nibbled on treats from themed dining areas, including an Italian trattoria, a gastropub, an Asian cafe, a sweet shop and a martini lounge. The inaugural Guilds Inspiration Award was presented to Bev Sandelman, former Guilds chairwoman, for her dedication to the organization. The Guilds also honored Segerstrom Center board member Eve Ruffatto and her husband Mike for their support, as well as Idit and Moti Ferder, who always provide an item for the event's top raffle prize. This year's raffle items included a three-strand pearl necklace from Lugano Diamonds, a one-year membership to Segerstrom Center's private donor rooms and a shopping spree at South Coast Plaza with complimentary valet service for one year. Attendees showed their generosity during auctions, with proceeds supporting the center's outreach efforts that benefit nearly 300,000 students, teachers and families every year. —S.S.











BLACK & WHITE BALL

An annual "celebration of children," the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Orange County's Black & White Ball brought together more than 450 people at the Island Hotel on April 25. The Friday evening soiree was a touching tribute to the organization's dedication to helping abused, abandoned and neglected children in the foster care system. CASA supporters helped raise a net total of \$780,00 that will directly benefit more than 800 children, providing them with much-needed mentorship and support in all aspects of their lives. This year's event featured a silent auction with more than 100 items; a live auction that included vacation and sports packages, jewelry and more; and a gourmet dinner. The Children's Champion awards were presented to Lisa and Stephanie Argyros for their years of support to the organization, while Newport Coast resident Larry Wilson was honored as an outstanding advocate. The highlight, however, was a touching talk by youth speaker Ty, who has had a CASA advocate for seven years and shared how having an adult who believed in him encouraged him to pursue his dreams for the future. —A.H.









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FOUNDERS' CELEBRATION BRUNCH

What started out as a simple request by breast cancer survivor Sandy Sewell of her closest friends to donate a minimum of \$1,000 annually to the Hoag Family Cancer Institute has grown to include more than 1,000 supporters. Since the committee's beginnings in 1987, about \$15 million has been raised to support the institute's world-class cancer care. At the April 28 morning event held at the Island Hotel, approximately 500 attendees raised more than \$900,000. The highest contribution level—the Silver Circle, which starts at \$25,000—saw donations from Bill and Helen Close, Margaret and Tom Larkin, Ginny and Peter Ueberroth, the Marin-Finn Foundation and an anonymous donor. Perhaps the most spectacular part of the morning, however, was when Circle 1000 chair Beth Knapp invited cancer survivors in attendance to stand as she announced a number of years they have been cancer-free. To conclude the event, award-winning actress and best-selling author Jamie Lee Curtis gave an amusing yet inspirational speech explaining her connection to the disease. As a special tribute to a young friend of Jamie's who died of cancer, the actress donned a pink wig worn by the girl to keep her spirit and courage alive. —K.C.







DRIVING FORWARD IN STYLE

A live band, MaxMara models and the latest Mercedes-Benz vehicles filled the showroom floor of Fletcher Jones Motorcars for Women2Women's annual fundraiser for Hope International on May 8. Attendees enjoyed the sights and sounds during a buffet dinner and cocktail reception, which also provided the opportunity for guests to bid on silent auction items, such as BareMinerals makeup consultations, Angels baseball tickets, Cardelucci photography prints and more. Afterward, Karen Butera, president of Women2Women, offered a heartfelt welcome to attendees while thanking those who facilitated the event. A special guest for the evening, Hope International President and CEO Peter Greer, gave a touching speech about the unique structure of the organization prior to the live auction, which opened with a "front of the valet" pass. Other auction items included a men's Tiffany watch, Lasik eye surgery, a Bulgari purse and even a 6-week-old golden retriever. The event raised \$75,000 to benefit entrepreneurial women in India who otherwise wouldn't have the means to launch a business and provide for their families. –K.C. NBM









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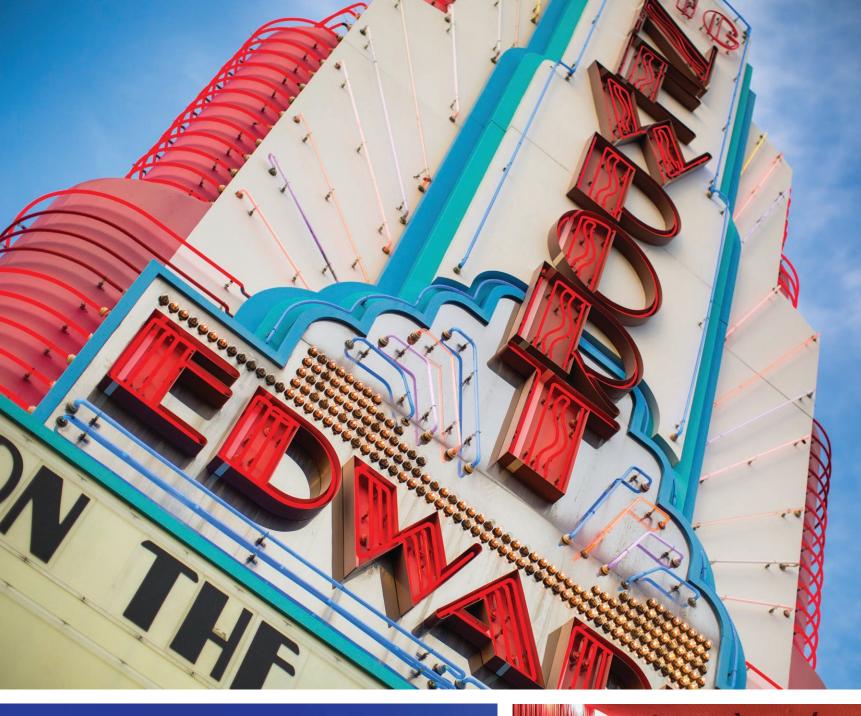


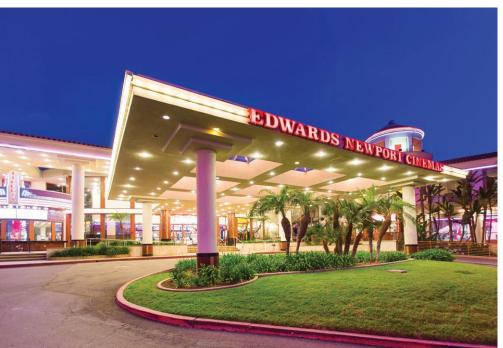


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FRAGILT

Newport's historic movie theaters are some of the last remaining symbols of the city's past.

BY TESS EYRICH

t's a familiar truism that Southern California traditionally isn't known for embracing its own history. In legendary places like Boston, Chicago and even San Francisco, cities' entire personas are firmly rooted in the past. But us? We'll move forward: thanks.

Orange County has few historical sites, spotty local mythology and no major monuments. Over the past year alone, Newport said goodbye to landmarks like Perry's Pizza, Villa Nova and The Ritz Restaurant, and a large part of the community is still mourning the deconstruction of the original Balboa Fun Zone.

But there are some relics of Newport's past that, miraculously, have managed to endure: its theaters. Some of these local movie houses remain relatively unchanged by time, and one has undergone a full-scale renovation. They've all been reborn as host sites for the Newport Beach Film Festival and other major events but—perhaps most importantly—they stand as powerful emblems of a past that's all too often overlooked.

A Local Legend

The Edwards Big Newport 6's main auditorium has been a Newport Beach institution since its debut in February 1969. Opened by then-resident James Edwards Sr., a theater magnate whose empire once extended across most of Southern California, the Big Newport remains a fixture of many locals' childhood memories.

"The Big Newport has been my go-to theater since the mid-1970s," says author and longtime resident Jeff Delaney, whose published works include love letters to the town like "Newport Beach: Then & Now" and "Newport Beach's Balboa and Balboa Island." "I have vivid memories of seeing 'Star Wars' there in 1977 and 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' four years later. My friends and I waited in line all day to see the first showings of each of the 'Raiders' sequels. There were raucous crowds who came armed with beach balls that they inflated after entering the theater. I vividly remember the theater manager directing ushers to retrieve the beach balls and deflate them.







The Lido's opening night film was the 1938 drama "Jezebel" starring Bette Davis, a Corona del Mar resident.

"This same manager, whose name was Jim, became well known for his practice of standing before the crowd, announcing the film and its stars, then marching up the aisle while signaling the projectionist to roll the film," he continues.

The first film screened at the theater—then just one auditorium with a whopping 1,249 seats—was Franco Zeffirelli's 1968 adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet," starring Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting.

"Attend the opening of the greatest cinema of all," read a black-and-white poster advertising the event, and the hundreds who showed up weren't disappointed by the wraparound driveway, expansive marquee and nearly 75-footwide screen that made the theater the place to be seen. "[It's still] the premier venue to see a motion picture in this community," says Shaun Mullen, a district manager for the theater's parent company Regal Entertainment Group, based in Knoxville, Tenn.

Following James Edwards Sr.'s death in 1997, the Edwards family filed for bankruptcy

protection in 2000 and formally relinquished ownership of the chain in 2001. And Regal acquired the Big Newport in 2002—now a six-screen operation following additions made in 1974, 1989 and the early 1990s. As the largest theater circuit in the U.S. with 7,382 screens in 42 states, Regal has kept the Big Newport relatively preserved, only making minor changes to things like seating (there are now only 1,071 chairs in the main auditorium) and screen formatting.

Still, even a legend like the Big Newport is affected by contemporary development. Shaun says the theater was financially impacted by the Island Cinema at Fashion Island, also a Regal property, which underwent a massive renovation and reopened as a luxury theater in 2011. With only six screens, he adds, the Big Newport doesn't rank among Regal's top competitors—most of which are multiplexes.

Yet, the theater will always hold a special place in the hearts of locals. "It's a representative of the community," Shaun says of the Big Newport. "You have a number of people who even today come to bring their kids and say, 'This is where I came to see a movie when I was a kid.' There's a relationship with the theater that the local people have because that's where they've gone their whole lives."

A Piece of Living History

Just a few miles away from the Big Newport sits the city's oldest movie house in operation, the Lido Theatre. Built in 1938 by the Griffith Co., the Lido Theatre is a dazzling remnant of art deco architecture, complete with vintage Catalina tiling and an interior balcony that seats 212.

Its design comes courtesy of the late Clifford A. Balch, a prolific Southern California-based architect who specialized in theaters. Some of his other still-standing projects include the El Rey Theatre and Los Feliz 3 Cinemas in LA, as well as the Golden Gate Theater in East Los Angeles, a towering Spanish baroque palace that now houses a CVS pharmacy.

A palace built in the heart of coastal Newport, the Lido is a theater with a storybook beginning.



Silver screen queen Bette Davis lived in Corona del Mar while the theater was being built and often stopped by to check on its progress. At her insistence, a ground floor parlor was built for ladies to talk, fix their makeup and smoke, while the men were relegated to an upper-level restroom. In tribute to Bette-and also at her insistence—the theater opened with a screening of her 1938 drama "Jezebel."

After decades of neglect, the theater was rescued by James Edwards Sr., who restored it and oversaw its operation from the 1970s through 2001, when, along with the Big Newport, the Edwards family lost the Lido following their decision to declare bankruptcy. It was acquired by Regency Theatres, a smaller chain of primarily art houses with a presence across California and Nevada.

"[The Lido] is a very special building and unique place to see a movie," says Regency Theatres President Lyndon Golin. "Residents ... bring their children and continue to support it."

Those residents include people like Gordy Grundy, president of the Newport Beach





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Historical Society. "In many ways, I grew up at the Lido," Gordy says. "As a group of young, immature boys, we would horse around, sow our wild oats and test our limits. We'd throw things off the balcony, make inappropriate noises and smoke cigarettes on the exterior stairwell. Of course, there was always the challenge of sneaking in. The Lido was a passion pit where I had my first kiss. That's an age when seeing a movie was the secondary intention.

"The Lido [also] fueled my passion for cinema and entertainment hullabaloo," he continues. "I used to drive the manager insane, always asking for film posters. He had to return them to the studio. I was adamant and persistent. He was tough, but I wore him down on the important ones. For a decade as a kid, the last thing I saw at night was 'In new screen splendor ... The most magnificent picture ever!' I know every inch of that 'Gone With the Wind' poster."

While the Lido remains a community treasure and Lyndon describes it as economically viable, he admits, "In general, single-screen theaters are ... a tough business."

Thanks to strategic moves, however, like converting to digital cinema and forming partnerships with the Orange County Film Society, the

Lido has managed to stay afloat over the past decade, preserving a piece of local history.

A Rescued Landmark

The single-screen Port Theater in Corona del Mar is one of Newport's most persistent survivors.

Ted and Peggy Jones of the Los Angeles-based Western Amusement Co. opened the original Port Theater in 1949. The theater, on Pacific Coast Highway among the flower streets, served as a central gathering place throughout the 1950s and 1960s. In its prime, a live elephant was brought on stage during the premiere of the circus film, "The Greatest Show on Earth," in the 1950s.

By the 1970s, however, the onslaught of multiplexes had begun to detract business from the Port and the theater shifted its programming, focusing mainly on screening foreign films from France, Italy and Japan. Then, in 1989, ownership transferred to Landmark Theatres and the Port was used as an art house. By 1998, amid plummeting attendance and safety concerns, the theater's doors were closed indefinitely. City officials granted the Port's owners a demolition permit in 2007, and the community prepared to suffer the loss of another landmark.

But like a fairy tale's benevolent white knight,

local investor Fariborz Maseeh stepped in at the theater's final hour to rescue it from the wrecking ball. Fariborz, a scientist and philanthropist involved in several charitable initiatives, hired Craig Schultz of Laidlaw Schultz Architects to oversee the theater's expansive revamp that focused on preserving its classic streamlined moderne design, a type of art deco architecture.

"The renovation itself was a massive undertaking," says Jessica Prause, a representative for the Port Theater. "The theater had been closed for close to 10 years, and the building was dilapidated. A tremendous amount of effort went into replacing and refurbishing the entire building in a way that preserved its landmark status and historical facade, but made everything modern, new and state-of-the-art."

A major part of the transformation involved rethinking the theater's intended demographic. When it reopened in 2012, the Port joined the pack of luxury theaters—like Island Cinemas at Fashion Island—that have cropped up across Southern California over the past few years.

"We believe luxury theaters are the way of the future," Jessica says. It's hardly difficult to understand why—with gourmet fare and lounge-style seating, the days of buttery popcorn buckets and

fountain sodas served in paper cups are fleeting.

The reality is that for a small movie house to stay financially competitive in today's climate, making the jump to being a luxury theater is almost a necessity. Evening tickets at the Port start at a cool \$18, and guests are given the option to purchase add-ons like food, beverages and VIP service. With less than 200 seats—including leather recliners on the main level, additional chairs on the balcony and a row of bar stoolsthe Port creates an intimate, exclusive setting for audiences to see a film.

Rebranding has allowed the Port not only to endure—a year and a half since its reopening, the Port is close to breaking even, Jessica says—but also to remain the only independently owned and operated theater in Newport. Attendance is steady and the word is continuing to spread; for the time being, the Port is protected. "We have community members who tell us they've been coming to Port since the 1950s," she adds. "Neighbors ... almost feel a sense of ownership over the theater."

For a business to last in any community, it has to be able to adapt. These three theaters demonstrate just how crucial this ability is in a contemporary market. For now, at least, they remain decadent reminders of Newport's history, preserved for the next generation of cinephiles to explore. NBM

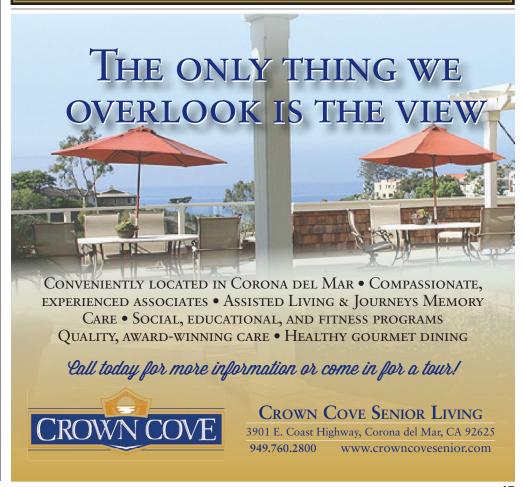
AND THEN THERE **WERE FOUR**

Over the next year, another restored property will prepare to join Newport's historic theaters: the Balboa Village Theatre. Opened as the Ritz Theater in 1928, the property underwent several transformations over the years, hosting everything from vaudeville acts to art films before shutting its doors in 1992.

"We are midway through the generation of a business plan that demonstrates the long-term sustainability of the theater program," says Steve Beazley, president and CEO of the Balboa Performing Arts Theater Foundation, which has rallied to move forward with the property's renovation since 1996.

In the meantime, he and the board's chairman, Donald Hecht, are prepping for renovations by evaluating the theater's design and efficiency. They hope to debut the revamped theater by 2015.





BUSINESS IN THE SIQUE, PARTY ON THE WASY CS

The owner of Newport's iconic surf shop, The Frog House, proves that it takes a character to run a local landmark.

BY KARLEE PRAZAK | PHOTOS BY SCOTT SPORLEDER

he expansive stretch of highway known affectionately as PCH is home to hundreds of businesses, but there's one that resonates with the surf community as a tried-and-true surf shop. Known by surfers everywhere, the small, Kelly green Frog House on the north end of Newport Beach has avoided selling out to the corporate-run surf shops that Southern California is so accustomed to—and for this, it is celebrated.

The shop has changed hands just once since its inception in 1962, and today it boasts a frontman who lives and breathes the California surf lifestyle—the venerable TK Brimer. TK is the second owner of the shop and, after he bought out the business 37 years ago, the names Frog House and TK have become practically interchangeable.

A Surfer and His Shop

As you walk into The Frog House, you're hit with a medley of scents that bring to mind memories of morning surf sessions—a mix of

wetsuit rubber lingering with a hint of surfboard wax and a touch of salt to top it

off. The young men manning the front embody the surf culture, down to their lean statures and knobby knees. No computerized touch screen register finds a home on the counter; rather a sticker-laden pop-out register complete with receipt booklets to record transactions occupies the space. Beyond the counter, two hallways filled with memorabilia lead to the belly of the shop, one overflowing with Frog House T-shirts and wetsuits for young and old alike and the other lined with surfboards—short to long, new-age epoxy to vintage foam, and some awaiting transportation to a ding repair specialist.





Toward the back, a small Dutch door leads to a break room filled with more wetsuits, merchandise and boards. Tucked behind this organized mess is one last secret that ties in nicely with the perks of working at The Frog House (in addition to the discounted wetsuits and ability to test out boards): a hot outdoor shower perfect for rinsing off after a long surf session.

While the tides have changed around Newport over the decades, The Frog House has preserved its original charm, a feat credited to its current owner, TK, who claims he is 65 going on 25.

"We have a bunch of characters that work here, and it starts with Teek," explains 15-year employee Mikey "Beho" Flores of his bossturned-friend, who has kept The Frog House operating as Orange County's oldest known surf shop still at its original address, 6908 W. Coast Hwy. "He is the biggest character and the funnest guy you could ever be around. ... He has this personality where the minute you meet the guy, you like him. We all feed off of that. He creates a vibe, and you don't get that when you walk into [other surf shops]."

It's as if the young TK, who grew up in Titusville, Fla., was destined for this life as soon as he picked up his very first surfboard—a 9-foot, 6-inch pop-out Coastal surfboard that he took a loan out to purchase.

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the country, a guy by the name of Frank Jensen, who was not





so much a surfer but more a surf culture fanatic, was in the process of opening a shop catering to this lifestyle. In 1962, The Frog House—which, as legend has it, was named after an especially quirky bachelor known around town only as "Frog"—opened and quickly transformed into the go-to spot attracting local surfers.

At the same time, Southern California was coming into its own as a mecca for aspiring surfers and, as fate would have it, TK's father was transferred from Cape Canaveral in Florida to Huntington Beach right before TK's senior year of high school in 1967. TK was given the option to stay in Florida, to which he only had one reply as he set out for California waves: "No, I'm a surfer." The next thing TK knew, Frog House team rider and new surfing acquaintance Charlie Rey was introducing him to Frank.

"When I walked through The Frog House front door for the first time I just had an epiphany of, 'Wow, it's a surf shop that I've always dreamed about,' "TK recalls. "I started immediately selling for the owner, but he didn't give me a job right away."

For five weeks, when a customer would come in, TK would walk them through the shop, demonstrating his knowledge and his ability to sell. Frank hired him shortly after, and TK fit in wonderfully with The Frog House—but it was only a matter of time before his entrepreneurial spirit took over. After marrying his wife, Linda, he began having thoughts of starting a family.

"You don't make very much money working behind the counter at a surf shop," he explains. "So I went to Frank and said, 'Hey listen, I'm going to start my own shop—or are you interested in selling this one?'"

It took some negotiating, but after 15 years of

Top left: The Hurley carpet in The Frog House is the perfect playing field for the game TK came up with to decide what's for lunch each day. Top right: A past image of the shop is fixed to one of the walls. Right: TK and longtime employee Beho are in the shop on a daily basis.



business, The Frog House ownership changed hands for the first (and only) time in 1977.

Getting His Frog Legs

The Frog House is successful, but TK says he isn't in it to make big money; the driving force behind his business model is staying true to the foundation of the surf shop. "[The industry today] is all about clothes, but I never grew up wanting to work [in] a clothing store," he explains. "I grew up wanting to work in a surf shop, so I've resisted that temptation to go for that money. ... A bigtime surf shop might be 85 percent clothing, 15 percent hard goods; we do about 85 percent hard goods and 15 percent clothing."

Sticking to this model allows TK to manage in his own way, something the guys around the shop agree is the perfect balance of organization and chaos, explains seven-year employee Travis Lagerlof, who's better known as "Home Depot." "There is a technique in his management, which is like management by chaos," he says. "It's a successful way to manage a company if everyone who works for and with you [is] on board. Yeah, it's all over the place, but it makes sense."

TK has only had one scare of closing The Frog House doors during his tenure; in July 2010, the city sent a notice saying the land he was operating on was not zoned for commercial use, meaning he had 90 days to close up shop or apply for a costly rezoning of the property.

"I was devastated; I felt threatened," he remembers. This, however, led to an outpouring of support and a successful outcome, with people writing letters, setting up a "Save The Frog House" Facebook page that garnered 17,000 likes (more than even the city's page at the time), and a former customer even sending a box full of "Save The Frog House" stickers for free.

"[The box] was from a guy named Larry who

said in the 1980s, The Frog House gave him a wetsuit and discounts as [he was] an aspiring pro surfer," TK explains. "[His letter said], 'It never left my mind that The Frog House supported me with my dream.'"

According to TK, if you can count popularity of Southern California surf shops in stickers, his is most popular because the logo of a surfer barreling out of a frog's mouth is affixed to cars lining PCH from north to south. That iconic image was actually the product of a deal he made with a short-on-cash customer one day.

"[This guy named Brom came in and] he said, 'Listen, I don't have any money, but ... I would like to know if you'd let me do some artwork in exchange for this used board," TK recalls. "I told him the place had been called The Frog House for 15 years, but we don't have a logo. ... He came back the next day with the logo we still use today."

Hopping Along

The only other priority at The Frog House is simply enjoying life, and the lineup of young employees keep the vibes lighthearted.

"Without being an activist, he's trying to pass onto the community and the people that shop here how important it is to be in love with something you can do everyday, and not be concerned with if its earns or loses you money. ... A lot of that just bleeds through the walls," Travis explains. "[The Frog House has] made a name over the last 30 years of being a party crew. We're the people known for causing a ruckus at surf industry gatherings; everyone looks forward to The Frog House being there, starting trouble."

"I always say, when you work for peanuts you get monkeys," TK says of his employees, all of whom are given nicknames inspired by anything from previous employers to outfit choices. One could argue this trend was inspired by the namesake friend Frog, or it's simply because TK says he can't remember names—ever—so monikers like Home Depot, Chino and Hoto Joe have stuck.

There's never a dull moment at The Frog. Beyond the tongue-in-cheek nature of the nicknames, every day consists of on-the-clock surf breaks and an afternoon ritual of lobbing dollar coins at a designated "H" embroidered in the Hurley carpeting to determine lunch—which is bought by TK every day and chosen by the winner of the game, though 20-plus rules guarantee the newbies have to learn a few tricks. The 65-year-old frontman fondly recalls each and every antic as he sits reclined with his feet resting on a workstation occupied by two Chandler sewing machines used for The Frog House's one-of-a-kind wetsuit repair service (most people don't go through the process



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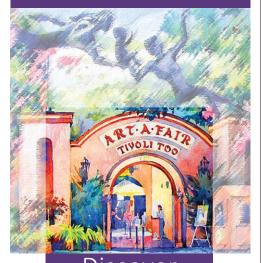








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of repairing wetsuits, TK explains).

"[TK has] the energy of a 20-year-old and has no filter at all, but inside he has the biggest heart and sincerely cares and loves all the people that work for him," Travis says. "The Brimer family, in general, has these core values that bleed into the way the shop is run."

This also accounts for the multiple generations of customers that visit the shop daily after building a bond with TK and his business—a loyalty that Beho says is unmatched. The pair, who boast the oldest ages in the shop but the youngest mentalities, have traveled the world together with various big names from the surf industry, and through it all, they still make it a point to paddle out from the mouth of the Santa Ana River across from the



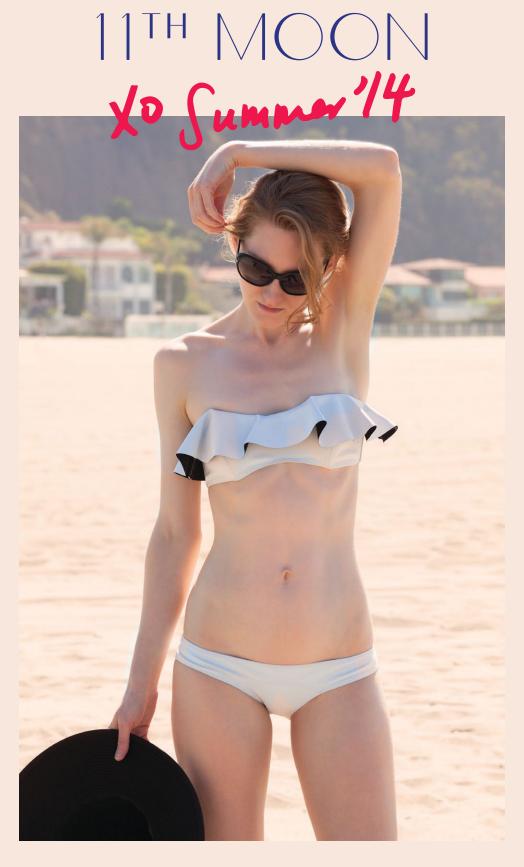
There's an old-school vibe throughout The Frog House, from the vintage register that sits on the front counter (left) to the Chandler sewing machines used for wetsuit repair in the back (above).

shop and catch a few waves together daily.

"We're kind of best friends, but more importantly, we're surf buddies," Beho says. "He takes care of me in the water and I take care of him. He would literally go above and beyond the call of duty to save me if I was in trouble."

And at the end of the day, you don't need to go inside to see that the colorful Frog House and its staff are more eccentric than any other Newport business. TK, although outspoken, makes The Frog House what it is today and, as Beho says, if anyone but TK were running the shop it just wouldn't stav afloat.

"The bottom line is I don't want to go anywhere," TK says of his plans for The Frog House's future. "I'm 65 years old, but I feel 35 and sometimes I feel 25. It's such a love and joy for me to run this place that I don't have any desire to quit doing it. ... If I'm not surfing, then I'm not running this place because this is a surf spot. I'm not going to be the old man that used to surf." NBM



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Summer Lovin'



DINNER FOR TWO

Perfect for: Calming first date jitters

As you walk through the door of Sabatino's, the aroma of authentic Italian cuisine fills the air. At the very least, the restaurant promises an evening filled with an impressive meal, as each dish is crafted from family recipes that date back 150 years to Sicily.

"I took all my first dates to Sabatino's-always-because if you don't like Italian food, you're not the one for me," says Maddy Ewles, 24, who grew up in Newport.

Located on Lido Peninsula, Sabatino's offers first daters a cozy spot to get to know each other free of pressure from an overly grandiose establishment. Confirm your reservation and let Sabatino's replace nerves with confidence as you guide your date to a table covered with a classic checkered cloth.

"For the first date, figure out a particular table beforehand that may be extra special," advises Kimberly Arico, a matchmaker at Palm & Associates in Newport. "You can't just walk into a restaurant and expect to get the best table. If you call ahead of time, ... most places can be very accommodating."

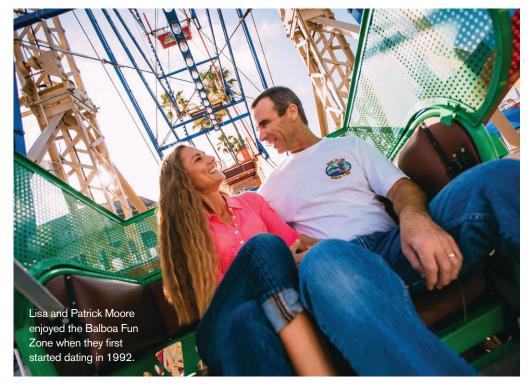
At Sabatino's, the coveted seating spots are the captain's chairs or the outdoor patio. "The entire restaurant has a romantic feel to it," Maddy says. "The captain's seats are tucked away for extra privacy."

After dinner, take a stroll along the water, which is conveniently located across the way. Though dinner and a movie tend to go hand in hand-and summer is known for its blockbuster hits-the ideal post-meal activity is to let the waves crash at your feet as you share a first kiss under the moonlight.



ISLAND TOUR

Perfect for: A casual second or third date



The first stop on an afternoon together should be Marine Avenue, a main thoroughfare on Balboa Island that's lined with charming boutiques, galleries and eateries. Meander along Bayfront until you reach the iconic ferry, which transports pedestrians across the water to the next destination: the Ferris wheel.

"The Ferris wheel has been a mainstay for date night since the 1930s," says Patrick Moore, 50, who has worked at the Balboa Fun Zone for the past 25 years and took his wife, Lisa, there for a Ferris wheel ride when they first began dating. "[My wife and I still] ride the wheel and never get tired of it."

End the date with a visit to Balboa Candy, an old-fashioned candy store with barrels stocked to the brim with sugary snacks. Fill up a bag with classic treats and nostalgic goodies like taffy and Abba-Zabas for the walk back to the car-and don't forget to browse the shop's impressive vintage soda bottle collection. The fizzy drink helps wash down the candy, while the bottle cap serves as a sweet memento of the afternoon.

Maddy Ewles' ideal afternoon date is a hike through Crystal Cove, ending with lunch at the Beachcomber Cafe.



HIKING THE COVE

Perfect for: Upgrading a "walk on the beach"

Contrary to popular belief, long walks on the beach are not very romantic—especially for locals. "We're spoiled by the beach so we don't want to go there specifically for a date, but it's nice to include the beach as part of the date," Maddy explains.

Luckily, the curvature of the city's landscape reveals an alternate pathway through Crystal Cove that leads to the shore. The varying terrain also affords couples the

opportunity to maintain their health and avoid the fabled "relationship weight" that's said to come a few months after the first date.

One of the loops is an uphill trail that takes hikers on a 3-mile journey (approximately). From the El Moro lot near the elementary school, the first section—the No Dogs trail—starts at the ranger station, where hikers roam through a pathway bordered by wildflowers and shrubs for a little more than a half-mile. The Poles intersection then provides a brief but still refreshing downhill course to the final stretch of the route. After crossing a bridge onto the Moro Canyon trail, climb uphill for about a mile back to the parking lot.

Follow the pathway that descends to the sand, and enjoy the rest of the afternoon in the park's historic district, where you can revisit Crystal Cove's history as a Hollywood filming location by stopping by the Beaches Film & Media Center (named after "Beaches," starring Bette Midler, which filmed at the cove) on the south end of the shore. Don't forget to book a table and restore electrolytes at the Beachcomber Cafe, a quintessential institution for summer eats with a menu bursting with refined beach food like truffle macaroni and cheese or grilled mahi mahi tacos.

TWO-WHEELED EXPLORATION

Perfect for: Rediscovering the town as a couple

As the roads fill up with cars from out-of-town visitors, trade four wheels for two and whip out your cruisers for a bike ride around town. The wide path on the Balboa Peninsula boardwalk is particularly suited for bicycles. For safety reasons, keep a bell on your bike as the multipurpose sidewalk is used for all activities, from walking and running to skating.

Oceanfront houses, restaurants and shops line the boardwalk, which runs from 36th Street to the end of the peninsula. The flat surface makes for an effortless bike ride as you cycle past the lively crowds outside Mutt Lynch's to the open lawn at Peninsula Park.

Newport residents Janel Moore, 28, and her husband, Jamie, 35, prefer the boardwalk's trail for the opportunity to people watch or window-shop along the way. "Since we live in Dover Shores, we start by taking the ferry over to the peninsula, which drops us off in the center of everything," Jamie explains. "From there, we ride up to Fly 'N' Fish Oyster Bar & Grill for appetizers and then back down to [the Wedge]. That's the best way to go."



TOP LEFT PHOTO BY JODY TIONGCO; RIGHT PHOTO BY SCOTT SPORLEDEF



ON-THE-WATER EXCURSION

Perfect for: Meeting the parents

Once a relationship is established, it's common to seek approval of your new partner from your closest companions. Opt for a scenic cruise through Newport's waters on a Duffy boat to introduce your date to your closest friends-and parents, if you're ready to take the leap. In doing this, you can avoid the awkward arrangement at a large dinner table that often splits up the evening's conversation between half of the guests.

"The boat ride is much less formal than going to a fancy restaurant, so you're able to relax and enjoy your company and the calming experience of being out on the water," says Brandi Worden, rental and events manager at Duffy Electric Boat Co. in Newport Beach.

Most Duffy boats can comfortably fit up to 10 adults, and a two-hour cruise is just enough time to do a figure eight around Lido and Balboa islands. Coolers are available for guests to bring their own beverages and food, or the company can help arrange platters of dishes from nearby restaurants to enjoy on the water.

"I love going on a Duffy ride; it is so unique to Newport Beach," says Kathy Gilmore, 33, a Newport resident. "[It's nice to] take a cruise predinner with wine and appetizers. ... Check when the sunset is that night and face west at that time; [there's] usually a beautiful view."

AN AERIAL PERSPECTIVE

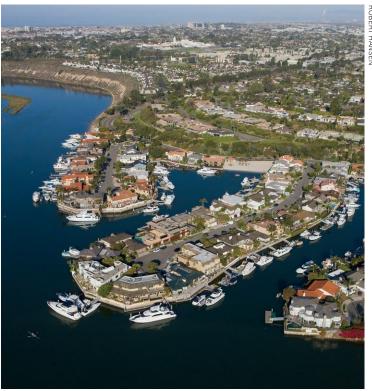
Perfect for: A surprise date

Deep down, many people swoon over fun surprises on special occasions-no matter their assertive attempts to conceal it. For a one-of-a-kind experience, arrange a driver to whisk your date to John Wayne Airport for a private helicopter tour of the city. Hovering over the entire city, the helicopter circles past the San Joaquin Hills to Corona del Mar and back around to Newport's Back Bay for the most breathtaking views.

Prior to taking a date to new heights, build the excitement by dropping miniscule hints about the night without fully disclosing all the details. "Surprises are great, but [you] need to tell [your date] how to dress and other small yet important details, otherwise she will end up having a bad time," Kimberly says. "They end up putting in a ton of effort, but it's ruined because she's uncomfortable."

Cap off the night with drinks at Gulfstream or Landmark. "Since [you] scheduled a driver, it makes the night more relaxed and [your date] doesn't have to say 'no' to another drink," Kimberly says. For a mellow evening, retreat instead to Alta Coffee, where local musicians serenade patrons with smooth melodies on Friday and Saturday evenings.

"At the end of the night, [you] should have the driver give [your] date a bouquet of flowers," Kimberly says. "It ends the evening on a good note and makes the woman feel like she wants to go out with you again."



A ROMANTIC RIDE

Perfect for: Popping the question





Twenty-one years ago, Greg Mohr proposed to his then-girlfriend Elisa during a gondola ride through the canals behind his aunt and uncle's house on Newport Island. "I knew we wouldn't always be going on gondola rides, but we'd have [their] house to visit and remember the day we got engaged," he says.

After Elisa said "yes," the two got married and together operated a yacht charter business, which occasionally organized gondola rides in Newport. Short on gondoliers one evening, Greg threw on a black-and-white striped shirt and a straw hat, and hopped aboard a motorized gondola as a temporary replacement. Captivated by the romance the gondola provides to couples, Greg had a change in career shortly after his interim position, and soon became president of Newport Beach-based Gondola Adventures.

A ride aboard the company's crescent-shaped boat at the golden hour of the day is a private yet dazzling way to ask a life-changing question. The soft croons of "O Sole Mio" bounce off the underside of a bridge, where Greg encourages couples to kiss as they pass underneath—a gondola tradition. As the boat reaches the elbow of the canal, he drops a message in a bottle into the water out of sight from the couple. Once the boat circles around, Greg instructs the woman to pick up the bottle as the man reaches for his back pocket. The entire experience makes it hard for someone to say no to the guestion he's about to ask.

"Ladies love to share this story with their friends," Greg adds. "It's wonderfully romantic. Besides, gondolas [are] derived from one of the most romantic cities in the world. ... It's amazing what a simple ride can do for your psyche; it somehow makes you feel grounded—on the waters of Newport." NBM



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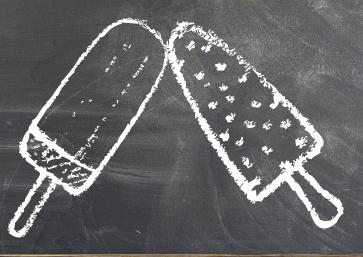


BATTLE OF THE

Baloaa

BARS

Famous for offering their own takes on the classic Newport frozen treat, two beloved establishments on Balboa Island go head to head every summer. By Lauren Matich I Photos by Jody Tiongco





n a summer afternoon on Balboa Island, visitors and residents alike gravitate toward Marine Avenue, where crowds form around two of the most well-known establishments: Dad's and Sugar 'N' Spice. Although just 100 feet away from each other, the shops share more than just the same street. They both claim to sell the island's original Balboa Bar—a chocolate-dipped ice cream confection rolled in sweet or salty toppings that has assumed a following of its own on the island.

Beach Bar Beginnings

For those who want to get the scoop on the history and culture of the city's favorite sweet treat, there's one man named Bob Teller who claims to know the Balboa Bar's beginnings—even before the treat appeared on the island. Bob first visited Balboa Island on his honeymoon, but was drawn back to the area in the early 1960s during a trip to California that was intended to help him launch a business making seatbelts. He stopped at the Fun Zone on Balboa Peninsula to buy a frozen banana and, after explaining to an uninterested clerk that he also sold frozen bananas in Phoenix, a man who overheard the conversation, Roland Vallely, approached him.

Roland was trying to rent out a store on Palm Street near the ferry landing and suggested that Teller bring his frozen banana business to the peninsula. Bob initially rejected the idea, but a few months later, he realized making seatbelts wasn't a profitable venture and decided to rent the commercial space in 1962.

"Before I left Phoenix, I was selling frozen bananas at the fair," Bob says. "I was right across from a booth that sold chocolate-dipped ice cream, and I noticed that for every banana I sold, they sold 10 ice cream bars.

"[They had] all these bars stocked in the freezer, dipped and ready to go, but [my wife], Rita, wanted a freshly dipped bar," he continues. To his surprise, the clerk was under strict orders not to dip any new ice cream bars before selling all of the stock. Banking on the witnessed success of ice cream bars, he brought his own version of the treat to his new shop—the Beach Bar. With a focus on great ingredients and a freshly dipped bar for every customer, he got to work using ice cream from Excelsior Creamery in Santa Ana and chocolate sourced from Guittard's up north.

When asked what made his Beach Bar so

popular, he says: "It's all about the process. People like to see that what they're buying is made right in front of them. They like to see how it's made and the steps that go into the finished product."

Once his business started to grow, it was successfully replicated on Balboa Island by bakeries and ice cream shops—most notably Dad's and Sugar 'N' Spice—that rebranded the confection as the Balboa Bar.

Everything Nice

"When I bought Sugar 'N' Spice, I thought I was retiring," Helen Connolly explains. Little did she know, she would be next in a long line of owners that would continue the Balboa Island tradition of crafting the perfect Balboa Bar. Since the mid-1940s, there have been five owners of Sugar 'N' Spice—and, although the history of each owner over the years has been lost to time, the love of the Balboa Bar has survived.

Helen learned how to make the bars from the previous owner, but she has since brought her own flair to the walk-up stand's menu. Her ice cream bars come with toppings such as Blue Diamond almonds, peanuts, sprinkles, coconut and her own







Dad's Balboa Bars are known around town for their generous helping of toppings, including options like peanuts as well as the signature butter brickle.

special creation, Heath pecan crunch.

"I love it, because when people and their children come to me, it's 'treat time,' and everyone's in a great mood," Helen says. "After people buy their ice cream, they sit on the bench across the sidewalk. Before I know it, the strangers sharing the bench are talking, and the benches become a happy kind of family."

The joy that Connolly spreads doesn't stop at the island youth. "... We get just as many adults coming to buy ice cream, too," she adds.

Paternal Memories

Three storefronts away from Sugar 'N' Spice, Dad's is known as "a fixture of Balboa Island," according to longtime patron Brian White, grandson of the Galley Cafe founders Myrtle and Eddie Flach. When they weren't in the kitchen, Brian and his grandfather rode their bikes to the island for one of Dad's famous bars.

"There's just something about them—maybe the way the shell crunches around the ice cream," Brian explains, before he adds that he's always taken his bars with chocolate and peanuts only—a self-described purist. "I had my first [bar] there at Dad's, and I've just kept going back ever since."

Dad's, a small walk-in shop that dates back to 1960, has a history just as unclear as its counterpart's. The current owner, Vann Yam, purchased the business in 1990, and has run it steadily ever since. Long before Vann owned the shop though, a former employee, Diane Bernie Bock, was proud

to call Joe "Dad" Anderson her boss.

Diane, who submitted a written account titled "Balboa Island Love Story" to the Balboa Island Museum and Historical Society, detailed her experience working behind the counter and dipping the treats into chocolate: "My very first shift happened to begin about an hour after a pipe had

burst in Long Beach, and a toxic cloud was wafting down the coast," she wrote. "Radio announcements cautioned everyone to remain indoors, and just as I arrived at Dad's, a fire truck cruised up and down Marine [Avenue] with a loudspeaker asking everyone one to go inside." Hearing issues made Anderson unaware of the emergency, and





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according to Bock, "... He refused to close his doors and was very grumpy about it. I wondered whether I might lose my job five minutes after I started, but fortunately it all blew over."

Since little more is officially on record about the shop's origins, what remains are memories like Brian's and Diane's. These stories, some of which go back decades, have taken the place of a formal history.

"Dad's has a personality on the island," explains Shirley Pepys, creative director of the Balboa Island Museum and Historical Society. "Since the 1980s, different groups of people have come as early at 6:30 a.m. to meet in front of Dad's. Then other groups come after 9 or 9:30 when church lets out. It's a social stop."

Despite the many anecdotes associated with the Balboa Bar, no one seems to be able to answer the million-dollar question—who served it first?

One thing is for sure: When it comes to what makes the Balboa Bar special, there are just as many answers as there are people on the island who love them, leading us to believe that there's no clear winner or loser. Some, like Bob, enjoy the process that has been handed down between owners; others, like Helen, appreciate treat time because it brings happiness to the island. An element of folklore surrounds the Balboa Bar, and though many islanders are curious about who really served it first, a little mystery just adds to the allure. NBM





THE SCORECARD

SUGAR 'N' SPICE

DAD'S

FSTABLISHED:

1945

1960

OWNER:

Helen Connolly

Vann Yam

PRICE:

TIE: \$3.50

LOCATION:

A walk-up window

310 Marine Ave.

CLAIM TO FAME:

For those who are familiar with the Newport Beach-set show, "Arrested Development," Sugar 'N' Spice is said to be one of the inspirations for the fictional Bluth family banana stand.

TOPPINGS:

The standard Blue Diamond almonds, peanuts, sprinkles and coconut, among others, plus Helen's special Heath pecan crunch

ALSO ORDER:

Frozen bananas, malts, milkshakes, fudge brownie sundaes and frozen pieces of tiramisu and cheesecake dipped in chocolate and served on sticks A walk-in shop and a window

318 Marine Ave.

Dad's is a four-star Yelp favorite, with more than twice the number of reviews as Sugar 'N' Spice.

Traditional options such as Oreo, sprinkles and peanuts, as well as the popular butter brickle

Four sizes of frozen bananas, cookies, coffee and doughnuts









Making a Lasing a Lasing

THIS SUMMER'S SWIMSUIT TRENDS ARE OFFERING WOMEN VERSATILE AND FLATTERING LOOKS FOR DAYS SPENT BASKING UNDER THE SUN—TAN LINES NOT INCLUDED.

By Bria Balliet

PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVID JAKLE FASHION DIRECTOR: JULIE FRENCH

LOCATION: PACIFIC EDGE HOTEL, LAGUNA BEACH

f there's one thing that Newport Beach locals know how to do, it's sport a killer swimsuit. A life spent amid piers, sandy beaches, yachts and coconut tanning oil has a way of preparing residents for balmy summers and bikinis like nothing else can. Swimwear, therefore, holds a special place in the hearts of Newport's residents, regardless of age, body or lifestyle.

While the rest of the world looks to the runways and fashion blogs for style inspiration, Newport only has to look to itself, its peers and the designers that call the pristine Southern California coast home. Swimsuit mavens such as Brit Barber, designer and owner of Corona del Mar-based BeachCandy Swimwear, and Oleema and Kalani Miller of Mikoh, who grew up just down the coast in San Clemente, draw inspiration from their hometowns to come up with some of the chicest and most versatile beach looks around.

rash guard," Amahlia says. "[It] was inspired by the surfer standby, but reinvented for stylesetters as a totally chic top or layering piece."

These long sleeved crop-tops are ideal for surfers as well as those looking for an easy transitional piece. After a day spent lounging at the beach, add a scarf and a pair of linen pants or a maxi skirt to convert the swimsuit into a fashionable outfit for the movies or a casual dinner.

Taking the surfer inspiration one step further, many brands are reimagining neoprene, a material commonly used to fashion wetsuits, to create bikinis with a distinct edge. Mikoh is also on board with this trend, offering the Mikoh x Surf Collection centered on seamless, hardware-free neoprene suits for surfer girls.

"[In regard to] neoprene, ... we're seeing a lot of reinvented 1980s Body Glove suits that are super amazing," says Balboa Island resident Angela Chittenden, the mastermind behind Beach Bunny Swimwear. "Of course, Beach

IS TRYING TO COVER UP TOO MUCH SOMETIMES.

- MONICA WISE

"We like to ... not follow trends, but create pieces for your wardrobe that are classic [and] that you can wear season after season—but with a bit of a modern edge," Oleema explains.

Finding a suit that will last for seasons to come and still reflect one's personality can be a daunting challenge. Luckily, from teeny bikinis and trendy prints to one-of-a-kind details, the best styles from Orange County's most talented designers have sunbathers covered when it comes to cultivating a memorable and fashionable summer.

Sporty Chic

Newport Beach is a hotbed of athletic activity year-round, with most activities taking place on or around the water. From stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) to surfing, hiking, biking and more, an active lifestyle requires a sportier bathing suit option that offers coverage and stability.

"We are most excited about our sporty highneck tops," Oleema says. These full-coverage numbers, like Mikoh's Barbados top, feel more like a sports bra than a swimsuit and reflect the need for activity-friendly beach gear that is still stylish.

Other brands, such as Vitamin A by Amahlia Stevens, are featuring athletic-inspired tops and rash guard-like designs in their new collections. "One of our most standout pieces is the Cannes

Bunny always takes it just a step further, so we've added some really big chunky zippers as well as color-blocking and a lot of cut-outs."

Strap In

When it comes to tying on a bikini this summer, the more complicated the better, with intricately crafted designs gracing the figures of more and more sunbathers. "Anything with a lot of straps or cut-outs or just additional strapping in the fronts and backs of bikinis is trending for this season," Angela says.

Though such styles would have previously caused trepidation among designers in regard to tan lines, Monica Wise, owner of L-Space, says that particular concern is becoming a thing of the past. "It seems that girls aren't as focused on their tan lines as they were in years past," she shares.

Consider, for instance, crochet: Once reserved for bedding or handmade coasters, crochet and other knit designs are currently making a huge impact on the swimwear world. Michele Letarte Ross, who owns and operates Letarte (which is opening a store at Fashion Island this year) with her sister Lisa Letarte Cabrinha, is noticing an increased interest in the trend as well.

"Crochet is very big in the market right now, so a few of our swimsuit styles have crochet incorporated into the tops and the bottoms," she says. "And all of our crochet is handmade ... so each suit is unique."

To work more intricate straps into a swimsuit, designers are getting creative and including the details in unexpected ways. For example, Mikoh's Kahala top features a lattice design with multiple straps crisscrossing up to a high neckline Alternately, BeachCandy's Isabella top features a number of cascading straps across the front of the suit that offer dimension and movement with more durability than traditional fringe.

Pattern Play

Complex weaving isn't the only way that suits are standing out this season. Veering away from the basic black bikini, swim companies are playing with bold patterns and creating truly unique designs. "We're doing a lot of prints that look a little bit tribal, almost geometric," Brit says of BeachCandy's new summer line. "It's a very pretty color story, especially on a lot of skin tones."

Hawaii-based San Lorenzo Bikinis, whose sole mainland location sits in Fashion Island, is revamping its line this summer with stunning, tropical paradise-inspired prints in bright and bold hues that flatter nearly any skin tone.

"This collection is all about representing the brightest colors and the colors that represent paradise—strong, bold floral colors," says Mariella St. John, San Lorenzo's marketing director. The hibiscus jungle print embodies this trend, utilizing bright coral and aqua hues to make up the daring hibiscus bloom and animal print pattern.

Alternately, Letarte, whose collection is "about 80 percent print-driven," according to Michele, is bringing its customers island-inspired designs in neutral colors with a pop, such as the tribal and candy reef prints. L-Space is also turning heads this season with its tribal designs and bright watercolor prints, while Beach Bunny is opting for candy-colored florals paired with lace.

Mix it Up

With so many enticing prints to choose from, how can a beach babe settle on just one? Designers are now making the decision easier by not only creating their suits in a plethora of fun colors and prints, but also by selling their tops and bottoms as separates and reversible.

"You can match a solid top to a printed bottom or vice-versa," Michele says of Letarte's collection.

L-Space is also encouraging the popularity of mixing pieces, specifically with denim prints. "Denim goes with anything in your wardrobe, so why wouldn't a bikini work the same way?" Monica asks.

To successfully combine different patterns



and colors, one should be mindful of the overall desired look—whether it's exotic, glamorous, flirty, et cetera—and stick to a cohesive theme rather than trying to fit too much onto one suit. Pairing a denim-printed top with a multicolored tie-dye bottom, for example, gives off a casual California vibe, while a simple coral-colored top pairs well with a tribal-inspired bottom half.

The option to mix pieces and patterns makes creating a signature style effortless, while reversible suits, such as those offered by L-Space and San Lorenzo, allow shoppers to get double the looks for the price of one.

Teeny Bikini

Though bathing suits are already notorious for offering scant coverage, the newly popular Brazilian-style bottoms are sure to make even the most daring fashionistas blush upon first look. The minimal-coverage trend is gaining new fans every day, however.

"The truth is that it is more flattering," Mariella says, adding that San Lorenzo enhances its skimpy bottoms with delicate ruching details and feminine bows. "Instead of wearing a baggy bottom that isn't going to show your assets, you might as well show what you have."

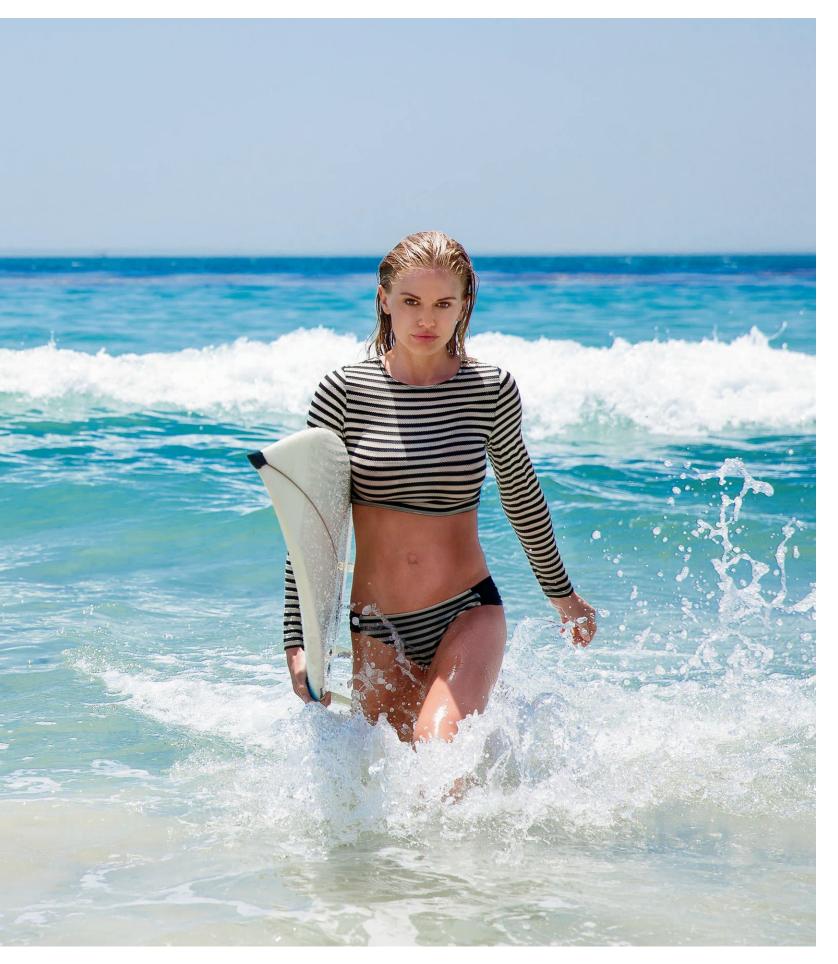
Offering very little coverage in both front and back, the tiny garment allows for a better tan and also enhances the figure. Accordingly, L-Space's Itsy bottom is continually one of the brand's best-sellers, according to Monica. "A big mistake [women make] is trying to cover up too much sometimes, where they would probably look a lot shapelier if they didn't go for so much coverage in the derriere," she explains.

For those who would rather forgo such a petite bottom, more coverage can be equally flattering as long as it fits properly. The Ava corset bottom from Vitamin A is a great option that allows for adjustable sizing with side ties. "The lace-up corset styling is both fashionable and functional, made to adjust for a perfect fit," Amahlia says.

Or, for a truly customized look, Brit and her team at BeachCandy can tailor a bespoke bikini to fit you like a glove. Brit points out that traditional sizing is extremely limited with typically only five sizes, while custom swimwear will ensure a well-fitting suit that flatters and lasts for years to come.

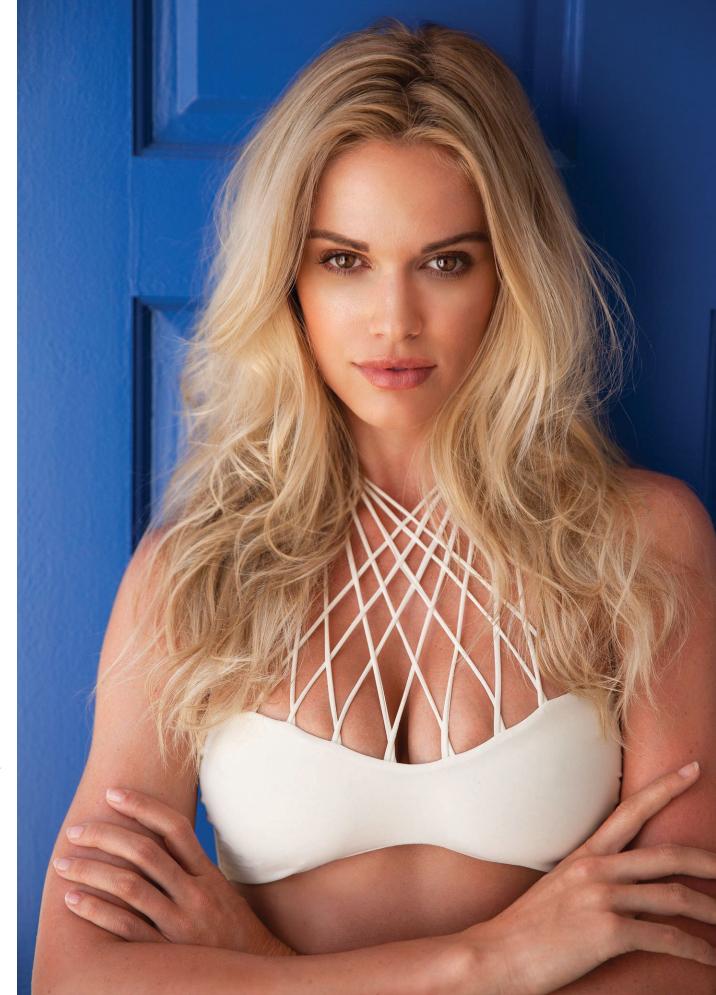
With so many incredible designers right in Newport's backyard, there's no reason for to go anywhere else for your swimwear needs. Whether following the latest trends or sticking to timeless styles, the lovely ladies who outfit beachgoers along the coast ensure that you leave the store with a stylish suit in hand and killer confidence to complement the look.







Kahala top, \$100, Bondi bottom (not pictured), \$78, by Mikoh, available at Molly Brown's Swimwear, Newport Beach



Opposite page: Hippie Chic top, \$95, Forget Me Knot bottom, \$105, by L-Space, available at Molly Brown's Swimwear, Newport Beach; aviator sunglasses, \$346, by Valentino, available at Bloomingdale's, South Coast Plaza







Tribal print bikini with Swarovski beaded top, \$258, bottom, \$437, earrings, \$24, all available at BeachCandy, Corona del Mar; sunglasses, \$250, by Dolce & Gabbana, bracelet, \$101.50, by Alexis Bittar, both available at Bloomingdale's, South Coast Plaza NBM













OCEAN STRONG

The Newport Beach Junior Lifeguards program celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2014.

BY TAYLOR DUTCH

here is a white trailer located at the end of A Street next to the Balboa Pier—a nondescript structure that most beachgoers will simply walk past on their way to the water. For the past three decades years, however, that trailer is where thousands of Newport locals grew up as they trained to be guardians of the sea and shore.

Meeting regularly for seven weeks, kids ranging from 9 to 16 gather at the trailer beginning in late June to take part in the Newport Beach Junior Lifeguards program. An important rite of passage for those who spent their earliest years swimming

like fish in the ocean, the junior guards program offers in-depth instruction as part of the training division of the fire department. From ocean safety to physical development and first aid skills, junior guards learn it all, with a healthy dose of competition and camaraderie to boot.

"It's a different part of life," says lifeguard officer George Leeper, who joined the junior lifeguards division in 2012 as a supervisor. "School puts so much focus on your grades and learning, [but] at junior guards we try to teach them social skills and confidence, getting over your fears in adverse situations."

Beginning with a vision from Reenie Boyer, the third female lifeguard in the county's history, Newport Beach Junior Lifeguards was launched in 1984 with a starting class of just 50 kids and three lifeguard instructors. Thirty-one years later, there are now 50 highly skilled instructors who teach more than 1,400 kids, with two sessions a day for varying age groups—and as the 30th anniversary season approaches later this June, the program shows no signs of slowing down.

In fact, the white trailer that is iconic to so many kids who grew up in junior guards is one indicator of the program's impressive growth. It started as a





Newport Beach Junior Lifeguards instills a sense of respect for the ocean in its participants, in addition to fostering camaraderie, competition and tradition throughout its 30-year history.





double-wide structure in 1984, but has since grown to become a triple-wide that accommodates just one-third of Newport Beach's 160-person seasonal lifeguard staff. George remembers the trailer from his junior lifeguard beginnings in the late 1980s, when he entered the program at 9 years old. From that point on, he was hooked.

"I'm re-falling in love with it all," George says of the program. "It's coming full circle. I was away from it while doing boat [rescues], but now I'm running full speed with it from here."

Using a classroom-type environment combined with outside activities, Newport Beach Junior Lifeguards works to instill respect and appreciation for the beach that locals call home. Among the most popular programs of its kind in Orange County, slots disappear within minutes once registration opens online in the early spring. Candidates are tested for aptitude, with requirements that include timed 100-yard swims and three minutes of treading water.

Throughout the seven weeks, they not only

learn basics like building their comfort level in the waves and increasing overall physical ability, but also important skills such as how to respond in emergency situations, escape rip currents and prevent injuries while swimming.

"The instructors make it so fun because they're funny," says 13-year-old junior lifeguard Alli Cunningham. "I just love the beach and the ocean."

Alli is entering her fourth year with the program in 2014, and says that it's played a huge role in the way she views the ocean as a Newport Beach resident. She started because her mom thought the program taught important skills, and four years later, the water feels like home.

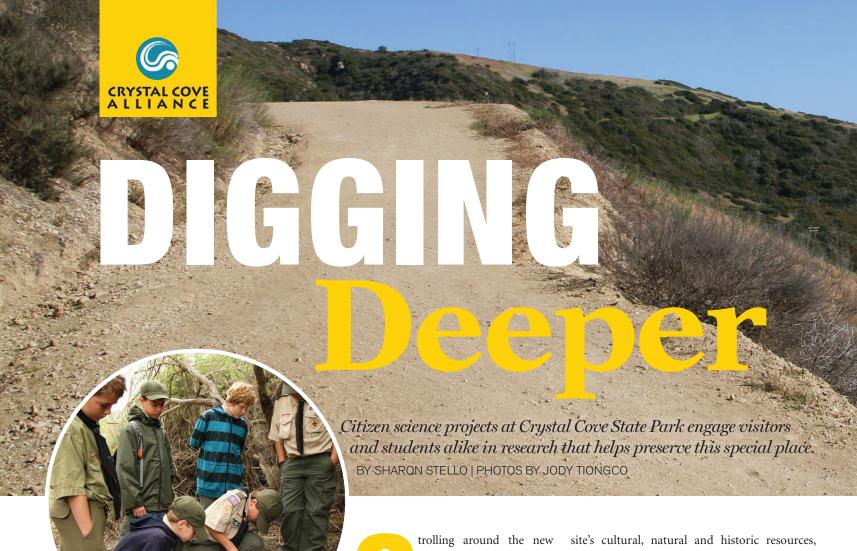
Despite the serious focus that goes into training, the program also adds exciting twists to keep the kids engaged, including friendly competitions with their peers as well as with other neighboring junior lifeguard agencies. Annual competitions like the Monster Mile, a race where junior lifeguards run a mile in the sand and swim backall while in themed costumes—have helped give guards like Alli confidence in the ocean.

"We teach them how to play responsibly," George emphasizes. "Like how to have a really good time and how to do it right."

Junior guards definitely understand the importance of play. Traditions continue to live on and instill the same fun attitude that has helped grow the program over the past 31 years. Events such as the annual hot dog dinner, where instructors provide food, games, karaoke and even a dunk tank, have brought the community together year

At the end of seven weeks, kids have learned valuable lessons in ocean safety, but more importantly, they've come to appreciate the water and have fun while doing it.

"In the beginning, there will be kids that won't touch the water because they're afraid of the waves, and at the end they're bodysurfing and taking on the biggest waves of their life and being OK with it," George adds. "That's what's great about junior guards." NВМ



WANTED: MINI SCIENTISTS

Mini science stations are housed in ramadas along the Berns Environmental Study Loop, allowing visitors to take part in research. Here, explore a few of the stations' subjects. For more information, visit crystalcove.net.

NATURE'S TRESPASSERS: Invasive plants and animals threaten biodiversity in the park. For example, Argentine ants are crowding out native harvester ants, which provide food for lizards and toads.

ROCKS THAT MOVE: Forces above and below the surface cause erosion of cliffs. **EARLY RESIDENTS:** Long before Crystal Cove was a state park, the land was home to native people called the Acjachemen.

Berns Environmental Study
Loop trail at Crystal Cove
State Park, visitors can
become scientists for the
day, measuring wind speed,
peering into a bladderpod bush to find brightly
colored harlequin bugs, or listening for the distinct calls of threatened California gnatcatcher
birds and recording how many they count.

These are just some of the citizen science projects that thousands of community members, schoolchildren and youth groups are participating in, providing data for research that helps preserve the park while learning about the environment.

Visitors counting harlequin bugs learn that this indicator species provides insight into the ecosystem's health. The bugs' survival depends on bladderpod plants, which are sensitive to temperature variation, so scientists study both in hopes of better understanding how climate change may impact plants and animals in the park. That effort includes tracking the bugs' population.

Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA), the state park's nonprofit partner committed to protecting the

site's cultural, natural and historic resources, coordinates more than a dozen of these types of citizen science projects.

This unprecedented effort to host hands-on projects on public lands is seen as a model that could be replicated throughout California's vast state park system. The outdoor lessons complement classroom instruction and textbook reading to teach science, technology, engineering and math, bringing to life these so-called STEM subjects that have seen a great many students fall by the wayside.

"A lot of people talk about it, but this is a place where they're actually doing something about it," says Maj. Gen. Anthony Jackson, the director of California State Parks. "This is a model park. I wish I could bottle what this community has ... and take that bottle to all 280 state parks. [The system] would run itself."

Harry Helling, president and CEO of CCA, sees the park as a proving ground for innovative teaching methods to provide educators with engaging ways to meet new curriculum standards. "We truly have turned Crystal Cove into a laboratory for testing these new approaches," he says.





Students participate in the field study stations.

Interactive Initiatives

Since 1999, projects primarily have focused on the beach side of the park, with experiments looking at ocean acidification, boat cruises to study sea life and water quality, and box kits that children can borrow to scout for dolphins and report back in exchange for a free book. But, with the February 2014 opening of the Berns Environmental Study Loop in the park's Moro Canyon section, several inland projects were added.

The half-mile trail—made possible thanks to a \$1 million donation from Laguna Beach residents Michael and Tricia Berns—is part of the 35-acre



Students log data as part of a citizen science project.

restoration of a former trailer park. In addition to the walking path with eight mini field science stations, new features include an amphitheater, fire pit and student staging area for campfire programs, Junior Ranger courses and guided walks.

"The Environmental [Study] Loop is a place where the kids can get their hands on real science," Anthony says. "... With the thousands of kids that will go through here, you're going to get the next great scientist."

While students and community members hone their science skills, they also contribute to real research. Crystal Cove is an attractive study

ON THE TRAIL

When venturing out on the trails at Crystal Cove State Park, hikers may come across a wide range of plants and animals as the park provides habitat for all kinds of wildlife. Here are just a few of the species that might be encountered, as shared by Sara Ludovise, education manager with Crystal Cove Alliance.

PLANTS

BLADDERPOD: With

yellow flowers, green seedpods and a strong smell, this plant provides food for the harlequin bug, a species monitored to learn whether park restoration is working.



ELDERBERRY: Acjachemen Indians call it the "tree of music" as they make clapper sticks and flutes from its branches; also used for medicinal purposes and provides food for wildlife.

MUSTARD: Introduced by the Spanish to mark the El Camino Real in the 1800s, mustard has since spread all over Southern California. CCA seeks to remove this invasive plant from the park.

WHITE SAGE: This light-colored plant, with light purple flowers in spring, is important to the Acjachemen, who burn it in purifying rituals and religious ceremonies.

ANIMALS

BOBCAT: These shy, spotted felines are rarely seen by people, but paw prints or scat may occasionally be seen on the trail.



CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER: This

dusky gray bird is has a distinctive "zeeer" call that's easy to recognize.

WESTERN FENCE LIZARD: Notable for the bright blue coloring on its underside, these small reptiles often sun themselves on rocks or along the trail's edge.

DUSKY-FOOTED WOOD RAT: As

nocturnal creatures, wood rats are rarely seen during the day, but observant hikers might find one of their nests hidden along the trail.



Local Boy Scouts compare soil samples they've collected to learn about where water goes in Moro Canyon.

site due to the largely untouched habitat-particularly in the backcountry-and ongoing restoration. "Crystal Cove is at the very tail end of one of the last remaining pristine watersheds in Orange County," says Sara Ludovise, CCA education manager. "... It's a chance for us to understand how a watershed in its purest form is working and how it's supposed to work."

Researchers from top universities have conducted studies at Crystal Cove for years, but their efforts weren't widely publicized. By seeking help from visitors, an extensive amount of data can be amassed. "It turns out that there's a lot of great science that happens in this park—that, in fact, happens in every park," Harry says. "The power of citizen science ... is that you have many eyes at all times in the park focused on many things."

Student Scientists

Some of those citizen scientists are students from El Morro Elementary School, located right next to the park. An after-school citizen science club of fourth- and fifth-graders met twice a week over two months this winter, visiting the park to collect data, then analyzing and presenting their findings. Fifteen students used special tools to measure soil moisture and plant transpiration water released through leaves—to examine where water goes in Moro Canyon and whether the type of landscape affects the water's path.

"They're really fun," says fourth-grader Sherwin Riahi about the projects. "... I like how they're kind of complicated, and I like that we get to take the information and put it on iPad minis."

"I kind of like working with the plants because I like nature, and I like finding out what they're called," fourth-grader Colette Reed adds. "And I like to be able to point them out to my dad when we go hiking."

While the students are having fun, they're also discovering. "I learned that [there are] different plants in different climates and they all have a different way to survive," says fourth-grader Theo Coffey. "... If other plants come in that weren't originally here, they'll just destroy the ones that were already here."

Jennifer Long, a University of California, Irvine graduate student who leads the El Morro group, is studying whether citizen science projects help children complete the scientific process from hypothesis to presentation and grasp difficult concepts such as water cycles.

Notably, data collected by the students contributes to research by Travis Huxman, a UCI professor of ecology and evolutionary biology. Travis has been exploring water's role in an ecosystem, how it moves through Moro Canyon from rain to stream to underground aquifer and back to the ocean, and how much is used and transpired by plants. "The park is a great place to look at this," Travis says. "... It's one of the very few watersheds that's mostly intact that drains into the ocean."

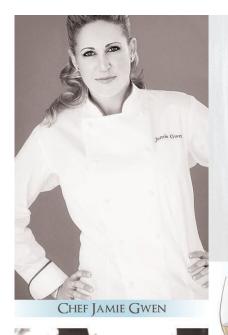
Answering big picture questions—like "where does the water go?"—may help the land's administrators make restoration decisions. Bringing research and education together, Travis says, benefits both students and scientists. "Crystal Cove is one of these unique places in the world where building science there just really enriches the experience," he explains.

Reimagining these public spaces with science projects allows students to explore parks in a whole new way, Sara adds. "It helps them see that a lot of the things they've been learning in school have a real-world application," she says. "Seeing that moment when they tell you they get the concept for the first time ... when they light up like that, it really inspires me."

For students at Dana Hills High School, skills learned at Crystal Cove will be applied in an Earthwatch Institute trip to study brown hyenas in South Africa next year as part of a Global Sustainability Project. Dolores Dang-Wright,



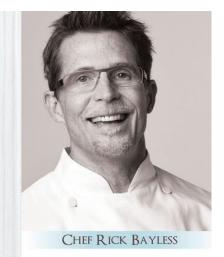
Motion-sensor trap cameras track animals and help citizen scientists learn more about the natural habitat.



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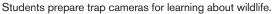














Brownies learn about water conservation during World Water Day on March 22.

who teaches environmental science at Dana Hills High, was one of four local teachers selected for the project.

Nearly 20 juniors and seniors in Dolores' class have laid the groundwork for the trip by learning how to use motion-sensor trap cameras, necessary equipment for the expedition. Students used cameras donated by the Irvine Ranch Conservancy to determine where animals live in Crystal Cove. These students won't be among the 11 selected for the trip, but set the stage for next year's students by learning how to operate the cameras, design the setup, collect data and communicate their findings—skills needed for scientific research. "They're getting real, hands-on research [experience] using tools that we don't have normally in a classroom," Dolores says.

Junior Sarah Haghi says going to the park every couple of weeks and setting up the cameras, then reviewing the photos of wood rats, rabbits and birds, and telling the public about this work at the loop trail opening were memorable experiences.

"I think it's so much fun to be a part of such an important concept and an important goal," she says. "These areas are so valuable because it really preserves the wildlife there."

Community Collaboration

Beyond schools, other youth groups also are involved in these science projects. Local Boy Scouts camp at the top of Moro Canyon to study soil and water conservation while Girl Scouts visit Crystal Cove to learn about animal habitats and more. On March 22, local Brownies participated

in World Water Day at the park, discussing water conservation, the current drought and ways to solve the problem.

However, not all of the participants are children. Companies in the region will be sending volunteer groups of employees to remove invasive plants, and adults from the Braille Institute of America's Anaheim center have helped count birds by listening for their calls and made audio recordings of water in the park.

Linda Becker, who teaches a sensory awareness class at the institute, brings blind and visually impaired students to the park to use hearing as well as olfactory and tactile senses to learn about their surroundings. Her class was invited to check out the Environmental Study Loop before it opened to the public.

Linda says this helped students fine-tune their listening skills because they had to pick out the gnatcatcher's call from the sounds of quail, crows and other birds, as well as rushing water, wind through the trees and people walking and talking along the trail. And, helping with research to preserve this special place means a lot to Linda and her class. "This is our way of giving back," she says. "It was just a magnificent feeling that we could help with research on a different level."

It's clear that Crystal Cove has touched the lives and hearts of people throughout the community. Now, with the many educational opportunities at Crystal Cove, there's an abundance of ways that visitors can continue that connection and, literally, dig deeper into the history and natural habitat to help preserve it for years to come. NBM



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BOUNDLESS SUMER DAYS

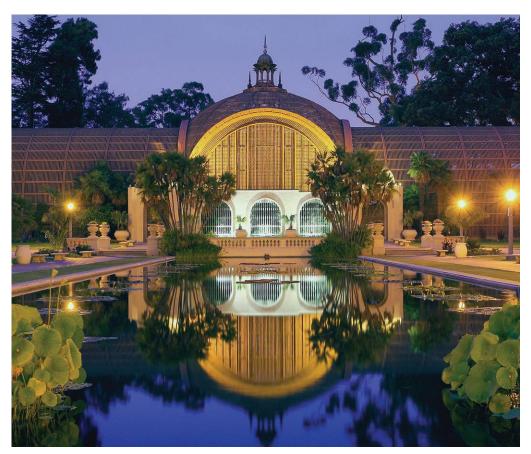
Hitch a ride on a road trip through some of Southern California's most celebrated surf towns.

BY TESS EYRICH

t's summer again in Newport, that special time of year when full days at the beach and late brunches at Mutt Lynch's become a bit more commonplace. We live in a beautiful town—a place—so remarkable that it's often difficult to leave—but it turns out

we don't live on an actual island, after all. What's more, Southern California's rugged coastline is ripe for exploration, so pack up the car and hit the road for a summertime adventure through a patchwork of the area's most timeless beach retreats.





Balboa Park is a one-stop center of entertainment with museums, historic buildings, gardens and restaurants.

San Diego Style

If Los Angeles is a cool older sister and Orange County a mellow younger brother, San Diego is something like a too-often overlooked middle child: It's a perfect medium between an urban playground and a laid-back beach town, and it offers healthy doses of culture, entertainment and outdoor adventure.

Get a feel for San Diego's rich history at Balboa Park, a 1,200-acre nirvana that plays host to museums; preserved buildings like the Marston House, built in 1905; and sprawling gardens divided by theme. The San Diego Museum of Art is the area's oldest and largest art museum, with an impressive collection that includes works by greats such as El Greco, Diego Rivera, Henri Matisse and Georgia O'Keeffe.

Just outside, lush spaces like the Spanish Alcazar Garden, sunken stone Zoro Garden and succulent-bedecked Desert Garden beckon; the crown jewel, however, is without a doubt the latticework Botanical Building, which debuted in 1915 and is home to an astounding collection of ferns, palms and rare cycads.

Stay for lunch at The Prado, Balboa Park's award-winning restaurant, or head deeper into the eclectic North Park neighborhood for even more dining and shopping alternatives. Carnitas'

Snack Shack spotlights products with a menu that changes daily (think rib-eye steak sandwiches with chipotle aioli and pulled pork poutine with white cheddar and bacon gravy). Best of all, the roadside stand is open until midnight every night of the week to satisfy those after-hours cravings.

Also in North Park are world-within-a-world boutiques like high-end home shop Pigment, known for its selection of materials used to assemble do-it-yourself terrariums, and legendary vinyl store Off the Record, where Nirvana played a set in 1991.

If you're more in your element in the great outdoors, travel north into La Jolla, where La Jolla Sea Cave Kayaks offers guided tours of the coastline's seven sea caves, six of which are only accessible by water. The seventh, Sunny Jim cave, can be entered via the 145-stair underground tunnel that originates inside the historic Sunny Jim Cave Store. Explore the abyss for just \$4, or drive up Pacific Coast Highway and into the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, a pictureperfect stretch of land where rolling swells hug pastel sea cliffs laced with more than 8 miles of pristine hiking trails.

Of course, perhaps the ultimate harbinger of summer in Southern California—opening day at Del Mar-happens just 10 minutes from the



Enjoy a steak sandwich at Carnitas' Snack Shack.



Opening day at Del Mar racetrack is July 17.

reserve at the Del Mar racetrack. The 2014 season launches July 17 and continues through Sept. 3; even if you're not a fan of the sport, stop by for one of the track's popular post-race concerts (past headliners include Fitz and the Tantrums, Pinback and Weezer).

As you leave the San Diego area, be sure to make a few final detours in Encinitas, located along the coast in the northern part of the county. Leucadia Surf School offers lessons for beginners at Moonlight State Beach, while stronger waves can be had at Swami's, one of the iconic surf spots immortalized by the Beach Boys in "Surfin' U.S.A." The cafe is named for famed yogi swami Paramahansa Yogananda, whose Self-Realization Fellowship temple sits on a bluff just above the sand. The temple's grounds welcome visitors, and the surrounding koi ponds, meditation gardens and scenic overlooks are some of the most spectacular sights in all of Encinitas.

On your way out, grab a treat at the Leucadia Donut Shoppe, the friendly red-and-white storefront owned by Tom and Emily Cheu, and cap off the experience with a stroll through downtown Leucadia's stretch of fun vintage shops (Lou's Records, Surfy Surfy) and up-and-coming boutiques (Aloha Sunday Supply Co., Seaweed and Gravel).





An LA Story, Retold

Making your way toward LA, you'll pass through the collection of retro beach towns that put Southern California on the map during the postwar period: first Redondo Beach, then Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Venice Beach and Santa Monica. Continue along Pacific Coast Highway and you'll end up in Malibu, the utopian paradise that's evolved into more of a state of mind than a city after decades of being depicted in films and TV shows ranging from "Gidget" to "Baywatch."

The town has maintained its locals-only roots, but with a decidedly contemporary edge. Rapid modernization has occurred over the past decade, thanks in large part to Oracle Corp. founder Larry Ellison, who continues to snap up and revamp floundering Carbon Beach properties like the former Casa Malibu Inn, which closed last year. While the oceanfront digs undergo renovations, visitors can dine at Nikita and Nobu restaurants located on adjoining parcels of land owned by the tech billionaire.

For a more organic experience, however, head to Malibu Farm, the year-old cafe at the end of the Malibu Pier. Helmed by chef Helene Henderson, Malibu Farm is entirely focused on freshness, with standards like burgers, sandwiches and salads reimagined to incorporate produce and eggs sourced from Helene's own coop.

At the opposite end of the Malibu coastline, Geoffrey's is the city's most buzzed-about brunch spot due to its first-class food and unbeatable location—every seat on the patio affords panoramic ocean views. Just minutes from Geoffrey's, the trail that snakes through Point Dume State Beach constitutes more of a brisk walk than a hike, but it yields access to stunning Paradise Cove, the bohemian beach community also known as the most expensive mobile home park in the world. Meanwhile, if you trek across



Clockwise from top left: Moonshadows Malibu; Santa Monica Pier; Getty Villa



Point Dume, you'll stumble upon Zuma Beach, a more intimate hideaway that typically draws fewer tourists.

Even if you're not swimsuit-ready, Malibu offers a variety of under-the-radar activities that will help you see the neighborhood in a whole new light. The area is especially gratifying for architecture buffs, with historic homes like Adamson House—designed by renowned architect Stiles O. Clements in Spanish colonial revival and Moorish revival styles—open to the public on a daily basis. Known for its thousands of colorful painted tiles, detailed carvings and ironwork, Adamson House is a must-see property.

International influences also take center stage at the Getty Villa, a multilevel, indoor-outdoor complex that contains more than 44,000 Greek, Roman and Etruscan antiquities. The impressive space was built in the 1970s to mimic a firstcentury Mediterranean villa, and its pools, manicured gardens and 450-seat outdoor theater are testaments to J. Paul Getty's remarkable vision.

Or, enjoy the work of a different kind of visionary, Fred Segal, whose Malibu Country Mart has grown from a humble base camp for little-known European labels into a starstudded retail destination with more than 50 high-end clothing, accessories and housewares stores. End the day with dinner at Giovanni Ristorante Italiano and drinks at local watering hole Moonshadows, and you'll have experienced a quintessential Malibu evening.



Clockwise from top left: A view of Santa Barbara; Museum of Ventura County; Finch & Fork



Santa Barbara in Bloom

Just this once, ditch the freeway and head toward Santa Barbara via Pacific Coast Highway-a lengthier drive but also an infinitely more memorable one. Leo Carrillo and Point Mugu state parks give way to Ventura, a sun-drenched artists' town.

Soak up the sights at the Bell Arts Factory, a refurbished manufacturing space that's been transformed into 30 studio spaces and offers demonstrations and lectures by resident artists. Another option is to head to the Museum of Ventura County for its revolving exhibitions and collection of mind-blowingly lifelike historical figures by George Stuart. Over the past 50 years, George has handcrafted more than 400 historically accurate depictions of personalities ranging from Cleopatra to Abraham Lincoln—many of which have been displayed in places like the Smithsonian Institution and presidential libraries.

Hold off on grabbing a snack until you reach Santa Barbara, where La Super-Rica Taqueria has more than earned its reputation as Julia Child's favorite taco stand for its freshly made tortillas and tamales. If you're looking for something more substantial, Los Agaves serves up awardwinning Mexican standards like ceviche, tostadas, burritos and enchiladas.

Work off the calories with the team from Santa Barbara Adventure Co., which offers guided kayaking tours of the Santa Barbara coastline and Refugio State Beach, as well as daily twilight trips that give paddlers front-row seats for gorgeous sunsets.

Back on land, be sure to step into downtown's



Finch & Fork restaurant for appetizers or a full meal. Sophisticated styling (think dark woods and polished metals) coupled with inspired dishes and artisanal cocktails make this one of Santa Barbara's most coveted reservations-order the fried chicken sliders with cilantro slaw or the slow-braised short rib, and steel yourself for a culinary epiphany. By this point you're sure to be in the throes of a food coma, so unwind with a movie at West Wind's Santa Barbara Drive-In. which screens classic films, contemporary blockbusters and double features.

But you'll need at least another half-day to fully take in one of the most fascinating landmarks the area has to offer. Located just miles from Santa Barbara in Montecito, Ganna Walska Lotusland is an expansive 37-acre property complete with more than 15 enchanting gardens. The gardens comprise just one part of the preserved estate of the late Madame Ganna Walska, a Polish opera singer and horticulturalist; touring them is a transformative experience that can be arranged by appointment only, so be sure to book reservations in advance.

And, as you prepare to return to Orange County—hopefully with a gourmet pastry from Jeannine's Bakery & Restaurant in hand-don't be afraid to take the long way home.

REST YOUR HEAD

Much more than just pit stops between destinations on the map, these hotels and resorts offer luxury accommodations and amenities guaranteed to enhance any Southern California road trip.

SAN DIEGO/LA JOLLA

Hotel Solamar San Diego: Sleek and stylish, Hotel Solamar is the definition of contemporary luxury and offers palatial guest rooms along with a rooftop pool, the poolside LoungeSix bar and recently renovated Jsix restaurant. Enjoy in-room spa services, petfriendly accommodations and more. (hotelsolamar.com)

Omni San Diego Hotel: Perfect for families, the Omni San Diego is centrally located in the historic Gaslamp Quarter and boasts close proximity to Balboa Park and Petco Park, home of the Padres. (omnihotels.com/sandiego)

Pier South Resort: Opened earlier this year, the boutique Pier South Resort is an all-suite LEED Silver-certified property on Imperial Beach offering a full-service spa and a restaurant with 180-degree views of the Pacific. (piersouthresort.com)



Bacara Resort & Spa: A Mediterranean oasis in the heart of Santa Barbara, Bacara Resort & Spa's 354 artfully appointed guest rooms and suites sit just beside the surf and are complemented by three golf courses and four restaurants. (bacararesort.com)

Canary Hotel: A block away from State Street, the charming Canary Hotel is a boutique property with an elegant lobby, spacious accommodations, a rooftop pool and the delightful Finch & Fork restaurant. (canarysantabarbara.com)

The Fess Parker, a DoubleTree by Hilton Resort: Recently rehabbed, The Fess Parker offers the definitive Santa Barbara experience with 360 pet-friendly guest rooms on a 24-acre resort property. (fessparkersantabarbarahotel.com)



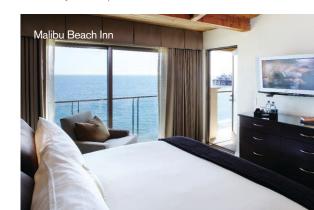
LOS ANGELES

Malibu Beach Inn: David Geffen's Carbon Beach pet project is an intimate 47-room sanctuary just steps from the shore and minutes from Malibu's top-ranked restaurants, beaches and attractions. (malibubeachinn.com)

Malibu Country Inn: A more casual option, the Cape Cod-style Malibu Country Inn has 16 guest rooms, many of them with private patios and all with views of a garden. (malibucountryinn.com)

Oceana Beach Club Hotel: Situated a few miles down the coast from Malibu, this Santa Monica hotel is a friendly retreat built around a dazzling pool area, and it also features the culinary talents of award-winning chef Josiah Citrin. (hoteloceanasantamonica.com)

Hotel Palomar: Nestled between Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, the hotel offers 350-square-foot guest rooms and suites with sweeping views of the city. (hotelpalomar-lawestwood.com) NBM



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THEATER ON TOUR.

Shakespeare by the Sea transforms open parks into theatrical arenas as it travels across Southern California each summer, hitting Newport Beach in July.

BY PETER A. BALASKAS

or more than 15 years, Shakespeare by the Sea (SBTS) has brought a special type of theatrical magic to the Newport Beach community, offering the highest quality Shakespearean productions while beautiful outdoor scenery serves as its backdrop. According to Lisa Coffi, producing artistic director of the nonprofit touring company, what has helped SBTS's longevity is the dedication of her volunteer staff and the loyalty of her Southern California patrons, including those in Newport. "[The] goal with our summer

Shakespeare program ... is to present work that is both spectacular and profound in neighborhood communities," she explains. "We provide opportunities for residents and visitors to come together to enjoy beautifully crafted timeless tales, with completely ticketless admission, for a priceless community experience."

SBTS's 2014 season will present two of the Bard's most popular works: "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a raucous comedy involving magically confused lovers and fairies, and "Hamlet," the classic tragedy centered on the revenge between the titular character and his uncle. The Newport Beach performances (July 19-20) take place at the expansive Bonita Canyon Sports Park at the corner of Ford Road and San Miguel Drive, where patrons can camp out on the grassy lawns between the baseball fields.

Lisa encourages people to come early—around 5 p.m.—and watch the actors and production personnel unload the sets and technical gear from their 15-foot box truck. The audience can see the theater group assemble the entire set, build the dressing rooms and hook up all the lighting and sound equipment within an hour. By 6 p.m., the music begins and everyone can continue to claim their places on the grass, bringing with them their own blankets, chairs, food baskets and other picnic items. A few of the actors then appear on stage around 6:15 p.m. to sell raffle tickets.

A concession booth before the show and during the 15-minute intermission sells coffee, hot chocolate, soda, water and a variety of snacks. There is also a gift booth selling T-shirts, sweatshirts and other SBTS memorabilia, including playbills. Promptly at 7 p.m., the play begins, and is scheduled to conclude by 9 p.m. To ensure an engaging experience for all ages, the plays presented by SBTS have been edited down to a one







Above and bottom right: "Four Fools," 2010; top right: "Romeo and Juliet," 2012

Clockwise from top left: "Romeo and Juliet," 2012; "King Lear", 2011; "All's Well That Ends Well," 2013; "Merchant of Venice," 2007





AICKEY ELLIOT

hour and 45 minute run time—no exceptions.



Lisa says that Newport Beach has consistently shown its support for the program. The combination of the summer weather and the city's picturesque scenery brings dynamic, creative "electricity" for the actors and production staff. It also helps that Newport produces one of the largest audience turnouts—approximately 1,000 people per night—proving that Shakespeare possesses a timeless charm that appeals to all ages and cultural tastes.

"... Shakespeare was successful because he wrote plays with universal themes—love, hatred, jealously [and] joy," she says. "It's our job to make sure those themes are present in the production, ... to portray and convey a central [idea] that everyone can relate to."

Lisa's decision to produce ticket-free, public Shakespearean plays originated in 1998 when she created SBTS as part of her thesis project at California State University, Long Beach. After garnering an audience of approximately 3,000 people for its debut in San Pedro, SBTS proved itself as a viable touring theater company and began producing two Shakespeare plays every summer thereafter at more than 20 locations across Southern California. To recoup expenses, SBTS receives a majority of its funding from grants, sponsorships and personal donations, including small stipends offered by the cities where it performs.

Looking forward, Lisa hopes to add a third show and a summer youth program to the regular season. As long as there are supportive local businesses and city representatives who share a passion for quality work, this is a likely possibility as SBTS continues to grow. And according to Jana Barbier, the former cultural arts coordinator for Newport Beach who resigned last year, the theater company is a welcome addition to the performing arts scene in the city. As she's said to Lisa in the past, "[SBTS] provide[s] a great interactive experience for the audience and make[s] Shakespeare something accessible for the average person."

THE BOYS ARE BACK

"Jersey Boys" was an instant box office hit when it debuted on Broadway and toured across America, winning the 2006 Tony Award for Best Musical, the 2006 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album and, most recently, the 2009 Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Relive this rags-to-riches story about Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massi, who formed the 1960s rock 'n' roll group The Four Seasons, as the production takes the stage at Segerstrom Hall from June 24 to July 13.

Written by Academy Award-winner Marshall Brickman and directed by Tony Awardwinner Des McAnuffritten, the production explores the creation, success and breakup of one of the country's most legendary musical groups. With two acts spanning the four different seasons, this national tour brings audiences to their feet with hits like "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Rag Doll," "Walk Like a Man," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" and "Who Loves You." (714-556-2787; scfta.org)



calendar



PACIFIC SYMPHONY WITH BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY

JULY 4: VERIZON WIRELESS AMPHITHEATRE, IRVINE

As part of the band's 21st anniversary, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy joins Pacific Symphony to revitalize the lively tempos of the 1940s and the 1950s swing dance eras. Snap your fingers and tap your feet as the group performs hits such as "Go Daddy-O" and "Mr. Pinstripe Suit." The concert concludes with a Fourth of July celebration featuring fireworks and a salute to our military forces. (714-755-5799; pacificsymphony.org)

"HAPPY MEDIUM"

THROUGH JUNE 28; ORANGE COUNTY CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. SANTA ANA

This multimedia exhibition features pieces created by three California artists-Kebe Fox, Stephen Anderson and Donald Gialanella-who explore the pursuit of happiness through various styles from 3-D paintings and collages to sculptures and installations. (714-667-1517; occca.org)

"COMPANY"

THROUGH JUNE 29: NEWPORT THEATRE ARTS CENTER

The Newport Theatre Arts Center ends its 35th anniversary year with the Stephen Sondheim classic show, "Company. With a dynamic score, popular songs and quirky characters, "Company" is a concept musical composed of short vignettes. (949-631-0288; ntaconline.com)

"THE LURE OF CHINATOWN: **PAINTING CALIFORNIA'S CHINESE COMMUNITIES"**

THROUGH AUG. 31: BOWERS MUSEUM, SANTA ANA

The works of 19th- and 20th-century artists influenced by LA and San Francisco's Chinatowns offer a glimpse into the overall aesthetic of Chinese communities in America. This exhibit is a reflection of the social, political and artistic evolution of Chinatown. (714-567-3600; bowers.org)

"REX BRANDT: IN PRAISE **OF SUNSHINE**"

JUNE 29 - SEPT. 21; LAGUNA ART MUSEUM, LAGUNA BEACH In this retrospective highlight of California-based landscape artist Rex Brandt's career, 50 paintings are on display, showcasing his expertise in using watercolor in his work. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

"THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME"

JULY 6; IRVINE BARCLAY THEATER & CHENG HALL

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon, this production-which debuted at the theater in 2012-explores the innocence of a 15-year-old boy and his prohibited investigation of the death of his neighbor's dog. (949-854-4646; thebarclay.org)

ZIGGY MARLEY AND THE EXPANDERS

JULY 19: PACIFIC AMPHITHEATRE, COSTA MESA

The four-time Grammy Award-

winning Ziggy Marley returns to the Pacific Amphitheatre to perform his most memorable hits as well as ballads from his latest album, "Fly Rasta." The Expanders, a Southern California reggae band, entertains the crowd with melodies and styles reminiscent of 1970s Jamaican groups like The Gladiators and Mighty Diamonds. (714-708-1870; pacamp.com)

"GERSHWIN GREATS"

JULY 20; VERIZON WIRELESS AMPHITHEATRE, IRVINE

The Pacific Symphony honors legendary composer George Gershwin at this one-night affair. Carl St.Clair conducts Jeffrey Biegel on piano, Kevin Deas on bass and Angela Brown as the soprano vocalist as the group performs works such as "Rhapsody in Blue" and "An American in Paris." (714-755-5799; pacificsymphony.org)

NATALIA OSIPOVA AND IVAN VASILIEV

JULY 25-27: SEGERSTROM HALL. COSTA MESA

Known together as Vasipova-an amalgamation of their last names, Vasiliev and Osipova-the ballet power couple performs a special program that showcases their combined talents, including the final scenes from "La Bayadère" and "Le Jeune Homme et la Mort." (714-556-2787; scfta.org)







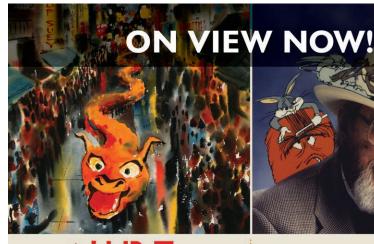
ARTISTIC GENERATIONS

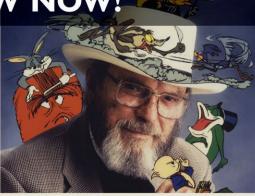
THROUGH JULY 27; ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

Two inventive artists—who happen to be father and son—make their debut together in the Orange County Museum of Art exhibition "Sarkisian & Sarkisian," with contemporary works on display through July 27. The younger Sarkisian, Peter, became a pioneering member of a generation of "video-based sculptors," merging sculptural and cinematic space with varying textures and surfaces to explore the role of illusion. From his renowned 1998 creation "Dusted" to his humorous and provocative "Book, 2011," Peter's stature as a modern artist is evident in his use of film, video and sculpture in 3-D format.

Paul, Peter's father, began his career in the mid-1950s and has had exhibitions at the Pasadena Art Museum (now the Norton Simon Museum) and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. His artistic transformations, which include abstract expressionism, photorealism and "trompe l'oeil," (meaning "fool the eye"), have received critical acclaim.

The exhibit juxtaposes Paul's paintings with Peter's video sculptures, affording art lovers the opportunity to witness pictorial illusion and reality in both approaches from the father-son duo. (949-759-1122; ocma.org) NBM





The LURE of CHINATOWN:

Painting California's Chinese Communities

Exhibition organized by the Bowers Museum with generous support from the Bowers California Arts Council and Bowers Chinese Cultural Arts Council.

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Stay up to date!



Images: Chinese New Year 1960s, c. 1965; Jack Laycox (American, 1921-1984); Watercolor on paper; Loan courtesy of The Hilbert Collection. Chuck Jones Image: Photo by Dean Diaz, 1997 Warner Bros.







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Lila Crespin, Ph.D., Newport Beach Arts Foundation (Newport Beach Independent, March 21, 2014)

REAL ESTATE Showcase



TAKE A TOUR THROUGH SOME OF NEWPORT'S MOST MAGNIFICENT HOMES

With close proximity to the sand and sweeping ocean views, Newport Beach offers some of the best homes in Orange County. On the following pages, we bring you a special section that highlights a handful of the nicest neighborhoods and most spectacular homes on the market today. All of the properties are represented by Orange County's top Realtors and real estate agents dedicated to sharing their extensive knowledge and providing exemplary customer service.

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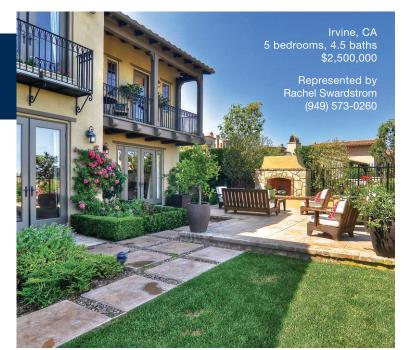
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BALBOA ROOTS

John and Victoria De Frenza recently opened a small hot dog eatery on Balboa Island that pays homage to the area's early history. Crocker's, The Well Dressed Frank, is a tribute to Victoria's grandfather Frank Crocker, who served as the island's first paid fire chief in 1927 and is credited with introducing fire safety and lifeguard programs to Newport. The restaurant offers a touch of nostalgia with photos of his early days spent on the island fixed to the walls.

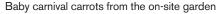
Using only fresh ingredients, the menu is packed with comfort foods. Try the Crocker's Chicago, a frank in natural casing from Maxwell Street Market in Chicago that comes topped with the region's signature flavors: tomatoes, onions, green relish, mustard, celery salt, sport peppers and a poppy seed bun. The Wild & Wet chili dog is also a popular option, featuring a skinless frank smothered in chili, cheddar, bacon and onions. Other menu items include steam-grilled sausages and bratwurst, homemade clam chowder and more. Wash it all down with a refreshing Crocker's root beer float or a glass of wine. Customers can dine inside the eatery or take their food to enjoy as they stroll around the island, as all menu items are considered walking-friendly meals. (949-572-9293; crockersfranks.com) —*K.C.*



taste of the town

SPOTLIGHT: PROVENANCE







Chef Cathy Pavlos



Rack of lamb served with risotto and pesto

Secret Garden

Tucked away in the Eastbluff Village Center, Provenance is a hidden treasure of hyperlocal and healthy eats.

BY KIRSTI CORREA | PHOTOS BY JODY TIONGCO

estled among a grocery store, a bank and a few understated eateries is a recently opened wine country-esque farmhouse restaurant in Newport's Eastbluff Village Center. Behind the rustic wooden doors at Provenance, the space opens up to seating for around 100 guests, a full bar and an extensive collection of wines.

The location isn't the only unexpected secret; adding to Provenance's captivating allure is a raised-bed garden that produces organic fruits, vegetables and herbs from the eatery's back porch. Leafy sprouts and fruit trees are carefully sowed in 1,300 square feet of space, where Cathy Pavlos, the chef behind Lucca in Irvine, can be spotted throughout the day gathering ingredients to infuse each course with the freshest flavors.

Moments after you place an order of carrots to start, Cathy begins to browse the rows of baby carnival varieties for the best selection. The result is a handful of honey-balsamic roasted orange, purple and yellow carrots sprinkled with a blend of spices, fresh dill and feta cheese. The chef's cheese plate is another way to capitalize on Provenance's bounty. Seasonal berries, such as strawberries and raspberries, are plated with breads and nuts along with Truffle tremor, SeaHive and smoky blue cheeses.

Floor-to-ceiling windows make the garden the focal point of the restaurant, but it's not just a visual centerpiece—the produce determines the restaurant's offerings. "While most menu items stay the same, the incorporations in the dish change depending on the season," Cathy says.

For instance, the rack of New Zealand lamb is likely to have a reserved spot on the menu year-round, but during the summer, a bed of blood orange leek risotto surrounded by a creamy cilantro and macadamia nut pesto accompanies the entree. A new menu item planned for this summer is halibut served with mussels and clams.

These larger seasonal plates are available for

dinner, which is served daily beginning at 5 p.m. Weekday diners can also enjoy lunch offerings, such as signature sandwiches and lighter fare, while Sunday mornings are dedicated to a specialty brunch menu. Cathy says the seating on the porch is an atmosphere that perfectly complements an alfresco meal. "It's so peaceful sitting on the porch on a Sunday morning when it's nice and quiet outdoors," she explains.

While there isn't a chicken coop to produce eggs for the brunch items, Cathy still features many other on-site ingredients in the dishes. The housemade bacon-wrapped polenta combines roasted, cage-free eggs with crispy Brussels sprouts and other herbs from the garden, for example.

"Local, seasonal and responsible are three aspects chef Cathy focuses on at Provenance," says Ryan Sanford, one of the night servers. "All of the menu items express such qualities to customers when they eat here." NBM

taste of the town

SPOTLIGHT: THE SLIDING DOOR CAFE AND BAKERY







Lobster mac and cheese and lobster BLT

Brick-pressed chicken

East Coast Meets West

The Long Island-born chef at The Sliding Door brings comfort food and a sense of community to his restaurant on the peninsula.

BY ALLISON HATA | PHOTOS BY JODY TIONGCO

t opened with little fanfare last October, but The Sliding Door Cafe and Bakery has since become a beloved local dining spot. On a good night, the 30-seat restaurant is packed but that doesn't stop people from popping their heads into the small kitchen and demanding that chef and co-owner Kevin Cahalan put down his grill pan and shoot the breeze. And, of course, he's happy to oblige.

"We have a small, dedicated group of locals who have found us and patronize us several nights a week," he explains. Off the top of his head, he can list "at least 20 couples" by name that stop by regularly to sample the ever-rotating menu, which the laid-back chef is known to change on a whim.

"I only really make what I like," he says. "That's one of the benefits of owning a small restaurant."

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, there's an expansive selection on each menu—impressive for an eatery that's staffed by less than 10 employees.

The "ultimate" grilled cheese, featuring a marriage of flavors courtesy of goat cheese, brie, provolone, cheddar, bacon and tomato, is lunch in its simplest but best form. Seafood lovers will also gravitate to the lobster BLT, which is packed with tender pieces of lobster and thick slices of juicy tomato and avocado, all sandwiched between grilled pieces of bread and served with a side of house-made chips and fresh coleslaw.

There's always lobster at the restaurant, Kevin says—a nod to his East Coast roots. For his take on a traditional comfort dish, try the lobster mac and cheese, which incorporates smoked cheddar and is served au gratin. The lobster curry soup, made with coconut milk to balance the ginger, is also a must-try.

For his first summer in Newport, Kevin says he will debut a bourbon-glazed barbecue short rib. Diners can also expect old favorites that will be served with a new host of seasonally appropriate

accompaniments, including the brick-pressed chicken, which is served this June and July with a colorful complement of summer vegetables.

Any of the lunch items can be packed up and enjoyed on the go; according to Kevin, the restaurant plans to loan out picnic baskets with boxed lunches so patrons can enjoy a meal by the water.

Kevin handcrafts nearly everything in the restaurant, including the selection of mouthwatering desserts. He bakes fresh items daily and likes to mix it up when it comes to the variety of cakes that he serves by the slice. His favorite? The triple chocolate mousse cake—at least right now.

"A woman came in and bought a slice, then took the whole cake home for \$56," he says. "True story."

The best part about the restaurant is the heart that's poured into each dish; creating every plate seems to be a labor of love for the talented chef, who has already built a devoted following in his little corner of the peninsula. NBM





CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE BLOODY MARY AT THE ST. REGIS MONARCH BEACH

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the iconic Bloody Mary - the St. Regis' signature cocktail - which was created by bartender Fernand Petiot at the famed King Cole Bar at The St. Regis New York. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, visit the Lobby Lounge at the St. Regis Monarch Beach for your chance to travel the world of the Bloody Mary by tasting a variety of St. Regis Bloody Marys from various St. Regis properties worldwide.

The Lobby Lounge at The St. Regis Monarch Beach is open Sunday through Thursday from 12 noon to 12 midnight; Friday and Saturday from 12 noon to 1:30 a.m. Food Service is available from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily.

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taste of the town

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royalthaicuisine.com

RUSTY PELICAN

2735 W. Coast Hwy.; 949-642-3431;

rustypelican.com
SAPORI RISTORANTE

1080 Bayside Dr.; 949-644-4220;

saporinb.com

SHAMROCK BAR & GRILL

2633 W. Coast Hwy.; 949-631-5633

SOL COCINA

251 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-675-9800;

solcocina.com

SPAGHETTI BENDER

6204 W. Coast Hwy.; 949-645-0651;

spaghettibender.com

TAP SHACK

1617 Westcliff Dr.; 949-645-2337;

tapshacknb.com

WATERLINE NEWPORT BEACH

Balboa Bay Club, 1221 W. Coast Hwy.; 949-630-4145; balboabayclub.com

THE WINERY RESTAURANT & WINE BAR

3131 W. Coast Hwy.; thewineryrestaurant.net

ZUBIES CHICKEN COOP

414 Old Newport Blvd.; 949-645-6086

Balboa Island

AMELIA'S RESTAURANT

311 Marine Ave.; 949-673-6580;

ameliasbalboaisland.com

BAROLO BY THE SEA

305 Marine Ave.; 949-675-6193

CIAO ITALIAN RESTAURANT

223 Marine Ave.; 949-675-4070;

ciaoitalianbalboa.com

PARK AVENUE CAFE

501 Park Ave.: 949-673-3830

SHANGHAI PINE GARDENS

300 Marine Ave.; 949-673-3802

TRATTORIA MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

216½ Marine Ave.; 949-566-9525;

trattoriamediterranean.com

VILLAGE INN

127 Marine Ave.; 949-675-8300;

vibalboaisland.com

WILMA'S PATIO

203 Marine Ave.; 949-675-5542; wilmaspatio.com

Balboa Peninsula

21 OCEANFRONT

2100 W. Oceanfront; 949-673-2100; 21oceanfront.com

bearflagfishco.com



INSPIRED BY SURF

Sandwiches may not be the first food that comes to mind when you think of California's surf culture, but for three locals it was an obvious pairing. Matt Meddock, Max Schultz and Beckham Thomas combined their love for the classic hand-held food with a good on-the-water session and came up with the idea for Sessions Sandwiches, which opened on the Balboa Peninsula in mid-April. They infuse Newport's skate and surf culture into the new eatery's relaxed gourmet vibe, offering a place for beachgoers who want a grab-and-go breakfast before hitting the waves or a place to wind down with lunch after a morning ride.

On the menu, the hot and cold sandwiches feature freshly baked bread, locally grown vegetables and house-made sauces, and hot dogs, sides and salads are prepared daily. Breakfast dishes range from five sandwich options to specialty pastries and Kéan Coffee. The restaurant is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., so stop by and say hello to the surf trio on your way to or from the beach. (949-220-9001; sessionssandwiches.com) –*A.H.*

THE ALLEY RESTAURANT & BAR

4501 W. Coast Hwy.; 949-646-9126;

thealleynewportbeach.com

AKROPOLIS

2201 W. Balboa Blvd.; 949-270-6310;

akropolisnewportbeach.com

AURORA MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

2307 W. Balboa Blvd.; 949-642-1073;

auroranewport.com

AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

2800 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-6855;

avilaselranchito.net

BAYFRONT CAFE

3412 Via Oporto, Ste. 103;

949-675-3779

THE BLUE BEET

107 21st Pl.: 949-675-2338:

thebluebeet.com

BEAR FLAG FISH CO.

407 31st St.; 949-673-3474;

BLUEWATER GRILL

630 Lido Park Dr.; 949-675-3474;

bluewatergrill.com

BUDDHA'S FAVORITE

634 Lido Park Dr.; 949-723-4203;

buddhasfavorite.com

THE CANNERY

3010 Lafayette Rd.; 949-566-0060;

cannerynewport.com

CHARLIE'S CHILI

102 McFadden Pl.; 949-675-7991;

charlieschili-newportbeach.com

CRAB COOKER

2200 Newport Blvd.; 949-673-0100;

crabcooker.com

CROW BURGER KITCHEN

3107 Newport Blvd.; 949-673-2747;

crowburgerkitchen.com

THE DOCK

2816 Lafayette Rd.; 949-673-3625;

eatatthedock.com

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taste of the town

BRUNCH BITES





One of Newport's hottest new restaurants, Red O, now draws a Sunday morning crowd with its made-to-order brunch service that began this spring. Located at Fashion Island, the modern Mexican eatery conceptualized by star chef Rick Bayless offers a brunch menu highlighting his signature Oaxacan-influenced cuisine. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., adults and children can enjoy the \$45 buffet (\$15 for children) with freshly prepared lunch and breakfast dishes served at several stations out on the patio.

Savory specialties include chilaquiles prepared by the chef manning the station; huevos rancheros; savory paella with shrimp, chicken, chorizo and black mussels; Yucatecan shrimp, calamari and classic albacore ceviche; and grilled tacos with freshly carved meats. For dessert, a station featuring liquid nitrogen ice cream enthralls guests as their frozen treats are prepared under a flash of smoke. Endless bloody marys, tequila sunrises and mimosas are served for an additional charge (\$20). (949-718-0300; redorestaurant.com) — A.H.

FLY 'N' FISH OYSTER BAR & GRILL

2304 W. Oceanfront; 949-673-8400; flynfishoysterbar.com

GALLEY CAFE

829 Harbor Island Dr.; 949-673-4110

HARBORSIDE RESTAURANT

400 Main St.; 949-673-4633; harborside-pavilion.com

HO SUM BISTRO

3112 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-0896; hosumbistro.com

IL FARRO

111 21st Pl.; 949-723-5711;

ilfarro.com

LAS FAJITAS

3305 Newport Blvd.; 949-673-0707 LAVENTINA'S BIG CHEESE PIZZA

2819 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-1980;

laventinasbigcheese.com

LE BISTRO

3446 Via Oporto; 949-675-9747; lebistrolido.com

MALARKY'S IRISH PUB

3011 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-2340; malarkysirishpub.com

MAMA D'S ITALIAN KITCHEN

3012 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-6262; mamadsnewport.com

MINT LEAF THAI CUISINE

712 E. Balboa Blvd.; 949-675-9995; mintleafthaicuisine.com

MUTT LYNCH'S

2300 W. Oceanfront; 949-675-1556; muttlynchs.com

NEWPORT BEACH BREWING CO.

2920 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-8449; nbbrewco.com

NEWPORT FRESH JAPANESE GRILL AND PHILLY CHEESESTEAK SANDWICHES

3305 Newport Blvd., Ste. F; 949-675-5005; newportfresh.com

NEWPORT LANDING RESTAURANT

503 E. Edgewater Ave.; 949-675-2373; newport-landing.com

WINE AND DINE ON THE WATERFRONT

Formerly First Cabin Restaurant, the main culinary space at Balboa Bay Resort has undergone a transformation to debut as Waterline Newport Beach. The new waterfront restaurant, helmed by the resort's executive chef, Vincent Lesage, focuses on water-to-table dining with fresh seafood sourced from local fish markets for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The contemporary nautical theme resounds in both the decor and the menu; navy blue and bone colors make diners feel as though they're dining aboard a luxury yacht, while seafood dishes like the coho salmon and Baja lobster salad please the palate. (888-894-2788; balboabayresort.com) —A.H.

OHANA HOUSE

209½ Palm St.; 949-675-4665; ohanahousenewport.com

ORIGINAL PIZZA

2121 W. Balboa Blvd.; 949-673-1451

PESCADOU BISTRO

3325 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-6990; pescadoubistro.com

THE PORCH

508 29th St.; 949-673-1600; meetattheporch.com

RUBY'S DINER

1 Balboa Pier; 949-675-7829; rubys.com

RUDY'S PUB & GRILL

3110 Newport Blvd.; 949-723-0293; rudyspubandgrill.com

SABATINO'S SAUSAGE CO.

251 Shipyard Way, Cabin D; 949-723-0621; sabatinosausagecompany.com

SAKAE SUSHI

123 23rd St.: 949-675-8899

SAN SHI GO SUSHI & ASIAN CUISINE

205 Main St.; 949-673-3724; 345okidoki.com

SESSIONS SANDWICHES

2823 Newport Blvd.; 949-220-9001;

sessionssandwiches.com

THE SLIDING DOOR CAFÉ AND BAKERY

704 E. Balboa Blvd.; 949-673-7173; theslidingdoorcafe.com

SOL GRILL

 $110 \; \mathsf{McFadden} \; \mathsf{PI.}; \; 949\text{-}723\text{-}4105; \; \mathsf{solgrill.com}$

WOODY'S WHARF

2318 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-0474;

woodyswharf.com

ZEN SUSHI

2900 Newport Blvd.; 949-722-2520

Newport Center/Fashion Island

59TH & LEX CAFE

Bloomingdale's, 701 Newport Center Dr.; 949-729-6600; bloomingdales.com

AQUA LOUNGE (OPENING SOON)

Island Hotel, 690 Newport Center Dr.; aqualoungenb.com

BISTRO 24 EXPRESS

1000 Avocado Ave.; 949-467-9631; bistro24express.com

BLUE C SUSHI (OPENING SOON)

1095 Newport Center Dr.; bluecsushi.com

CAFÉ BEAU SOLEIL

953 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-4402; cafebeausoleil.net

CAFE BISTRO

Nordstrom, 901 Newport Center Dr.; 949-610-1610; nordstrom.com

CANALETTO RISTORANTE VENETO

545 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-0900; ilfornaio.com

CUCINA ENOTECA (OPENING SOON)

951 Newport Center Dr.; cucinaenoteca.com FIG & OLIVE

151 Newport Center Dr.; 949-877-3005; figandolive.com

FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR

455 Newport Center Dr.; 949-720-9633; flemingssteakhouse.com

nomingssteamiou

GREAT MAPLE

1133 Newport Center Dr.; 949-706-8282; thegreatmaple.com

LARK CREEK NEWPORT BEACH

957 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-6700; larkcreeknb.com

LEMONADE

987 Newport Center Dr.; 949-717-7525; lemonadela.com

MARIPOSA RESTAURANT

Neiman Marcus, Fashion Island, 601 Newport Center Dr.; 949-467-3350; neimanmarcus.com

MULDOON'S IRISH PUB

202 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-4110; muldoonspub.com

OAK GRILL (OPENING SOON)

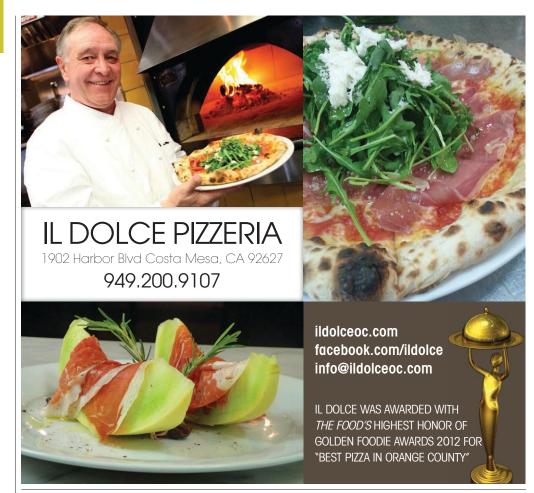
Island Hotel, 690 Newport Center Dr.; oakgrillnb.com

R+D KITCHEN

555 Newport Center Dr.; 949-219-0555; hillstone.com

RED 0

143 Newport Center Dr.; 949-718-0300; redorestaurant.com





taste of the town

ISLAND DINING

There's a new place to dine and drink in town—this July, the Island Hotel is debuting two new culinary destinations.

Oak Grill, a chic restaurant led by General Manager Miguel Rodriguez, formerly of Red O and Mastro's Ocean Club, and Executive Chef Marc Johnson, features a menu of California classics and a polished interior that incorporates its namesake wood into the floors and walls, with deep red and nautical accents. Breakfast, lunch and dinner options are served at the refined Oak Grill, with options that include ahi tartar with curry and Indian spices, and seared scallops with heirloom beans and a butter and caper sauce. (oakgrillnb.com)

Meanwhile, the chic Aqua Lounge provides a space to drop by for high-level drinks and great conversation with friends or colleagues. In addition to craft cocktails made tableside from freshly squeezed juices, the lounge also presents a selection of California wines and seasonal beers sourced from local



purveyors. A menu of shareable plates—such as fried green tomatoes and wild mushroom and truffle flatbread—and late-night bites served from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. complement the beverage offerings. (aqualoungenb.com) –A.H.

ROY'S

453 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-7697; rovsrestaurant.com

SAM & HARRY'S

Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa, 900 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-4000; marriott.com

SHOR AMERICAN SEAFOOD GRILL

Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, 1107 Jamboree Rd.; 949-729-1234; newportbeach.hyatt.com

TACO ROSA

2632 San Miguel Rd.; 949-720-0980; tacorosa.com

TRUE FOOD KITCHEN

451 Newport Center Dr.; 949-644-2400; truefoodkitchen.com

WAHOO'S FISH TACO

401 Newport Center Dr.; 949-760-0290; wahoos.com

WILD STRAWBERRY CAFÉ

240 Newport Center Dr., Ste. 100; 949-706-0462; wildstrawberrycafe.com YARD HOUSE

849 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-9273; yardhouse.com

Corona del Mar

AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

2515 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-644-8226; avilaselranchito.com

BAMBOO BISTRO

2600 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-720-1289; vietbamboobistro.com

BANDERA

3201 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-673-3524; hillstone.com

THE BUNGALOW

2441 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-673-6585; thebungalowrestaurant.com

CAFE JARDIN

Sherman Library and Gardens, 2647 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-673-0033; pascalnpb.com

THE CROW BAR AND KITCHEN

2325 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-675-0070; crowbarcdm.com

FIVE CROWNS

3801 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-760-0331; lawrysonline.com

GALLO'S DELI

3900 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-723-0100

GARY'S DELI

hillstone.com

3309 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-675-2193 **GULFSTREAM**

850 Avocado Ave.; 949-718-0188;

JOHNNY'S REAL NEW YORK PIZZA

2756 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-729-9159; johnnysrealnypizza.com

LA FOGATA

3025 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-673-2211; lafogatacdm.com

MAYUR

2931 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-675-6622; mayur-oc.com

MODO MIO CUCINA RUSTICA

7946 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-9770; modomiocucinarustica.com

NAGISA SUSHI RESTAURANT

3840 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-673-3933; nagisasushi.com

ORANGE COAST WINERY TASTING ROOM

3734 E. Coast Hwy.; orangecoastwinery.com

PANINI CAFE

2333 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-675-8101; mypaninicafe.com

PIROZZI CORONA DEL MAR

2929 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-675-2932; pirozzicdm.com

PORT RESTAURANT AND BAR

440 Heliotrope Ave.; 949-723-9685; portcdm.com

THAI DEL MAR

2754 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-721-9220; thaidelmar.com

THE PLACE

2920 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-644-0210

THE QUIET WOMAN

3224 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-640-7440; quietwoman.com

RENDEZ VOUS

3330 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-791-8730

ROSE BAKERY CAFE

3536 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-675-3151; rosebakerycafe.net

ROTHSCHILD'S RESTAURANT

2407 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-673-3750; rothschildsrestaurant.com

SIDEDOOR

3801 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-717-4322; sidedoorcdm.com

SOTA

3344 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-675-0771; sotasushi.com

SUMMER HOUSE

2744 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-612-7700; summerhousecdm.com

TOMMY BAHAMA'S ISLAND GRILLE

854 Avocado Ave.; 949-760-8686;

tommybahama.com

ZINC CAFE & MARKET

3222 E. Coast Hwy.: 949-719-9462: zinccafe.com

Upper Bay

BACK BAY BISTRO

Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort, 1131 Back Bay Dr.; 949-729-1144; backbaybistronewportbeach.com

BISTRO LE CRILLON

2523 Eastbluff Dr.: 949-640-8181:

bistrolecrillon.com

CHAMPAGNES BISTRO & DELI

1260 Bison Ave.; 949-640-5011; champagnesdeli.com

HERONS RESTAURANT

Newport Beach Marriott Bayview, 500 Bayview Circle; 949-854-4500; marriott.com

MOZAMBIQUE PERI-PERI

1332 Bison Ave.: 949-718-0956: mozambiqueperiperi.com

PITA JUNGLE

1200 Bison Ave.; 949-706-7711; pitajungle.com

PROVENANCE

2531 Eastbluff Dr.; 949-718-0477;

provenancerestaurant.com

WASA SUSHI ON THE BLUFFS

1346 Bison Ave.; 949-760-1511

WILDFISH SEAFOOD GRILLE

1370 Bison Ave.; 949-720-9925; wildfishseafoodgrille.com

Airport Area

BAMBÚ

Fairmont Newport Beach, 4500 MacArthur Blvd.: 949-476-2001: fairmont.com

BLUE MEDITERRANEAN CAFE

3601 Jamboree Rd., Ste. 4: 949-474-7300: bluemediterranean.com

BOSSCAT KITCHEN & LIBATIONS

4647 MacArthur Blvd.: bosscatkitchen.com

IL BARONE RISTORANTE

4251 Martingale Way, Ste. A; 949-955-2755; ilbaroneristorante.com

JULIETTE KITCHEN + BAR

1000 Bristol St. N., Ste. 11; 949-752-5854; juliettenb.com

KITAYAMA

101 Bayview Pl.; 949-725-0777; kitayama-restaurant.com

NANA SAN

3601 Jamboree Rd.: 949-474-7373

ORIGINAL PIZZA II

2675 Irvine Ave., Ste. D; 949-574-4995

TAPAS

4253 Martingale Way; 949-756-8194; tapasnewportbeach.net

TEN ASIAN BISTRO

4647 MacArthur Blvd.; 949-660-1010; tenoc.com

Newport Coast/Crystal Cove **ANDREA**

The Resort at Pelican Hill, 22701 Pelican Hill Rd. S.: 855-315-8214: pelicanhill.com

BABETTE'S NEWPORT BEACH

(OPENING SOON)

7962 E. Coast Hwy.; babettesrestaurant.com

THE BEACHCOMBER CAFE

15 Crystal Cove; 949-376-6900; thebeachcombercafe.com

BEAR FLAG FISH CO.

7972 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-8899; bearflagfishco.com

BLUEFIN FINE JAPANESE CUISINE

7952 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-7373; bluefinbyabe.com

COLISEUM POOL & GRILL

The Resort at Pelican Hill. 22701 Pelican Hill Rd. S.; 855-315-8214: pelicanhill.com

JAVIER'S

7832 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-1239; iaviers-cantina.com

MASTRO'S OCEAN CLUB

8112 E. Coast Hwy.: 949-376-6990: mastrosrestaurants.com

MODO MIO CUCINA RUSTICA

7946 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-9770; modomiocucinarustica.com

MUSTARD CAFE

21137 Newport Coast Dr.; 949-718-0707; mustardcafe.com

NEWPORT COAST FIRST CLASS PIZZA

21117 Newport Coast Dr.; 949-644-5888; newportcoastpizza.com



MANGO HABANERO MARGARITA

Enjoy a sweet and spicy sip at home with this specialty drink recipe from Tommy Bahama's star mixologists.

13/4 parts Milagro Silver tequila

3/4 part orange curacao liqueur

1 part mango Perfect Purée

1 part from-scratch sour mix (lemon and/or lime juice with simple syrup)

2 slices fresh habanero

4 drops Bittermens Hellfire Habanero Shrub bitters (sold at Tommy Bahama)

Combine all ingredients with ice cubes and shake in a Boston shaker. Pour into a saltrimmed glass and top with habanero slices.

NEWPORT FUSION SUSHI

21135 Newport Coast Dr.; 949-721-5884; newportsushi.net

PALM TERRACE

Island Hotel, 690 Newport Center Dr.; 866-554-4619; islandhotel.com

PELICAN GRILL

The Resort at Pelican Hill, 22800 Pelican Hill Rd. S.: 855-315-8214; pelicanhill.com

SETTEBELLO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA

(OPENING SOON)

7864 E. Coast Hwy.; settebello.net

TAMARIND OF LONDON

7862 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-8338; tamarindoflondon.com

ZOV'S CAFÉ BAKERY & BAR

21123 Newport Coast Dr.; 949-760-9687; zovs.com

taste of the town

LUNCH IS SERVED

The recently revamped menu at A Restaurant includes several exciting changes, including a brand-new lunch menu that makes an afternoon spent in Newport Beach that much more enjoyable. Chef Jon Blackford has reimagined the modern American dishes at A Restaurant to include more casual afternoon options such as the small plate of Brussels sprouts leaves topped with white wine, lemon, capers, grilled croutons and bread crumbs; three "tacos de lengua" (beef tongue tacos) served with salsa verde and cabbage; and the beloved "A" burger, which arrives smothered in Thousand Island dressing and caramelized onions.

Available weekdays only, lunch at A Restaurant is perfect for those hard at work nearby or for anyone seeking a fresh midday meal. Alternately, people with a busy schedule might prefer to visit A Market next door, where a variety of hot and cold sandwiches, salads and snacks can be packed up and enjoyed on the beach or in the office—the perfect grab-and-go option for a warm summer day. (949-650-6505; arestaurantnb.com) —*B.B.*



Costa Mesa

118 DEGREES

2981 Bristol St.; 714-754-0718;

118degrees.com

ANQI

3333 Bristol St.; 714-557-5679;

angibistro.com

ARC

3321 Hyland Ave.; 949-500-5561;

arcrestaurant.com

BLACK KNIGHT GASTRO LOUNGE

1870 Harbor Blvd.; 949-646-2401;

blackknightlounge.com

THE CAPITAL GRILLE

3333 Bristol St.; 714-432-1140;

thecapitalgrille.com

CHARLIE PALMER

Bloomingdale's, 3333 Bristol St.;

714-352-2525; charliepalmer.com

DIN TAI FUNG (OPENING SOON)

3333 Bristol St.; dintaifungusa.com

ECCO PIZZERIA & BAR

2937 Bristol St.; 714-444-3226;

eccopizza.com

GREENLEAF GOURMET CHOPSHOP

234 E. 17th St.; 949-200-3950;

greenleafchopshop.com

THE GYPSY DEN CAFE

2930 Bristol St.; 714-549-7012; gypsyden.com

H20 SUSHI & IZAKAYA

1870 Harbor Blvd., Ste. 100; 949-515-7400;

h2osushiizakaya.com

HABANA

2930 Bristol St., Ste. A110;

714-556-0176

IL DOLCE

1902 Harbor Blvd.; 949-200-9107;

ildolceoc.com

LA CAVE

1695 Irvine Ave.; 949-646-7944;

lacaverestaurant.com

LEATHERBY'S CAFÉ ROUGE

615 Town Center Dr.; 714-429-7640;

patinagroup.com/leatherbys

MARCHÉ MODERNE

3333 Bristol St., Ste. 3001; 714-434-7900;

marchemoderne.net

MARRAKESH

1976 Newport Blvd.; 949-645-8384;

marrakeshdining.com

MASTRO'S

633 Anton Blvd.; 714-546-7405;

mastrosrestaurants.com

MENDOCINO FARMS SANDWICH MARKET

450 E. 17th St.; 949-548-2500;

mendocinofarms.com

MES

725 Baker St.; 714-557-6700;

mesacostamesa.com

MI CASA

296 E. 17th St.; 949-645-7626; micasa1.com

NELLO CUCINA

3333 Bear St.; 714-540-3365;

nellocucina.com

OLD VINE CAFE

2937 Bristol St., Ste. A-102; 714-545-1411;

oldvinecafe.com

PIE-NOT

270 E. 17th St.; 949-650-7437; pienot.com

PINOT PROVENCE

686 Anton Blvd.; 714-444-5900;

pinotprovence.com

PITFIRE PIZZA

353 E. 17th St.; 949-313-6333;

pitfirepizza.com

PIZZERIA ORTICA

650 Anton Blvd.; 714-445-4900;

pizzeriaortica.com

SADDLE RANCH CHOP HOUSE

1870 Harbor Blvd.; 949-287-4652;

thesaddleranch.com

SCOTT'S RESTAURANT & BAR

3300 Bristol St.; 714-979-2400;

scottsrestaurantandbar.com

SEABIRDS KITCHEN

2930 Bristol St.; 714-549-2584;

seabirdskitchen.com

SIDECAR DOUGHNUTS & COFFEE

270 E. 17th St., Ste. 18;

www.sidecardoughnuts.com

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MY 24 HOURS IN NEWPORT

A PR rep by day and queen of the OC pop culture blogosphere by night, Kate Casey of Love and Knuckles shares her perfect day on the town.

BY ALLISON HATA I PHOTOS BY JODY TIONGCO



ate Casey isn't your typical PR gal. For the last 15 years, she's helped shine the media spotlight on lawyers, but her true passion lies in making people laugh. She accomplishes that and more with her hilariously snarky blog, Love and Knuckles, which she launched three years ago to offer her own brand of social commentary on the latest pop culture headlines. Known for her quick wit and sharp tongue, she's a favorite in local circles and was even recruited to try out for "The Real Housewives of Orange County" a few years back. With a husband and three kids under the age of 4 in tow, the Newport Beach transplant—by way of Philly—undoubtedly knows how to keep busy. Here, she takes a minute to share her favorite places to eat, shop and play in the city she calls home. NBM





[has the] greatest kids' toys. When I need to bribe my children, I bring them there."

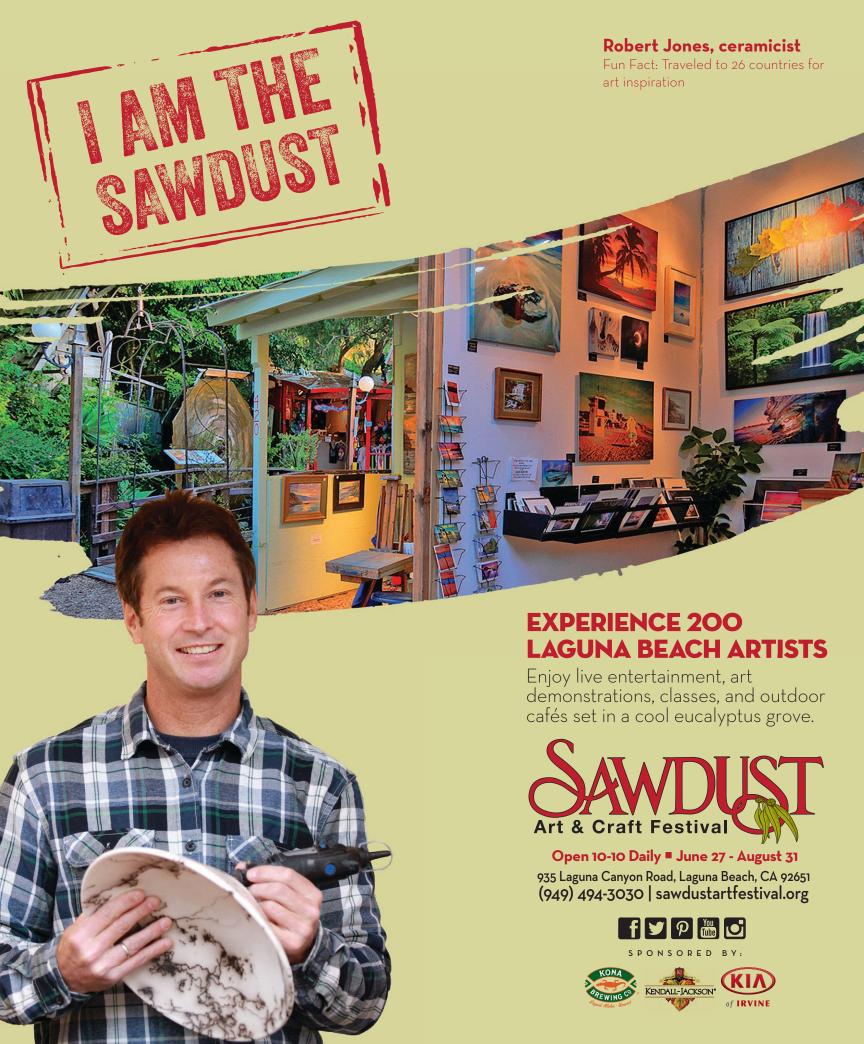


COURTESY OF GULFSTREAM

"My husband and I have a hot date every Saturday night. We always try to come up with a new place, but inevitably end up at **Gulfstream**."

DATE NIGHT:









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