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LAGUNA BEACH

APRIL/MAY 2015 » OCINSITE.COM

Magazine

DRINK TO YOUR HEALTH
JUICE UP AROUND TOWN

DRUGS & DEBAUCHERY
A LOOK AT LAGUNA'S
STORIED HISTORY

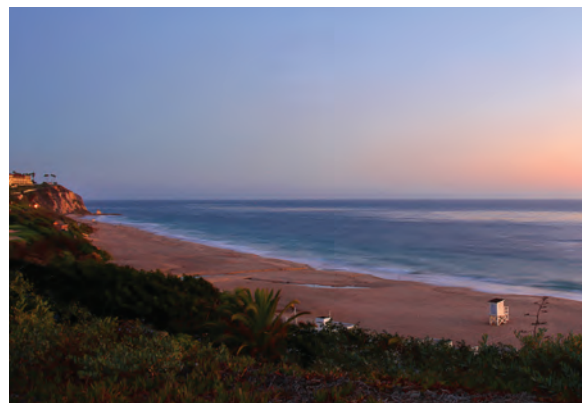
HOMETOWN HEROES
EXTRAORDINARY
INDIVIDUALS
CHANGING LIVES

THE MEN'S ISSUE

FROM HEAD TO TOE
A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO GROOMING

LAGUNA STYLE
JEANS AND A T-SHIRT FOR EVERY OCCASION

BAR MASTER
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COCKTAILS AT HOME



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TAG HEUER FORMULA 1 STEEL & CERAMIC CHRONOGRAPH

Cara Delevingne challenges rules. Being free-minded is her motto. Like TAG Heuer, she defies conventions and never cracks under pressure.

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Jeans and a tee can work for nearly every occasion.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CHAD MELLON; COURTESY OF ALISAL GUEST RANCH AND RESORT; ALAN DE HERRERA



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WE NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE

I'VE NEVER ENVIED MY HUSBAND'S CLOSET, WITH ITS ROWS of collared shirts and a single pair of sneakers. My own wardrobe is an explosion of color, layers and accessories, all carefully chosen after getting inspiration from the pages of Vogue. I've also invested a small fortune in shoes; in fact, my wedding heels—Manolo Blahniks, for those who care—cost more than my dress and veil combined. Maybe only those who watch runway shows and worship the word of the legendary Vogue editor-in-chief, Anna Wintour, will understand.

Though her reputation precedes her when it comes to green lighting next season's trends, Ms. Wintour herself is decidedly consistent in her sartorial selection. Offering just a subtle nod or two to the current style, she has blazed her own path with a look that's remarkably simple. The infamous bob, oversized sunglasses, chunky necklace and signature silhouette (a tailored waist paired with a conservative neckline) say so much about her personal fashion philosophy. She's polished, poised and refined—a true lady, one with more style in her right shoe than most could achieve in their entire lives.

She may have very little in common with the gentlemen of Laguna, but they share one important trait: a formulaic sense of fashion. Men about town—at least those who I've met—tend to not take their cues from the runway. I've imagined that the average morning routine goes something like this: T-shirt; check. Jeans; check. Run a comb through your hair (maybe) and you're ready to go.

In putting together this inaugural men's issue, I might have to admit that I stand corrected. Jeans and a tee may be the standard uniform here, but that doesn't mean that Laguna men are completely without style. Like Anna, they forge a more classic fashionable form.

"One Outfit, Four Ways" (page 60), penned by a stylish Orange County gent, Christopher Luu, offers new ways to dress for every occasion using those two pieces as a foundation to build upon. Though I'm not ready to give up my floor-to-ceiling cabinet of shoes, I do love the simplicity of the menswear in this feature. There's just something about that slicked-back hair paired with a fitted white T-shirt and worn-in denim that channels the brooding spirit of James Dean.

Throughout the issue, we also have several other ways for men—and women, for that matter—to step out of their comfort zones just a bit and try something new. A story on male grooming trends shares the top hairstyle this season; meanwhile, you can become a master mixologist at home with tips ranging from behind-the-bar essentials to the correct occasion to shake or stir. It's a good time to be a guy in Laguna.

Allison Hata
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calendar *of* events

ART | ACTIVITIES | ENTERTAINMENT

APRIL/MAY 2015

JEREMY COWART



Acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma (center) will star as the soloist May 5 at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

YO-YO MA

MAY 5; SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS, COSTA MESA

One of the most celebrated classical musicians of our time, Yo-Yo Ma is revered the world over for his exquisite work on the cello. For one evening only, the soloist takes the stage at Segerstrom Center for the Arts with Pacific Symphony's famed conductor Carl St.Clair to perform Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B minor and Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition." (714-556-2787; scfta.org)

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

"MURDER FOR TWO"

THROUGH MAY 17; LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

Part dueling piano performance and part murder mystery, "Murder for Two" calls on the talents of two actors, one of whom investigates a murder while the other plays the part of all the suspects. (949-497-2787; lagunaplayhouse.com)

ART ALONG THE COAST

APRIL 25-26; VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Travel down the coast at your own pace during this two-day event that welcomes guests

to visit the creative spaces and homes of local artists from Laguna Beach to San Clemente. Participating artists include Paul Bond, Mary Aslin and Rachel Young, and the self-guided weekend offers an opportunity to view and acquire works that have not yet been shown in public. (artalongthecoast.com)

IMAGINATION CELEBRATION

MAY 2; LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

This event, held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., is replete with activities for the entire family, with activities ranging from face painting and story

time to balloons and hands-on art projects. May 2 marks the launch of a monthlong celebration produced by Arts Orange County in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education in attempts to provide meaningful arts experiences for all. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

FUNDRAISERS

15TH ANNUAL ART OF GIVING GALA: VIVA LAGUNA

MAY 9; MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH

The Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach once again will host its annual Art of Giving Gala at Montage Laguna Beach, where guests can enjoy dinner, entertainment, dancing and a live auction. This year's theme, Viva Laguna, pays homage to the glitz and glitter of fabulous Las Vegas. The gala benefits the club's many youth outreach efforts in the community. (949-494-2535; bgclagunabeach.org)

TASTE OF THE NATION

MAY 17; MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH

Highly regarded chefs from around Southern California join Montage Laguna Beach's culinary team for an annual food event that raises funds for programs aiming to end childhood hunger. Proceeds from the Taste of the Nation benefit, held on Studio's oceanfront bluff, directly support Second Harvest Orange County Food Bank and the Community Action Partnership of Orange County. (800-969-4767; nokidhungry.org)

MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MAY 25; HEISLER PARK

The Laguna Beach Exchange Club, an all-volunteer service organization, is hosting its annual pancake breakfast from 7-10:30 a.m. (or until the food runs out), with breakfast and coffee served by off-duty firefighters and police officers. Donations from the White House and Las Brisas allow the club to raise funds that support child abuse prevention efforts. (lagunabeachexchangeclub.org)

MUSIC

DOHENY BLUES FESTIVAL

MAY 16-17; DOHENY STATE BEACH, DANA POINT

One of Orange County's most anticipated music festivals returns this year with a lineup of both legendary and lesser-known blues artists including Bonnie Raitt, Paul Rodgers and Lurrie Bell. With three stages—two of which are situated less than 100 yards from the ocean—an international food court, vendors and microbrew tastings, there's plenty to do and see for music lovers all weekend. (dohenybluesfestival.com)

UPCOMING CONCERTS

ONGOING; THE COACH HOUSE, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Talented performers take the stage at The Coach House this April and May: Rod Piazza (April 26); Michael Schenker (May 1); Beatles vs. Stones (May 9); Queen Nation (May 16); Pat Travers and Eric Gales (May 22); and The Dan Band (May 29). Visit the venue's website for more concerts taking place this spring. (949-496-8930; thecoachhouse.com)



Xterra Laguna Beach Triathlon competitors will swim, bike and run through Crystal Cove State Park on May 31.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

SPRING FEVER SURFABOUT

MAY 23-25; THALIA STREET BEACH

Head down to Thalia Street Beach this Memorial Day weekend to catch all the action at Laguna's Spring Fever Surfabout. Competitors from children to professional adults are able to surf with their peers to win prizes and bragging rights. To participate, register through Laguna Surf & Sport in early May; those who prefer to watch need only grab a towel, beach umbrella and some snacks before settling into the sand. (949-360-6495; surfandsport.com)

XTERRA LAGUNA BEACH TRIATHLON

MAY 31; EL MORO CANYON

The Xterra triathlon comes to the Pacific this May for its inaugural Crystal Cove race. Participants have three different courses to choose from: a long course that includes a 1,500-meter swim, 25K bike ride and 10K run through El Moro Canyon and Crystal Cove State Park; a short course; and a 10K trail run. (310-821-7898; xterralagunabeach.com) LBM

JODY TIONGCO



▶▶▶ ONGOING

Free yoga is offered at Treasure Island Park.

FIRST THURSDAYS ART WALK:

First Thursday of the month, 6-9 p.m.
(firstthursdaysartwalk.com)

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK:

Monday-Thursday, Saturdays, 8 a.m.;
Treasure Island Park (949-494-9928;
yogainthepark.blogspot.com)

LAGUNA BEACH FARMERS MARKET:

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon; Forest Avenue
and Laguna Canyon Road

LAGUNA LAUGHTER YOGA:

Sunday-Friday, 8 a.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m.;
Main Beach (lyinstitute.org)

LIVE! AT THE MUSEUM:

Second Thursday of the month, 7-8 p.m.;
Laguna Art Museum (949-494-8971;
lagunaartmuseum.org)

MONTHLY WINE TASTING PARTY:

First Friday of the month, 6-9 p.m.;
Laguna Canyon Winery (949-715-9463;
lagunacanyonwinery.com)

NATURE HIKES:

Various dates and times, Laguna
Canyon Foundation (949-497-8324;
lagunacanyon.org)

SAWDUST STUDIO ART CLASSES:

Various dates and times; Sawdust Art
Festival grounds (949-494-3030;
sawdustartfestival.org)

ZEROTRASH BEACH CLEANUP:

First Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon,
various locations (zerotrash.org/laguna)

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JODY TIONGCO



City Clerk Lisette Chel-Walker (with Gustav Eriksson and Sheila Olsen) now conducts civil ceremonies.

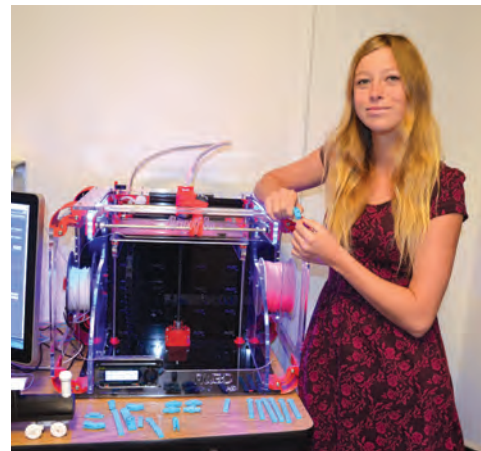
SAYING ‘I DO’ AT CITY HALL

Lovebirds who live in Laguna—and those who are just fans of the beach community—may tie the knot with a civil ceremony under a new state law that gives city clerks the authority to conduct these weddings. Assembly Bill 1525 went into effect Jan. 1; on Feb. 19, Laguna residents Gustav Eriksson and Sheila Olsen became the first couple to have a civil ceremony at City Hall. To sign up for the \$25 service, couples must call for an appointment after obtaining a marriage license from the Orange County Clerk-Recorder’s office. “I am very excited to offer this service and be part of someone’s special moment that they will cherish forever,” says City Clerk Lisette Chel-Walker. “... Every couple has a story and it means a lot to me that I will be part of their future story.” (lagunabeachcity.net) —Sharon Stello

A HELPING HAND

Scott Wittkop’s multimedia design class at Laguna Beach High School received a high-tech 3-D printer through the South Coast Regional Occupational Program, which is allowing them to create prosthetic hands for children.

Upon learning that the equipment company hosted a one-day event for Robohand, an upper extremity assistive device, the students wanted to get involved with a project of their own. They downloaded the open-source code and started printing plastic parts, with a goal of completing 10 hands by June. The classroom’s 3-D printer allows these prosthetics to be made in a cost-effective way, but also provides a learning experience for students. As Scott says, “I think it’s [a lesson] about how technology can affect people around the world and what you can possibly do with it.” —S.S.



KEVIN YATES

A 3-D printer produces prosthetic hand parts (blue).

RENDERING COURTESY OF SUKHDEV DAIL



A sculpture called Sea Breeze will be installed at Main Beach Park.

SCULPTURE BY THE SAND

Sea Breeze—a nearly 10-foot-tall sculpture of a woman emerging from the ocean holding a billowing headscarf above her, to be created by Laguna artist Sukhdev Dail—will be installed in coming months on the central cobblestone area at Main Beach Park. The statue will have a blue patina at the base, transitioning to bronze. When light shines through colorful thermoplastic panels in the scarf, a rainbow of hues will be illuminated on the ground, allowing for public interaction with the work. Unanimously approved by the City Council in late February, the piece will be erected sometime after the summer, says Sukhdev, a sculptor and painter who was born in India and traveled the world before settling in Laguna. The city will pay \$56,000 for this public artwork commission, required as part of the lifeguard headquarters construction project completed last spring. The sculpture will join artist Terry Thornsley’s ocean-themed mural, “Grace,” already added near the lifeguard building. —S.S.



LEADING THE WAY

Full of energy and ideas, Mary Schmidt went right to work after her appointment in January as the South County Crosscultural Council's first executive director.

The Laguna-based nonprofit offers English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes and free childcare at La Playa Center, located at the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach, and operates the Day Worker Center in Laguna Canyon. We talked with Mary, a longtime Lagunan, about her plans.

LAGUNA BEACH MAGAZINE: Why did you want to work for the council?

MARY SCHMIDT: It was a lot to do with the services they were providing. ... Education is a springboard to a better life. ... If [immigrants] don't have language skills, it's tremendously difficult [for them].

LBM: Why did you work to secure a grant to bring electricity to the small building at the Day Worker Center?

MS: In the winter months, Irma [Ronses, jobs coordinator] is there at 6 a.m. She's working in darkness and cold. ... We want to make it comfortable and make it professional—basic human needs, warmth and light. ... We want to be able to teach English-as-a-Second-Language there ... and maybe have a small office.

LBM: What are your other plans for the months ahead?

MS: I've got a long to-do list: Developing our marketing and outreach ... and upgrading our website. We're going after more grants. At La Playa, we want to be able to have more speakers, especially when it comes to immigration laws. (crossculturalcouncil.com) —S.S.

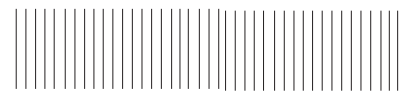


CLIFF LAPAIX

Acrylic paints are swirled in a water bath to create patterns for one-of-a-kind scarves by Mayu Silk Art.

Silk Start

Local residents Star McCain and Philip Greenwood have moved their business, Mayu Silk Art, to Laguna after launching last fall in San Juan Capistrano. The company uses modern, eco-friendly materials to bring the ancient art of water marbling to customers, who use the technique to design their own one-of-a-kind silk scarves with Mayu's materials and guidance. Participants create unique patterns by adding acrylic paints to a water bath, swirling the colors with tools such as combs and rakes. While the company does not have a brick-and-mortar storefront yet, it is available for private events from bridal showers to corporate parties, and can be found at nearby festivals and fairs such as Orange County Market Place in Costa Mesa on select weekends. (mayusilkart.com) —Katherine Duncan



RETURN OF THE GAY BAR



A revamped Main Street Bar & Cabaret celebrated its grand opening in late February, with new management hoping to bring back some gay culture to Laguna Beach, which once was home to gay bars like the Boom Boom Room, Little Shrimp and Woody's. Most recently called Club Bounce, the resurrected Main Street establishment on South Coast Highway recalls the original 1970s moniker. New manager Craig Cooley seeks to create a fun, inclusive environment for both gay and straight customers with a type of entertainment and dance venue that's missing from the Laguna scene. The lineup includes cabaret shows with singers dressed in drag; karaoke; bingo games; disc jockeys playing dance music; and go-go boys. Open from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., happy hour is offered until 8 every night. (mainstreet-bar.com) —S.S.

JODY TIONGCO



Laguna Beach Sister Cities garden

NATURE NEWS

1. FRIENDSHIP IS BLOOMING

Heisler Park is now home to the Laguna Beach Sister Cities garden. The plot, which was prepared by Laguna Nursery owner Ruben Flores and members of the Laguna Beach Garden Club, features plants that are native to the regions of Laguna's three adopted international cities: San Jose del Cabo, Mexico; St. Ives, England; and Menton, France. The garden was unveiled by Mayor Bob Whalen during a public ribbon-cutting ceremony in February, which was attended by representatives from the sister cities, as well as members of the Garden Club and the Sister Cities Association. —K.D.

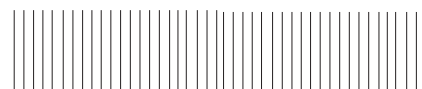
2. RIPARIAN REHAB

A new report recommends ways to beautify Laguna Canyon Creek as funding becomes available, and groups already have started volunteering to help restore this habitat. The grant-funded report was written by Laguna Greenbelt board members Bob Borthwick and Lance Vallery, who is also vice president of Laguna Canyon Foundation. Bob and Lance planned to present their findings to the City Council this spring. They suggest removing invasive plants; modifying fences to blend in with natural surroundings; adding signage, native trees, and a wildlife crossing at Big Bend; and exploring the creation of two new trails. —S.S.



Bryan Sarjeant and Chief Jeff LaTendresse

IN FEBRUARY, THE CITY ANNOUNCED THAT FIRE ENGINEER BRYAN SARJEANT WAS SELECTED AS THE 2014 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AND RESERVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PATRICK KNOEL WAS NAMED THE 2014 RESERVE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR; THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS WERE RECOGNIZED AT THE FIREFIGHTER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER HELD AT MISSION VIEJO SADDLEBACK VALLEY ELKS LODGE.



Revamped Beach Retreat

After a \$1.5 million renovation, the former Laguna Cliffs Inn on North Coast Highway debuted as Laguna Beach House on April 1; Classic Hotels & Resorts acquired the boutique hotel in May 2014.

Since then, all 36 guest rooms have been redesigned for a laid-back, beach-cottage vibe—surf and skater decor is incorporated throughout, in addition to custom-made Laguna Beach destination posters in each room. All public spaces were also remodeled; updates include an expanded pool deck and lobby, as well as a new meeting space that accommodates up to 15 people. The opening party, held April 2, included a silent auction benefiting the Laguna Beach Community Clinic and the Surfing Heritage & Culture Center in San Clemente. (thelagunabeachhouse.com) —K.D. LBM





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COMMUNITY

SCHOOLPOWER STROKE OF GENIUS GALA

1 “Albert Einstein,” Robin Rounaghi 2 Brent Martini and Wendy Nicholson-Martini 3 Holly and David Wilson 4 Chris and Tami Herzfeld 5 Tom Motherway
6 Angela Shipp, Amy Kramer 7 Jun and Mina Shen 8 Zack Krone, Craig Strong, Rick Riess



March 14 was a record-breaking evening for SchoolPower. The 30th annual gala, themed Stroke of Genius and held at Montage Laguna Beach, featured a Fund-a-Need community campaign that raised the most money in the program's history. This year's Fund-a-Need, introduced in a video presented by SchoolPower President Tom Motherway and Laguna Beach Unified School District Chief Technology Officer Mike Morrison, raised \$212,000 to bring mobile desks to Laguna classrooms.

The contributions, which matched the district's financial commitment, will outfit 12 classrooms with large monitors, audio systems and furniture to allow instructional collaboration among students. With the help of the 330 attendees, an additional \$157,000 was raised through live and silent auctions and other event revenue. In keeping with the theme, an Albert Einstein impersonator entertained guests well into the night as they helped SchoolPower make history. (lbschoolpower.org) —Allison Hata

COMMUNITY

LAGUNA BEACH PATRIOTS DAY PARADE

1 Fountain Valley Marching Band 2 Honoring the memory of Laguna Beach Police Officer Jon Coutchie
3 Citizen of the Year Wayne Baglin (far right) 4 Pageant of the Masters 5 Grand Marshal Janet Evans

LB INDY / MITCH RIDDER



Locals donned their best red, white and blue attire to celebrate community and national spirit during the 49th annual Laguna Beach Patriots Day Parade held March 7. The event, which was cancelled due to rain last year, kicked off at 11 a.m. following a performance by the Laguna Concert Band.

The route began at Park Avenue near the high school, and onlookers cheered as roughly 100 groups made their way through downtown, just passing City Hall; participants included local restaurants, clubs, businesses, school bands and nonprofits. This year's theme, Home of the Free Because of the Brave, was present throughout the parade: A highlight of the afternoon was when Pageant of the Masters—one of the first in the lineup—brought the iconic Marine Corps War Memorial (also known as the Iwo Jima Memorial) sculpture to life. (lagunabeachparade.org) —Katherine Duncan



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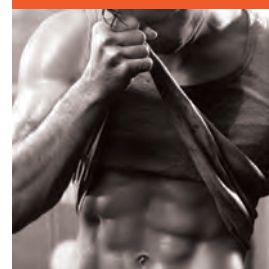
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COMMUNITY

ART STAR AWARDS

1 Gerard Basil Stripling, Michele Taylor 2 Joe Mantegna 3 Shannon Gilbert, Bruce Brainerd



JIM COLLINS



Artists and supporters filled seven-degrees on April 12 for the Laguna Beach Alliance for the Arts' Art Star Awards, which acknowledges organizations, businesses and individuals who have contributed significantly to local arts and culture. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails before moving inside for dinner and the Academy Awards-style presentations.

During his keynote speech, actor Joe Mantegna (best known for his role in the CBS series "Criminal Minds") shared stories from his youth to adulthood, including the moment he initially discovered acting in Cicero, Ill., and his first visit to Laguna Beach. Afterward, winners were announced in seven categories, from best arts program to individual arts patron of the year. Gerard Basil Stripling and Michele Taylor shared the artist of the year award for their collaboration on the Eternal Legacy sculpture located outside of the Laguna Beach Police Department. The work is dedicated to local officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Gerard and Michele, along with the rest of the winners, took home one-of-a-kind award sculptures created by Louis Longi. (lagunabeacharts.org) —K.D. LBM

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"Art has complemented my work as a plastic surgeon allowing me to see and express myself more profoundly. It allows the integration of heart, hand, mind, and soul," says Dr. Sadati.

Dr. Kevin Sadati specializes in facial rejuvenation with natural results that leave patients looking more youthful and feeling better about themselves. He developed a unique lower face and neck lift technique performed under local anesthesia and twilight sedation that can take years off of a patient's appearance in approximately two hours. His technique has been published in peer review journals and presented at numerous plastic surgery meetings.

Pickled jalapeno is sprinkled on lobster roll sliders at Starfish.



PUCKER UP

Pickled produce is making a comeback as Laguna chefs use it to garnish appetizers, pizzas and everything in between.

By Bria Balliet | Photos by Jody Tiongco

PICKLES HAVE BEEN A REVERED SNACK FOR centuries—even famous historical figures, from Christopher Columbus to Cleopatra, couldn't get enough. But today, brining isn't just for cucumbers. Local kitchens are taking inspiration from dishes like Korean kimchee (various vegetables soaked in vinegar and spices), sousing everything from apples to cabbage for tart garnishes and side dishes.

"I think the gastronomic phase of cooking is on its way out, and getting back to the rustic, actual cooking and preserving of food [is making] its way back in," explains Kenny Raponi, executive chef of Laguna's Tabu Grill.

The salt and tang of vinegar-soaked veggies perfectly complements heavy dishes like pork belly, a local favorite. "Nowadays we use [pickling] to not only preserve food, but we use it to balance out a dish," Kenny says. "It adds an acidity and it helps cut through richer, heartier components."

Here, we've rounded up some of the places around Laguna that offer these innovative additions so you can satisfy your sour tooth.

STARFISH

Starfish's dedication to Asian-inspired fare extends to the tangy trimmings on its appetizers and small plates. The eatery stays true to Korean

flavors by topping barbecue pork buns with pickled red onion and tacos with various brined vegetables, but it steps outside the box with its lobster roll sliders. Served on warm bread with Maine lobster and Sriracha aioli, the miniature East Coast-inspired bites are then sprinkled with preserved jalapeno for a tart and spicy kick.

Adding a bit of brine to the main course, the restaurant's five-spice baby back ribs—which are first dry rubbed with star anise and cinnamon, and then coated with katsu barbecue sauce—are amplified by the hot and sour flavor of Starfish's pickled vegetable slaw. (949-715-9200; starfishlaguna.com)



Broadway's branzino with brined clamshell mushrooms

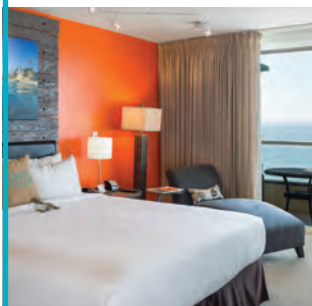
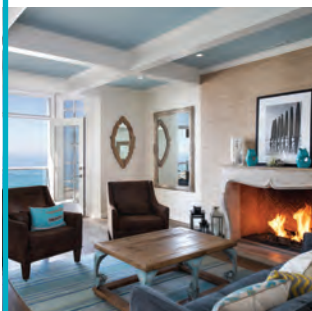
BROADWAY BY AMAR SANTANA

While chef-owner Amar Santana's innovative dish selections change regularly, there are a few pantry staples he keeps on hand.

His arsenal always includes house-made piccalilli—English-style brined vegetables seasoned with turmeric, mustard and other spices. "I actually made this batch I have about two years ago," Amar says. "That's what is so amazing about having pickled stuff. It's a preservative, so basically you ... can always have it handy and use it for anything."

His interest in pickling also extends to seafood: Brined clamshell mushrooms accompany the Mediterranean branzino dish, and he plans to serve marinated shrimp and mussels this spring.

"I use white wine and a little bit of vinegar so it's not very pungent," the chef explains. "It's more mellow, more light, but it still has that [pickled] taste." (949-715-8234; broadwaybyamarsantana.com)



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A tangy scallion-ginger relish pairs with slightly sweet kalbi (Korean beef short rib) at Sapphire Laguna.

SAPPHIRE LAGUNA

Celebrating the flavors of global cuisine, chef Azmin Ghahreman's Sapphire Laguna boasts an array of tastes ranging from Asia to the Middle East. Known for its slightly sweet and savory flavor, the kalbi (Korean beef short rib) pairs beautifully with the acidity of the kimchee and the tang of the accompanying scallion-ginger relish. Similarly, the crisp texture of the vegetables complements the tenderness of the meat.

Another Asian-inspired dish, the braised Vietnamese beef cheeks, receives an additional layer of flavor from pickled herbs. Those who prefer poultry will want to try Sapphire's Jidori chicken, which features apple cabbage sauerkraut. (949-715-9888; sapphirellc.com)



Pickled onions top the poke appetizer at Tabu Grill.

TABU GRILL

Inspired by flavors of the South Pacific, Tabu Grill serves Asian-fusion cuisine such as seafood, pork and steaks with fresh vegetables and savory sides, like forbidden black rice risotto and house-made macaroni and cheese. Throughout the menu, brined accompaniments add a complementary flavor. Pickled onions atop the poke appetizer, for example, are the perfect finish for a plate that marries coriander, bay leaves, garlic and other seasonings to create a soy and ginger essence.

The pork gyoza—served with spicy peanuts and a ginger-soy dipping sauce—also gets an added kick from vinegar-soaked daikon, carrots and chilies; meanwhile, the braised pork belly is served with a quick-pickled coleslaw. "It's not actually pickled in the sense where it's curing and being preserved in the juice," Kenny explains of the coleslaw. "It's just added to the juice for a few hours to get that extra acidic taste into the vegetables." (949-494-7743; tabugrill.com)

SPLASHES RESTAURANT

Helmed by Executive Chef David Fuñe, Splashes Restaurant at Surf & Sand Resort is known for its dedication to local ingredients and California coastal cuisine. The restaurant's lunch menu includes a selection of gourmet flatbread pizzas, several of which include an unexpected bite from produce that is carefully pickled in-house.

"Pickling is, for me, a delicate thing," David explains. "I don't want something to be too pickled if I'm having something that has a mild flavor because it will take over."

Striking a balance, the forest mushroom pork-belly flatbread comes adorned with rich brie, soy caramel and black garlic; a layer of brined baby apples helps cut through the heaviness.

"Through the cooking process, apples get really sweet," David says. "So we thought the slight pickling process [would] help keep the acid level up there for that particular flatbread." (949-376-2779; surfandsandresort.com) LBM



Produce pickled in-house adds another dimension to flatbread pizzas at Splashes Restaurant at Surf & Sand Resort.

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PEDAL POWER

Laguna Canyon Riders tackle the trails and give back to the community.

Section by Sharael Kolberg



Facundo Malbran (center) is founder of the Laguna Canyon Riders, which bikes together and helps preserve trails.

AS FACUNDO MALBRAN WHIZZES DOWN WATER Tank Road in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, his mountain bike absorbs the impact of the rocks, roots and ruts he rides over. Coasting down the fire road is a reward for the leg-burning climb up Willow Canyon Road and across Bommer Ridge Trail. And joining Facundo on the two-hour Saturday morning trek are about a dozen other riders—of various ages and ability levels—known as the Laguna Canyon Riders.

With 33 miles of world-class trails open to mountain biking in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, it seems natural that a group of local bike enthusiasts have joined forces to traverse them together. The nonprofit, formed in late 2014 by Facundo (who is also the head coach teaching skills training) focuses on fitness, camaraderie and giving back to the community.

Laguna Beach Magazine recently spoke with Facundo to find out more about this local mountain biking club.

Laguna Beach Magazine: What is the mission of Laguna Canyon Riders?

Facundo Malbran: We specialize in mountain biking training, promote safe and responsible use of our local parks ... and work to continue the tireless efforts of those that took the necessary steps to guarantee that the land we now enjoy would be here for generations to come.

LBM: From your experience, what are the benefits of mountain biking as a form of exercise?

FM: Health—in order to ride, you have to be strong; you can't be weak. Stress relief—after a long day of work, you go for a spin for an hour and it gives you an appreciation for the environment you live in, so you come back home with a big smile on your face. Camaraderie—[a] great way to make friends, relax and build community.

LBM: Where does the club ride?

FM: Currently, Laguna Canyon Riders meets

on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. at Big Bend [off] Laguna Canyon Road. We typically do a 2.5-hour ride on trails such as Willow Canyon or El Moro Canyon [in nearby Crystal Cove State Park]. Find out about our rides by liking our Facebook page.

LBM: What are your top mountain biking trails in Laguna Beach?

FM: Some great trails include Water Tank Road ... and Bommer Ridge Trail off Laguna Canyon Road, and West Ridge and Mathis Canyon trails from Alta Laguna [Park].

LBM: What are some tips for beginners?

FM: Laguna is not like anywhere else, so don't be frustrated on the first hill. Hydrate—because you're going to sweat a lot once you're on the bike. Always call a friend—that's a lot of fun. Go with someone that has ridden before, so they can give you tips. A good bike is key for good riding—right size frame, wheel [and] seat height are important. It's a tool you're going to use three times a week and it lasts five years, [so] it's worth the \$600 to \$3,000 value of these bikes. It's for your health.

LBM: Laguna Canyon Riders has decided to give back to the community. Can you explain?

FM: We are working with the Orange County Parks and Laguna Canyon Foundation, helping with trail maintenance, at the nursery, installing irrigation and donating needed materials. We have a lot of trails, but they need work and there aren't a lot of resources available. We wanted to create a network of users that can start attacking the immediate needs. Simple things can make a big difference. Also, some of the Laguna Canyon Riders have volunteered to get certified through the National Interscholastic Cycling Association in order to coach ... students from the Laguna Beach Interscholastic Mountain Bike Team. ... It's great for the schools to have an alternative sport. No one is cut from the team and it is a skill they can use for life. We really care about the trails, the kids and safety.

GEARING UP

Taking a spin through the local hills is always more enjoyable with the right equipment.

Like any sport, there are must-have items that riders need to make the most of their mountain biking experience. Here are some recommendations for hitting the trails like a pro. **LBM**



PEARL IZUMI ELITE GEL GLOVES, \$35 per pair, at Rock N' Road Cyclery, Laguna Niguel (949-360-8045; rocknroadcyclery.net)



CANDY 3 PEDALS, \$130, at Crank Bros. (949-464-9916; crankbrothers.com)



LAZER ULTRAX HELMET, \$90, at The Bike Co., Lake Forest (949-470-1099; bikeco.com)



RUCKUS ALL-MOUNTAIN PADDED SHORTS, \$135, at Troy Lee Designs (949-715-8142; troyleesportswear.blogspot.com)



MARIN MOUNT VISION XM7 BICYCLE, \$3,799, at Laguna Beach Cyclery (949-494-1522; lagunabeachcyclery.com)



Living walls may feature a variety of plants, selected based on available light, to bring a touch of nature inside.

THE GREAT INDOORS

Make your interior spaces as naturally beautiful as Laguna's outdoors.

Section by Vicki Hogue-Davies

THE CITY'S INHERENT BEAUTY—ITS SPARKLING ocean, sandy coves and colorful hillsides—makes it a place where life is often best lived outdoors. With homes situated among such a stunning environment, it's natural to bring those outside elements in through creative design techniques.

"[It] does happen a lot here simply because

of the way our lifestyles are in Laguna," says Lisa McDennon, owner of Lisa McDennon Design and Nuance Home and Lifestyle boutique, both in Laguna.

Installing folding wall and door systems is a popular way to blur the line between indoors and out, Lisa explains. "This creates more openness and less

of a break between what is out and what is in," she says. For a client's recent kitchen nook redesign, Lisa replaced a French door to a patio with a NanaWall folding wall system and added indoor and outdoor dining sets with the exact same dimensions.

"When they want to dine sort of alfresco, they open the wall, turn the tables together and cover with a tablecloth," she says. "They basically doubled their nook—from seating six people to 12—and they have a beautiful indoor/outdoor space."

Those who don't want to commence any structural changes can create the illusion of an outdoor oasis by incorporating patio tables and chairs inside. "If there is a great room that pours out onto a patio or loggia, I will frequently incorporate teak or other outdoor furniture that translates inside," Lisa says, suggesting slightly rustic or beachy pieces with slatted wood frames and clean, modern lines.

If you opt for patio furniture, she recommends choosing pieces that meld with the design of other interior items in the home. Lisa is a fan of the Richard Frinier Collection for Century, which can be purchased nearby at Laguna Design Center in Laguna Niguel. The Andalusia line features versatile Spanish-style chaise lounges, chairs, couches and tables, all with intricate decorative detailing; however, more contemporary tastes may gravitate toward the Metropolitan collection, which blends streamlined teak frames with upholstered, plush cushions.

To complement the furniture, durable outdoor fabrics such as solution-dyed acrylics are increasingly being used indoors, she adds. Rugs made from natural materials like sisal, jute and sea grass also add an organic quality to a room.

And, of course, a simple way to create an outdoorsy feel is by adding plenty of plants, whether in rustic pots or as living wall. "You have to pick the right plants for high- or low-light situations," says Scott Hutcheon, owner of Seasons Landscaping. "With more light, you can use plants with more color. Plants are like us—they want fresh air and sunlight. The more they have of those, the less ... maintenance [you have to do]." If you're installing a vertical garden, look for a nearby water source and drain, as well as an electrical outlet for the timer and pump.

Once the site is selected and the infrastructure in place, a wide variety of succulents and greenery may be added. The end result, a combination of that lush foliage with furniture and textiles, should be an indoor sanctuary that embraces the beauty of nature—all without setting foot outdoors.



THE PLANT BAR OPEN AIR FRAME by Seasons Landscaping, \$18, at Uni Home Store, South Coast Collection, Costa Mesa (949-251-1771; unidesigns.net)

ORGANICALLY INSPIRED

Feel closer to nature with pieces that bring the outside in.

Rugs made of sturdy plant fibers, candle lanterns that provide a warm glow and expansive walls of glass that open to the backyard are all ways to smooth the transition between indoor and outdoor living. Try some of these products to extend an exterior space inside the home. **LBM**



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ANDALUSIA LOVESEAT by Richard Frinier Collection for Century, from \$6,711, at Century Furniture, Laguna Design Center, Laguna Niguel (949-643-1585; centuryfurniture.com)



NATURAL JUTE WOVEN RUG by Dash & Albert, from \$59, at Tuvalu (949-497-3202; tuvaluhome.com)

GOING FORWARD BY STEPPING BACK

Arthur Martinez, owner of A Step Back in Time, sheds light on timepiece restoration and the new chapter in his life.

By Matt Valdez | Photos by Jody Tiongco



IN THE FAST-PACED WORLD WE LIVE IN TODAY, IT would seem that the time of Old World craftsmanship has long since passed—but just a few blocks from the Main Beach shore, a piece of that past remains. Located within the Forest Avenue Mall, the vintage jewelry and timepiece repair shop A Step Back in Time stands as a reminder of a bygone era. Like a treasured family heirloom, the shop has stood the test of time, providing an increasingly rare craft to Laguna Beach residents since 1975.

After almost 40 years, the shop's original owner, Pat Espe, hung up his tool belt in April 2014 and handed the keys over to his good friend Arthur Martinez. Since then, Arthur has continued the legacy Pat worked so hard to keep alive in this ever-advancing world.

We recently spoke with Arthur about his craft and the shop that has been entrusted to him.



Arthur Martinez has an eye for detail in his repair work.

Laguna Beach Magazine: How did you get started in jewelry and timepiece repair?

Arthur Martinez: Well, I've been in the business my whole life, like my father and grandfather. ... They really instilled my passion and desire to enter [the business]. I began sweeping the floors in my dad's shop in Detroit. Then I was an apprentice for my father from the age of 15 until I was about 25.

LBM: What first brought you to A Step Back in Time?

AM: One day I happened to be walking in Laguna Beach, as I often do with my wife, and I happened to notice the shop with its sign there. I went into the store and bought a small watch from Pat and we became friends. After that day, our relationship grew.

LBM: How did you end up taking over ownership of the store?

AM: Not this past October, but the October before that, Pat began seriously talking about retirement and was looking to sell the property. He was quite leery, not because he didn't trust me, but because this was his baby. In the last few months we began speaking about how everything would continue on. Then, in April of last year, [my wife and I] signed the papers and became the owners of the store.

LBM: How has the community reacted to you taking over the shop?

AM: It was quite a nice transition. Even though I wasn't working here at the time, I took every opportunity I could before [the transition] to get accustomed. Shortly after Pat left, I was concerned that the client base wouldn't stay with us, but our statistics show that at least 95 percent of Pat's original clients have returned.

LBM: Can you tell me about your process for restoring timepieces?



Timepiece repair is a family trade. Arthur's grandfather (fourth from left) worked in an early 1900s shop.

AM: In most cases, the process will take about one to four weeks. In both wristwatches and clocks, there are anywhere from 40 to over 300 parts in each unit. You have to take them apart, properly clean them, reassemble them and make sure there are no gears or parts that need to be replaced. Then you must oil, lubricate and regulate. I always tell clients that I only have two hands and that I can only work on one piece at a time.

LBM: What is the most interesting piece you've ever encountered in the store?

AM: Well, we have worked on some very interesting timepieces. But currently we are working on a very unique, musical pocket watch, a solid gold Patek Philippe. It was bought in the '80s at approximately \$30,000 and is now worth a quarter of a million dollars.

LBM: With all the advancements in technology, why do you believe people are still drawn to classic timepieces?

AM: These pieces were made when craftsmanship was important; there wasn't such a thing as computers or 3-D printers. This was a time when people actually made things by hand.

The pieces we have are mostly 40 to over 100 years old and made by people who took pride in making things this way. **LBM**

COURTESY OF ARTHUR MARTINEZ



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BOOST OF ESSENTIAL
VITAMINS AND
MINERALS.**

By Sharon Stello | Photos by Jody Tiongco





Left: Juices & Shakes on North Coast Highway;
below: Juices & Shakes shot board



At Juice & Shakes, some customers jump-start their day with the shot board: three 2-ounce glasses of special blends with ingredients such as beet, kale, lemon and ginger. The North Coast Highway shop, which opened last fall, is the newest place for locals to get their fruit and veggie fix—and also an indication that the juicing sensation shows no signs of slowing down.

“It has been growing,” says Chris Keller, co-owner of Juice & Shakes. “I want to say 2010 is when it really started to surface, but, you know, it’s definitely taken hold and now it’s become more popular. I think the easiest way to describe it is people just want to feel good and they want to feel healthy.”

In addition to Chris’ latest venture, we have three other shops in town dedicated to juicing, as well as myriad restaurants and stores offering fresh sips. The juice scene in Laguna is ripe for exploring, with plenty of ways to get your daily dose of fresh fruits and vegetables in a 16-ounce cup.

JUICING UP

“I think it’s really amazing the shift that we’ve seen in this country over the past five years, that people are really trying to do things healthier for themselves,” says Lori Kenyon Farley, a partner at Project Juice, which recently merged with Ritual Wellness.



TOXIN FLUSH
Servings: Makes
16 ounces

Ingredients:

- 3 apples
- 1 inch ginger
- 1 handful spinach
- 1 handful parsley
- 1 peeled lemon

Run items through a juicer into a glass and enjoy.

(Recipe from Nektar Juice Bar)

While eating whole fruits and vegetables is ideal, according to Laguna-based clinical nutritionist Stella Metsovas, she explains that juices still pack a nutritional punch and tend to be more convenient than grabbing a veggie snack to-go. “Are people going to take a cucumber in the car and just chomp on it? Probably not,” says Stella, who recently completed a juice bar study for one of the world’s biggest beverage



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Nekter co-owner Alexis Schulze suggests that novice juicers use apples to make the beverage more palatable.



Project Juice's Deep Green is high in vitamins A and C.

companies. "Are people going to have, you know, a cucumber juice mixed with lemon and parsley and apple? Yes."

A single cup of juice can hold several pounds of compressed produce that's high in nutrients, but the body doesn't have to expend energy to break down an entire apple, for example. Juices served fresh also contain live enzymes, which are needed for digestion and other functions.

In addition to single-serving drinks, Nekter Juice Bar and Project Juice offer popular multiday cleanse packages, which involve ingesting only juice for several days. Lori explains that the idea of a cleanse is to give your body a break, allowing it to use energy typically spent on digestion to restore and repair itself. Some say this practice flushes toxins, leads to brighter eyes and improved skin.

An occasional juice cleanse is generally safe for a few days and can help reset eating habits after an indulgent period, Stella says, but the key is making good food choices afterward. She recommends a modified cleanse—supplementing juice with fish and veggies for one meal each day—and advises against longer master cleanses.

"The main problem I see with the popularity of juice cleanses is with people going strict for



The Stand offers fresh juices and snacks.

GRAB A GLASS

Check out these local shops for a dose of liquid nutrition that's full of flavor.

THE ART OF JUICING: Inside the Art of Fitness gym, pressed organic juices, smoothies and "cures"—special blends to aid in the body's recovery from colds, fatigue, indigestion and more—are offered as well as hummus wraps and kale salad. (949-464-0203; theartofjuicing.net)

JUICE & SHAKES: Styled like a vintage ice cream parlor, the town's newest addition serves cold-pressed juice made from local, non-GMO, organically grown produce; as well as shakes, coconut milk-based ice cream, blended frozen fruit bowls, and kombucha and cold-brewed coffee on tap. (949-420-2222; juiceandshakes.com)

NEKTER JUICE BAR: Cold-pressed bottled juices and cleanses are sold as well as fresh-pressed options made to order using a centrifugal machine. Fresh, conventional produce—instead of organic—keeps the drinks affordable. (949-415-5588; nekterjuicebar.com)

PROJECT JUICE: The retail shop (formerly Ritual JuiceBox) offers non-GMO, USDA-certified organic, cold-pressed juice, which is incorporated into the smoothies, cleanses, nut mylks, cold-brewed coffee and grab-and-go plant-based foods. (949-484-0239; projectjuice.com)

THE STAND: A fixture in town for more than four decades, it's a favorite stop for fresh-squeezed juice and smoothies as well as vegan food—sandwiches, soups, salads, burritos and more. (949-494-8101)



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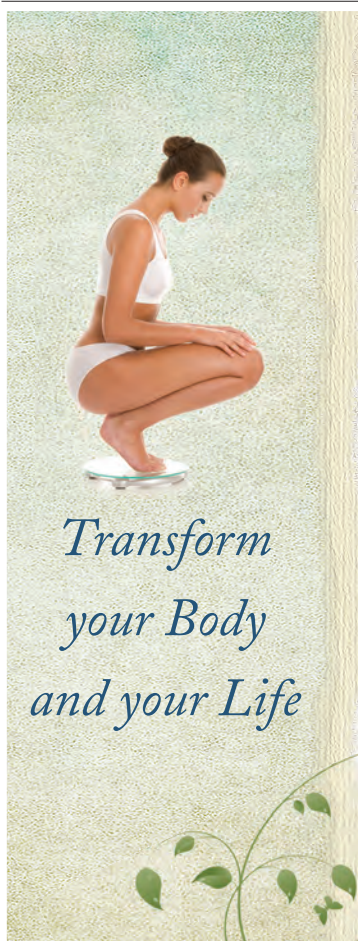
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Designed to flush toxins, this Nektar cleanse is a blend of roughly 15 pounds of fruits and vegetables.

three days, four days, and then come the weekend, it's time to party, basically," Stella cautions. "You know, it's not going to undo that, ever. A green juice is never going to come in and undo the damage caused by a real night of binge drinking or having four slices of pizza."

TASTE THE CONVENIENCE

The health benefits may be plentiful, but a clear cup filled with thick, green liquid can still be intimidating. "If the juice doesn't taste good and you're just throwing a hodge-podge of things in there, I don't think you'll drink it—it goes in the trash," says Nektar co-owner Alexis Schulze.

She's not opposed to incorporating apples—at least in the beginning—to make the vegetables tolerable, as long as you're aware of the calorie content. As she says, "If that's what it takes to get the rest of it in you, then you don't have to be so elitist and afraid to have [apples in the juice]."

Taste is a critical component to juicing, one that may be disregarded by those in search of the healthiest potion possible. The shops around town have options for both sides of the spectrum and offer ways for people to be nutritious while also savoring the flavor.

"If we do anything that's fruit-based at all, we



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generally put coconut water in it,” Lori says. “It’s super high in potassium (an electrolyte) ... and it really helps cut down on the sugar content of the juice, but still makes it really delicious and sweet.”

For a green drink that’s more approachable, she suggests Project Juice’s Potion 10, a blend of kale and other rich greens mixed with pineapple, pear, cucumber and lime. “For people who are new to juicing or feel like they don’t have a palate for green juices, they can still get the benefits of the leafy greens, the romaine and the spinach, without actually having to get the taste of it,” Lori explains, adding that there’s no right or wrong way to make juice. “Choose what you like and make sure you throw in some greens.”

BRINGING IT HOME

Armed with a basic of knowledge of the health benefits, many may want to try juicing at home—and Laguna’s juice bar owners have plenty of tips, which begin with finding the right equipment.

“No matter how good your juicer is, if it’s not easy to assemble and take apart and clean, the chances of you actually using it are not that good,” Alexis advises, adding that you’ll want a machine that makes it easy to incorporate juicing as part of a daily routine.

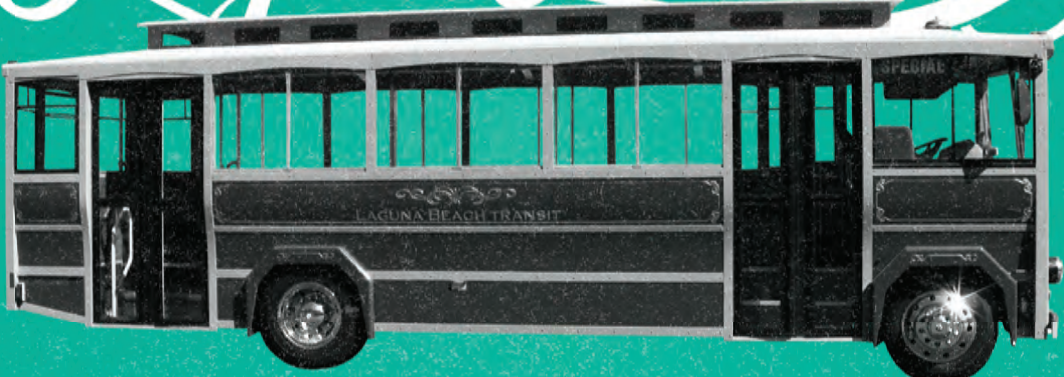


Project Juice’s Lori Kenyon Farley

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Chris, however, advocates for a higher quality: “You can get a masticating juicer from \$200 up to \$1,200,” he says. “It’s worth the extra money—you get more production out of each vegetable and then it’s just a better process.”

Cold-press (masticating) machines are ideal, according to Lori, as they eliminate the heating process that causes a loss of enzymes and minerals. However, she says the only true cold-press system on the market is the Norwalk juicer, which grinds the produce and then employs a hydraulic press to extract maximum liquid and nutrients. This commercial equipment is too heavy and expensive for home use, so she instead recommends buying a masticating machine like the Omega 8006.

But, in the end, it’s what goes into the juicer that’s even more important. “If you can incorporate more fruits and vegetables into your daily life ... it’s really going to impact your health,” Lori says. “So choose what you like, whether you’re making it at home or grabbing it on the go. Choose organic whenever possible—just whatever will help you get more of those into your diet is a great thing.” LBM



When buying a home juicer, choose one that’s easy to clean so you’ll be more inclined to use it regularly.

RECIPE FOR HEALTH

Juice—basically the water extracted from fruits and vegetables—contains a multimineral blend such as magnesium and vitamin C, which the body needs, explains local clinical nutritionist Stella Metsovas. Depending on the ingredients selected, juice can be tailored to provide certain benefits, from detoxing to boosting immunity or aiding digestion. Here, learn about some top ingredients that do your body good and where you can try them around town.



KALE: This dark leafy green is packed with protein and vitamins. At at Project Juice, try it in the no-fruit Deep Green or the Potion 10, a sweeter option that brings fruit into the mix. The Greenie is a good kale-based option at Nekter Juice Bar, with celery, cucumber, parsley and spinach enhanced by a touch of apple and lemon.



TURMERIC: A common ingredient in curry, this root is known for its anti-inflammatory properties. It has been used for thousands of years to treat a variety of ailments; recent studies have shown that it can assist with digestive issues. Try the turmeric lemonade at Project Juice or the No. 6 on the 16-ounce menu at Juice & Shakes.



GINGER: Studies have shown this root can help balance the immune system, and it’s also known for reducing nausea. “Anytime you’re not feeling well, I kind of force anyone to take a ginger shot,” says Nekter co-owner Alexis Schulze. Project Juice offers ginger in the Immunity drink, which also incorporates citrus and cayenne.



PITAYA: Alexis is a big fan of the bright pink pitaya, which grows on a cactus along the side of a volcano in Nicaragua and is related to dragon fruit. It is low-calorie and full of antioxidants. “It’s chock-full of all these incredible nutrients and [it’s] energy boosting, so that’s another one we use in our smoothies and bowls,” Alexis says.

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HOMETOWN HEROES

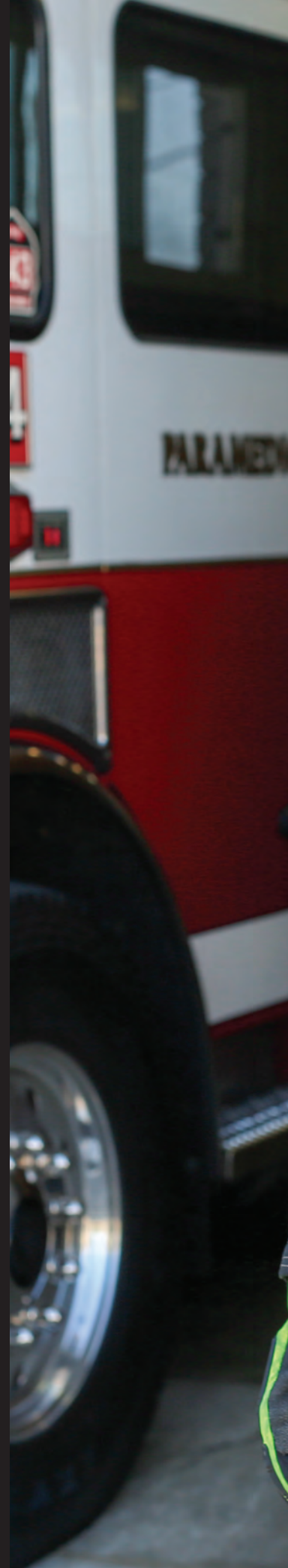
They may not wear capes, but these individuals demonstrate superhuman bravery and selflessness.

By Bria Balliet and Matt Valdez | Photos by Jody Tiongco

When the Patriots Day Parade returned last month after a rain hiatus in 2014, it was cause for celebration—the hundreds of locals who lined Park Avenue to cheer on participants are evidence of Laguna’s boundless civic pride. Since its humble beginnings in 1967, the once-small gathering has evolved into something much bigger, with a sea of people dressed in red, white and blue honoring citizens who have served their country and the community.

“I think it’s a representation of the city and how it wants to pull everybody together,” says Robert Mosier, a World War II Army pilot who served as this year’s honored patriot in the parade. “The whole city is involved.”

Emily Ross, the parade’s founder, proved that patriotism could be celebrated year-round. So, on the heels of our Patriots Day Parade, we offer our own tribute to people in town who are changing lives. Whether they’re serving the country on the front lines of war or fighting to keep families safe from disease, these four extraordinary individuals—just a few of many in Laguna who are making a difference—demonstrate a superhuman level of dedication and courage.





DAVID LOPEZ

MAN ON FIRE

Going above and beyond isn't a foreign concept for David, a recent Firefighter of the Year—his dedication to the department and the local community earned him recognition at the 2014 South Orange County First Responders Appreciation Awards Dinner.

His journey to the Laguna Beach Fire Department began more than a decade ago when he landed a job as a dispatcher. As he received calls and sent out responders, he realized that his passion was on other side of the radio. Though he had one of the most challenging civilian positions in the department, he yearned to be in the field saving lives. In 2010, after rigorous EMT and fire training, David's hard work and perseverance finally paid off.

David took his new position seriously from day one; he explains that he and his fellow firefighters have a responsibility to not only provide aid in emergencies, but to contribute to the community. In addition to their public service duties, the city's firefighters participate in a number of programs ranging from station tours for children to charitable fundraising.

The 33-year-old is also a member of the Orange County Fire Authority Pipes and Drums, a 24-member bagpipe and percussion band that performs at memorials and funeral services for fallen firefighters and police officers. The bagpipes have a long-standing association with firefighting, stemming from the early 1800s when they were played at the funerals of many Irish immigrants who filled the dangerous positions. "It's important that we honor these people in a way that is worthy of their contributions," David says of the tradition.

With all of his endeavors and accomplishments, it's easy to understand how you might see David as a hero. But in his eyes, he's no different from anyone else in his department. "I feel that what I do isn't really a big deal," David says. "We all put in effort and care into our job. We all work together to serve the community and make a difference." —M.V.

CPL. JASON FARRIS

A HELPING HAND

While many may recognize members of our homeless population, it's not often that we take the time to chat with them, get to know their stories and offer help. But for Jason, a member of the Laguna Beach Police Department, that's part of his daily routine. Serving as the community outreach officer since the position was created in 2008, he spends many mornings connecting with homeless individuals and offering available resources. Sometimes it's as simple as finding them shelter for the night or as personal as reuniting them with family members.

"I want the public to know ... that we do everything we can to protect businesses, the residents and tourists, and homeless people equally," Jason explains. "The law isn't written for only certain people."

Since taking on this position, Jason has helped countless people get off the street, get into rehab and make it home to their families. His successes have earned him a number of honors, including a "top cop" recognition on Law Enforcement Night at Angel Stadium during the pre-game ceremony last year, an officer of the year award from the local American Legion post in 2010, and a medal of merit at the 2011 annual police banquet.

But even with the numerous commendations he's received during his career, one of Jason's most prized possessions is a bit more modest than a plaque or certificate. Some time ago, he gave a former homeless man a map and a bus pass, along with a suggestion to check out a nearby rehab facility. After one year of sobriety, the man found Jason and gave him an Alcohol Anonymous chip, which the officer now keeps with his badge.

"I didn't even drive him—and I've driven people to rehabs," Jason says. "... [But] he went, and he got clean and sober. ... And I carry that coin with me because it reminds me that no matter how small of a thing I do, you never know what it's going to turn into." —B.B.





DR. KOREY JORGENSEN

COMMUNITY CARETAKER

Korey's 40-year career in Laguna Beach is nothing short of significant. The recently retired family physician and HIV specialist has treated thousands of underprivileged patients at the Laguna Beach Community Clinic (LBCC). "I decided at around the age of 14 or 15 that I wanted to become a doctor," says the now 70-year-old. "I liked the aspect of helping people for a living."

Decades ago, Korey served as a Navy physician at the old El Toro Marine Corps Air Station near Irvine, where he got to know other local doctors. "I was encouraged by [Laguna's] Dr. Bill Anderson of Sleepy Hollow Medical Group to look into the community clinic here to do some volunteering," Korey explains. "I started in 1972 and have been there ever since."

In the 1980s, a mysterious illness—which we now know as human immunodeficiency virus—began afflicting members of the gay community. It wasn't long before some of Korey's own patients began developing symptoms, prompting him to leave his private practice in 1993 to join the HIV treatment program at the LBCC. "It's hard for me to talk about those days without weeping," he says, filled with emotion. "It was just so bloody awful. Back then, a young person might come in with HIV or AIDS and, before medication, there was precious little we could do for him."

Though Korey retired last December to focus on his own health, he remains very much involved with the LBCC. He continues to offer financial support, meets with its medical director weekly as an adviser and represents the clinic on the city's HIV Advisory Committee.

Despite his huge contributions to Laguna over the years, he maintains that it wasn't a solo effort. "I loved my work at the clinic, but it would not have been possible without support from the community," Korey admits. "It's a good cause and I'm grateful that people agree it's worth funding to take care of those who can't get help anywhere else." —M.V.

CODY LATENDRESSE

A PATRIOTIC SPIRIT

Cody, the son of Laguna Beach Fire Department Chief Jeff LaTendresse, is part of a new generation of heroes. Last September, the 19-year-old enlisted in the Army as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and graduated from basic training in November.

"My dad served in the military and went on to become a firefighter after," he explains. "I also knew that I would gain a lot of experience there that would help me reach what I am trying to do."

Since childhood, Cody knew that he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps—seeing Jeff help people in the community inspired him to take action. At the age of 14, Cody joined the local Fire Explorers program, which offers teenagers hands-on training and exposure to different careers within the fire service. "I was always trying to go to the fire station with my dad," he says. "I wanted to do anything I could to become a firefighter."

As Cody got older, he sought out more opportunities to get his foot in the door. While attending Laguna Beach High School, he enrolled in EMT classes, took a number of medical and fire-related Regional Occupational Program (ROP) courses, and eventually decided to enlist in the military.

While he admits there was certainly a culture shock going from Laguna Beach to life on base, it was worth it once he began his medical training. "Once I got to AIT (Advanced Individual Training), I finally got to start my medi-training, which has been amazing," Cody says. "As we get more in-depth, things have been getting pretty intense, but I love it."

Cody will remain on active duty for the next four years and on inactive reserve for another two. He shares that, although he looks forward to coming home, he has no regrets about enlisting. "The ultimate goal is to become a firefighter," he says. "And I know that I am working towards that by being here." —M.V. LBM

COURTESY OF CODY LATENDRESSE



DEFINITION OF A HERO

A few 2015 Laguna Beach Patriots Day Parade honorees share what the word means to them.



"A hero is one who jeopardizes her [or] his well-being to assist one or more living beings who are threatened by a catastrophic event, without the intent of any personal gain." —Wayne Baglin, Citizen of the Year



"To me, a hero is someone who puts others ahead of themselves. ... If in a situation where it's needed, they are ready to jump in with no regard for themselves or thoughts of reward. A hero, pure and simple, does something because it is the right thing to do and I admire them for that." —Alisa Schwarzstein Cairns, Athlete of the Year



"A hero stands up for his family and his friends against all odds. He is truthful and honest and is not swayed by any argument other than his determination to be true. He can be relied on to be there through thick and thin, and seeks no reward other than being consistent with his code of ethics." —Ian Cairns, Athlete of the Year



"[Heroes are] people who support the country and work in civic activities [and] do their part. I think every youngster coming out of high school should be involved in something to support the country." —Robert Mosier, World War II Army veteran, Honored Patriot

ROBERT MOSIER PHOTO BY MITCH RIDDER

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BECOMING A BAR MASTER

Whether you want to impress guests or just re-create your favorite drink, the ability to expertly craft a cocktail will never go out of style.

By Peter A. Balaskas and Allison Hata



Laguna's watering holes are known for offering the best in both classic and innovative beverages. To help you build the perfect bar—whether it's a few cabinets in the kitchen or a dedicated room—we've enlisted bartenders at a few of the city's top cocktail establishments to share their expert insight. From carving out a space to choosing the right glassware, these tips, tricks, tools and techniques will have you mixing up drinks at home in no time at all.



Home bars, like this one designed by Shala Shamardi, should fit the overall aesthetic of your other decor.

○ SETTING THE SCENE

The first step in establishing any kind of lounge or bar environment is creating a base of operations—a place where the bar and contents are conveniently located.

Orange County-based interior designer Shala Shamardi says homeowners should first look at the aesthetics of the surrounding areas. As a bar often becomes a gathering space within a residence, it's important to consider location. If you're building a bar between two rooms, make sure design choices feel like a natural extension of the home, she explains.

Custom built-ins, like cabinets and a sturdy countertop, are a great splurge for making a bar feel like it belongs in the home; however, those interested in a more do-it-yourself approach can carve out a smaller space for less using vintage finds.

Mason Baird, bartender at Mozambique, says that pre-owned home bars can be purchased for economical prices at venues like the Rose Bowl flea market in Pasadena or at local residential sales. "An old roommate and friend ... found a sweet vintage midcentury green

and gold bar at a yard sale that got turned into the neighborhood bar," he says. "I think she bought it for less than \$200."

In lieu of a fixed piece of furniture, bartender John Doll of Three Seventy Common Kitchen & Drink suggests a movable bar cart for spirits that don't need to be refrigerated, as well as bar tools and specialty glasses.

"If you aren't able to have a dedicated space, just make sure you know where everything you need is," he adds. "Keep your glasses and equipment clean and handy, have a supply of cocktail napkins and swizzle sticks, and you'll want to have your favorite recipes/bartending guide on hand."

That train of thought applies to one overarching piece of design advice from Shala: Keep the space ergonomically functional. Speaking from personal experience, Rooftop Lounge mixologist Ian Goquingco cites a designated area for ice as the key to a successful bar. In addition, open cabinets or shelves that display glassware or liquor bottles are a useful feature that plays to both aesthetics and practicality, as the items are easily accessible.



The Manzini is a popular pick at Mozambique.

○ MANZINI

Servings: 1

1 ounce ginger simple syrup (see below)
 ¼ ounce fresh lime juice
 2 slices fresh jalapeno
 1 splash pineapple juice
 2 ounces pineapple-infused vodka
 Ice, as needed

Add all ingredients into a shaker and shake vigorously until the outside is ice cold; strain over fresh ice into a tall glass and garnish with a lime twist.

GINGER SIMPLE SYRUP:

¾ cup sugar
 ¼ cup peeled and chopped fresh ginger
 ¾ cup water

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat and let sit for 30 minutes. Strain into a jar, cover and chill.



(Recipe from Mason Baird, Mozambique)

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Getting the proper tools makes all the difference when it comes to making a drink. Ian says that a mixing pint and shaker are essential, in addition to a host of other foreign-looking objects that allow you to make cocktails like a pro.

STRAINERS are important for those who use Boston shakers; a Hawthorne strainer fits on top of the metal can and can help filter ice and seeds. Fine mesh strainers work better for drinks that call for muddling ingredients, Mason explains.

He also suggests a heavy **WOOD MUDDLER**, a pestle-like instrument used to extract oils and other flavors from specific ingredients like fruit. "The plastic muddlers tend to tear the ingredients into shreds rather than just releasing the oils," he says.



A **JIGGER** to measure alcohol, a cocktail spoon for stirring and a knife round out the basics needed for any home bar.



STANDARD SHAKERS come in three pieces (a can, a lid with a strainer and a cap), while Boston shakers have a tapered can and a 16-ounce glass. If you're planning to entertain large groups, opt for the latter, as they allow for more drinks to be mixed at once.



GETTING THE RIGHT GLASS

The vessels for holding a cold cocktail are seemingly endless. Here are a few standard styles recommended by bartending pros Ian, John and Mason.



MARTINI:

Also known as a cocktail glass, this simple stemware is used for drinks served without ice, or "straight up."



OLD-FASHIONED:

Perfect for serving drinks built in the glass with ice, these "rocks" options are shorter and hold 6 to 8 ounces.



HIGHBALL:

Approximately 8 to 12 ounces, the tall chimney-style glasses (of which Collins glasses are a variation) are great for cold drinks served with lots of ice.



SNIFTERS:

Short-stemmed glasses with wide bottoms and narrow tops are good for sipping spirits like whiskey, as well as some beers.



PINTS:

Traditionally 16 ounces, this glass is easily stackable, built to last and can serve a wide variety of beers.



John Doll, Three Seventy Common

○ IT'S ALL IN THE WRIST

The right equipment is only helpful if you know how to handle it. In general, an all-alcohol cocktail is stirred to preserve the texture, as it's a drink that's meant to be sipped. Drinks with fruit juice, sweeteners or egg whites are shaken to chill and dilute. Shaking cocktails introduces air bubbles into the liquid, which creates a frothy appearance for sweet drinks and a foamy head on those with egg whites.

John is partial to building a drink, where the host prepares the beverage directly into the serving glass. He feels that layering plays an important part in a bartender's learning curve. "This is when you want to float an ingredient on top of another ingredient," John says. "It's a little more complicated because you'll need to know the different weights of the alcohols."

Liqueurs and liquors of different densities stay separated in a glass with a steady pour; start with the most dense, sugary options at the bottom and pour each subsequent layer slowly over the back of a bar spoon to create a colorful drink.

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PROS PICK

One of the most significant lessons that an up-and-coming home bartender can learn from these three skilled professionals is to take pride in what you create. And while you're at it, remember to have fun—especially if you're the one behind the bar.

Here, top bartenders from Mozambique, Rooftop Lounge and Three Seventy Common Kitchen & Drink share their bar must-haves, as well as tips and tricks for becoming the life of the party.

LIQUID ASSETS

MASON BAIRD, MOZAMBIQUE

Sweet and dry vermouths, especially the Carpano Antica for Manhattans

IAN GOQUINGCO, ROOFTOP LOUNGE

Triple sec (such as Cointreau), simple syrup and Grand Marnier

JOHN DOLL, THREE SEVENTY COMMON KITCHEN & DRINK

Orange-flavored bitters and fresh juices

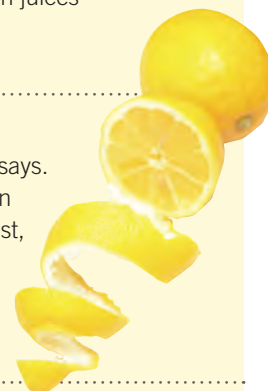
TOP TOOLS

"For twist and garnishes I use a potato peeler to get thin slices to zest over my drinks," Mason says. "[It] adds a nice contrast and depth to the drink."



"Any good bar will have some sort of spill at one point or another," Ian says. "Good towels for cleaning are always nice to have."

"Use a peeler," John says. "Nothing is better than the oil or zest off a twist, peeled off a healthy piece of fruit."



MIXING COCKTAILS



The Manzini (see page 47 for a recipe): "It has citrus, ginger, jalapeno and pineapple-infused vodka," Mason says. "[This is] perfect for when it's hot outside, and doesn't require a ton of time to make."



Ian says that margaritas appeal to both men and women, even to those who don't like straight tequila. He also recommends serving cool and refreshing mint-flavored, vodka-based mojitos for summer get-togethers.



The East Side—vodka, lime and lemon juice, basil, agave nectar and a cucumber slice—is one of John's cold favorites. The refreshing, citrusy cocktail is a must for pool parties on a warm, sunny day.

PRO TIPS

"The best places to check for glassware [are] thrift stores," Mason says. "I have always found vintage and classic glassware for cheap. They make so much more of an impression on your guest than [new] store-bought."



"When hosting parties, ice is usually the first forgotten item and it is almost essential to having a functional bar," Ian says.

"Throw yesterday's lime wedges away. It doesn't take much time to cut a fresh one," John says. LBM





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THE MEN'S ISSUE



The Den
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A GENTLEMAN'S



GUIDE TO

GROOMING



From modern takes on classic cuts to customized offerings, the latest trends will have you looking dapper from head to toe.

By Connie K. Ho

An all-new appreciation for men's style is sweeping the country, and the proliferation of options and information is astounding. Guys are expressing themselves through contemporary approaches to hair and facial hair, and putting their best feet (and hands) forward by taking advantage of male-focused spa services and nail treatments. To get you up to speed, local experts offer insight on the major trends, with advice for getting and maintaining the looks in town.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BEARD

Seen from the boardroom to the beach, beards have popped up all over as the go-to look. Brandon Ferguson, owner of The Den Barber Shop & Shave Parlor, has seen an increased interest in the style—particularly among men in

their late 20s and early 30s.

"It's not a mountain-man beard. ... It's having a really thick, full beard but it's got to look good and got to look clean and it is tapered in with the style of haircut you have," says Brandon, who opened his shop in 2013.

There are a number of brands offering products to help, such as Abraham's, available at The Den. As someone who keeps a beard during the cooler months, Brandon has tried many products himself and recommends using a variety. For example, beard conditioner tames the hair and makes it look the most presentable; beard shampoo can be used to help it stay clean and healthy, and limits the flakiness of the skin underneath; beard oil softens facial hair and tames flyaways so that it doesn't appear frizzy.

In terms of grooming tools, Brandon points to products



Tools of the trade: products from Cremo Co.



For a polished look, it's important that the beard and hairstyle complement one another.

from Zeus Beard; the company offers brushes and combs specifically for facial hair. “One thing you can do, if your beard gets a little out of control, is get a pair of shears and comb your beard out,” Brandon says. “You’ll see little strays going out, and you can easily go through and trim them. When you get rid of those, you’ll be surprised at how much the whole beard takes shape.”

It’s also important to shave around the beard regularly if you want to keep the look polished. Cremo Co., a wholesaler run by two men in Laguna Beach, offers a foamless shaving cream along with a healing moisturizer and sting-free

face wash at retailers such as Bubbles of Laguna and CVS.

“With beards, most guys will still clean up their necks, where you get irritation or bumps—that’s what our product is really good for,” says Kyle Schroeder, president of Cremo Co., who advises men to shave in the shower. “... The hot water opens up your pores; it makes the hair softer so it’s easier to cut. We still get a lot of guys who shave before the shower and that’s not helping their skin at all because you’re going to get more irritation.”

In addition, Kyle touts the importance of using

moisturizer and sun protectant on a daily basis.

“We’re a beach community,” Kyle says. “We get so much sunshine, so you should integrate SPF into your regimen.”

NEW TAKE ON A CLASSIC

Along with carefully trimmed facial hair, clean haircuts are gaining popularity. According to Sergio Andrioli, owner and art director of Serandi Salon by the Wine Gallery, the current hair trend stems from the 1930s. Known as “disconnected,” it can be described as appearing like a gentleman’s classic hairstyle but with a modern twist—the sides are cut short and the top is significantly longer. It’s parted on the right or the left, and some choose to shave in the actual part line in their hair.

Conveniently, it pairs well with a beard. “Before it was about the mustache, and now it’s more about the beard. Everything comes back with a little twist,” says Sergio, whose professional experience includes a stint at The St. Regis Monarch Beach resort in Dana Point.

Like the well-groomed beard, this look also requires regular maintenance. “The sides and the back are so specific, the sides are short, so ... you need to get it cut [more often],” says Sergio, recommending a follow-up visit every four weeks to maintain the look. “Any growth needs to be redone right away—you clean it up more often than when it’s longer.”

In addition to salon visits, quality product goes a long way when it comes to styling. A strong paste, in particular, can help provide lift in hair. Sergio cites Oribe, Seven, and Bumble and



Serandi Salon owner Sergio Andrioli recommends trims every four weeks to maintain the “disconnected” haircut.

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Spa Montage Laguna Beach offers male-specific treatments like the Gentleman's Pedicure.

bumble, available at his salon, as companies that produce good putties and paste for men.

For those interested in the disconnected cut (or anything else), Sergio suggests coming in with images that show an example.

"We love pictures because sometimes people don't know exactly how to describe what they want," Sergio says. "Now it's easy because everybody has their tablets and phones and you can just Google and look around and, in a few seconds, find what you're looking for."

SLEEK HANDS AND FEET

Styling doesn't end at hair—these days, more guys are seeking manicures and pedicures as well. "We are starting to see that men are taking better care of themselves and are enjoying services like nail treatments," says Michael Conte, director of Spa Montage Laguna Beach, who has seen the interest in male nail services steadily advance in the last three years. "I think that it's not considered kind of a froufrou thing to do anymore. I think men are starting to understand it's important to take care of yourself and it's OK to be well groomed. There's no taboo with that anymore."

Spas have noted the shift in opinion—Michael

says that men are seeing a wider range of services offered to them. For example, Montage provides the Gentlemen's Manicure, a 45-minute service (nail trimming and shaping, a hand scrub, massage and buff) along with a 60-minute Gentlemen's Pedicure (a foot soak, nail trimming and shape, exfoliating buff and foot balm infused with peppermint).

Spa Montage also tailors its services for men; for example, while women may be given a sugar scrub to exfoliate, men receive a salt scrub during manicures or pedicures. As an added bonus, guests are also offered complimentary beer, ranging from draft to bottle depending on the season.

Whether you want to maintain the spa results or skip professional offerings in lieu of a do-it-yourself approach, it helps to have the right tools at home. In addition to the basics, like nail clippers and cuticle pushers for trimming and shaping, check out local beauty stores for more specialized equipment. Roots The Beauty Underground, in the Lumberyard area of downtown, offers pumice stones and scrubs to exfoliate and slough away dead skin, while Ocean Blue Beauty Supply & Salon stocks Jack Black, a line of moisturizers specifically for men. **LBM**

AN ODE TO OLD-SCHOOL

Laguna's classic barbershops offer a place for men to convene in a relaxed atmosphere.



BOAT CANYON BARBER SHOP

Lonnie Daugherty has been hard at work at Boat Canyon Barber Shop since 1972. The shop is a one-man operation frequented by young, old and everyone in between, including families of three generations. Lonnie brings doughnuts on Saturdays (a favorite among the kids) and he offers a senior discount for haircuts. Visitors regularly chat about sports or regale the 76-year-old barber with stories about work and their families. The store is decorated with conversation starters—gifts from customers, including signed memorabilia and trinkets from out-of-state travels. (949-494-5575)



WALLY'S BARBER SHOP

Wally's Barber Shop has offered a quick shave and a clean cut since 1958. It's popular among locals and tourists alike—many nearby hotels recommend it to their guests, as they don't have a barbershop on-site. Owner Rudy Campos cites the inexpensive prices and consistent work style as a few of the reasons the shop remains a favorite. Customers can relax and converse with the barbers, watch sports games on the television or catch up on reading material. The shop has seven barbers on staff and offers haircut, shave and shampoo services seven days a week. (949-494-3821)

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ONE OUTFIT, FOUR WAYS

From the silver screen to a wardrobe staple, the T-shirt and jeans combination is a stylish pick for every local guy.

By Christopher Luu | Photos by Chad Mellon | Clothing styled by North Menswear

Marlon Brando in “A Streetcar Named Desire.” James Dean in “Rebel Without a Cause.” Tom Cruise in “Top Gun.” The T-shirt has gone from being a symbol of rebel style to a staple piece in every guy’s wardrobe. Pair it with jeans and you have a combination that can be transformed to suit nearly every event in casual, coastal Laguna, from work to a walk down Main Beach to rooftop drinks with a special someone. There’s no better time to give this American staple a go in some unexpected ways—here, explore four distinct looks to dress up (or down) the simple Laguna uniform for any occasion.



» CASUAL OUTING

Jeans and a tee often serve as a guy's typical outfit for running errands, but rather than throwing on a dingy, shapeless shirt from the gym pile, you can channel a throwback style.

"There is nothing more classic than a white T-shirt and jeans," says Pete Surprenant, owner and founder of North Menswear on Glenneyre Street. "I am particularly fond of a white pocket tee, which should be fitted but not too tight. White tee, dark denim and a broken in pair of boots—think James Dean's effortless cool."

If you have a pair of jeans worn so often that the material has softened and the blue has faded, show off all that hard work you put into them.

"Choose the right fit for your body type," says Jenni Elmished, co-owner of Simple boutique. "If you are in great shape and have slim legs, go for a slim or modern fit. If you have a more athletic, muscular body, then a straight leg will look better."

With any jean style, you can toss on a pair of classic aviators or Ray-Ban Wayfarers to channel that celebrity-off-duty look. And when the ocean breeze rolls in, nothing looks better over a vintage tee than a cashmere hoodie or a classic Baracuta jacket.

MAKING HISTORY

In 1913, T-shirts became standard issue for the U.S. Navy. They quickly spread to other branches of the military before becoming a civilian staple, particularly among blue-collar workers. But it wasn't until 1951, when Marlon Brando wore one on screen, and audiences saw 1955's "Rebel Without a Cause," that the T-shirt became an American icon for anyone who wanted an attainable piece of Hollywood star power and big-screen style.

» WORK WEAR

If your office is more laid-back than buttoned-up, it's not out of the question to slip into a nicely structured T-shirt with khaki-toned pants or jeans. "Look for luxe materials like cotton, modal or microfiber and quality stitching," says Leslie Christen, a Laguna Beach-based stylist. "... And buy in multiples—you'll wear them a lot and you want them to be looking their best."

Skip shirts with oversized logos, loud graphics and any distressing. "I would focus on solid colors like navy or heather gray if you work in a casual office," Pete says. "For example, a navy tee with ... chukka boots."

When you find the perfect T-shirt, Leslie suggests pairing it with a slim blazer, wingtips and a colorful pocket square for a work-ready look that takes you from desk to dinner and drinks.

For the jeans, go with simple and clean, even opting for colored denim in lighter hues. With premium denim, the construction is important. "The washes feel soft and look like they have aged over time," Jenni says. "Over-embellishment or heavy contrast stitching on the pockets can look unsophisticated."

When aiming for quality, look for a pair that's raw and uses selvedge material, which means that the jeans are produced in small batches on vintage looms. It whisks and fades with every wear, but it can be uncomfortable to break in for the uninitiated.

Jenni recommends denim with stretch for a pair that holds its shape. For a look that works in both casual and more dressed-up offices, opt for a V-neck sweater or a cardigan. Bright socks add personality, then up the ante with a bold timepiece—but leave the bling to the ladies here—for an outfit that's ready for anything.





» DATE NIGHT

Dates aren't always dressy, especially in Laguna. Pete suggests a more casual spin on the T-shirt and jeans combination with a touch of prep. "I am a huge fan of stripes. Classic and a bit nautical," he says. "I would try a red-and-white striped tee under a soft chambray button-down, which should be left open and casual. Pair it with your favorite jeans and some clean Chuck Taylors."

For a fancier occasion, try pairing T-shirts with more tailored options. A simple, dark-colored shirt looks great under a blazer with deep-blue denim and loafers—one of Leslie's favorite looks—for after-dark debauchery. Whether you're going for a round of sunset sips at the Rooftop Lounge or a reservation for two at Selanne Steak Tavern, jeans and a tee will fit in just fine.

"Women love the feeling of a soft T-shirt on a date," adds Sophie Mae, a Laguna Beach-based stylist, personal shopper and fashion blogger. "Look for a style with a small V-neck in a darker color that is super soft to the touch. Be daring and pair with a colored or textured jean. This will give the traditional look more edge and can go from dinner to the movies."

One textured option is coated denim, which has a subtle sheen and a slick feel. It's a great choice for working up a sweat at Mozambique. A few denim brands are even offering linen-denim blends for the look of jeans with the airy, lightweight feel of breezy linen pants.

Also, keep in mind that footwear can transform the outfit. Driving moccasins, boat shoes or designer sneakers are all solid options, especially when they include pebbled leathers, suede or a few unexpected details, such as patent leather.

» FORMAL EVENT

"In Orange County, we seem to be able to get away with a T-shirt and jeans at formal events," Sophie says. "However, you still want to make sure that you appear dressed up enough. Opt for a black or dark charcoal T-shirt and high-quality, dark wash denim. You can go for a contrasting or traditional colored blazer to add a bit of texture."

Stay classy by skipping shirts with the tux printed on the front, and avoid bright patterns (stripes included) as well as pockets. Most guys are familiar with basic cotton options, but for a dressier occasion, T-shirts in linen, combed cotton blends and microfiber are a better option.

It's important to keep everything tailored, especially if your tee has a draped or V-neck. Blazers should be slim, sleek and definitely dark. This isn't the time for banker pinstripes or a brash herringbone pattern. The same is true for the denim color—look for inky blue or black jeans, with matching stitching to get the cleanest look possible. Hem them shorter than usual so they have no break to keep things long and lean.

A tee paired with slim black jeans and Chelsea boots channels London's 1960s mod movement. For an Italian-like look, ditch the socks and slip into a velvet slipper or a double monk-strap shoe, which has a pair of buckles in lieu of laces.

This is the time to pull out all of the extra details that walk down the red carpet, such as a vintage watch, a Sinatra-style fedora and, for the sartorially daring, a Savile Row-inspired silk scarf. Personality is key, especially when an outfit is slightly subversive, so the perfect look strikes a balance between menswear traditions and what's on-trend. **LBM**

You can swap out the traditional collared shirt with a T-shirt and no tie—with a dark-colored blazer, it's still dressy enough for a formal event. (Pictured: Clothing provided by Simple boutique and curated by Laguna Beach stylist Lori Gladstone)



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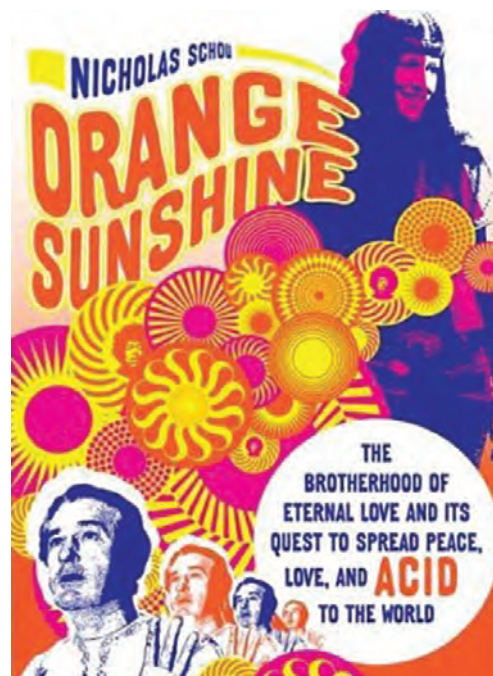
*The lines between fact and fiction may have blurred in recent years, but
Laguna's illicit past draws real-life parallels to our present.*

By Rich Kane | Illustration by Shaylene Brooks





Scenes from the marijuana-centric action movie "Savages" were filmed in Laguna Beach.



Nick Schou's 2010 book about the "Hippie Mafia"

It was one of the worst drug-related murders in Laguna Beach history.

The killers had forced their way in through the front door. The male victim took bullets to both kneecaps before his execution. A second victim, a young female, was shot in the face at point-blank range. Two accomplices, dressed as gardeners, worked loud leaf-blowing machines outside the home to mask the sound of gunfire.

The gunman (also the leader of the operation) was later discovered to be Miguel "Lado" Arroyo, the main muscle of an especially violent Mexican drug cartel.

But these murders never actually happened, and Miguel Arroyo is a fictional character. This vivid picture is instead a scene from Oliver Stone's Laguna Beach-set movie "Savages" (2012), adopted from the Don Winslow crime novel of the same name published in 2010.

Scenes for the film were shot in Laguna in September 2011 to capture an authentic look—the majestic shoreline, fabulously blue skies and crazy expensive views. That's about as realistic as it got. A medical marijuana dispensary among the high-end restaurants and chic boutiques of Forest Avenue? Yeah, right.

Yet, the fiction of Winslow's "Savages" and its 2012 prequel, "The Kings of Cool," does have

roots in a particularly colorful part of Laguna Beach history: the Brotherhood of Eternal Love, a loose spiritual organization that sought to raise consciousness through the use and distribution of LSD. Much has been written about the Brotherhood, and the multitude of stories from this long-gone moment in time have never lacked for a good retelling—be it legend or a new version of someone else's truth.

PEACE, LOVE AND LSD

The Brotherhood of Eternal Love, an Anaheim-born group of young people, moved to the city in 1966 for the easy access to the waves as well as the inexpensive housing—yes, Laguna Beach was once a cheap place to live—on Woodland Drive, just off Laguna Canyon Road.

"They were these working-class guys who were into surfing, and they wanted to live close to the ocean," says Nick Schou, author of the 2010 book "Orange Sunshine: The Brotherhood of Eternal Love and Its Quest to Spread Peace, Love, and Acid to the World."

The group's mission was to spread its theology through the use of LSD, its particular brand of acid garnering the name Orange Sunshine. The Brotherhood's leader, John Griggs, befriended LSD guru Timothy Leary, who would come to

spend much time in Laguna Beach.

"They encouraged everybody to view LSD as a sacrament, in the sense that it opened up new doors of perception," Schou says. "They were influenced by the Tibetan Book of the Dead, Eastern religions and mystics, vegetarianism and pacifism. It was a tight-knit group. To be a member of the Brotherhood, you had to be trusted, because they were a criminal enterprise, since they formed right after LSD became illegal."

In 1967, the Brotherhood opened Mystic Arts World at 670 S. Coast Hwy., which became its temple/head shop where members sold love beads, health food and assorted accouterments of the counterculture. It eventually expanded LSD marketing into a hashish-smuggling operation, with members flying to Afghanistan and bringing back the contraband in musical instruments, hollowed-out surfboards and Volkswagen buses shipped through the Port of Long Beach.

Artist Nick Hernandez arrived in Laguna Beach in 1968 and quickly got to know some of the members. "They had these giant water pipes where they would put an ounce of hash in there, then suck it in and blow it out their nostrils, like they were dragons," recalls Hernandez, who went to many of the Brotherhood's parties. "In their temple, they had big statues of the Hindu gods



Left to right: Rosemary and Timothy Leary with Brotherhood leader John Griggs, circa 1968

and goddesses, all made of pure hash. How that never got out, I'll never know, but that's how tight they were."

The night of Dec. 26, 1968, marked a turning point for the Brotherhood, when police officer Neil Purcell busted Leary and his wife, who were in a parked car on Woodland Drive and in possession of 2 kilograms of marijuana and hashish. The national attention the arrest gave Laguna Beach turned the heat way up on the Brotherhood's operation. (Years later, Purcell would become police chief, so revered among the department even today that he's the only one with a framed photo in the department's lobby.)

In the months afterward, much of the Brotherhood relocated to Idyllwild, but a faction remained in Laguna Beach after another Brotherhood associate, John Gale, became the group's de facto leader. It was Gale who famously hired an airplane to drop LSD tabs on the crowd that had gathered for the legendary Christmas Happening of 1970, when thousands turned out for a badly planned music festival in Laguna Canyon. This was the same festival where it's rumored that police dug a huge hole

in the ground and buried all the confiscated drugs. (But don't go there looking with a shovel in your hand—the site has since become a protected wilderness area.)

A VIOLENT TURN

"The Brotherhood's activities started attracting more people into Laguna who wanted to get in on the action," Schou says. "Things got to be more party-oriented and there was a lot of free love going on. That attracted a wilder element. The same thing happened after the Summer of Love and Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco. All those people on psychedelics, it attracted a lot of shady characters."

Hernandez adds that by 1977, drugs and violence were becoming the norm. As a long-haired plumber, he was trusted enough to be given access to the homes of some of the city's big-time operators. He guesses that around 20 percent of all the houses in the city at that time—from what he'd seen—had small marijuana cultivation setups.

"It was raging," Hernandez says. "Some of the biggest dealers in town that I knew were smart

enough to not call attention to themselves, but they all kept shotguns by their front doors and pistols under their couch cushions. Once cocaine started to come into the city, though, that's when the era really was over. People started getting greedy and they were buying big homes and getting more paranoid."

As the 1970s wore on, Laguna's drug issues became more public. In November 1977, the president of the Laguna Beach Hare Krishna temple was indicted for conspiring to murder a Newport Beach drug dealer. According to an account in the book "Betrayal of the Spirit" by Nori J. Muster (2001), several Laguna Krishnas had teamed up with a few former Brotherhood members and started smuggling hash oil through Pakistan in plastic typewriter cases. They brought the oil back to Laguna, packaged it in baby bottles, and sold them for \$11,000 each.

Gale, meanwhile, had become a hardcore cocaine dealer, Schou says. In 1980, he was arrested in Laguna Beach with guns and \$1 million in cash.

"A lot of people in Laguna associate Gale with the Brotherhood, more so than Griggs," Schou says. "He ended up dying in a car crash in 1982, and it's been speculated that he had a large amount of cash on him at the time. He became this mythic figure, and since there were no direct witnesses to the crash, some people say that he's still alive—you will occasionally see bumper stickers on cars in Laguna that say 'JG LIVES,' from people who say that he's actually in the witness protection program, that his dad was a dentist and they put fake teeth on the body."

WHEN PRESENT MIRRORS PAST

Today's Laguna Beach is nothing like it was during the Brotherhood era, according to Sgt. Tim Kleiser of the Laguna Beach Police Department. "Most people outside of Laguna Beach see the city as an arts community, not really a drug community," says Kleiser, who's been with the force since 2003.

"The only thing I've noticed in terms of

BUSTED: 10 YEARS OF NOTABLE DRUG INCIDENTS

MARCH 2004: Three men are arrested after being under police surveillance at a Coast Highway cafe. They are tailed to Westminster, where police observe them in the process of selling 2 kilograms of cocaine.

JULY 2007: More than 6,000 marijuana plants are found growing in a remote area of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The plants are worth an estimated \$600,000.

OCTOBER 2008: Drug Enforcement Agency raids the Laguna Beach Holistic Center, a medical marijuana dispensary on South Coast Highway, and confiscates marijuana plants and marijuana edibles.

unusual drug activity is a spike in DUI drug arrests, but that's been pretty consistent across the county," he adds. "And it's everything from marijuana to prescription drugs, from juveniles all the way to adults. We also don't really see any criminal element of the kind that there was during that era."

Though a prominent drug culture in present-day Laguna may not seem as overt as it was during the Brotherhood's time, it can still be monitored at one level: the Laguna Beach Unified School District.

As with all districts, LBUSD has programs that warn students of the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drug use. But Amy Kernan, coordinator of special projects for the district, says that such programs only go so far.

"There's a lot of pressure for our students to get into Harvard and Stanford and other highly regarded colleges and take a lot of advanced placement courses, and that pressure is probably more widespread here than in other districts," Kernan says. "... Eighty percent of our kids are coming from affluent houses, where their parents went to college or have a graduate degree, so it's drilled into them that they also have to go to a four-year university. They don't even want to talk about community colleges."

Because of that pressure, Kernan says that some students self-medicate by drinking and using marijuana, or even turn to prescription drugs. Judging from the results of the anonymous California Healthy Kids surveys conducted in the district, drugs are relatively easy for students to obtain.

According to the district's most recent data from 2013/2014, 25 percent of 196 Laguna Beach High School juniors said they have been very high seven or more times, while 54 percent reported current alcohol or drug use. Similarly, 73 percent say it's either fairly or very easy to obtain marijuana. Of a group of 72 high school staffers surveyed, 62 percent say alcohol and drugs are a severe problem.

"We have students who are admitting they're



Following the 1970 Christmas Happening, it's rumored that police buried the confiscated drugs.

depressed because of the pressure to succeed, and there's a pretty strong correlation between depression and drug use," Kernan explains (32 percent of the high school junior group reported feelings of chronic sadness/hopelessness, and 16 percent revealed they have considered suicide). "So we're trying to make sure we get them access to resources and counseling to deal with their anxiety and stress."

Kernan is also concerned about newer drug delivery tools, such as the rising popularity of electronic cigarettes. These can be used to smoke a liquid form of THC, the ingredient that produces the effect of marijuana.

"Kids are able to go online and see how they can make their own vaporizers, too; then they're doing drugs through those," she says. And as efforts grow to legalize and decriminalize marijuana, Kernan sees her job becoming much more difficult.

"Anytime you have a 12-year-old who has a supply line from their 18-year-old brother, ... drugs are going to show up more on a middle school campus," Kernan explains. "... Middle school kids are at the age when they'll experiment with anything."

Hernandez has a similar take on Laguna Beach as a whole.

"The city's drug culture has never really gone away, it's just better hidden," he says. "Nobody is a blatant drug dealer, everybody says they don't do it anymore, but trust me, it's alive and well. Everybody is just growing it themselves." **LBM**

ON VIEW: "Orange Sunshine and the Mystic Arts," an exhibition presented by the Mystic Artists, is celebrating Laguna's psychedelic culture through a display of art and artifacts at Coastline Community College's gallery in Newport Beach from July 25 to Sept. 26. (coastline.edu)

MAY 2009: Laguna Beach police seize 342 marijuana plants from a home on Baja Street.

AUGUST 2010: More than two dozen detectives raid a 50-acre property near Santa Barbara and discover between \$40 million and \$80 million worth of marijuana plants. One of the two men arrested is Kelvin Kent Kelley, owner of Laguna Beach clothing shop Cherry Moon. Kelvin used to sweep floors at the Brotherhood's original Mystic Arts World shop.

AUGUST 2013: Two men are caught with 119 packages of marijuana valued at around \$4 million after the panga-style boat they're piloting comes ashore at Laguna Beach.



Guests can explore Alisal's varied landscape during horseback rides.

Luxury travelers take to the Wild West for horseback riding and resort amenities.

By Lauren Matich | Photos courtesy of Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort

There's an unexpected symmetry between the rhythmic plodding of a horse's hooves and the cyclical surf of the ocean. The same similarities can be found looking out over the expansive swells of the Pacific and facing the rolling hills of lush, green grass in open country. Taking a Western-inspired adventure at a guest or dude ranch seems a world away from the coast of Laguna Beach, but in many

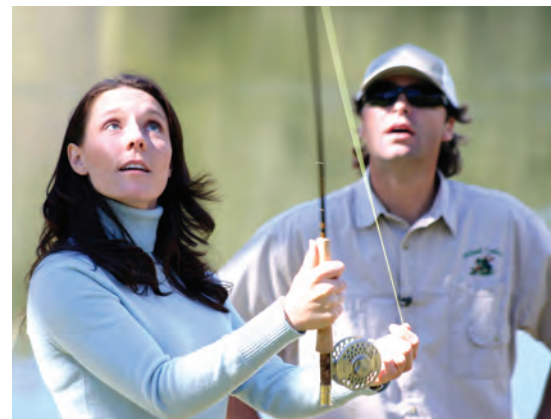
ways, it's not; there's an inherent appreciation for nature, magnificent vistas, quaint accommodations, activities morning through night and delicious food to keep a cowboy—or girl's—tank filled, just like the many amenities of the vibrant beach town.

Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort is an interesting juxtaposition of peaceful tranquility and exciting experiences—which could also be said of Laguna.

The idyllic grounds encompass 10,000 acres of land with miles of horse and hiking trails, a 100-acre lake and two golf courses. The ranch is nestled just outside of the Danish town of Solvang, Calif., making the three-hour, coastal drive just right for a long weekend escape. Whether your idea of heaven is a hay wagon ride to a full brunch spread, a massage after a tennis match or horseback rides along hilltops and sycamore groves, Alisal has it all.



Left: Rustic, cozy cottages at Alisal invite guests to unplug, Right: A fly-fishing lesson at Alisal



The destination opened to guests in 1946 and is now one of the most-lauded ranches in the country. Alisal has been noted for offering an otherworldly retreat for Hollywood celebrities and, accordingly, offers visitors touches of luxury to balance the two elements found in its name: ranch and resort.

Guests are welcomed into cottages made cozy by Southwestern decor and wood-burning fireplaces, complete with instructions for city slickers. The rustic accents offer a sense of comfort in fully updated amenities and views of grassy pastures with fog-covered hills in the background. The abodes are also the place to embrace unplugging from the world with no phones or televisions, but it's assured that guests rarely miss either with a full schedule of ways to stay busy.

RANCH-STYLE RECREATION

Perfect for a family escape, the ranch is outfitted with countless opportunities for all ages to get moving and learn together. Shuffleboard, volleyball, horseshoes and fishing are a few year-round favorites, but there's also a chance to find excitement on a ropes course or to visit a weekly country fair. Younger guests enjoy getting an up-close look at the many animals on the property. A trip to the barnyard reveals cattle, miniature horses, goats, birds, reptiles and hands-on activities such as feeding animals and gathering eggs laid by the hens. Kids can also participate in the cowboy lifestyle with a variety of lessons such as riding horses and roping steer.



Children can stop by the barnyard to meet the animals.

The fun isn't limited to pint-sized visitors. Adults can hit the trails with mountain bikes and guided nature hikes, and try their hands at fly-fishing, air rifles or playing a few rounds on either of the ranch's two golf courses. There is also entertainment every evening, from live music and dancing to movie showings.

Like any dude ranch, the familiar whinny of horses at Alisal beckons guests to the stables for rides of all kinds, which start at 7:30 a.m. Returning guests know not to miss the breakfast

rides that take place three times a week during the summer. The spread includes a ranch-style buffet where guests socialize over buttermilk pancakes and more before being captivated by Western music or lines of cowboy poetry recited from memory.

CULINARY ADVENTURES

Once guests work off breakfast in the saddle, lunch can be found at any of the resort's four eateries, but everyone gathers in the Ranch Room



The 18-hole golf courses are open year-round.

for dinner nightly.

Departing from the casual daytime schedule, dinner is the time to put your best foot forward for a gourmet meal prepared by the resort's classically trained French chef, Pascal Godé. Adhering to tradition, the resort's affinity for finer things is embodied in the dining room's upscale dress code, which requires jackets for the men and dressy options for women and children.

Fresh specials are always available, but the menu's staple comes from the grill. Selections of meat and vegetables are prepared on Santa Maria-style barbecues, cooking devices that are specific to the region and use a crank system to control the heat applied to ingredients. Summers warrant special, more casual alfresco affairs with the unique culinary equipment as the main star,



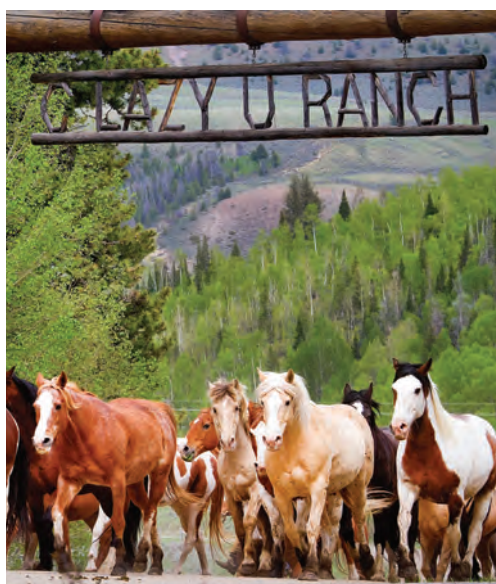
Dinner is a fine-dining affair at Alisal; guests must adhere to a dress code to enjoy the chef's gourmet fare.

and Alisal is happy to oblige.

Fresh, grilled seafood is served near the lake on Monday nights, but the backyard experience is elevated with a full bar, live music and boating. Wednesdays are marked by a rodeo, where brave guests can show off their riding skills and work up an appetite for a Southwestern-style cookout with country music and dancing. On Saturdays, all of the guests enjoy a poolside dinner cooked on the Santa Maria grills and, in addition to the full bar, a summer wine list from the nearby Central Coast is curated to complement the smoke and spices of

barbecue flavors of the night.

It's not an exaggeration to say that there's something for every traveler at the ranch. Sophisticated, regional cuisine attracts the culinary minded, while those looking for a restful retreat can indulge in spa treatments and leisurely nature walks. Art lovers will find their own version of paradise in the real-life vistas, and even the most inexperienced cowboys will be masterfully commanding their horses by the time they check out. At Alisal and across the country, the age of rustic luxury has arrived by the bootstraps. **LBM**



Equestrian experiences abound at C Lazy U Ranch.

COLORADO: C LAZY U RANCH

The 96-year-old Granby-area ranch outside of Denver—and a two-hour flight from Orange County—calls itself Colorado's original luxury guest ranch. Those looking for an equestrian experience will delight in its offerings: In addition to the regular rides, the ranch has special clinics with guest instructors, lessons in horsemanship, advanced work with cattle, and a weekly "Shodeo," where riders of all ages show off the skills they've acquired. General Manager David Craig credits the success of the horsemanship programs to the head wrangler Bill Fisher. Bill is an industry veteran and ranch employee of more than 50 years; David explains that he does assessments of all of the riders, matching each with the perfect horse.

Beyond the corral, C Lazy U seems to have found the magic combination of amenities to suit the interests of nearly every guest on the property. The resort offers guides for Orvis-endorsed fly-fishing in a private 2-mile stretch of the Colorado River, mountain biking, trap shooting and even "glamping" (glamorous camping). To soothe tired muscles, a spa strikes the perfect balance between cowboy and comfort with massages in nature, wraps, scrubs and copper-tub soaks.

Another successful aspect of the resort, David adds, is the thought put into the kids' programs. Children are chaperoned by counselors who are never short on activities for play, and adults leave the stress of child care behind. "What happens is adults and kids have great vacations, but they're not necessarily the same vacation," he says.

The extra touches have paid off for the resort. In 2014, it was named No. 31 on Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards for the world's 100 best resorts and hotels.



COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN SKY GUEST RANCH

White-water rafting near Mountain Sky Guest Ranch

MONTANA: MOUNTAIN SKY GUEST RANCH

If you can spare the time it takes to trek to Emigrant, Mont., you won't be disappointed to end your journey at Mountain Sky Guest Ranch. Located in a small inlet of land cut out of Yellowstone National Park, the ranch has been open since 1929 and boasts a return visit rate (87 percent) higher than its average occupancy (85 guests). The ranch is broken up into independent cabins, but Yancey Arterburn, Mountain Sky's general manager, promises that you won't be cooped up inside too much.

Days are often spent on horseback—it's the best way to see the surrounding terrain, a highlight of the ranch. Mountain Sky welcomes guests for weeklong-minimum stays during summer. "We do an orientation on the first morning that guests arrive to get them comfortable with the horses," he explains. "It's always helpful to start that way."

From there, rides operate for all skill levels, from led trail outings to daylong rides with picnic lunches, loping and working with cattle for experienced riders.

Guests also have the opportunity to enjoy a golf course designed by former pro and famed architect, Johnny Miller, as well as white-water rafting, sporting clays, fishing, yoga twice daily and endless hiking destinations.

Kids have the option of attending programs with activities that include treasure hunts, sports competitions and learning about the environment. At 7 p.m., guests gather in the main lodge for dinner, which is followed by a rotating schedule of evening entertainment. The wide array of activities, riding and beautiful surroundings make the ranch a destination for many different groups of travelers, the general manager says, be they multigenerational, riding-oriented or individuals looking to explore a new sort of country. "It's a special place and something I think [Mountain Sky] does better than anyone in the industry."



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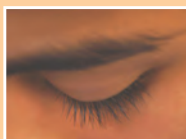
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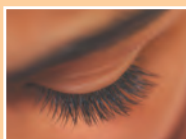
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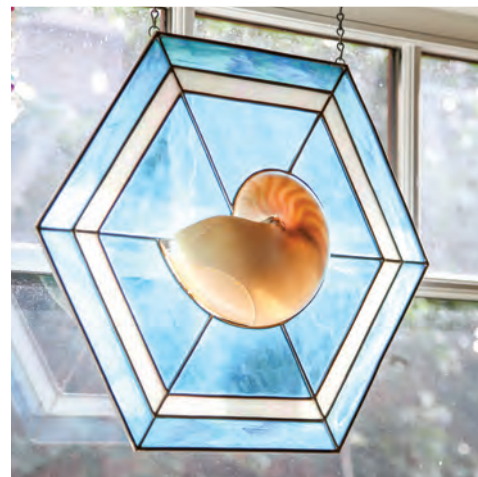
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LAGUNA'S HABITAT

A VIEW FROM ABOVE

With scenic vistas as far as the eye can see, Top of the World is a family-friendly neighborhood that feels like a retreat from the bustling city.

By Tanya A. Yacina | Photos by Jody Tiongco



Nestled between the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean and rolling canyons, Top of the World in Laguna Beach sits high above the daily frenzy of the beach town below. A long, winding road carries visitors and residents to the top of the high hill to reveal myriad homes of different architectural styles set among breathtaking views.

"We love that this is a safe area," Scott Norton says. "The kids go outside to play and we know exactly where they are."

Bookended by Alta Laguna Park and Thurston Middle School, Top of the World is a haven for new and more established families alike.

"The neighborhood reminds me of where I grew up—you could just run down the street to your friend's house and your mother knew where you were," Ari Novick explains.



FAMILY FACTS:

Scott and Kara Norton, their children, Matthew (7) and Dylan (5), and Stella (Shih Tzu)

DAY JOB: Scott owns Norton Sports Management; Kara is a fashion stylist.

SPACE: 3,889 square feet, four bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths

HOUSE TIMELINE: Built in 1998, purchased and fully remodeled in 2011

FABULOUS

FEATURE: A backyard oasis with infinity pool, hot tub, outdoor kitchen and yard that overlooks the canyons and city lights

OLD HOLLYWOOD ELEGANCE

Originally from Chicago, the Nortons came to Laguna Beach on vacation, fell in love with the area and started to look for their new home. "When we found this location, the house was already built, but had everything we wanted, so we did a complete remodel to fit our vision," Scott says.

The Nortons began designing the interior of the transitional Cape Cod-style home in an opulent, old Hollywood style, with crown molding and vintage 1960s art deco lighting throughout. "Each room reflects who we are as a family," Kara says.

A gold-and-glass vintage chandelier hangs in the entryway, where a wide staircase with striped, rust-colored carpeting leads to the upstairs. The master bedroom exudes relaxation with soft green and cream colors, as well as white patent leather wallpaper. The oversize bed in the master suite was

chosen for its likeness to the vintage glamour of the Park Plaza Hotel during its heyday, and a gold marble wet bar occupies a sidewall of the room.

"One of my favorite things in our home is the wallpaper in the master bath," Scott adds. The special treatment was created from crushed glass and applied with a blowtorch over blue wallpaper.

The children's rooms feature kid-friendly decor, but with adult furniture lines. A playroom, reminiscent of "Alice in Wonderland," is filled with bright colors and whimsical kid's furniture.

The Hollywood style continues in the main floor of the home. A formal sitting room with red-and-white, coral-themed accessories looks to the outside area through French doors, displaying the infinity pool, hot tub, outdoor kitchen and expansive view of the canyon and neighboring cities.

Dark wood floors, cream-colored walls and mirror-lined cabinets span much of the entry level. The kitchen showcases two freestanding-countertop islands, a professional stove with custom hood, double hidden refrigerators, a prep sink and farmhouse sink with engravings designed by the Nortons. "We made a communal area of the kitchen so we could hang out together as a family and share our lives," Scott says. The adjacent breakfast nook features a half-circle red velvet bench, a large table and jewel-tone striped chairs.

In the red-walled living area, a tan, oversize couch faces a stone fireplace and wall-mounted television. Office nooks sit to the side of the room, ready for homework or art projects.

"We created a unique space that shows off our personalities," Kara explains.

FAMILY FACTS:

Ari and Kim Novick, their children, Noah (11), Josh (8) and Jessie (5), Einstein (cat) and Billy, Buttercup and Celeste (chickens)

DAY JOB: Ari is a psychotherapist in Laguna Beach and Kim is development director for the Tony Hawk Foundation.

SPACE: 2,450 square feet, four bedrooms, three baths

HOUSE TIMELINE: Built in 1965, purchased in 2004, renovated in 2008

FABULOUS FEATURE: The outside patio space with a fire pit, plush seating, a cover with chandelier and curtains, built-in barbecue, trampoline and ocean view



FARM MEETS BEACH

Ari and Kim Novick moved to Top of the World when they were “fresh.”

“This was our first home together—we were so new,” Kim says. The couple was looking for a home in an area where their eventual children would be able to play in the street and walk to school. Now, three bubbly offspring enjoy the neighborhood and all of its delights.

However, while the neighborhood was what they wanted, the house was not yet their dream home. “When we renovated, we tore out pink tiles and gray rugs—very ’60s,” Kim says. The home was completely revamped in 2008. With close attention paid to even the smallest details, the Craftsman-style home now showcases a mix of farm and beach elements.

“We had an awesome contractor,” Ari says of

Jim Mackel at JP3 Custom Homes Inc. “He made suggestions we never would have thought of and worked with us to develop character and detail for our home.” One of these details is the Texas shell slate inlaid into the floor of the entryway. The contractor placed this large, yet understated keystone in the floor and then incorporated the same slate into the living room fireplace.

“The fireplace is made out of Jerusalem stone and it ties together with the mix of Texas shell in the hearth and mantle,” says Kim, who lived in Jerusalem and wanted to bring that culture to the home. “There are lots of pockets like that in this house—little details that jump out if you pay attention.”

Another unsuspected feature is the enclosed space under the stairs, which was once pronounced

unusable. The contractor created a hideaway for the children: Glass placed within the stairs provides a lookout to the entryway and front door.

The kitchen, painted a creamy white and highlighted with sea glass cabinetry, serves as a gathering place for the family. The sage green granite island dominates the room and a dark wood dining table sits in a nook off to the side. “The mason jar chandelier above the table contrasts [with] the sea glass in the cabinetry,” Ari says of the seemingly opposite styles that somehow work together.

The home is filled with motivational sayings, mementos and a beautiful ketubah representing the couple’s marriage vows and family focus.

“There’s a lot of love here,” Ari says. “That’s what makes our house a home.”



FAMILY FACTS:
Ken and Annie Sadler, their children, George (21) and Trent (17), and Happy (cattle dog)
DAY JOB: Ken is a structural engineer and Annie is the administrative assistant at Thurston Middle School.
SPACE: 2,200 square feet, four bedrooms, three baths
HOUSE TIMELINE: Built in 1962, purchased in 1995, remodeled in 2010
FABULOUS FEATURE: The "Annie Cabannie," an outside patio area overlooking the lights of neighboring cities and the rolling green canyon below



CANYON VIEW COMFORT

"Top of the World has a neighborhood feel away from the hustle and bustle of the beach," Annie Sadler explains. "People seem to stay here for a long time."

The Sadler home was fully remodeled about five years ago, although minimal square footage was added. The couple took tips from the book "The Not So Big House" by Sarah Susanka, which recommends new ways to maximize space.

The living room is an open floor plan with a staggering white onyx fireplace in the corner. This leads to the outside area, the "Annie Cabannie," which is named for the lady of the house. "We loved the floor plan of the living room, so we kept that in place," Annie explains. "The cabana is an extension of that space."

A large sliding glass door separates the two

areas, but more often than not, it's left open to encourage the indoor/outdoor living feel of the Craftsman-style hilltop bungalow. At any time of the year, the Sadlers can be found entertaining, hanging out or solving the world's problems in the covered, canyon-overlook seating area situated in front of a slate brick fireplace. An outdoor barbecue and hot tub complete the airy space.

The kitchen's counters are accented with black and gold marble. The maple cabinets show off their interiors through sea glass and the soft light tickles the cracked glass backsplash. Light bamboo flooring covers most of the home's main spaces, although unpolished marble flooring was used in all of the bathrooms. The common area's butter-shaded walls invite in both the morning light and the cool breeze.

"When the wind blows up here, you really feel like you're in the mountains," Annie says. "Even though civilization is just a minute down the road, we're a million miles away from everything—we even have our own microclimate."

Top of the World, known to be a fire hazard area, frequently experiences high winds. The Sadlers kept that in mind during the remodel. "We were concerned about fire and we wanted to make our home as safe as possible," Ken Sadler explains. "The exterior of our home is entirely made of noncombustible, fiber cement board." The board is stained a caramel color to look like natural wood siding.

"We took a lot of time in deciding what we wanted to do with our remodel," Ken says. "We're very happy about how it turned out." LBM

A TRIPLE THREAT

Artist Doug Miller has made his mark in Laguna as a talented painter, photographer and musician, not to mention a treasure trove of local history.

By Karlee Prazak | Photos by Jody Tiongco



Doug Miller, a multit talented artist and longtime local, has completed more than 15,000 paintings.

There's a small, green studio on South Coast Highway, just up the street from Wood's Cove, that's unlike any other. It's sandwiched between Romantic Boutique and a vacant building, and the windowsill is packed with cartoon figurines and knickknacks all vying for a spot to be bleached out by the sun. If the seasoned Dutch door is propped open, you'll see that it's overflowing with years of artwork. There are thousands of little 3-by-5-inch canvases and a handful of larger pieces stacked in Jenga-like piles covering nearly every inch of floor space. If a passerby is truly lucky,

they'll meet the man behind the madness—which really isn't madness at all, because artist Doug Miller meticulously catalogues each and every piece. He's lived in Laguna for nearly 44 years and is a true testament to our roots as an artist-loving town.

Longhaired, lanky and bespectacled, Doug is a painter, violinist and photographer, but above all he is a self-made historian. From the leather-bound notebooks that catalog every painting he has started, completed and sold, to the collection of CDs featuring his music and the thousands of negatives he has archived with names, dates and

locations, Doug diligently records the intricate details of it all.

For those still trying to put a face to the name, Doug is the unmistakable character around town—in the trolley or otherwise—always manning a camera, and can most often be found at the Sawdust Art Festival grounds during the summer months. If he's not on the entertainment deck, he's posted in his booth asking for names and birth dates for his unique canvas-turned-visitor-log he calls the "Birthday Paintings." Doug realized long ago that "people just wanted to be a part of what's going on," as



The beach scenes in his paintings reflect Doug's passion for Laguna.

he puts it, so he began taking notes of all the people, places and things he encountered and/or created. Fellow Sawdust artist and friend Sandra Weir is quick to note this is what stands out about Doug.

"Since I've known Doug, he has had a pace in his life, and that pace has never changed," Sandra explains. "He has this pattern that he's set for himself, and he just continues that pattern. It's fascinating; I don't know anyone who has that dedication here in town to get up and paint every single day—not to mention all the other things he's doing."

THE PAINTER

In 1993, Doug made it a personal "law" to start at least one painting a day. Today, he's completed upward of 15,000 acrylic paintings, and he says he's still adamant about starting one, usually two, paintings a day—typically completing a few on the same day. Art is what attracted Doug to Laguna Beach in the 1970s after he served in the Navy, and he's been here ever since. For five to six hours every day, he can be found sitting in a chair in his current studio-home, amongst his art, creating more.

"On average, I tend to paint more complicated [pieces] and my better stuff when I'm more calm and I feel like I have more time in front of me," Doug explains. "... If not, I choose fresh and



Doug focuses on small-scale canvases, which are popular among customers at Sawdust each year.

bright colors and get it done quick."

When the paintings get too intricate, Doug says they tend to get academic, which leads to burnout—the biggest enemy of any artist. Since Doug doesn't drive, he finds his subjects in the beauty around him. Luckily, he prefers to capture the more popular, prolific beach scenes native to Laguna, and he favors the small, less



Figurines (top) decorate the artist's studio (bottom).

time-consuming canvases.

"If I did just large pieces, I'd probably starve out there, but the little ones get snapped up," Doug says of his business model. "And if I did just a few small ones, people wouldn't care either. It's that I have several hundred wrapped up, and people find their treasures."

To keep up with his high personal demand, Doug spends \$500 to \$600 on 3-by-5 and 8-by-10 canvases a few times a year. Each batch lasts three months at the longest, and undergoes the same process: When a piece is started, it's recorded; when completed, it gets a red mark; and when it's sold, an underline. The goal is to sell the lot at the Sawdust festival each year.

Sandra says it's always easy to find Doug and his art. "He's always built his booth in a very avant-garde way," she recalls. "Instead of it being a square, he has pieces of wood that triangulate, ... [and] he uses tiny little pieces of wood to build a booth instead of using new lumber. ... But at the end of the day, it looks incredible."



An accomplished violinist, Doug currently plays in a five-member band that is releasing its first CD in April.

“WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I USED TO SIT ON THE ENTERTAINMENT DECK AND [DOUG] WOULD BE INVITED BY THE DIFFERENT BANDS TO COME AND ACCOMPANY THEM, AND HIS VIOLIN JUST SEEMED TO COMPLEMENT EVERY SINGLE BAND HE WAS INVITED WITH.”

—SANDRA WEIR

Doug secured a booth at Sawdust from day one of moving to Laguna, and he’s been there ever since. He quickly took a loving to the people and the culture at this annual festival—he and his wife, Becky, even got married on the Sawdust grounds in 1979.

This year marks Doug’s 45th year as a Sawdust artist, and he has proudly kept the same booth toward the back of the festival site near the

stairwell—thanks in part to his frozen seniority. And it’s not just Doug’s art for which he is known around The ’Dust; in addition to the brush, he’s skilled with a bow.

“On crowded days, he would get his violin and he would walk through the grounds making the sound of an old-fashioned ambulance,” Sandra recalls. “... People would look and get smiley; he was an uptick in the energy there at the show.”

DOUG MILLER



Doug has photographed the town since the 1970s and meticulously records the names of each subject.

THE MUSICIAN

Doug’s infectious joy as articulated through his violin doesn’t stop with his attention-catching sounds while wandering amid the festival-goers. In fact, Sandra says, growing up at Sawdust you could guarantee seeing Doug bounce between his booth and the stage.

“When I was young, I used to sit on the entertainment deck and [Doug] would be invited by the different bands to come and accompany them, and his violin just seemed to complement every single band he was invited with,” Sandra adds. “... The band was great before, but then when you added Doug, it just added a whole new facet to each band.”

Doug is also a regular—playing pop-up style—at First Thursdays Art Walk, local churches and The Coach House in San Juan Capistrano. Today, Doug finds good company with his five-member band, The Moon Police.

“We’re not rock ’n’ roll; ... that’s just pointless energy,” Doug says. “We get people teary-eyed with some of our stuff, and we get people excited and up with the other stuff.”

As the story goes, singer Grace Freeman asked if the band name could have “moon in it, please.” Doug, listening intently, says he heard the phrase “moon police” rather than “moon, please,” and, thus, The Moon Police was born. The band plans to release its first CD this April—the sixth Doug has released with his longtime friend and singer, Sasha Evans.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Unlike his music or his paintings, Doug’s photography isn’t for sale. Instead, he’s using a modern forum to breathe new life into his vintage



Though his photos aren't for sale, locals can visit Doug's Facebook page to see archived images that are added every few months; there are nearly 1,800 albums currently online.

pictures. Doug, an adamant defender of the beauty of black-and-white photography, says he's scanning and mass uploading thousands of photos to his Facebook page every few months. This has translated into nearly 1,800 virtual albums, and the only trouble he's encountered is not due to the amount of uploads, but rather, the history.

"[Facebook] won't let me [date albums] older than 1970," he explains. "Now I'm just wondering, 'What will they do? How far can I go?'"

He now regularly comes across Facebook comments between people who moved out of town years ago and those they knew years before.

"That's a really neat thing and that's where my photography is now," Doug says. "I'm doing the endgame, so to speak, on my photography—making it count."

All this is possible because he decided early on to start keeping track of his encounters—although he learned the hard way not to rely on a notebook after losing one on a trolley. Instead, Doug has the names of everybody he has photographed—thousands of them—all cataloged in a book he keeps close by the negatives; on the back of each developed proof sheet, he details the information to correspond with each photo when held to the light.

"In the '70s and '80s, I was everywhere and went to every function in the town because I had my purpose—I had my camera and I was taking pictures of everybody," he says, adding that people were happy to let him go about his business because they just wanted to be included in what was going on. This understanding is what strikes Sandra.

"He always had a way of making people feel part of something," she says. "He's super humble, but he's very talented. You don't feel like you're being excluded, you feel like you're being a part of something."

To facilitate his hobby, Doug built a darkroom into a nook in his house, taking over a closet and part of the space between the living room and kitchen. In this photography alcove, he would spend hours focused on his black-and-white photos, dismissing color as more of a novelty. The collection has since outgrown his in-house storage, but Doug is still shooting—capturing people and paintable scenes along the way.

"How much stuff can you have?" Doug muses as he peeks into the storage shed he built in his backyard to house his constantly growing collection of negatives. "But it's important stuff ... every one of these is an absolute treasure." **LBM**

ARTIST BECOMES INSPIRATION

Film documents Doug Miller's work on the canvas, behind the lens and onstage.

Doug recently added a fourth talent to his growing list: actor. Well, not so much actor as subject of a documentary filmed by Jason Blalock. Jason first encountered Doug as a child running around Laguna Beach, but he reconnected with Doug after noticed his photography being shared across Facebook—and says he saw a story waiting to be told. So when Jason approached Doug about a documentary, the artist said, "Why not?" And thus began months of capturing the essence of Doug on film, culminating with the pre-release of the documentary, "Sawdust and Sand: The Art of Douglas Miller," at Laguna Art Museum last December.

The line that night wrapped down around Cliff Drive, and people were being turned away. Doug greeted his supporters in the best way he knew how: by reciting "Poets," his roughly four-minute comical poem composed entirely of artists' names.

The documentary was a hit, but Jason's critical eye, of course, caught some cleaning up that needed to be done. Doug says he's since added more footage of his musical pursuits in the hopes of expanding the documentary to 50 minutes to make it eligible for a TV slot. "Sawdust and Sand" premiered at the American Documentary Film Festival in Palm Springs, and it will be shown locally at the Newport Beach Film Festival.

COURTESY OF DOUG MILLER



REAL ESTATE *Showcase*



TOUR LAGUNA'S TOP HOMES

FROM QUAIN T BEACH COTTAGES TO LUXURY HILLTOP ESTATES, THE Laguna Beach area offers some of the best homes and views in Orange County. On the following pages, we bring you a special section dedicated to highlighting top properties on the market today. These outstanding homes are represented by Laguna Beach's expert Realtors and real estate agents—individuals with superior knowledge of the local area and the OC market, all dedicated to providing the best customer service.

Pictured on this page:

Address: 31401 Mar Vista Ave., Laguna Beach

Offering price: \$13,800,000

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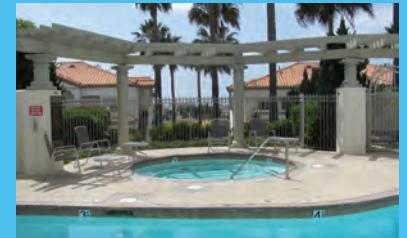
2049 Ocean Way, Laguna Beach \$32,000/mo
Oceanfront Contemporary overlooking Laguna's historic Woods Cove beach. Furnished 4 bdrm, 4 baths



15 Blue Lagoon, Victoria Beach \$5,500/mo
Ocean Front, Resort Community w/ Pool & Tennis. 2 Bdrm + 2 Baths. 1,500 sq.ft.



1293 Ocean Front, Laguna Beach \$7,000/mo
Beach Front Duplex in Village, steps to sand & shops. Furnished 2 bdrm, 2 baths



48 Tennis Villas, Dana Point \$5,000/mo
Gated Golf course-view Villa across from Pool & Spa. Furnished 2 bdrm, 2 baths



31531 Bluff Drive, Laguna Beach \$25,000/mo
Charming cottage across street from Ocean in S. Laguna Village. Furnished 5 bdrm, 4 baths



1137 Marine, North Laguna \$35,000/mo
Ocean Front Vacation Retreat with Jacuzzi/Spa. 5 Bdrms, 3 Baths, 5,000 sq.ft.



34385 Dana Strand, Monarch Beach \$8,500/mo
Ocean View Villa with Panoramic Coastline Views. Furnished 3 Bdrm, 3 baths



15 Vista Cielo, Monarch Beach \$10,000/mo
Panoramic golf course & ocean view. Gated Ritz Pt. Estates. 5 Bdrms, 4.5 Baths, 4,145 sq.ft.

SOLD



NOW LUXURY RENTAL

4 Surfspray, Newport Coast \$18,000/mo
Crystal Cove, Ocean View "Vacation Rental" 5 Bdrms + 6 Baths. 3,750 sq.ft.

SOLD



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Montage Resort Villa, Laguna Beach \$30,000/mo
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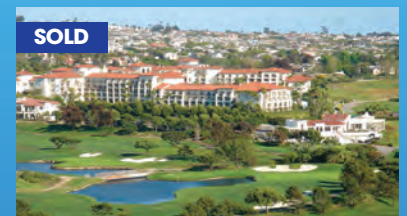
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34365 Dana Strand, Monarch Beach \$6,500/mo
Beautifully remodeled, furnished Ocean Front condo with outdoor living areas.

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COMING SOON - LUXURY RENTAL

Monarch Beach Resort, Dana Point
Exclusive St. Regis Resort Seavilla 4 Bdrm + 4 Bath & Office

SOLD



175/177 Dumond Dr., Victoria Beach \$3,100,000
Spectacular Contemporary Duplex - Steps from Sand. Two 1 bdrm, 1 bath units

SOLD



15 Vista Luci, Newport Coast \$4,918,000
Ocean View villa with designer features, pool & spa. 5 bdrms, 5 baths. Record breaking price per sq.ft.

SOLD



2015 Ocean Way, Laguna Beach \$7,000,000
Ocean Front, Wood's Cove. Direct Beach Access. 3 Bdrms + Guestroom/Den. 3,000 sq.ft.

SOLD



387 Jasmine St., Laguna Beach \$1,925,000
North Laguna Charming with Ocean Views. 4 Bdrm + 3 Bath, plus 1 Bdrm Apt. 2,853 sq.ft.

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AVAILABLE PROPERTIES BY SHAUNA COVINGTON

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36 Lagunita | Panoramic Ocean Views | LAGUNA BEACH

Gated Community | One house from beach | \$5,495,000 | 36Lagunita.net



31 Beach View | The Strand | DANA POINT

5 bedroom, 5.5 bath | \$14,388,000 | 31BeachView.net



1234 Miramar | LAGUNA BEACH

5 bedroom, 4.5 bath, 6,000 sq.ft. | \$3,295,000 | 1234Miramar.com



154 Thalia Street | LAGUNA BEACH

\$6,995,000 | Original Cottage | First time on market.
Oceanfront Beach Access | 154Thalia.com



22791 Channel View | LAGUNA NIGUEL

\$1,999,000 | 4 bd, 5.5 ba | 5,000 sq. ft. | 22791ChannelView.com



307 Camden Place | LAGUNA BEACH

3 bedroom, 3 bath, North Laguna | VRM \$2,999,888-\$3,249,900 | 307Camden.com



1 Morning Dove | LAGUNA NIGUEL | Bear Brand Ranch Custom

4 bedroom, 4 bath | Ocean View | \$2,150,000 | 1MorningDove.com



28812 Top of the World | LAGUNA BEACH

3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,543 sq.ft. | \$1,599,000 | 28812Tow.com



31102 Brooks Street | LAGUNA BEACH
3 bedroom, 3.5 bath | \$4,795,000 | 31102Brooks.com



355 Center Street | LAGUNA BEACH
Charming Woods Cove Cottage | 2 bedroom, Ocean Close | \$1,525,000 | 355Center.com



2780 Victoria Drive | LAGUNA BEACH
4 bedroom, 3 bath | Ocean View Victoria Beach | \$2,495,000 | 2780Victoria.com



645 Buena Vista | LAGUNA BEACH
4 bedrooms, 4 baths 4,100 sq.ft | Ocean View | \$3,995,000 | 645BuenaVista.com

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LANDMARK PROPERTY IN THE VILLAGE

\$3,495,000

Situated on a oversized and prime corner lot in the "Village" of Laguna Beach. This home of French Normandy Revival architecture is of historical significance. Recently restored to its original brilliance by Collins Design & Development, it features stunning beamed ceilings, wood paneling, oak floors, double-hung windows and many architectural features dating back to the 1940's. Wonderful state-of-the-art chef's kitchen centered around an exceptional Lacanche Cluny range, glass door Sub zero fridge, Bosch dishwasher and microwave. Gorgeous baths, cozy den with paneled bar. All three bedrooms feature ensuite bathrooms. Gated back patio for outdoor dining and entertainment. Originally built by Robb & Mackey, the builder of a number of iconic Laguna structures, including the Heisler Building, the Laguna Beach County Water District Building, and the Laguna Presbyterian Church.



14 S. PORTOLA ROAD | LAGUNA BEACH | \$3,785,000

Wonderful home in the private beach community of famous Three Arch Bay, on the beach side of highway. Three bedrooms, three baths, family room, dining room with ocean view balcony, office, large family room with soaring ceilings and panoramic Ocean and Catalina views from deck. Gorgeous Chef's kitchen, extensive use of imported hardware and lighting. Romantic Master Bedroom Suite with stunning Spa bath with heated flooring. Resort style back yard with sexy oversized spa, antique pavers and fountain. Lighted tennis courts, pristine beach! 14SouthPortolaRoad.com

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1360 GLENNEYRE STREET | LAGUNA BEACH | \$1,675,000

Enchantment awaits you as you enter into this incredibly charming cottage built in 1916. Quintessential Laguna Beach living, teeming with the character and warmth of yesteryear, but lovingly renovated with today's desired amenities. Three bedrooms, 2 full baths, dining room, living room, cozy fireplace, very private patio bordered by whimsical lush gardens. This unique property is ideally located to explore the joys of Laguna on foot, walk to beaches, restaurants, art galleries and charming shops. Perfect for a second home, most furnishings included.

Gloria Jewell: Bureau of Real Estate BRE # 00810998

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31713 Seacliff Dr | Laguna Beach | \$6,488,000



6909 E Oak Ln | Orange | \$5,880,000



21 Saint Tropez | Newport Beach | \$2,328,800



7 Windsor | Newport Beach | \$2,798,000



1 Thomas Rd | Covenant Hills | \$3,788,000



310 Fernando #410 | Newport Beach | \$1,399,000



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MIKE JOHNSON

VILLA



1091 Gaviota Drive

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Sitting on the beach in one of the most storied stretches of California coastline, this generational oceanfront home is available to purchase for the first time. Just a few private steps separate the home from the sand, and coastline views can be seen from many rooms. A large great room anchors the main level, with an additional generously sized bonus room on the lower level - both with oceanfront decks. The master suite occupies a 'crows-nest' location, granting terrific views and privacy, while a secluded deck creates a wonderful retreat. An elevator services all three levels of the home. An oversized two car garage with drive parking for two more is rare among oceanfront homes in this neighborhood. With a prime Laguna Beach Village location and an ample floorplan, this home represents an incredible value among oceanfront offerings.



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989 Van Dyke Drive. Remodeled in 2003, the residence sits on a street-to-street lot that offers front, side and back yards, wide sweeping ocean and white water views.



ACTIVE

Laguna Beach \$2,495,000
490 Oak Street. Built in 2001, this 3 bedroom suite, 3.5 bathroom home is located in the heart of the Village in Laguna Beach, and sits on an oversized lot.



JUST SOLD

Laguna Beach \$2,400,000
756 Bluebird Canyon Drive. Represented Sellers. This beautiful, completely rebuilt in 2007, soft contemporary home is what you have been searching for. Outfitted in the best amenities such as a long, wide ocean view deck and blue water views from every room and situated in a desirable location.



JUST SOLD | OCEAN SIDE OF PCH

Laguna Beach \$3,275,000
160-162 Fairview Street. Represented Sellers. Luxury cottages situated on a prime location in Shaw's Cove that features ocean views. This beautiful newly remodeled home is the first of two units, on the ocean side of PCH and just steps away from the beach.



JUST SOLD

Laguna Beach \$3,625,000
1609 Eleanor. Represented Buyers. This Normandy-styled chateau is situated on an expansive 11,000 square foot lot that features a pool, spa, bricked patio area with pergola, and beautiful gardens.



JUST SOLD

Laguna Beach \$1,385,000
541 Thalia Street. Represented Buyers. This 1,300 square foot single family home has 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and is found in a desirable location close to the beach, boutique shopping, and casual dining.



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\$5,250,000

"Ritz Cove" an Orange County premier oceanfront guard-gated community.

Exceptionally fine quality.

Photos and floor plans at www.49RitzCoveDrive.com



224 Cliff Drive, Laguna Beach

\$2,795,000

Panoramic beach, coastline and hills views. Three bedroom home, plus a legal, rental-income, separate two bed/two bath apartment. Two blocks to the sand.

Photos and floor plans at www.224CliffDrive.com



323 Locust Street, Laguna Beach

\$2,395,000

A triplex. Spacious single-level, single-family home with two detached apartments.

Four car garage. Prime north Laguna location.

Photos and floor plans at 323LocustStreet.com



791 Manzanita Drive, Laguna Beach

\$1,750,000

The love of nature meticulously captured by Gregg Abel and C. Stanton Herbert Studios, who created this Arts & Crafts classic.

Photos and floor plans at 791ManzanitaDrive.com



21042 – 21052 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach

\$1,975,000

Large flat parcel. Residential/commercial/light industrial zoning.

Three cottages plus five artist studios.

Photos and Site Plans at 21042LagunaCanyonRd.com

RECENTLY SOLD HOMES



576 Cliff Drive, Laguna Beach

\$3,195,000

Ultimate, penthouse directly across the street from the oceanfront! The panoramic ocean views are mesmerizing.



1609 Eleanor Lane, Laguna Beach

\$3,995,000

Secluded, ocean view, north Laguna estate. Country French home, lush gardens and pool.



520 Diamond Street, Laguna Beach

\$3,995,000

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Taste of the Town

A restaurant resource for dining out in Laguna Beach

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15 Crystal Cove; 949-376-6900;
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280 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-3802;
bjsrestaurants.com

THE CLIFF RESTAURANT

577 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-1956;
thecloffrestaurant.com

THE DECK ON LAGUNA BEACH

627 Sleepy Hollow Ln.; 949-494-6700;
deckonlaguna.com

THE GREETER'S CORNER RESTAURANT

329 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-0361;
thegreeterscorner.com

HUSKY BOY BURGERS

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huskyboyburgers.com

JOHNNY ROCKETS

188 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-7252;
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LUMBERYARD

384 Forest Ave.; 949-715-3900;
lbumberyard.com

NICK'S LAGUNA BEACH

440 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-376-8585;
thenickco.com

OCEAN AVENUE

237 Ocean Ave.; 949-497-3381

ORANGE INN

703 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-6085;
orangeinncafe.com

PENGUIN CAFE

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stregismb.com

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949-494-6044; tivoli-too.com

Lunch With Big Fish

Following a change in ownership and renovations to the second-floor space, the recently re-christened Big Fish Tavern expanded its lunch hours, shifting from a weekend-only affair to a daily offering. On March 2, the eatery that's known for its selection of craft beers and incredible ocean views began serving hungry diners at 11:30 a.m., its new regular start time. In addition, the owners updated the menu—which remains the same for both lunch and dinner—to include a more thoughtful selection of lunch-appropriate salads and sandwiches; options include the kale salad and grilled cheese. (949-715-4500; bigfishtavernlaguna.com)

—Bria Balliet



Big Fish Tavern now serves lunch daily, starting at 11:30 a.m., and added more salads and sandwiches to the menu.

JODY TONGCO



Sushi Laguna's front patio seating



Giant shrimp brains are considered a delicacy.



Clockwise from top left: sake, Kirin Ichiban beer, Maui roll, rice-free cucumber wrap, pink scallop

ROLL WITH IT

Approaching its 15th year in town, Sushi Laguna has perfected the art of fresh, simple dishes—with a few surprises.

By Bria Balliet | Photos by Jody Tiongco

SUSHI, A JAPANESE STAPLE, GAINED POPULARITY IN THE U.S. in the 1980s. As Americans became familiar with terms like toro, sashimi and uni, a young Japanese chef named Jay Sada moved across the Pacific with the goal of bringing his sushi skills stateside. More than two decades later, his restaurant, Sushi Laguna, has become a local favorite—both for the expertise of its owner and the quality of its dishes.

Jay is committed to using the freshest ingredients on his sushi menu. In fact, if he thinks you're up for it, he may even run to the kitchen and emerge with a live giant shrimp. The clink of a glass and one swift motion from the chef are the only warnings before he sets the shrimp's head, perched in a bed of ice, in front of you. Those with a sense of adventure are encouraged to slurp out the brain—Jay says it's one of the most delicious things you can eat. But for the rest of us who are left wide-eyed, he'll instead prepare the tail on rice with a squeeze of lemon. The slight sweetness and clean flavors are evidence of the seafood's quality.

For diners who aren't tempted by that particular delicacy, Sushi Laguna offers an extensive selection of innovative rolls. Jay specializes in simple, healthy combinations that often boast an unexpected texture or flavor. The Maui roll, for instance, is one of the eatery's most popular orders

and packs some heat thanks to jalapeno, but it's the Cajun-spiced tuna that really adds depth and smokiness. In addition, the roll gets a pleasant crunch from the panko-fried onion inside.

For a rice-free option that's also packed with veggies, try a colorful cucumber wrap layered with asparagus, sprouts, avocado and your choice of fish—Jay notes that salmon or tuna are the most popular. A side of ponzu sauce and fresh lemon add a citrusy kick.

Sushi Laguna also maintains an ever-changing board of specials. One that will be a staple throughout the summer is the beautifully plated pink scallop, served in a clamshell. Composed of a single scallop topped with minced mushrooms and asparagus hidden under a creamy sauce, the small dish is then baked and finished with roe (fish eggs), scallions, a jalapeno slice and a dash of hot sauce.

If your cravings are for something other than seafood, Sushi Laguna also boasts a full dinner menu with additional entrees and appetizers such as chicken yakitori, and udon and ramen noodle soups.

No matter your tastes, this local spot has you covered. Arrive with an appetite and an open mind—Jay is sure to surprise you. **LBM**

SUSHI LAGUNA

231 Ocean Ave.
949-376-8786

HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5:30-10 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5:30-11 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 11 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 9 p.m.

TIP: Snag a seat at the head of the sushi bar to chat with the chef and watch his skills in action.



Torta nocciola features layers of hazelnut cake and chocolate.



Numerous seating options accommodate a variety of groups.



The arancini di riso (back) is perfect for sharing, while the panzanella can double as a starter or entree.

MADE FROM SCRATCH

Romeo Cucina has tempted Lagunans with authentic Italian food for more than 20 years.

By Katherine Duncan | Photos by Jody Tiongco

THE FLAVORS OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ITALY ARE evident in the gourmet plates of comfort food served at Romeo Cucina. Behind the scenes, chef-owners Vincenzo and Antonio Romeo transform fresh ingredients using traditional techniques with ease.

The restaurant is surprisingly spacious in an area where real estate is more valuable than gold. Considering how packed it is on an average weeknight, it seems that the family needs every square foot to share its made-from-scratch Italian classics with hungry diners.

The panzanella Calabrese is a refreshing way to begin a meal, and would also serve as a beautiful standalone lunch on a warm afternoon. Arugula, oregano, ripe tomatoes, thinly sliced red onion, chunks of buffalo mozzarella and croutons are simply dressed with extra virgin olive oil, allowing the crisp flavors to come through unimpeded. The croutons are the star here; they're crafted from house-made polenta, with a crisp exterior and—best of all—served while still warm.

No one will blame you for wanting the salad all to yourself, but the appetizers are made for sharing. The arancini di riso (fried risotto balls) are a must-try. A golden, crisp exterior houses rich saffron risotto with mozzarella and flavorful bolognese sauce at the center. Their circular shape and deep

orange color resemble the citrus fruit they're served with. Don't be shy about eating these with your hands—after all, Vincenzo says that's how it's done in Italy.

The bruschetta is a lighter starter that's equally enticing. The focaccia, baked in the restaurant's wood oven, is thin enough that the flavor of the bread doesn't overpower its toppings: ripe tomatoes, garlic, olive oil and basil with crumbled ricotta salata (a dried version of ricotta that's saltier than its fresh counterpart).

Nothing cures a craving for Italian comfort food as well as handmade pasta, however. Seafood fans will want to sample the panzarotti d'aragosta: Lobster- and crab-filled ravioli are topped with a luscious, deep pink whiskey sauce, then dotted with perfectly cooked shrimp and scallops. A heartier dish, the tortelloni di carne, will satisfy beef lovers. Large pasta shells with ultra-tender braised rib-eye are covered with creamy pesto, then garnished with arugula and shaved Grana Padano (a hard cheese). Both dishes pair well with an Italian red wine.

For a sweet finale, save room for the torta nocciola. The dessert features multiple layers of rum-soaked hazelnut sponge cake separated by hazelnut ganache, all topped off with fine chocolate shavings and a sprinkling of crunchy, toasted nuts. LBM

ROMEO CUCINA

249 Broadway
949-497-6627
romeocucina.net

HOURS: Monday-Thursday, opens at 5 p.m. for dinner; Friday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for lunch, 5 p.m. for dinner

TIP: Stop by during happy hour, offered daily from 5-7 p.m., when all drinks are half-priced.

TOMMY BAHAMA BAR & GRILL
400 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-376-6886;
tommybahama.com

BELGIAN
BRUSSELS BISTRO
222 Forest Ave.; 949-376-7955;
brusselsbistro.com

CALIFORNIA CONTEMPORARY
ANASTASIA CAFE
460 Ocean Ave.; 949-497-8903;
anastasiaboutique.com
BROADWAY BY AMAR SANTANA
328 Glenneyre St.; 949-715-8234;
broadwaybyamarsantana.com
CAFE ZOOLU
860 Glenneyre St.; 949-494-6825;
cafezoolu.com
IVORY RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
853 Laguna Canyon Rd.;
949-715-0261;
ivoryrestaurantandlounge.com
K'YA BISTRO BAR AT
HOTEL LA CASA DEL CAMINO
1287 S. Coast Hwy.;
949-376-9718; kyabistro.com

Spring Sips

With so many fruits at their peak freshness and temperatures on the rise, late spring is the perfect time to whip up a cool fruit smoothie.

Faye Clapp, owner of Active Culture, shared one of her favorite recipes (and one of the healthy hot spot's most popular) so you can get your daily dose of vitamins in the sweetest way possible. —B.B.



PICK-ME-UP

Servings: 1

1 handful fresh green kale
½ cup each fresh watermelon and
pineapple, cut into cubes
2 ice cubes
½ cup homemade organic almond milk

Blend all ingredients together
until smooth.

(Recipe from Active Culture)

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At enoSTEAK, we're serious about using the freshest ingredients of the highest quality. That's why everything is sourced from farms within 150 miles of our restaurant. We gather our herbs from our own organic garden. And our prime beef is from local farms committed to raising the highest quality breeds and dedicated to caring for livestock traditionally. It all adds up to exceptional quality you can taste.

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Located at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. Reservations recommended.
949-240-2000 | www.enosteak.com

The Best of Brunch

Mother's Day is May 10, and many of us are planning to treat the special women in our lives to a traditional, celebratory brunch. Whether she wants to dine on the sand, by a bar or in the ballroom of a world-renowned resort, there's a table in town to please even the pickiest matriarch. Here, we've rounded up a few of the destinations that are crafting special meals just for the occasion. —B.B.



The Beachcomber Cafe will offer a special brunch menu to celebrate Mother's Day.

THE BEACHCOMBER CAFE: Located right on the sand in the heart of the Crystal Cove Historic District, The Beachcomber Cafe offers breathtaking views and a special menu that includes unlimited mimosas or Champagne. (949-376-6900; thebeachcombercafe.com)

THREE SEVENTY COMMON KITCHEN & DRINK: From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., enjoy \$5 mimosas and choose from a limited three-course menu that offers both breakfast- and lunch-appropriate selections. (949-494-8686; 370common.com)

SPLASHES AT THE SURF & SAND RESORT: The seaside eatery is offering two three-course menus on Mother's Day; lunch is available from noon to 4 p.m. and a separate dinner menu takes over from 4-9 p.m. (949-376-2779; surfandsandresort.com)

MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH: From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Montage is hosting a 12-station brunch buffet in its Grand Ballroom. Moms will enjoy entertainment from live musicians and take home a keepsake photo to remember the day. (949-715-6000; montagelagunabeach.com)

THE LOFT AT MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH

30801 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-6420;
montagelagunabeach.com

MADISON SQUARE & GARDEN CAFE

320 N. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-0137;
madisonsquare.com

MOSAIC BAR AND GRILLE AT MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH

30801 S. Coast Hwy.;
949-715-6420;
montagelagunabeach.com

NIRVANA GRILLE

303 Broadway St., Ste. 101;
949-497-0027;
nirvanagrille.com

THE ROOFTOP LOUNGE AT HOTEL LA CASA DEL CAMINO

1287 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-2446;
rooftoplagunabeach.com

TABU GRILL

2892 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-7743;
tabugrill.com

THREE SEVENTY COMMON KITCHEN & DRINK

370 Glenneyre St.; 949-494-8686;
370common.com

230 FOREST AVENUE

230 Forest Ave.; 949-494-2545;
230forestavenue.com

WATERMARC RESTAURANT

448 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-376-6272;
watermarcrestaurant.com

THE WHITE HOUSE

340 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-8088;
whitehouserestaurant.com

WINE GALLERY WINE BAR & KITCHEN

1833 S. Coast Hwy., Ste. 110;
949-715-8744;
winegallerylaguna.com

CARIBBEAN

EVA'S CARIBBEAN KITCHEN

31732 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-499-6311;
evascaribbeankitchen.com

CHINESE

MANDARIN KING

1223 N. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-8992

PEONY CHINESE CUISINE

215 Broadway St.; 949-497-5777;
peonycuisine.com

CONTINENTAL

DIZZ'S AS IS

2794 S. Coast Hwy.;
949-494-5250; dizzsasis.com



Hennessey's Tavern

FRENCH

C'EST LA VIE

373 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-5100;
cestlavierestaurant.com

STUDIO AT MONTAGE

LAGUNA BEACH

30801 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-6420;
studiolagunabeach.com

GERMAN

HEIDELBERG CAFE AND BISTRO

1100 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-4594;
heidelbergcafe.com

GLOBAL CUISINE

RAYA AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, LAGUNA NIGUEL

1 Ritz-Carlton Dr.; 949-240-2000;
ritzcarlton.com

SAPPHIRE LAGUNA

1200 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-9888;
sapphirelaguna.com

INDIAN

NATRAJ CUISINE OF INDIA

998 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-9197;
natrajlagunabeach.com

IRISH

HENNESSEY'S TAVERN

213 Ocean Ave.; 949-494-2743;
hennesstavern.com

ITALIAN & PIZZA

ALESSÁ LAGUNA BEACH

234 Forest Ave.; 949-497-8222;
pirozziculinary.com

GINA'S PIZZA

610 N. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-4421;
1100 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-4342;
ginaspizza.com



Celebrations for Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo and Taco Tuesday coincide this year; here are some places in town to party in style May 5.

AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

In addition to the usual \$2 tacos on Tuesdays, Avila's El Ranchito is offering prizes and freebies to diners all day long. Owner Michael Avila recommends toasting the occasion with the eatery's California Cadillac Margarita. The eatery won't be accepting reservations, so expect a packed house and plenty of fun. (949-376-7040; avilaselranchito.com)



Las Brisas' spicy mango margarita

LAS BRISAS

The ocean-view eatery is already a popular destination to unwind, and for Cinco de Mayo it's hosting a mariachi band to liven up the festivities. The full dinner and drinks menus are also available. For a balance of sweet and heat, try Las Brisas' spicy mango margarita with a pequin chili pepper rim. (949-497-5434; lasbrisaslagunabeach.com)

OLAMENDI'S

On Cinco de Mayo, Olamendi's will add Day of the Dead decor as well as "pan de muerto" (Mexican sweet bread) and specials on margaritas and appetizers offered by staff in full sugar-skull makeup. Try the hibiscus margarita, made with Olamendi's own organic tequila and house-made hibiscus water. (949-497-4148; olamendislaguna.com) —B.B.

MARE CULINARY LOUNGE

696 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-9581; mareculinarylounge.com

NEAPOLITAN

31542 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-499-4531; nealaguna.com

PIZZA LOUNGE

397 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-2277; pizzalounges.com

POLINA'S SALERNO ITALIAN RESTAURANT

220 Beach St.; 949-497-2600; polinassalerno.com

RISTORANTE RUMARI

1826 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-0400; rumari.net

ROMEO CUCINA

249 Broadway; 949-497-6627; romeocucina.com

ZPIZZA

30822 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-499-4949; zpizza.com

MEDITERRANEAN

ADONIS MEDITERRANEAN GRILL

202 Park Ave.; 949-715-4581

GG'S CAFÉ-BISTRO

540 S. Coast Hwy., Ste. 108; 949-494-9306; ggscafebistro.com

ZÉYTOON CAFE

412 N. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-9230; zeytooncafe.com

MEXICAN

ADOLFO'S

998 S. Coast Hwy., Ste. A; 949-497-2023

AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

1305 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-376-7040; avilaselranchito.com

CARMELITA'S

217 Broadway; 949-715-7829; carmelitaskitchen.com

COYOTE GRILL

31621 Coast Hwy.; 949-499-4033; coyotegrill.tv

LAGUNA FEAST

801 Glenneyre St.; 949-494-0642; lagunafeast.com

LA SIRENA GRILL

347 Mermaid St.; 949-497-8226; 30862 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-499-2301; lasirenagrill.com

OLAMENDI'S

1100 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-4148; olamendislagunabeach.com

PAPA'S TACOS

31622 Coast Hwy.; 949-499-9822; papastacosinc.com

TACO LOCO

640 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-1635; tacoloco.net

TORTILLA REPUBLIC

480 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-393-4888; tortillarepublic.com

SEAFOOD/STEAKS

BIG FISH TAVERN

540 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-4500; bigfishtavernlaguna.com

DRIFTWOOD KITCHEN

619 Sleepy Hollow Ln.; 949-715-7700; driftwoodkitchen.com

ENOSTEAK AT THE

RITZ-CARLTON, LAGUNA NIGUEL

One Ritz-Carlton Dr., Dana Point; 949-240-2000; ritzcarlton.com

LAS BRISAS

361 Cliff Dr.; 949-497-5434; lasbrisaslagunabeach.com

MARO WOOD GRILL

1915 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-793-4044; marowoodgrill.com

MOZAMBIQUE

1740 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-7100; mozambiqueoc.com

OCEANVIEW BAR & GRILL AT THE HOTEL LAGUNA

425 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-1151; hotellaguna.com

SELANNE STEAK TAVERN

1464 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-9881; selannesteaktavern.com

SLAPFISH

211 Broadway; 949-715-9200; slapfishrestaurant.com

STARFISH

30832 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-9200; starfishlaguna.com

SUSHI

HAPI SUSHI

250 Beach St.; 949-494-9109

O FINE JAPANESE CUISINE

30872 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-5551; ofinejapanesecuisine.com

OKURA ROBATA GRILL & SUSHI BAR

858 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-793-4320; okurasushi.com

SAN SHI GO

1100 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-1551

SUSHI LAGUNA

231 Ocean Ave.; 949-376-8786

242 CAFE FUSION SUSHI

242 N. Coast Hwy.;
949-494-2444;
fusionart.us

THAI

LAGUNA THAI BY THE SEA

31715 Coast Hwy.; 949-415-0924;
lagunathai.com

ROYAL THAI CUISINE

1750 S. Coast Hwy.;
949-494-8424;
royalthaicuisine.com

THAI BROS.

238 Laguna Ave.; 949-376-9979

VEGETARIAN

ACTIVE CULTURE

1006 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-5188

BANZAI BOWLS

1100 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-8989

THE STAND

238 Thalia St.; 949-494-8101

ZINC CAFE

350 Ocean Ave.; 949-494-6302;
zinccafe.com LBM



Craig Strong uses garden-fresh herbs at Studio.

FRESH EATS

Living in Southern California at the height of spring means that local chefs don't just get to purchase the freshest produce available—many are able to grow it themselves. Whether they have their gardens at home (like Sapphire Laguna's Azmin Ghahreman) or on-site (like Craig Strong of Studio at Montage Laguna Beach), Laguna chefs are able to cultivate impressive plots from which they harvest produce for their kitchens.

Azmin, for instance, recently picked his first batch of Carolina Reaper chilies, which he has been growing since last year. The eatery now incorporates the intensely spicy habanero and ghost chili hybrid into bloody marys by special request.

Azmin also has started harvesting Meyer lemons that he then turns into Moroccan-style preserves, and he hopes to experiment with kumquat jam soon.

Studio's garden is also overflowing with produce. From fruits like blueberries and Valencia oranges to herbs like mint and African basil, Craig has nearly everything he needs for his spring menu right outside the window. "[Our] arugula is flowering beautifully and our fava beans are towering over everything," the chef says. "I plan to introduce the fava beans into our garden-inspired menu this spring, pairing it with lamb and other fresh herbs that are in season." —B.B.

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editor@lagunabeachmag.com.

THE REAL DEAL

Artists—both past and present—evoke emotion and make political statements with their true-to-life paintings.

By Richard Chang



"Encelia and Wind Turbine, San Geronio Pass" by Mary-Austin Klein

MARY-AUSTIN KLEIN SUE GREENWOOD FINE ART

Realist oil painter Mary-Austin Klein depicts the open spaces of the Mojave Desert, Kern County and the Pacific Coast with pinpoint accuracy, yet she also imbues her canvases with emotion—the anonymity and desolation of the desert, the harshness of man's impact on the land and the fragility of ecosystems. Traffic cones tipped over in "Cones at Redwood Rest #1, Descanso Gardens" convey the carelessness in developing the land and taking it for granted.

Mary-Austin found inspiration in California landscapes at an early age. She was born in San Bernardino, and now lives in the Echo Park neighborhood of LA, with frequent trips to Twentynine Palms and Santa Barbara.

"There are certain colors that the Mojave Desert has that don't seem to be anywhere else," Mary-Austin says. "It's the light, the lack of visual clutter. There's a certain blue in the sky and the shadows. And yet, there's also the blight that kind of comes in and inserts itself in those pristine landscapes."

"The whole thing that I think is interesting [is] she's documenting the changing landscape of California," says Sue Greenwood, who has several of Mary-Austin's paintings in her North Coast Highway gallery year-round. "The environmental issues are interesting. Southern California is becoming more of a desert because of the changing of our environment, and she's really capturing that."

Previously a board member and board president of the California Wilderness Coalition, a preservationist ethic informs Mary-Austin's work. "I definitely think realism is making a comeback," she says. "We kind of call ourselves the California realist school. There's a lot of energy and response to the work, which is nice."

Mary-Austin Klein has
shown her work at Sue
Greenwood Fine Art for
the past six years.
(949-494-0669;
suegreenwoodfineart.com)



"Po Tse (Water Eagle)" by Robert Henri

ROBERT HENRI LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

Robert Henri was a seminal figure in American realism. He's known as the leader of the New York-based Ashcan School, which sought to portray the city in all its gritty glory. Robert made his way out to the Southern California in 1914, and returned on subsequent visits through 1925. During his trips out West, he made a special effort to paint portraits of subjects with diverse backgrounds—African, Chinese, European, Mexican and Native American. He infused a poignant humanity in his sitters, many of whom were still discriminated against by the broader American populace.

About a dozen of his oil paintings grace "Robert Henri's California: Realism, Race, and Region, 1914-1925," a current exhibition at Laguna Art Museum that focuses on people of color and children. In his portrait of a Chinese girl, "Tam Gan," the bright, citrusy colors of California fill the background, and are also reflected in the young subject's face.

"The number of Chinese immigrants coming to California had been curtailed since the Chinese Exclusion Act," explains Derrick Cartwright, curator of the exhibition. "He had sympathy and appreciation for these women and children, and wanted to show that they are just like you and me. He had very progressive politics to pick these subjects—more progressive than other people might think."

Not only were Robert's views ahead of his time, his approach to the medium has influenced other artists such as Edward Hopper, Stuart Davis, George Bellows and Arnold Franz Brasz.

"He's not just representing a subject, but he does it in these physical terms," Derrick says. "He moved the image around with flashing brushwork and real economy of gesture. ... Henri was a really good teacher—he taught a whole generation of students to attack the canvas in some sort of way."

"Robert Henri's California: Realism, Race, and Region, 1914-1925" is on view at Laguna Art Museum through May 31. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

UNIVERSAL APPEAL

By Ashley Ryan

International artists come together in a JoAnne Artman Gallery exhibition ("Lost in Translation Too") that showcases contemporary pieces influenced by their respective cultures. With a variety of artistic styles and art that transcends language barriers, the pieces inspire and engage those from all walks of life.

The artists include Anja Van Herle, a native of Belgium who creates iconic representations of women's faces inspired by fashion; Alberto Murillo, a Spanish artist evoking Latin American moods in his colorful textured sea and cityscapes; Anthony Hunter, a British painter with an unexpected palette crafting abstract expressionist pieces; and Pedro Bonnin, an oil painter hailing from Mexico who conjures up humorously fantastical characters in his work. All of the artists have found international success, revealing that art is a universal language. The exhibit runs through the end of June, with an artist reception June 4 from 6-8 p.m. (949-510-5481; joanneartmangallery.com)



"Big Blue Sky Square With Dark Red Texture Circle in Top Right Hand Corner Painting" by Anthony Hunter

A SHOWCASE OF HIGH SCHOOL ART

By Ashley Ryan

Laguna Beach High School's AP ceramics class, led by Somer Selway, is displaying art pieces at coastal eddy, a gallery until May 9. The exhibition, "LB - AP - Clay," gives students an opportunity to experience organizing and setting up their displays and appearing in a gallery, something they would not have been able to do without the partnership.

After the students crafted their pieces in class, they presented their work to Somer and were then juried into the show for friends, family and other visitors to view what they created.

For amateur artists, this unique opportunity allows them to see what it's like to be a professional artist in Laguna Beach. (949-715-4113; coastaleddygallery.com)



Laguna Beach High School AP ceramics students

a&g

ARTISTS AND GALLERIES

GALLERY EVENTS

DEBILZAN GALLERY

John Wayne's widow, Pilar Wayne, showcases original oil paintings of her late husband on May 7 and June 4 from 6-9 p.m. She is making an appearance to autograph her cookbooks. The gallery is also showcasing sculptures from Tony Dow and new original pieces from William DeBilzan and Jacek Lazuka in May and June. (949-878-1891; debilzangallery.com)

EXCLUSIVE COLLECTIONS GALLERY

Contemporary artist Henry Asencio is making an appearance May 30 from 6-9 p.m. and May 31 from noon to 5 p.m. Henry combines classic figure-painting skills with his contemporary style to produce emotive abstract pieces that possess a sense of sensual elegance. (949-715-8747; ecgallery.com)

LAGUNA GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART

As part of its monthly campaign to appeal to young adults on important issues, the gallery is hosting a panel of 20 different people—from doctors and lawyers to fast food servers and drug addicts—discussing how to thrive in life by making good choices and learning from your mistakes. The event is planned for May 30 from 6-9 p.m. Artists Jello Pop and Christiana Lewis will create new artwork that follows the panel's theme. (949-715-9604; lgoca.com)

LEN WOOD'S INDIAN TERRITORY GALLERY

Through the end of the summer, the gallery presents "Antique Navajo Blankets and Rugs," featuring more than 500 pieces weaved by the Navajos from 1860 to 1940 and an additional 200 pieces from more modern times. These blankets and rugs are museum-quality



"Tide Pool at Picnic Beach" by Jacobus Baas, Pacific Edge Gallery

weavings from a variety of time periods. (949-497-5747; indianterritory.com)

ORANGE COUNTY CREATIVES

"Celebrating the Abstract" includes varied pieces of two-dimensional abstract art, encouraging both the artists and the audience to connect emotionally to the work. It's part of Orange County Creatives' most recent juried show held May 4-29, with a reception from 6-9 p.m. May 7. (978-473-9658; orangecountycreativesgallery.com)

PACIFIC EDGE GALLERY

A new exhibition opening May 16 features landscape painter Jacobus Baas. His show, "From the Atlantic to the South Pacific," includes new works painted on location in Maine, Hawaii and California. A reception is from 5-8 p.m. and the show continues through the end of June. (949-494-0491; pacificedgegallery.com)

PETER BLAKE GALLERY

In May, the gallery is showcasing work by historic artist and sculptor Larry Bell. His work, part of the Light and Space art movement originating in the 1960s, explores the relationship between the art piece and its surrounding environment by using glass, special lights, resin or reflective elements to redirect natural light. (949-584-1224; peterblakegallery.com)

SANDSTONE GALLERY

Throughout May, the gallery presents two shows: "Dreamscapes" by Ann Kim and "Pressing Engagement" by Anne Moore. Ann's abstract pieces are inspired by nature, filled with varied color palettes and emotion. Anne is a printmaker with her own unique style featuring rough shapes and dark colors. A reception is planned from 6-9 p.m. May 7. (949-497-6775; sandstonegallery.com)

THE SIGNATURE GALLERY

On May 7, meet oil painter Reid Richardson, whose bold images are on display during May. His paintings seek out the hidden meanings in life's simple beauties, inspiring the imagination with surreal landscapes. Then, on June 4, meet Cara Pabst Moran and check out her vibrant impressionist oil paintings of movement found in nature. Both events are from 6-9 p.m. (949-376-4244; thesignaturegallery.com)

WYLAND STUDIO GALLERY

For more than 30 years, Wyland Galleries has presented beautifully crafted marine life artwork at various locations in the seaside community of Laguna. Wyland's paintings, sculptures and photography are on display in a solo exhibition starting May 23, showcasing some of his fine art pieces that seem to capture the spirit of the sea. (949-376-8000; wylandgalleries.com) LBM



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NORMAN HOUSE AND VICTORIA BEACH TOWER

By Laguna Beach Magazine Staff

TOP: COURTESY OF LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY; BOTTOM: FOSTER J. EUBANK



LIKE A CASTLE TURRET EMERGING FROM THE shore, the tower at Victoria Beach captivates visitors who ponder its purpose. No doubt, many a child has imagined Rapunzel sitting at the top with her long tresses billowing from one of the small, rectangular windows and a prince climbing up to rescue her.

Built in 1926, at the same time as the Norman House on the cliff above, the 60-foot-tall concrete tower with a stone foundation provides a more utilitarian function: A wooden spiral staircase inside allows access from the beach to the home, which was constructed for William E. Brown and his family as a summer residence. William was a California senator from Los Angeles and a noted Christian Science lecturer, according to the state's Historic

Resources Inventory.

The French Provincial Revival home—nicknamed La Tour and featuring steeply pitched, multigabled roofs and stained glass windows—was acquired in the early 1940s by retired naval officer Harold Kendrick, an intriguing character who dressed as a pirate and decorated the house in a similar fashion, endearing himself to the local children. Harold stocked the abode with games and puzzles for the neighborhood kids to play, awarding coins from his bowl of “cold cash”—stored in the refrigerator—to the winners. He is also said to have created a treasure hunt by tucking coins in the tower’s many crevices for the children to find. Now, the structure remains a treasure in the pages of Laguna’s history. LBM



The iconic tower at Victoria Beach in the 1900s (top) and more recently (above)



14X World Champion skimboarder - Bill "Beaker" Bryan
photo by: Jerome Weightman @jweightman

Check out these upcoming XS Sponsored Events

Wednesday, April 29, 8pm

Ocean Avenue Brewery, Laguna Beach
New Tenth St. Bros Production
screening of "All In" - All Ages.

Thursday, April 30,

The Grove Theater, Anaheim
4pm screening of "All In" prior to the
5pm "Shorebreak" world premier.

Saturday, May 2, 9 am

Beaker West St. Pro Skim Competition
Come watch or compete with the
world's best skim boarders!
insta: @billbryan for updates.



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