

LAGUNA BEACH



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JULY/AUGUST 2014 » OCINSITE.COM

Magazine

SPECIAL SECTION

SUN & SURF

AN ICON OF THE OCEAN
REMEMBERING HOBIE ALTER

BEST OF THE BEACHES
5 LOCALS' FAVORITE SPOTS

THROUGH THE GENERATIONS
LAGUNA'S STARS BEHIND THE SWELLS

DOG DAYS
OF SUMMER

LAGUNA ROLLS OUT
THE GRASS CARPET FOR
ITS FURRY FRIENDS

SWIM STYLE

MAKE A SPLASH WITH
THESE TOP TRENDS





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By Bria Balliet

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By Tess Eyrich

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JODY TONGCO



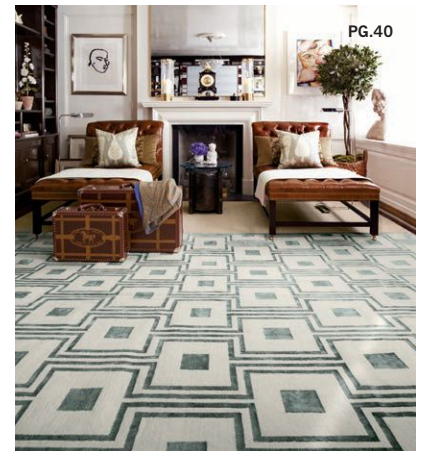
ON THE COVER: A YOUNG HOBBIE ALTER TAKES A SPIN ON HIS HOBBIE CAT 14 CATAMARAN (CIRCA 1960).

PHOTOGRAPHER: COURTESY OF HOBBIE DESIGNS

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Correction: In the June 2014 issue of Laguna Beach Magazine, it was incorrectly stated on page 68 in the "Season of Art" story that Art-A-Fair is the only summer art festival that offers free admission to Laguna Beach residents. The Festival of Arts also offers free admission to residents as well as Sawdust Art Festival on certain days of the week.

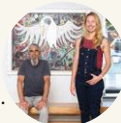
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INTERACTIVE PAGE



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STORIES OF THE SAND

WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO ORANGE COUNTY FIVE YEARS AGO, I WAS AWESTRUCK BY its coastal beauty, especially the city of Laguna Beach. In fact, the beaches of Laguna were among the first I visited when I put down roots here. My fiancé (then boyfriend) would often take me to Thalia Street Beach, where we would meet friends and hang out, or meet with his sister, nieces and nephew for a day of fun under the sun. Thalia Street Beach, in particular, is a hidden paradise—a lesser-known beach that's perfect for surfing and skimboarding, or just laying out in the sun.



Like a memory box, the beaches here are diaries of our experiences—imagine that each grain of sand represents an experience that someone had there. Just like there are millions of grains of sand, there are millions of stories to be told. Similarly, as each grain of sand is microscopically unique, each story is unique in its own way. Just walking along a favorite strip of coastline can bring up memories of growing up, certain milestones in life, specific people in our lives and so much more. It's also a place to reflect; on my lunch break during the day, I often just like to stroll up to Heisler Park and sit on one of the benches that overlook the crashing waves below. For whatever reason, the shoreline is a magical place; a place where you just can't help but appreciate what you have in life, whether you're going through tough or good times.

In this issue, you can read about a few of the beaches that are special to others here in Laguna (page 66) and their coveted memories. In fact, we want to know what your favorite beach is here, and why. Take a photo of yourself with your toes in the sand and tag us on Instagram (@lagunabeachmagazine) or Facebook!

We hope you enjoy the long summer days and continue to build more memories in the sand.

Cheers,
Alli Tong
Editor, Laguna Beach Magazine
alli@firebrandmediainc.com



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GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ASSISTANT EDITOR
Karlee Prazak

GRAPHIC DESIGN ASSOCIATE
Shaylene Brooks

PHOTOGRAPHER/PHOTO EDITOR
Jody Tiongco

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Peter A. Balaskas, Tess Eyrich, Beth Fhaner,
Sharael Kolberg, Margie Monin Dombrowski,
Stephanie Nitsch, Ryan Ritchie, Ashley Ryan,
Theodore P. Schraff III, Somer Tejwani

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
David Jakle, Dondee Quincena,
Robert Zaleski, Carrie Zeller

DIGITAL MEDIA
CONTENT WRANGLER
Kim Zepezauer

PUBLISHER
Scott Sanchez

SALES
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Cindy Byrne

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER
Jo Beth Prudhomme

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES
Matt Bond
Julie Coleman
Linda McCall

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Ann Gendrolis
Carol Josepher
Michelle St. Amour

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Tina Leydecker

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Katie Essenfeld

FINANCE
Cyndy Mendaros

FirebrandTM
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Steve Zepezauer

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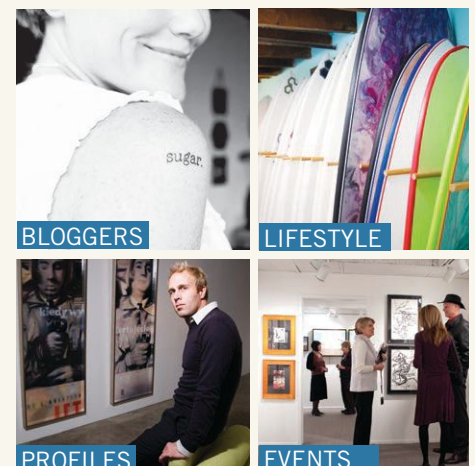
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What's not to like?



THE BEST COASTAL LIFESTYLE
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JULY/AUGUST

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FESTIVAL RUNWAY FASHION

AUG. 2; FESTIVAL OF ARTS

One of the most eclectic and fun-filled events of the festival season, the Festival of Arts' fashion show presents a chance for art and fashion lovers to combine their passions and skills to create stunning ensembles using reclaimed and recycled materials. The experienced panel of judges will keep audiences laughing and provide useful commentary before they determine winners in categories such as "Biggest Wow Factor," "Most Innovative Use of Materials" and "Red Carpet Ready." (949-494-1145; foapom.com)

ART

PAGEANT OF THE MASTERS

THROUGH AUG. 30; IRVINE BOWL

This year, the Pageant of the Masters delves into the many mysteries that have plagued the art world over the centuries in its summer show, "The Art Detective." One of the most acclaimed productions of "tableaux vivants" (living pictures) in the world, the Pageant of the Masters has perfected the performance of living masterpieces. Attendees this summer are sure to enjoy the intricate show, with a few surprises along the way. (949-494-1145; foapom.com)

"JOHN ALTOON: DRAWINGS AND PRINTS"

THROUGH SEPT. 21; LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

LA native John Altoon created both commercial and fine artwork from the 1940s through the 1960s. The artist, who died in 1969, was born to Armenian parents, served in the Navy and later studied at the Otis and Chouinard art institutes before being discovered in Santa Barbara. Best known for his paintings, this exhibit profiles his lesser-known drawings and explores his struggle to balance his commercial illustration and fine art. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

PERFORMANCES

"BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY"

THROUGH AUG. 10; LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

Nationally celebrated for more than 20 years, this musical examines the incredible career of the rock 'n' roller from Lubbock, Texas, who took the country by storm before his life was cut tragically short. Sing along with fun, upbeat tunes like "Peggy Sue," "La Bamba" and "Chantilly Lace" that made Buddy Holly a household name, while reliving the era that introduced the world to rock 'n' roll. (949-497-2787; lagunaplayhouse.com)

JAZZ ON THE GREEN CONCERT SERIES

JULY 12 AND 26, AUG. 9 AND 30; FESTIVAL OF ARTS

This series brings legendary musicians to the Festival of Arts grounds for intimate performances that are free with festival admission. This summer's lineup includes Greg Adams and East Bay Soul, Down to the Bone, Jeff Lorber Fusion, and Poncho Sanchez & his Latin Jazz Band on four separate Saturdays, ensuring an opportunity for every jazz lover to catch a spectacular show. (949-494-1145; foapom.com)

"GHOST: THE MUSICAL"

JULY 29 - AUG. 10; SEGERSTROM CENTER

FOR THE ARTS

The beloved story, originally brought to life on the big screen by Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore, tells the tale of Sam and Molly, a young couple torn apart by Sam's sudden passing. Featuring an original pop score by Grammy Award winners Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard, Sam's journey to protect the woman he loves, even in death, is heart wrenching, exciting and entertaining for viewers of all ages. (714-556-2787; scfta.org)

LIVE! AT THE MUSEUM: "EKPHRASIS"

AUG. 14; LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

The latest installment of Live! At the Museum, "Ekphrasis" combines the audible beauty of a brand-new piece of music with the visual

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delight of original choreography. The Laguna Dance Festival, Laguna Art Museum and Laguna Beach Live! jointly commissioned composer Alan Chan and choreographer Bernard Gaddis to create these new works inspired by the museum's Lee Mullican oil painting, "Lotus Land." This Aug. 14 show will feature a simplified version of the music and dance pieces, which will be presented in full at the Laguna Dance Festival in September. (949-715-5578; lagunadancefestival.org)

UPCOMING CONCERTS AND SHOWS

ONGOING; THE COACH HOUSE, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Abba Fab, July 12, 8 p.m.; Soul Asylum, July 16, 8 p.m.; Benise, July 18, 8 p.m.; Henry Kapono, July 19, 8 p.m.; The Wailers, July 20, 8 p.m.; "Beatles vs. Stones—A Musical Shootout," July 26, 8 p.m.; The Farewell Tour of Queensryche, Starring Geoff Tate, July 31, 8 p.m.; Arthur Adams, Aug. 2, 8 p.m.; Emerson Hart and Tony Lucca, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.; Third World, Aug. 9, 8 p.m.; Desperado—The Premier Eagles Tribute, Aug. 15, 8 p.m.; Patrizio Buanne, Aug. 20, 8 p.m. (949-496-8930; thecoachhouse.com)

ACTIVITIES AND CHARITY

OC FAIR

JULY 11 - AUG. 10; OC FAIR & EVENT CENTER

One of Orange County's most beloved summer traditions, the OC Fair brings all the best in carnival rides, food, activities and competition to south Orange County for one sun- and sugar-filled month. Boasting an abundance of fried foods, games and concerts—not to mention cooking, farming and livestock competitions—the OC Fair brings a touch of nostalgia and a ton of fun. (714-708-1500; ocfair.com)

ELEMENTS OF ART SUMMER CAMPS

JULY 14 - AUG. 30; LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

This summer, Laguna Art Museum will offer five "Elements of Art" summer camp sessions for children in first through eighth grade. The various camps—each with a different theme—aim to teach children the joy of art while introducing them to art elements such as lines, space, colors, textures and shapes. Multiple projects will

be available to appeal to each age group and ability. Reservations are required. (949-494-8971, ext. 203; lagunaaartmuseum.org)

BOB MARGOLIS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

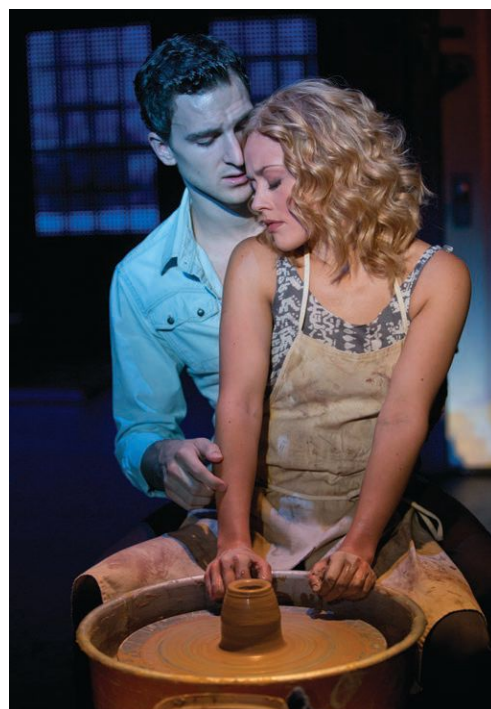
JULY 14; ALISO VIEJO COUNTRY CLUB

Sponsored by the Laguna Hackers, the 14th Annual Bob Margolis Memorial Golf Tournament will raise funds for the TLC branch of the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach. Featuring a "scramble format" golf tournament, silent auction, helicopter ball-drop raffle and dinner, the event promises to be a fun and rewarding evening for all. (bgclagunabeach.org)

BACCHANAL THIRSTY THURSDAY

JULY 17; WINE GALLERY

Music and fine wine combine at Wine Gallery Laguna Beach from 8-11 p.m. Featuring disc jockey SLi Dawg as well as Purple Corduroy winemaker Jeffrey Farthing, and Mile 216 wine maker Chris Olsen, guests can imbibe while jamming to tunes all night long. (949-715-8144; winegallerylaguna.com) LBM



"Ghost: the Musical" at Segerstrom Center for the Arts

ONGOING

Sawdust Studio Art Classes continue year-round.

LIVE! AT THE MUSEUM SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 7-8 P.M., LAGUNA ART MUSEUM (949-494-8971; LAGUNAARTMUSEUM.ORG); **SAWDUST STUDIO ART CLASSES** VARIOUS DATES/TIMES, SAWDUST FESTIVAL GROUNDS (949-494-3030; SAWDUSTARTFESTIVAL.ORG); **MONTHLY WINE TASTING PARTY** FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, LAGUNA CANYON WINERY (949-715-9463; LAGUNACANYONWINERY.COM); **ZEROTRASH BEACH CLEANUP** FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 10 A.M. TO NOON, VARIOUS LOCATIONS (ZEROTRASH.ORG/LAGUNA); **FIRST THURSDAYS ART WALK** FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 6-9 P.M. (FIRSTTHURSDAYSARTWALK.COM); **FREE YOGA IN THE PARK** MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, AND 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 THROUGH FRIDAY, 8 A.M., AND SATURDAYS, 10 A.M., MAIN BEACH (LYINSTITUTE.ORG); **NATURE HIKES** VARIOUS DATES/TIMES, LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (949-497-8324; LAGUNACANYON.ORG)

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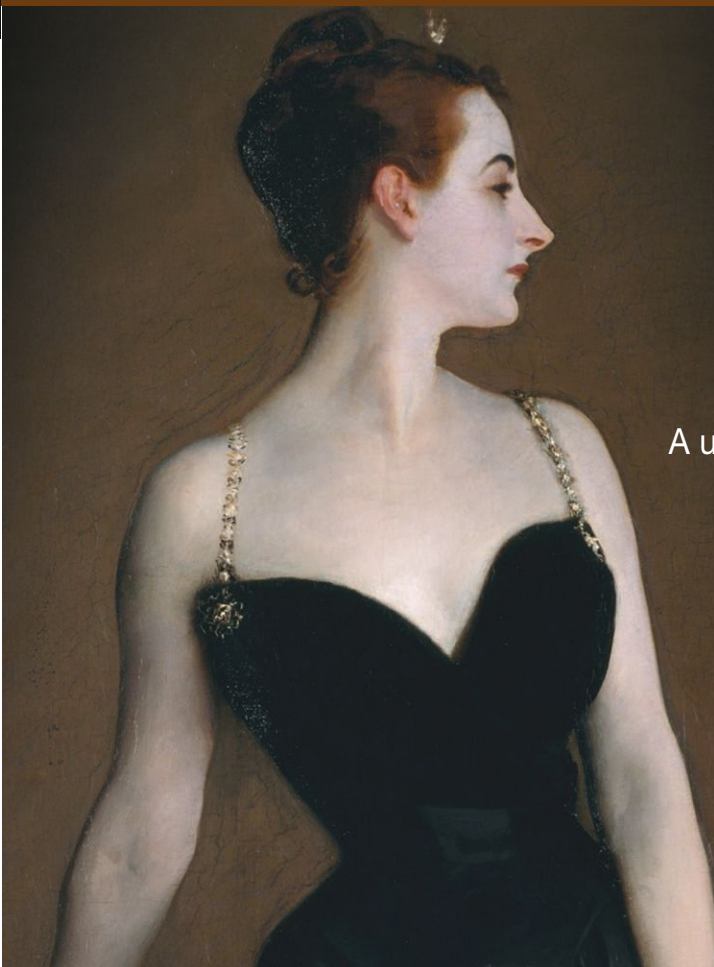
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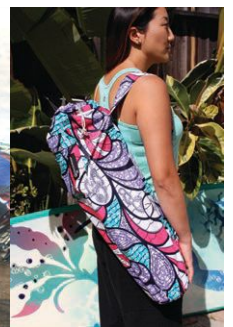
For some Laguna Beach High School students, summer seemed to come early as a group of ninth- through 12th-graders headed out to Riverside County's Lake Skinner in mid-May to compete in the Solar Cup, a three-day boating competition hosted by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The Laguna team placed 22nd out of 40 teams and earned second place for a video the students created about their project, a 16-foot single-seat boat they built and raced. In addition to constructing the boat from a plywood kit, the students also equipped the vessel with steering, a motor, batteries and solar panels. This was the third Solar Cup appearance for the Laguna team, which was sponsored by the Laguna Beach County Water District and supported by Laguna Beach High School physics teachers Jennifer Merritt and Parta Perkins. —K.M.



ROBERT CAMPBELL

THE VIC MAKES A SPLASH

The world's most talented skimboarders hit the Aliso Beach shorebreak June 28-29 for The Vic skimboarding contest (previously known as the Victoria World Championship of Skimboarding). Now in its 38th year, The Vic drew approximately 150 participants—in age categories of “8 and under” to “40 and over”—who entered into the prestigious competition over the weekend. Additionally, the event attracted 500 spectators who eagerly watched from the sidelines. In men's pro, Sam Stinnett placed first, Austin Keen placed second and Teddy Vlasits came in third. In women's pro, Casey Kiernan came in first, Tia D'Ambrosio in second and Erin Carpenter in third. (thevic.victoriaskimboards.com) —A.T.



HELP COMES ONE STITCH AT A TIME

The simple purchase of a beautiful yoga bag, placemat or pillow through The Peace Exchange, a Laguna Beach nonprofit, can help struggling women half a world away. These colorful fabric satchels and other items in traditional African prints are created by women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—often victims of rape

and genocide—at sewing centers established by the local grassroots group founded in 2012 by Katie Bond, a Laguna resident with experience in fair trade efforts. Money raised from the sale of these items helps more than 50 women feed their children and keep their kids in school. But Katie doesn't want to stop there: She aims to expand to

five developing nations including Nepal where fair trade centers will be set up for women to create handmade jewelry next year. Handcrafted textiles are available at Art of Fitness, Laguna Coffee Co., Vertigo Home, Isla Boutique, The Chakra Shack Seaside Interiors and on the organization's website. (thepeaceexchange.com) —S.S.



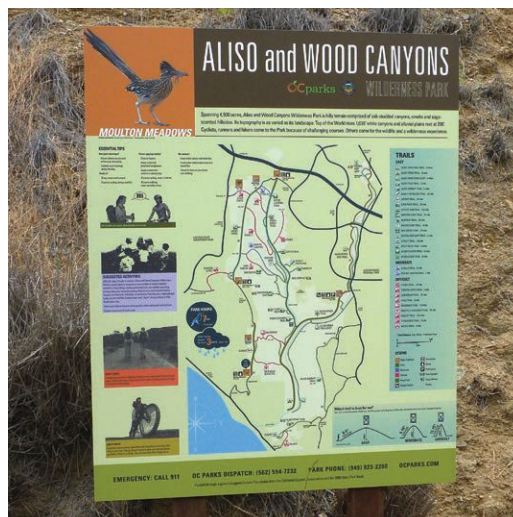
GREETER GETS A FACE-LIFT

No Botox necessary: Laguna's greeter, the statue of Eiler Larsen, just needs a little touch of paint for a face-lift. Local artist Mike Tauber was the "doctor" in this cosmetic upgrade, using his sculpting tools to give the statue a softer look—a scowl, known to frighten young children, was reshaped into a welcoming smile highlighted by rosy cheeks. With small touches, the statue, which was first installed in the 1960s, now has a more lifelike feel, allowing the greeter to continue welcoming visitors to Laguna for years to come. —K.M.



LAGUNA COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN HAD THE LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS IN ITS HISTORY THIS YEAR WITH 90 COMBINED BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE CANDIDATES.

SIGNS ENHANCE WILDERNESS PARK



This summer, hikers can expect to find trails enhanced with more interpretive signs in the 4,500-acre Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. In fact, crews recently installed 66 brand-new signs, designed to offer more access information and provide interesting facts about the area's history and habitat. The signs' pleasing colors and shapes are a welcome addition to the park and allow visitors to easily identify different species of animals and plants, as well as trail directions, further enhancing the park's cultural, environmental and recreation appeal. Now, who wouldn't want to take a hike? (949-923-2200; ocparcs.com) —K.M.



ENRICHING ELECTIVES

Science, technology and the arts are getting a boost at local schools this year. Eighth-graders at Thurston Middle School may try their hand at robotics, architecture and environmental design in a second STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) course launching this fall. And Laguna Beach High School will gain three STEM classes—with topics from forensics to veterinary medicine and biotechnology, approved as part of the budget in June. The school district also received \$300,000 from local nonprofit SchoolPower to maintain existing programs such as K-8 music, a zero-period class at Thurston and another high school counselor. And, SchoolPower's Fund-A-Need initiative raised \$138,230 to purchase 144 iPads, 144 Chromebooks and eight storage carts, as well as Apple TVs and monitors for all four schools. Meanwhile, the SchoolPower Endowment provided \$182,417 to support the existing strings music program, foreign language classes at the elementary schools and teacher grants. All those numbers add up to better education for Laguna's kids. —S.S.

A CLEAR SOLUTION

This summer, swimmers and surfers may notice cleaner water at Aliso Beach thanks to a new filtration and treatment system that reduces the amount of polluted runoff reaching the shore. After more than a year of construction and testing, the South Coast Water District flipped the switch on the \$2.8 million Aliso Creek Water Reclamation Facility in May in Aliso Canyon. Partly funded with a \$500,000 grant from state Proposition 50 and \$25,000 from the city of Laguna Beach, the new facility will treat up to 800,000 gallons per day of urban runoff—rainwater that flows from storm drains to Aliso Creek—and mix it with water from an existing treatment system to reduce salinity of recycled water that's used to irrigate golf courses, park turf and other landscaped areas. This process conserves drinking water and keeps the ocean cleaner, giving new meaning to the phrase: "Come on in, the water's fine." —S.S.



JOIN THE CLUB

In an era where video games have replaced kickball and tree climbing as normal childhood activities, one new organization aims to connect kids to their community and prepare them for a bright future. The Laguna Club, a group created specifically for youngsters in Laguna Beach, offers multiple programs that each focus on a specific need or passion to help children engage with each other and their town. For example, the Rake and Bake program is based on a farm-to-table philosophy, allowing participants to see nature at work and then apply it to everyday life. For exploratory youngsters, the Adventure Club teaches self-confidence, athletic skills and nature education through activities such as paddleboarding and hiking. And, to teach the importance of giving and philanthropy, the Helping Hands program encourages kids to pioneer their own service groups within the community. Whatever talent or interest a child has, the Laguna Club surely has a program to match it, all in a safe, educational environment. (thelagunaclub.com) —B.B.

JODY TIONGCO



FIELDS OF GLORY

Soccer players at Moulton Meadows Park can expect better fields soon, as renovation to the popular venue is underway. Through September, Los Angeles-based STL Landscape will even out the worn-down turf. This process will involve digging down a foot below the fields to replace the dirt with better draining soil and improve the irrigation system. Not a fan of soccer? You can still celebrate: The \$1.22 million project will rejuvenate the park's lawns, replace barbecues and add new curbing and fitness trail equipment for the enjoyment of all visitors. STL is also renovating Lang Park this summer, with construction expected to be completed sometime between August and September. —K.M.



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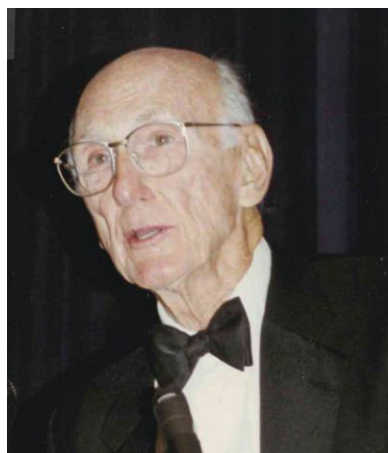
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YOUNG AT HEART



Laguna centenarian and longtime philanthropist Herbert Nootbaar was honored this spring with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lincoln Club of Orange County and an Ellis Island Medal of Honor (U.S. presidents and Nobel Prize winners are also among its recipients), which was presented by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations.

Herbert—son of a German immigrant—made many contributions to the agriculture industry, working his way to the top of several large companies and serving as president of the National Grain and Feed Association.

Not to mention, he has traveled to more than 120 countries, meeting and working with many heads of state and ambassadors, and also donated \$10 million with his late wife to establish the Herb and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion and Ethics at Pepperdine University, among other charitable contributions.

Now 105, Herbert impressively renewed his driver's license at 100, receiving a perfect score on the written exam and passing the vision test without glasses, showing he's more than young at heart. —S.S.



POPcycle 2.0 opened in April.

New STORE OPENINGS

Shopping with a conscience isn't a new concept, especially for the generous folks of Laguna. Now, the practice just got a bit easier thanks to the recent addition of **THE SOUL PROJECT**'s flagship store on South Coast Highway. A grand opening celebration was held on June 21 to welcome visitors to the new shop, which donates \$1 of every item purchased to local organizations that benefit children—such as the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach—and the environment. (949-494-0489; soulproject.com)

Spin junkies now have

a new place to sweat and cycle to their heart's content. **POPCYCLE 2.0** opened on North Coast Highway in April and already has a dedicated following of spinners who love the full-body workout they get in the studio's dance club-like atmosphere. Participants should arrive hydrated, energetic and be prepared to "sweat like a popsicle." (949-494-0044; popcycle2k.com)

Just opened this year, **RELAXING CENTER** provides Thai, Swedish, deep tissue and hot stone massages in addition to facials at their spa,

conveniently located on Forest Avenue. Its certified therapists also offer reflexology, sport massage and prenatal massage to cater to specific needs, and their services can be booked in either 60- or 90-minute sessions. (949-607-6822; relaxingcenterspa.com)

An eclectic shop, **Z-TOPPER** opened this spring at North Coast Highway and Fairview Street. Stocking everything from grab 'n' go snacks to gift items, ice cream treats and even fresh flowers, the store also offers daily Boogie board rentals. (408-821-0022) —B.B. LBM

JODY TONGCO



THE LAGUNA BEACH COMMUNITY AND SUSI Q SENIOR CENTER CELEBRATED ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE WITH BINGO, DANCING AND ART EXHIBITS.

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LAGUNA BOARD OF REALTORS CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE FUND'S 19TH ANNUAL A TASTE FOR CHARITY

1 Tara Howarth, Julie Picking, Mike Johnson **2** Jamie Schaper, Lucian Stefanic, Sarah Dacey, Deb Figge **3** Rick Cirelli, Peter Nourse, Ryan Walker, Chris Jones **4** Maria Elena Banks, Frank Joseph, Carolyn Williams **5** Dana and Doug Roughen **6** Luis Ahumada, Momi Bartholomew, Frank Hufnagel, Berit Digerud, Rick Cirelli **7** Deborah and Steven Muccillo, Dedre Bickler-Sines **8** The event at seven-degrees



JODY TIONGCO

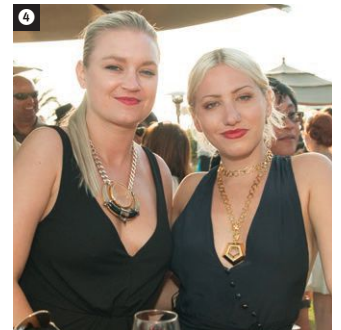


On May 31, more than 500 guests played gourmands for an evening as they sipped wine and experienced 12 of Laguna Beach's finest eateries, which set up booths at seven-degrees. Yet, the gluttony wasn't in vain—the event, in its 19th year, benefits numerous local charities and, this year, raised more than \$85,000. In addition to sampling bites from restaurants, including Okura Robata Grill & Sushi Bar, Nirvana Grille, K'ya Bistro, Thai Bros. and Las Brisas, guests had the opportunity to bid on 75 pieces of coveted art from local artists such as Tom Swimm. Moreover, a variety of raffle prizes, chock-full of items donated by homegrown businesses, were displayed for both raffle and silent auction. Among the beneficiaries of the event were the CSP Youth Shelter, First Thursdays Art Walk, Laguna Beach Community Clinic, Laguna Beach Live!, Laguna Beach Plein Air Painters Association, Laguna Board of Realtors Charitable Assistance Fund, No Square Theater, Artist's Fund of the Festival of Arts and Laguna Food Pantry. (lagunaboardofrealtors.com) —A.7.

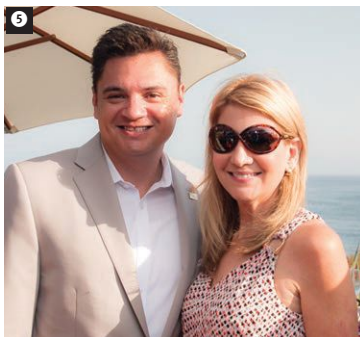
COMMUNITY

SHARE OUR STRENGTH'S 7TH ANNUAL TASTE OF THE NATION LAGUNA BEACH

1 Zach and Kimberly Hymn 2 Lynda Brown, Amanda Brown Diefenderfer, Melissa Auten 3 Chef Alan Wong 4 Ann Hettema, Lizi Weinberg
5 Justin Schuvie, Jackie Johnson



CHRISTIAN SOSA



Celebrity chefs and foodies alike united at Montage Laguna Beach on June 8 for one of the city's premier culinary events, Taste of the Nation, which benefited the No Kid Hungry campaign spearheaded by national nonprofit Share Our Strength, striving to end childhood hunger through its many programs and initiatives. The annual tasting event, which brings farm-to-table delicacies from renowned chefs and sommeliers around the country, raised more than \$200,000 for No Kid Hungry and benefited local charities such as the Community Action Partnership of Orange County and Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. These funds are instrumental in combating this universal issue that not only affects one in five children across the country but also approximately 200,000 kids in Orange County. On the resort's oceanfront bluff, guests savored fine wine and cuisine from 10 chefs, including Montage Laguna Beach's own Studio Executive Chef Craig Strong as well as chef Alan Wong of Alan Wong's Restaurants. (nokidhungry.org) —A. T.

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LAGUNA DANCE FESTIVAL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

1 Ken and Barbara McMurray, Greg MacGillivray 2 Sandy Abel, Karen Wilson, Mary Dawe, Loreen Gilbert
3 Darlene Ware, Rick Jorgenson, Jackie Jacobson 4 Nancy Meyer, Jodie Gates 5 Kathleen Abel, Greg MacGillivray, Joy Dittberner, Barbara MacGillivray, Gregg Abel



A treat for the senses, Laguna Dance Festival's 10th anniversary celebration, Carnival, featured a tantalizing dinner, Brazilian-style music, a red-hot salsa dance performance and expressive contemporary ballet pieces, complete with lifts and spins that had audience members holding their breath. The June 12 event, attended by 150 supporters at seven-degrees, marked a milestone—since its inception in 2005, the festival has presented 35 dance companies, 55 performances, 30 master classes and more than 40 free events. This annual celebration of dance—from classic to cutting-edge—is the brainchild of former professional ballerina Jodie Gates, who received a special award at the Carnival celebration for her leadership, dedication and artistry over the last decade. Also at the event, a retrospective video showcased festival performances through the years, attendees kicked up their heels on the dance floor and bid on a variety of silent auction items, and an impressive lineup was announced for this year's festival, Sept. 11-14, at Laguna Playhouse. (lagunadancefestival.org) —S.S.

6 Josephine Lee, Nancy Meyer, Debbie Naudé
 7 Nadine Hoffman, Keiko Sakamoto 8 A professional dancer and Martha Davis



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COMMUNITY

LAGUNA COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN'S 25TH ANNUAL COLLECTOR'S CHOICE

1 Wade Mathis (far right) 2 Linda and Howie Knohl 3 Suzanne Mellor (middle) 4 Nelson Coates 5 Wayne Peterson and Terry Smith
6 Jonathan Burke 7 The Amy Rowe Trio 8 "Distant Hills" by Jonathan Burke



ERIC STONER



Striking landscape paintings, sculptures and other artwork were sold in live and silent auctions at the 25th Annual Collector's Choice on June 21, raising \$250,000 for much-needed student scholarships at Laguna College of Art & Design. LCAD supporters Terry Smith and Wayne Peterson were honored at the art-filled soiree attended by 400 people, who enjoyed a gourmet dinner before moving on to a bistro setting for live jazz music, desserts and coffee. The main attraction, however, was the live-auction bidding on masterful artwork as well as special dining and accommodation packages from Montage Laguna Beach. Money raised at the event goes to support LCAD students like recent alumna Charity Oetgen, who spent three months in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to study and paint bonobos (a type of ape) in their natural habitat—renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall is among collectors of her work. Charity went on to co-found an organization that assists nonprofits by selling donated art to raise funds. Speaking at Collector's Choice, Charity shared how a scholarship helped her realize her dreams and also, how one student's dreams were cut short—Nina Fitzpatrick was killed after being hit by a car in a crosswalk on Laguna Canyon Road. In memory of her passion for art, a scholarship has been established in Nina's name to help other students. (lcad.edu) —S.S.

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COMMUNITY

10TH ANNUAL WATERMAN'S WEEKEND UNDERWRITING PARTY

1 Tony Perez, Paul Naudé 2 Nick Hernandez, Taimane, Phil Gough 3 Attendees sign up to underwrite Waterman's Ball items. 4 Jim Moriarty, Ross Garrett, James Budge 5 Mike and Kelly Carter, Delphine Berryhill

1



2



3



4



BRENT HILLEMANN

5



More than 60 surf industry executives and supporters of the Surf Industry Manufacturers Association (SIMA) Environmental Fund, which serves as the nonprofit arm of SIMA by raising funds for ocean preservation, gathered for the 10th annual Waterman's Weekend Underwriting Party on June 5. The exclusive event, which was held at the home of Clay and Delphine Berryhill of Laguna Beach, helped to raise more than \$30,000 for Waterman's Weekend, a two-day fundraising event hosted by the SIMA Environmental Fund that includes the Waterman's Classic Golf Tournament at Monarch Beach Golf Links at The St. Regis Monarch Beach and the Waterman's Ball at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. After sipping drinks and dining on appetizers, guests participated in a live auction and were entertained by live performances, including those by Taimane, Nick Hernandez and Phil Gough of Common Sense. (sima.com) —A. T. LBM

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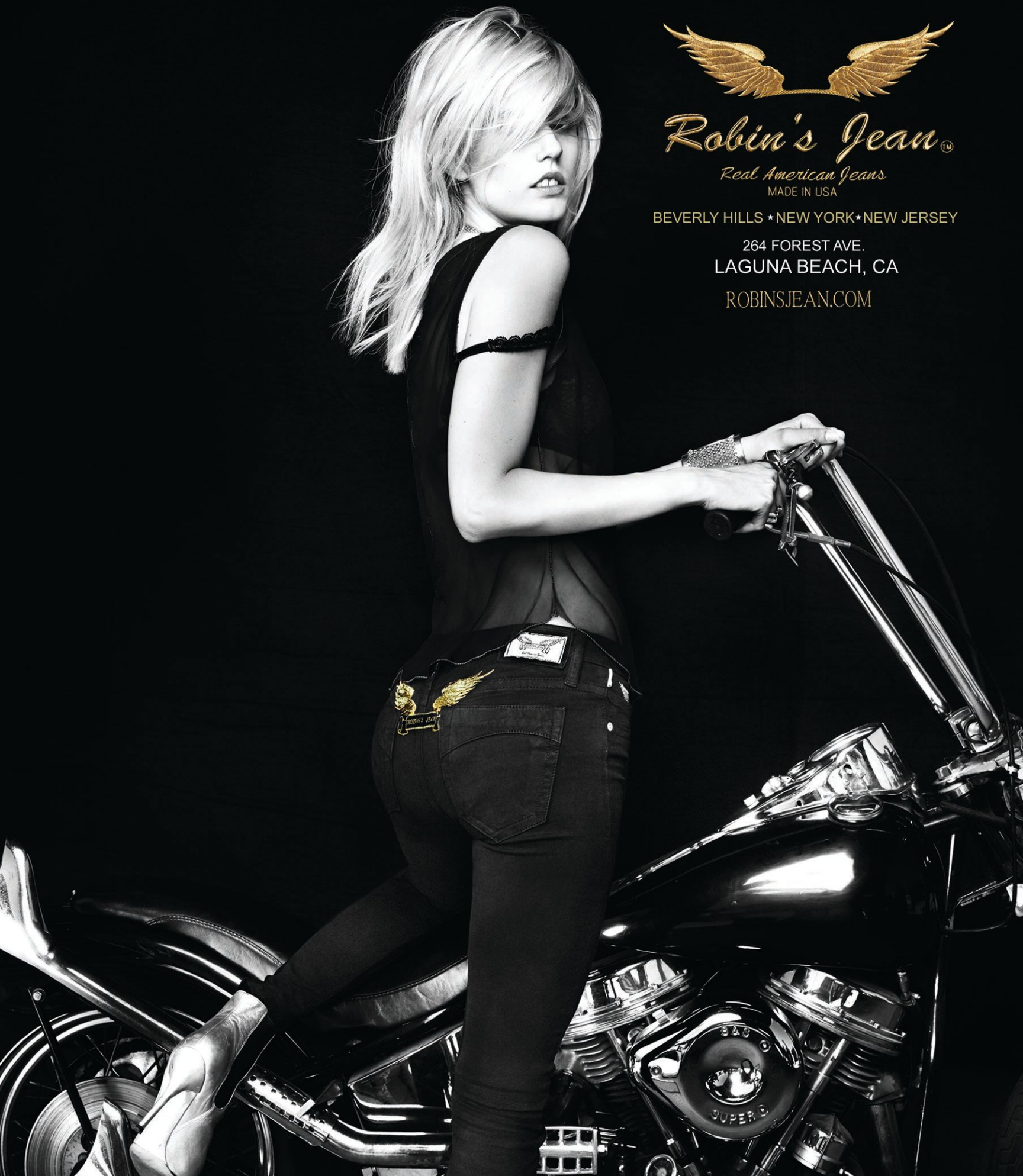
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BUBBLY AND BRUNCH

A glass of Champagne with breakfast fare equals the perfect pairing.

By Beth Fhaner | Photos by Jody Tiongco



Las Brisas' Mexican Riviera Brunch menu includes a four-course gourmet brunch with a complimentary glass of Champagne.

THERE ARE FEW THINGS IN LIFE THAT SIGNIFY a special occasion more than a glass of fine Champagne. Whether you're celebrating a momentous event or merely looking to kick off your weekend on a high note, a scrumptious brunch with a glass of bubbly can't be beat. Luckily for us, several Laguna restaurants offer the delightful duo of a late breakfast served with Champagne or a sparkling wine cocktail. As American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald once quipped, "Too much of anything is bad, but too much Champagne is just right."

DINING WITH VIEWS

At The Loft at Montage, Chef de Cuisine Casey Overton's exquisite brunch menu includes decadent fare such as huckleberry crepes (with lemon curd brulee, toasted pine nuts and farmhouse butter), bananas Foster waffle (with peanut butter cream and salted peanuts) as well as any-style eggs, build-your-own omelets, steel-cut Irish oatmeal, a BLT croissant and rotisserie chicken "chilaquiles" (fried tortilla strips in salsa or mole), among other tasty dishes. Diners here can imbibe in a mimosa or a Kir Royale cocktail

(a mix of Champagne, or sparkling wine, with creme de cassis) while enjoying the delectable cuisine and the amazing ocean views. (949-715-6420; montagelagunabeach.com)

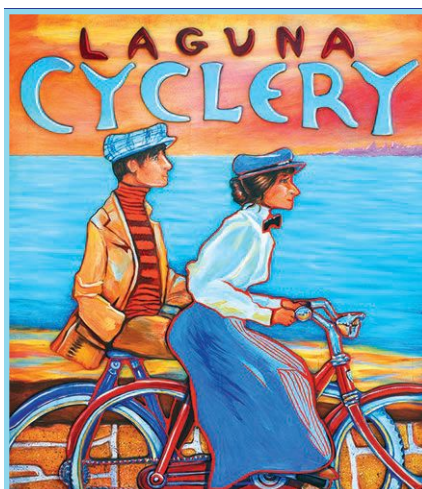
At the other end of town, overlooking Main Beach, Las Brisas arguably offers one of the best brunches in town. The restaurant's Mexican Riviera Brunch menu includes a four-course, full-service dining experience with a large cocktail menu in addition to complimentary Champagne from the establishment's own private stock. The savory nosh includes a seafood omelet, Crepes de



The Rooftop Lounge's huevos rancheros

Laguna (handmade crepes with spicy Canadian scallops, wild Mexican shrimp and fresh fish with a creamy citrus veloute), roasted Colorado lamb, filet mignon and eggs, as well as Oregon trout, wild Alaskan sand dab filets and a chilled seafood salad, among other options. Fresh fruit, soup or salad, and the chef's daily dessert specialty round out the mouthwatering menu. "The Champagne is a nice start and pairs well with our four-course, full-service dining experience, which includes seasonal fresh fruit, a house-made salad or soup, an entree selection with everything from a seafood omelet to crab-stuffed Oregon trout, and the chef's dessert special," says James R. Chylewski, executive general manager of Las Brisas. (949-497-5434; lasbrisaslagunabeach.com)

The Rooftop Lounge at La Casa del Camino offers another weekend brunch spot with incredible ocean views. Customers at this establishment can indulge in various scrambles—veggie, Italian and Creole are among the options—as well as "huevos rancheros," a breakfast burrito, whole-grain pancakes, French toast and a smoked salmon plate. Savor the fare and view of the Pacific while sipping libations such as a mimosa or bloody mary. (949-497-2446; rooftoplagunabeach.com)



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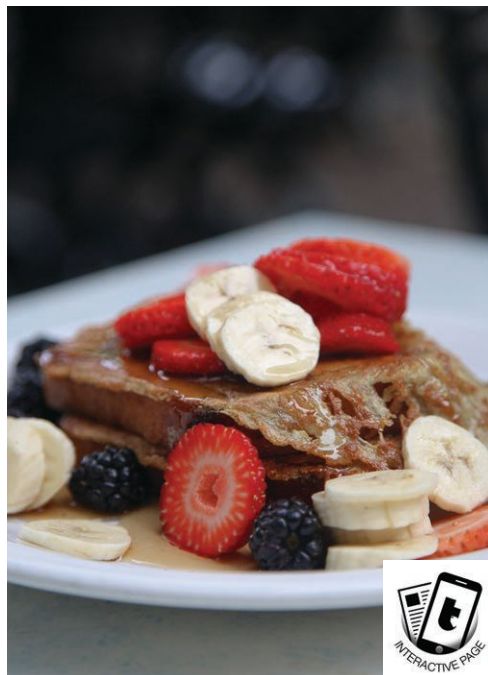
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White House's Belgian waffle pairs perfectly with a glass of bubbly.



Lumberyard's hearty frittata is a filling brunch option.



Madison Square & Garden Cafe's French toast

BESPOKE BREAKFASTS

On Saturday and Sunday, patrons of the White House can indulge in an array of delicious brunch offerings, along with a choice of fine Champagnes and sparkling wines, including a split of Kenwood, and bottles of Piper Sonoma, Piper-Heidsieck and Dom Pérignon. The eatery's extensive brunch menu includes a variety of omelets—try artist Wyland's version with bacon, mushrooms, avocado, Jack and cheddar

cheese, and homemade salsa on the side—as well as eggs Benedict, huevos rancheros, brioche French toast and a White House Belgian waffle, in addition to a satisfying selection of salads, burgers, sandwiches and pasta. (949-494-8088; whitehouserestaurant.com)

A few blocks from the beach, the cozy Lumberyard features a delectable weekend brunch with sparkling wines by the glass (or on Sundays, a build-your-own bloody mary bar).

Cinnamon-vanilla French toast, eggs Benedict, a seafood omelet with Dungeness crab and bay shrimp, steak and eggs, and a build-your-own frittata option, are all featured on the menu, among other flavorful dishes. Grab a table out on the small patio for an alfresco setting while enjoying a glass of Michelle Brut or Mumm Napa Brut to accompany your scrumptious fare. (949-715-3900; lblumberyard.com)

Customers at Madison Square & Garden Cafe can indulge in Champagne and a tasty breakfast amid a delightful, eclectic garden setting. Although the eatery doesn't offer an official brunch, they do serve up tantalizing breakfast fare, along with an excellent selection of sparkling wines. Feast on Cinnamon Swirl French Toast, eggs Benedict, a vegetable frittata or ricotta pancakes while indulging in a split of Korbel Brut, Piper-Heidsieck Brut, Jaume Serra Cristalino Brut or, for that a special occasion, a half bottle of Veuve Clicquot. "Bubbly and food is a very fun experience," says owner Jon Madison. "My favorite item on our menu is the French toast, which is just stunning." (949-494-0137; madisonsquare.com)

At Sapphire Laguna, chef and owner Azmin Ghahreman's global cuisine extends to his brunch menu with tempting strawberry and banana pancakes, eggs Benedict, braised pork chile verde, corned beef hash, tomato baked eggs and a turkey chili omelet, among other plates. A Kobe beef havarti cheeseburger, roast chicken pappardelle and miso salmon salad are other good options. Pair the delicious nosh with Champagne and sparkling wines, which are served by the glass or half carafe/half bottle and include NV Billecart-Salmon Brut Rose and NV Taittinger Champagne. Additionally, bring the little ones with you since the restaurant offers a separate children's brunch menu with sparkling juices. (949-715-9888; sapphirellc.com)

So, the next time you're looking to celebrate a special event or just want to kick off the weekend in style, visit these establishments and others around town for that oh-so-irresistible pairing of bubbly and brunch. As the French would say, "Sante!" **LBM**



Uncover hidden content in this story with **LB MAG PLUS!** For steps on how to access LB Mag Plus, see page 10.



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BATTLE OF THE BIKES

Two of Laguna Beach's mountain bike legends reveal their lust for Laguna dirt.

Section by Stephanie Nitsch

BY STEVEN CARCANO/COURTESY OF BRIAN LOPES



Brian Lopes loves to tackle T&A Trail or Larry's Trail, both in Laguna.



BY CARMEN FREEMAN-REY/COURTESY OF HANS REY

Hans Rey, a pioneer of mountain biking, is a world champion in his sport.

BETWEEN BRIAN LOPES AND HANS “NO WAY” REY, THE LAGUNA BEACH RESIDENTS AND MOUNTAIN Bike Hall of Famers might very well know every root, rock and ridgeline in the area. Over the years, these two veteran cyclists have built indelible careers out of their distinct riding styles—Brian for downhill racing, Hans for adventure cycling.

Brian has 26 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup victories and four World Championship titles to his name, which is more race wins than any other mountain biker in the sport's history. Hans, a pioneer of extreme mountain biking, has been named Trials National and World Champion multiple times and has completed stunts such as jumping over a car on the 405 freeway in LA, his “volcano dance” in Hawaii and underwater bungee jump.

Separately, they each have amassed a long list of accomplishments, but together, they share a passion for pedaling in Laguna Beach. Here, the duo weigh in on their favorite trail locales, the challenge of Laguna single-track and what keeps them coming back for more.

Laguna Beach Magazine: You've both traveled the globe, riding some of the best single-track in the world. Why Laguna?

Hans Rey: It's a choice of where we want to live. Laguna has great nature and good riding. It's a beautiful place and it's our home.

Brian Lopes: I grew up not too far away from Laguna [in Mission Viejo]. When I got into mountain biking, Laguna was the closest place that I'd go ride on a regular basis. There's a lot better riding in other areas in the world, but there's quite a few positives. For an expert-and-above rider, it's challenging terrain.

LBM: What are your favorite trails here?

BL: T&A [the Laguna Ridge Trail]. It's one

of the longer trails and drops all the way to the canyon. It's an aggressive downhill trail; starts super rough with some fast sections. The bottom part is really rocky and a little slower, but it's a different feel. You can coast the whole trail and go pretty fast from top to bottom.

HR: I have to say Rock-It Trail because it has a lot of diversity. There are rough sections, but the lower [section] is really flowy for Laguna standards. Rock-It is also a trail you can ride uphill. Overall, it's not as steep as other trails.

LBM: What's the best place for beginners to get started?

HR: That's tough. It's hard to bring a first-time rider here because the hills are so steep

and demanding, and you often have to walk your bike. Laguna could use some purpose-built, beginner trails.

BL: Larry's Trail [also known as Stagecoach South Trail in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park] is really fun. It's the closest thing to what Hans is talking about, but it does have some steep pitches in it. Of the little climbing that there is, it's steep and you need to have some skill.

LBM: What are some riding tips for new mountain bikers?

HR: Being able to drop your seat post is something people learn very quickly. You need to get your weight behind the seat so you don't flip over your bars [on steep terrain].

BL: Be careful on the front brakes going through turns. The soil in Laguna is very loose, dry and sandy. Any kind of erratic turns in the sand or hitting your front brake can lose traction.

LBM: What's Laguna Rads all about? It's a secret bike club, right?

HR: It's a very old bike club. It's been around for 30 years and has a lot of riders. The club was inducted into the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame, and they're notorious around the world. It's a unique crew of people who keep riding, and who live and breathe the spirit of mountain biking.

PRO PICKS

These must-have products will have you hitting the road in no time.

Thinking of splurging on new bike gear this season? Before you start cruising, make sure that you have the right tools. Here, Brian Lopes and Hans Rey suggest a few pieces of essential accessories to take along for the ride. **LBM**



It's not uncommon to shoulder your bike up (or down) technical trails, so good footing is crucial. Designed with Brian, **PEARL IZUMI'S X-PROJECT 1.0 CLIP-LESS SHOES**, \$280, at Performance Bicycle, Laguna Hills, feature a hybrid carbon sole that's stiff enough for pedaling yet flexible for mandatory hike-a-bike sections. (949-707-0344; performancebike.com)



THE POLARIZED ADIDAS RAYLOR SUNGLASSES, \$99, at Milano Eye Boutique, Laguna Beach, not only feature a hydrophobic technology that repels dirt and mud, but also self-tinting lenses that adapt to variable light conditions, even at high speeds. (949-715-7822; milanoeyeboutiqueoc.com)

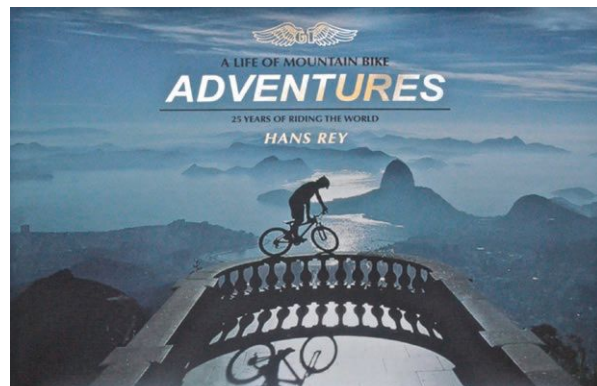


Protect your noggin with **TROY LEE DESIGNS A1 HELMET**, \$139-\$185, at Troy Lee Designs, Laguna Beach, which is built with a longer profile for increased protection and extra skull coverage. (949-715-8142; troyleedesigns.com)



To help negotiate Laguna's undulating terrain, adjustable seat posts are "a no-brainer," Brian says. **THE CRANKBROTHERS KRONOLOG SEAT POST**, \$300, at Laguna Beach Cyclery, Laguna Beach, uses a mechanical design with a hydraulic feel to adjust the height of any saddle with the push of a handlebar-mounted lever. (949-494-1522; lagunabeachcyclery.com)

Get behind the handlebar with Hans in his book, "**A LIFE OF MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURES**," \$40, at Electric Cyclery, Laguna Beach, which covers his 25-year career as an international adventure-travel mountain biker and details the evolution of the young sport itself. (949-715-2345; electriccyclery.com)



A RUG FOR EVERY ROOM

Local designers give advice on adding pattern, color and texture for a stylish space.

Section by Somer Teiwani



Interior designer Gregory Roberts (pictured right) says rugs help to unify a room.

A SUREFIRE WAY TO CHANGE THE AESTHETIC OF any room is with the simple addition of a rug, which quickly and easily introduces pattern, color and texture to the space. For some help narrowing down the selection, two local home furnishing wizards offer their top tips for designing with rugs.

“A rug can easily be the common thread tying together a room with the most eclectic mix of furniture,” says Monarch Beach resident Gregory Roberts, lead designer at Room & Board in South Coast Plaza Village. In fact, a rug can be used to define a seating area, creating a sense of space. “At least have the entire front legs of your furnishings in a seating conversation area sitting on the rug.

It becomes the unifying element,” says designer John Wallace Benecke of Laguna Beach’s JWB Interiors.

For those with an open floor plan looking to separate one space from the next or create intimacy between spaces, a rug can help define without closing off any adjoining areas. “A rug will visually ground the area and create a boundary that says, ‘This is the dining room,’ or ‘This is the living room,’” Gregory says.

PATTERN AND COLOR

Once the area is chosen, Gregory recommends considering the desired mood of the room and

your personality, which he says should be reflected in the space. For a formal and elegant dining area, Gregory advises choosing a more traditional-patterned rug with rich, saturated colors to match the mood. In a bedroom, to create a tranquil master retreat for someone who isn’t a morning person, he suggests a super-plush, light-toned rug to ease them into the day, whereas an extroverted, life-of-the-party type may want a rug with a bold pattern, color or both for an entertaining area.

“Think of your rug as you would a fabric—it can add complementary color, texture and warmth to a room’s decor,” John says. “A room with soft, neutral, solid colors can look beautiful on a rug in an Oriental or Persian style with very soft and warm looking tones.” On the other hand, a room with dark colors in its decor can come alive with a rug that has a strong burst of color such as tangerine for brown furnishings and light lime green or pink for black furnishings, he says. If a rug has multiple colors, choose the hues within it that you like the most and bring them into your space via paint, pillows or decorative trays, Gregory says.

AN INVESTMENT

Since rug prices can vary greatly, Gregory says to consider how long you are planning to live in your home before investing in floor coverings for the space. If you just purchased your dream home and are set on living in it for a while, he says don’t hesitate to buy a rug that is more expensive, but still within your

means. For example, a rug with neutral tones can grow with you and any possible changes you may make to the home or furnishings.

If you’re only planning on staying in a space short term or if your taste changes often, he says not to spend too much on a rug so you can feel better about changing it when the time comes. Gregory adds, “There are plenty of great rugs you can purchase that are quite inexpensive, will make your space look great and will get you by for a shorter duration.”





FALLON AREA RUG, 5 feet by 8 feet, shown in ivory and teal, \$495, at Seaside Interiors, Laguna Beach (949-715-4735; seasideinteriorslagunabeach.com)

HANDMADE PERSIAN QUM SILK RUG, \$3,800, at Laguna Rug Gallery, Laguna Beach (949-497-2777; lagunaruggallery.com)



BE FLOORED

Area shops offer a wide range of rugs to enhance the design in any room.

Rugs add color, pattern and texture to change the look and feel of a room—whether it's a bold design to liven up an entertaining space or a soft hue to make a bedroom retreat more tranquil—and local design shops have just what you need to change a room's mood. **LBM**



AMAN & CARSON NEPALESE WOOL AND SILK RUG, from \$12,500, at Stark, SoCo, Costa Mesa (714-434-0630; starkcarpet.com)



HERIZ RUG, 8-foot-9 by 11-foot-6, \$2,999, at Room & Board, South Coast Plaza Village, Santa Ana (714-549-5995; roomandboard.com)



MELANGE CHILEWICH BOUCLÉ FLOOR MAT, from \$140, at Vertigo Home, Laguna Beach (949-494-7547; vertigohome.us)



CONNECTING KIDS

Barron and Kim Ressler, founders of Wigu Publishing, inspire children to reach for the stars.

By Alli Tong

WHEN WE WERE KIDS, OUR PARENTS ALL ASKED us the same question: What do you want to be when you grow up? We would often say, “A veterinarian!” “A firefighter!” or “A teacher!” But did we really know what those career paths truly meant? Two Laguna Beach parents, Barron and Kim Ressler, who have four children of their own, strive to help youngsters ages 6 to 12 connect their interests to their futures and overcome their fears with a new book series called “When I Grow Up I Want to Be ...,” which introduces them to various vocations and challenges in life. Since founding the company, Wigu Publishing—short for When I Grow Up—the husband-and-wife duo has published four books, with several more expected to debut later this year.

Here, Barron and Kim share how they’re inspiring the leaders of tomorrow.



Kim (left) and Barron Ressler founded Wigu Publishing in 2013 to inspire kids about their futures.

Laguna Beach Magazine: What inspired you to start “When I Grow Up I Want to Be ...” book series for children?

Barron Ressler: I’ve always wanted to have something that was my own. ... The fact that we had four children, and we were doing something good for the kids, [is why we started this venture.]

Kim Ressler: [We started it because we want to be] able to inspire them to dream and think a little more about what they want to be and [give] them something fun to read that gives them a fun story with a lot of information.

LBM: What do you hope to accomplish with the book series?

BR: There are so many different careers out there that they don’t even know what it [takes] ... for them to be a nurse or a dentist. So, maybe, this is going to give them a little more “Wow, I can probably do that, too.” These are all people in our community who we consider heroes, so [we want to] let kids know that, hey, that’s in their reach, too.

KR: It’s a great learning tool of teaching

a child—regardless of who they are—about diversity, fears, anxiety, et cetera, and trying to overcome them.

LBM: Why do you think it’s important to start this conversation early on?

KR: I think when they’re younger, they’re sweet, innocent and they have so much out there available to them. ... You can change how they feel. We want children to dream about what they can become.

LBM: How do you come up with the storylines for the books?

BR: They’re not based on any one person, but they’re all based on the actuality of the situation. [For instance,] when we go and start our firefighter book, we interview a lot of people in the firefighting industry [to help children understand what these careers are truly like.]

LBM: Where can parents or teachers find the books locally?

KR: Right now, Amazon, barnesandnoble.com and Laguna Beach Books [have] them. At this point, for us to deliver the books, we’re going to be green about it. ... We don’t print 500 books at a time. ... We’re [also] working on an accelerated reading program to be able to get the books in schools.

BR: Our goal is to be in all the elementary schools and public school libraries.

LBM: What advice would you give to parents who want to push their kids in a certain direction or career path?

KR: What is more important: Do you want your child to be successful or happy? Realistically, for me, for my child, it’s to be happy and productive. I don’t care if he’s making a million dollars, if they’re happy they’re going to be successful. ... There are so many careers out there that we don’t know about. ... Just inspiring your kids to explore all the opportunities, even if it’s something different than what the parents want, it’s OK. *LBM*



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A Doggone World

From a huge bark park to dog-friendly restaurants and luxury boutiques, Laguna rolls out the grass carpet for its furry residents and visitors.

By Sharon Stello

With nearly as many dogs as children living in the city, it's no wonder that Laguna Beach is such a pet-friendly place.

While the U.S. census counted about 2,900 residents age 14 and under in 2010, nearly 2,800 dog licenses were issued just two years later in Laguna. And that's not considering all of the dogs that visitors bring to the city. Hardly a minute goes by without someone walking their furry friend downtown or strutting their mutt along the Main Beach boardwalk. And, in the canyon, an expansive, grassy bark park attracts dogs and their owners from near and far.

Many local restaurants invite diners to bring their canine companions to eat with them on the patio, high-end boutiques cater to pampered pups and several shops set out water bowls by their front doors, welcoming passerby pooches. It's not unusual for people to take their dogs right into some shops without so much as a raised eyebrow in response. In Laguna, people even bring their pups to the bank.



SHARON STELLO



The Laguna Dog Park brings together people and their right-hand pooches.

"We get a lot, actually," says David Liti, assistant manager at Wells Fargo. "... There's constantly dogs coming in." Not only does the bank allow customers to bring along their pooches while making a deposit or withdrawal, workers hand out biscuits to the furry visitors. "We know that in Laguna Beach there are a lot of dog lovers. ... We want to make them feel like they're at home," David says, adding that people are often stressed or in a hurry when they stop at the bank. "Sometimes, when they have their companion with them, it helps calm them down."

Running errands while out and about with the dog makes perfect sense to Cindy Waldman, who moved to Laguna four years ago. "The city lends itself to outdoor living and you're always looking for an opportunity to take your dog outdoors," she says. "It's a fairly walkable little city. If you're going to run down to the post office, why not take the dog?"



Dogs are allowed on Laguna's beaches, including Main Beach (pictured), before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m. during summer and any time from Sept. 11 to June 14.

A WALK IN THE PARK

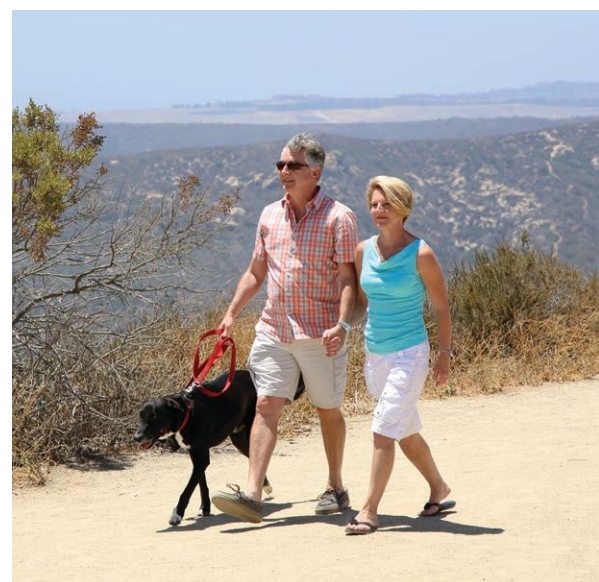
In addition to strolling to the store with their dogs, Laguna residents and visitors have plenty of places to recreate with their tail-waggers. Leashed dogs are allowed on city beaches any time of day from Sept. 11 through June 14. During the summer, from June 15 through Sept. 10, paws are permitted on the sand before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

In the canyon, an off-leash bark park allows dogs to run free on more than 2 acres of lush grass dotted with shady trees—a novelty compared to the area's mostly dirt and wood chip-covered parks. "You'd be surprised how far people come [for the grass]," says Cindy, president of Friends of Laguna Beach Dog Park, a nonprofit liaison between the city and park users. Established in 1992, Laguna's dog park was reportedly the first to open in Orange County and one of the few in Southern California at the time. This city-run fenced park—with a separate area for small dogs

to frolic—is open from dawn to dusk every day except Wednesdays, when it's closed for maintenance, and when it rains or the ground remains soggy after a storm. Amenities include benches, a picnic table and doggy-level drinking fountains.

Wendy Bell of Aliso Viejo makes the drive to the park nearly every day to exercise her Lab mixes, Frank and Charlye. "It's the nicest park I think that I've been to," she says. "The grass is nice [and] it's well maintained. But visiting the park isn't just about the cavorting canines. "It's not only dog social hour, it's people social hour," she says. "... It's the best of both worlds."

In addition to the off-leash park, many enjoy hiking with their dogs on local trails. Cindy and her 75-pound mutt named Oliver frequent the paths at Alta Laguna Park. "It's convenient; it's the closest to my house and it's really beautiful," Cindy says. "There's no better view of Catalina and the green space behind. It's gorgeous. You're



Mike and Cindy Waldman walk their dog on West Ridge Trail, a dog-friendly path at Alta Laguna Park.

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JODY TONGCO



Dogs nosh on hamburger patties at the Lumberyard, one of many local eateries that allow pups on the patio.

on top of the world up there.”

Accessible from Alta Laguna Park, West Ridge Trail is perhaps the area’s most dog-friendly trail, according to Laguna Canyon Foundation Executive Director Hallie Jones. “You see people with dogs up there all the time,” Hallie says. “It’s wide enough where you’re not going to have issues with ticks and foxtails. It’s great in terms of exercise. It’s long enough ... and it’s beautiful.”

West Ridge is among a handful of trails where dogs are permitted in Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, although they must be on a 6-foot leash at all times. Also in this park, Hallie recommends the Aswut Trail, from the south end of Alta Laguna Boulevard to Arch Beach Heights.

Hallie says another great hike with dogs is along the paved Bluff Trail at Crystal Cove State Park because of the breathtaking scenery. That’s the only Crystal Cove trail where dogs are allowed, and they must be leashed. Hallie reminds dog owners to watch out for snakes and to bring enough water for themselves and their

dogs when hiking, especially in the summer heat.

It’s important to note that dogs are prohibited in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park to protect the fragile environment—home to animals including ground nesting birds—and for the dogs’ safety. “It’s habitat and we have incredible animals and birds there,” Hallie says.

While preserving habitat is important, park administrators also understand the need for dog owners to have a place to exercise and enjoy nature with their animals, too. That’s why certain trails in Aliso and Wood Canyons were set aside for this purpose, concentrating the impact. “I really believe Laguna is such a special place to live and one of ... [the best things] is the ability to bring our dogs into every part of our life,” Hallie says.

CHOW TIME

Among the many places that welcome dogs in Laguna, dozens of restaurants allow canine companions in the outdoor seating areas.

At Lumberyard, manager Travis Frank says the



Yappy Hour at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

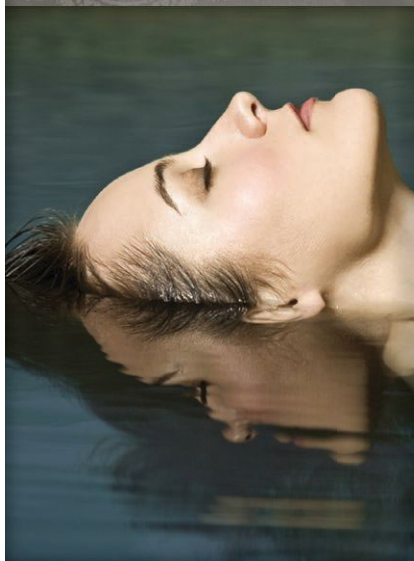
number of diners bringing dogs to the patio has increased significantly in the past three years, and the restaurant is happy to accommodate them. "We don't mind at all," Travis says. He understands customers who enjoy having their furry friends at their side. "I love bringing my dog out when I go places," says Travis of his corgi, Ein. "A lot of people think of their dogs as part of the family."

In fact, Travis says diners fairly regularly order hamburger patties for their dogs to eat. The same is true at GG's Bistro, where pet owners sometimes request beef patties or a chicken breast for their dogs to munch on. To-go cups of water also are offered for these furry family members. Francesca Gundogar, one of the bistro's owners, says diners bring dogs of all sizes to accompany them for a meal on the patio. She recalls one time when a Great Dane, one of the largest breeds, was seated right next to what seemed like the smallest dog in the world. While this must have been a comical sight, she says the canine customers are generally well mannered.

Madison Square & Garden Cafe is also known for being dog friendly. With such a large outdoor seating area, it's the perfect place to bring your pooch, not to mention a beautiful setting for the human visitors, too. "On a weekend, there could be 40 dogs on a Saturday," says owner Jon Madison, who's always ready with biscuits for his furry visitors. "I love dogs. I wanted to own a farm with 1,000 dogs." Instead, he has one, a 90-pound rescued border collie/Belgian shepherd mix named Cole. In addition to making a difference in this dog's life, Jon also hosts fundraisers at his restaurant, often benefiting animal rescue groups.

And, in nearby Laguna Niguel, The Ritz-Carlton hosts a monthly Yappy Hour, which raises money for the Wounded Veterans Initiative of Canine Companions for Independence. At

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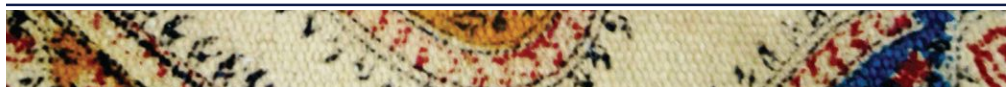
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Casper picks out tasty Pupcakes at Naked Dog Bistro.

these cocktail parties, dogs enjoy handmade dog biscuits and bacon- or cheese-flavored water while owners can order burgers, beer and wine.

PAMPERED POOCHES

For pups that don't nosh at area restaurants, they can find a gourmet meal at Naked Dog Bistro & Boutique, which offers fresh-made organic and

gluten-free food. The downtown shop, which opened in March, is run by the mother-and-daughter team of Charlotte Bloom and Lindsay Poe. They offer Uncanny wet food in three flavors: Herby Turkey, Bark-b-que Beef and Paw-Lickin' Chicken, although not every variety is available every day. The bakery case also tempts with tantalizing treats such as Pupcakes and Puppies in Blankets, which look like mini croissants stuffed with ham and cheese.

Local canines seem to know this place is meant for them. Lindsay says she often sees dogs pulling their owners around the corner to reach the shop quicker. One Australian shepherd will bark if they take too long ringing up the order or talking with the owner—delaying snack time. A dog named Casper has been known to stand up, with his front paws on the bakery case, to get a closer look at the Pupcake assortment. And you can be sure there's slobber involved because the drool-worthy treats look good enough for even a person to eat.

In fact, all of the homemade dog food is prepared with human-grade ingredients. "People can eat our food and treats if they want, but there's no salt or sugar added, so it might not taste very good," Charlotte says.

The shop also sells grain-and-potato-free Great Life kibble and canned food. The owners' focus on gluten-free food stems from one of their dogs, Kona, who is gluten intolerant. When thinking about opening a business, the duo decided to combine their love of dogs with Lindsay's passion for baking and health. Creating natural food for dogs seemed a perfect fit. "It seemed like the town was calling for it," Lindsay

says, adding that locals often tell them, "We really needed something like this."

In addition to food, Naked Dog stocks luxury toys, designer leashes, collars and harnesses. There's even a selection of small-dog leashes made of Swarovsky crystals strung on stainless steel wire. "Our doggy owners like their bling," Charlotte says.

Other favorites include Dog Diggin Designs' plush chew toys—Chewy Vuiton purses, Skinny Dog margarita bottles and more. "The Furrari bed is always very popular," Lindsay says. "They'll ask to 'test drive it.'"

The store also offers pet-themed cards, jewelry and art by Dean Russo of New York, who creates colorful portraits of different dog breeds. "[The shop] is for people who have dogs, for people who know people who have dogs and people who have ever seen a dog," Charlotte says.

Another Laguna pet boutique, Anything Canine, offers a wide variety of doggy fashions, toys and accessories as well as grooming services at the "spa." The shop hosts trunk shows and carries all manner of chic canine couture by designers like Linda Higgins, Susan Lanci and Jake Dynnis as well as stylish collars, leashes, dog beds, bowls and carriers. Upstairs, in the Elite Services Lounge, the concierge provides a personalized shopping experience for pet parents.

With so many canine-friendly amenities in Laguna, from posh pet boutiques to restaurants accommodating those of the furry persuasion and an abundance of places for outdoor frolicking, it seems this town is going to the dogs—and we wouldn't have it any other way. *LBM*

DROOL-WORTHY ACCESSORIES

Keep your pooch in style with these high-end toys and accessories available at local boutiques.



Keep pooches busy with Dogsbutter natural peanut butter treat by Dog for Dog, \$10, in a Furchun Cookie treat holder by Petprojekt, \$8, at Naked Dog Bistro & Boutique. (949-715-9900; nakeddogbistro.com)



Pups will sleep in style in the Furrari Bed by Dog Diggin Designs, \$250, at Naked Dog Bistro & Boutique. (949-715-9900; nakeddogbistro.com)



Your pooch will walk in style with this pink Big Bow Collar that dazzles with Swarovski crystals and upholstery-grade Ultrasuede fabric imported from Japan, by Susan Lanci Designs, \$115, at Anything Canine. (949-716-8051; anythingcanine.com)



Dogs will impress in Linda Higgins dresses, such as the Fiesta style, \$49, at Anything Canine. (949-716-8051; anythingcanine.com)

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PHOTO COURTESY OF STARWOOD

HEAD OF THE TABLE

Make like a VIP at one of these restaurants' bespoke dining areas, from chefs' tables with a view of the kitchen to private party rooms.

By Ryan Ritchie | Photos by Jody Tiongco

Officially, the two-seater nestled against a blue wall at Tabu Grill is called "table seven." However, unofficially, it is a different story, as owner Nancy Wilhelm refers to the quaint area as "the honeymoon suite" while Thomas Burns, CEO and managing partner, calls it "the throne." Whatever you call it, you can't miss it.

Upon walking into Tabu Grill, table seven is one of the first things guests see as it sits directly across from the restaurant's main entrance. As if the high table and seating weren't royal enough, this special area is also within earshot of the exposed kitchen area, giving diners a chance to eavesdrop on chefs with a near-front-row view of the culinary action.

With this level of access to the kitchen and the similarity to a king overlooking his kingdom, it's easy to understand why Thomas refers to this table as the throne, but it's the fact that couples are forced to sit side by side that makes Nancy call it the "honeymoon suite." With such close proximity, diners can cross their arms while sampling each other's glasses of wine or easily feed a partner a bite of filet mignon or Mero sea bass.

"It's a place where you can see everybody, but they can't see you," Nancy says. "[Plus,] if you're dating and want to snuggle up, it's more intimate. I call it 'the honeymoon suite' as a joke, but it's a fun place to sit. When I sit there all by myself, I feel like I'm the queen."

Table seven at Tabu Grill is a just one example of a unique dining trend in Laguna Beach: Several restaurants offer exclusive seating arrangements with myriad options for those looking to experience exquisite local meals in a more secluded setting.

TAKE A SEAT

Many Laguna Beach restaurants offer chefs' tables and/or private dining options.

Here are a few more:

NIRVANA GRILLE:

949-497-0027; nirvanagrille.com

STUDIO AT MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH:

949-715-6420;

montagehotels.com/studiolagunabeach

K'YA BISTRO BAR:

949-376-9718; kyabistro.com

THREE SEVENTY COMMON

KITCHEN + DRINK:

949-494-8686; 370common.com

SHOWCASING CULINARY ART

At Maro Wood Grill, the L-shaped chef's table—located in front of a wood-fire grill—allows groups of up to eight to enjoy an intimate, seasonal prix-fixe menu while engaging directly with Executive Chef Debra Sims. The 40-year-old provides her full attention to the table and says she had “no hesitation” when owner Mariano Molteni suggested the idea about a year ago.

Although Debra has plenty of previous experience working in restaurants, her tenure at Maro Wood Grill is the first time she's been able to cook for a chef's table. And, she says, she loves this opportunity to create new dishes and educate her customers on ingredients or different cooking techniques that could inspire nonprofessionals to cook more at home.

“You get caught in making the same thing over



Diners can snuggle up at Tabu Grill's “table seven,” called “the honeymoon suite,” and view the kitchen action.

and over and people get used to eating the same thing,” Debra says. “So, for me, it's a chance to break out of that mold. Even though we change the menu every day here, I like the chance to have to pair a soup with a salad with an entree with a dessert with a wine. It's something that helps me keep the other side of my brain working.”

Mariano describes his chef's table as a “unique experience,” one that is enhanced during those times when the prix-fixe menu also includes wine pairings and a sommelier. Part of this is due

to Debra's ability to cater to all culinary interests and dietary restrictions as the owner says guests can request everything ranging from fish to Argentinean ribs to vegan meals. Mariano says the other attractive part of the experience is how close diners are to the preparation of their food.

“It definitely creates an intimate circle,” Mariano says. “You are smelling the food right off the wood-fire grill and you take in the components of fresh local ingredients that make up your dish.”

Intimacy is also key at Broadway by Amar Santana, where groups of up to six can sit in front of the kitchen at an area that head chef Amar Santana calls the “chef's counter.” From Sunday through Thursday, the chef's counter serves meals from the regular menu, but on Fridays and Saturdays, this portion of the restaurant is where Amar and his team prepare a six-course tasting menu that changes every weekend. In the past, those seated at the chef's counter have enjoyed everything from Kobe beef cheeks to veal sweetbread, but regardless of what's on tap, the 32-year-old chef says he and his team look forward to the tasting menus because of the challenge that comes with creating new and exciting dishes on a weekly basis.

“We get to showcase what we can do,” Amar says. “When people do the tasting menu, they're going to experiment with something new, so we try many different flavors.”

Similar to Maro Wood Grill, one benefit of sitting at Broadway by Amar Santana's chef's counter is the ability to not only see all the action, but



Maro Wood Grill Executive Chef
Debra Sims at the chef's table



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A private party area on Mozambique's rooftop Veranda



The popular chef's counter at Broadway by Amar Santana is often booked with three reservations a night.

also to interact with the chefs. For customers, this experience is akin to watching the LA Lakers from Jack Nicholson's front-row seat or receiving a private guitar lesson from B.B. King. Being able to see the artists at work is one reason why reservations fill quickly.

"Everybody wants to sit at the chef's counter," Amar says. "It's the most popular table in the whole restaurant. Who wouldn't want to sit in front of the kitchen and see the chefs perform? When you go to a restaurant, you don't know who's cooking your food or where it's coming from because you don't see anything. With me, being an open kitchen with the chef's counter right in front, you get to see everything—how it's prepared [and] who's preparing it for you. It's very fun."

After having a chef's counter for three years, Amar is confident that this section of his restaurant is a success. He knows this mostly because the chef's counter is often booked with three reservations a night. In fact, sometimes diners are having such a good time they forget to go home. "People usually take around two hours," Amar says. "But we have a problem—once people are sitting there, they don't want to leave."

A PLACE TO PARTY

The idea of private dining isn't limited to groups of less than 10, as an array of Laguna Beach restaurants offer secluded rooms that allow larger parties to enjoy specialized meals behind closed doors. One such place is Mozambique, a three-story eatery where the idea of a private lunch or

dinner might seem impossible thanks to a busy bar with live music, jampacked dining rooms and a highly popular rooftop deck for enjoying the gorgeous summer weather.

But even with all that commotion, Mozambique can still accommodate guests who want to dine behind closed doors. In fact, Kathy Reck, director of special events, says Mozambique doesn't have just one private dining area. Instead, nearly every room at the restaurant can be converted into whatever arrangement a customer would like. For example, there's the Boma Room, which seats 85 or up to 135 when combined with the Garden Patio, which alone holds 48. Also, the Durban Room seats 50 and comes with a private patio with a fire pit. And, Kathy says, those are just the downstairs spaces.

"We have the private dining room on the second level with maximum seating up to 20 guests," Kathy says. "The Shebeen Bar and Lounge can be privately booked or the guests can book only the outside Shebeen Patio. The Veranda is our rooftop dining, which can be booked privately. Some guests book only the right side or only the left side for semi-private use. The entire Veranda can seat about 70 guests or you can have 125 guests for a cocktail reception."

Meals in Mozambique's private areas are often based around preset menus, but buffets or heavy appetizers are also options. "It all depends on the guests' needs and budget," Kathy says. "I am very happy to customize menus and am extremely flexible when it comes to meeting their vision."

Another local restaurant offering a large private

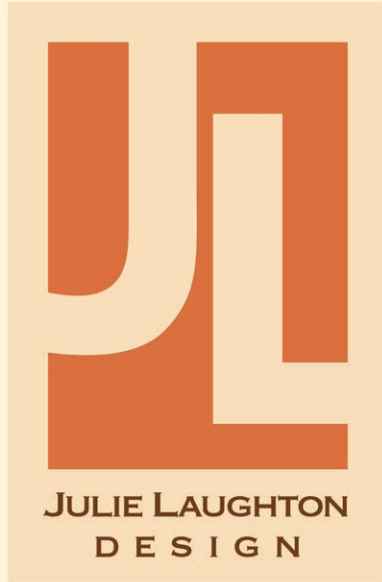
dining room is Stonehill Tavern at The St. Regis Monarch Beach, where groups of up to 28 can take over a room, enjoy one of four seasonal meals and even bring in their own music for entertainment. However, Executive Chef Raj Dixit says those looking for a more personal experience, such as a birthday party or a gastronomic experience, should consider a smaller number.

"It makes a lot of sense, around 15 (diners)," Raj says. "When you do a larger size, the rhythm gets a little bit screwed up. If you want to keep the room intimate, keep it low so everyone has plenty of space to spread out and get entertained."

The goal of the private room, Raj says, is to provide an area where customers can relax and "let loose." This can mean different things to different diners as some choose to eat with only adults who are looking to get "loud and rowdy" while others incorporate children into the mix. Adding young people to an upscale dining experience might sound counterproductive because children might not want grown-up meals, but Raj describes Stonehill Tavern as "super versatile," with a menu accommodating guests of all ages. Rather than serving traditional kids' food such as fried chicken fingers, Raj and his staff have roasted chicken with peas and fresh vegetables available for young guests.

From special tables with a close-up view of the kitchen to secluded party rooms, Laguna restaurants offer plenty of intimate settings to enjoy an unparalleled dining experience with family, friends or a special loved one. **LBM**

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In this old family photo, Hobie Alter (far right) hangs out with his kids on a Hobie Cat sailboat.



AN ICON OF SURF AND SEA

Hobie Alter will forever be celebrated not only as a pioneer in the surfing and sailing industries, but also for his enduring kindness and generosity.

By Sharael Kolberg | Photos Courtesy of Hobie Designs

Hobie Alter, pioneer of foam-core surfboard production, began shaping boards as a teenager in the garage of his parents' Laguna Beach summer home. This local legend would soon transform the surfing world with his fiberglass boards, which became the industry standard, and was among the first inductees into the National Sailing Hall of Fame for developing the Hobie Cat, a popular lightweight catamaran, among other successful vessels.

Hobie, who died in March at 80 years old, was smitten by the ocean and would spend his life in pursuit of ways to enjoy it. Mark Christy, president and owner of Hobie retail stores, says Laguna's beaches instilled in Hobie a lifetime passion for the sea. "From the Alter family garage on Gaviota [Drive] began a story that would send ripples around the planet," Mark says. "... His name is known around the world and stands for quality and innovation. It all started right here and he always considered Laguna his home base."

Refusing to wear a suit and tie, and reluctant to wear anything but flip-flops, Hobie was destined to be successful doing something that probably didn't feel like work to him. Mark says Hobie once told him, "If it's fun, it's never work. If it isn't fun, it's never worth it."

Often called the Henry Ford of the surfboard industry, Hobie cut costs and production time through his manufacturing innovations and by embracing breakthrough synthetic materials—trading expensive balsa wood for durable polyurethane foam. Ever an inventor, he also created



Hobie in his early days as a surfboard designer

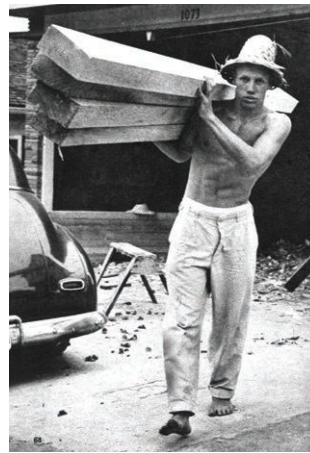
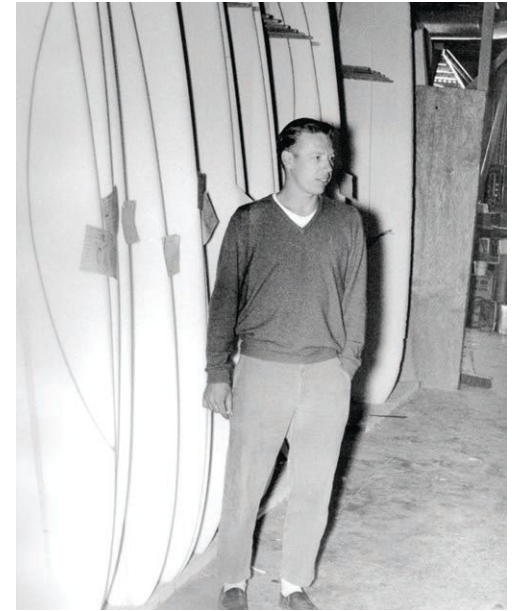
the Hobie 33, an ultralight displacement monohull sailboat; the Hobie Hawk, a radio-controlled glider; and the Hobie Super Surfer skateboard.

Hobie's contributions made an indelible mark that will live on in both the surfing and sailing worlds. He received a Waterman Achievement Award from the Surf Industry Manufacturers Association in 1993 and was added to the Huntington Beach Surfing Walk of Fame in 1997.

Paul Holmes, author of "Hobie: Master of Water, Wind and Waves," describes Hobie as "a genuine genius." "[He was] a shaper of surfing,



Clockwise from top left: Hobie riding a Hobie Cat; posing with boards he designed; testing out a Hobie Hawk glider; carrying balsa wood for boards; riding tandem with Laurie Hoover; shaping a board



HOBIE THROUGH THE YEARS

1933: Born in Ontario, Calif.

1950: Started shaping balsa wood boards in his parents' garage in Laguna Beach

1954: Opened his first Hobie Surf Shop in Dana Point, Calif.

1958: Developed polyurethane foam surfboard with Gordon "Grubby" Clark

1962: Created the Hobie Super Surfer skateboard

1968: Introduced the first Hobie Cat 14 sailboat

2005: Hobie stand-up paddleboards hit the market

2014: Died March 29 at his home in Palm Desert, Calif.

skateboarding and sailing cultures; a great craftsman and innovator," Paul says. Hobie's inventions made surfing and sailing accessible to the masses while his numerous accomplishments, creativity, determination and passion for ocean sports continue to inspire many, his adventurous spirit encouraging all to "Have a Hobie Day."

EARLY BEGINNINGS

Hobart Laidlaw Alter was born in 1933 in Ontario, Calif., to Hobart and Kate Alter. His father was a second-generation citrus farmer. Hobie and his two older sisters, Carolyn and

Lillian, enjoyed spending time with their parents at their summer home in Laguna Beach where the Alters had been coming since the early 1900s. Their house overlooking Oak Street Beach was built in the 1920s, when the population was less than 2,000 and the roads were all dirt.

At age 16, Hobie was one of the first to surf Laguna's waves, and he did it on a finless 12-foot Catalina paddleboard, according to Paul. Hobie was hooked, but surfboards were hard to come by since they were not yet being mass-produced. Most of the early wave riders made their own boards or bought balsa boards crafted by artisans at local surf shops.

In 1950, at Brooks Street Beach, Hobie met Walter Hoffman, an experienced surfer with a then-modern surfboard, who encouraged Hobie to make his own board. Hobie's legacy began that year when he started hand-carving balsa wood surfboards in the family's garage—the start of his surfboard dynasty. It was 60 years ago that, in 1954, Hobie bought a lot in Dana Point and opened his first surf shop at just 21 years old. Before he knew it, he was having a hard time keeping up with the demand for his boards.

A few years later, Hobie enlisted the help of Gordon "Grubby" Clark, a laminator with a science degree, to create a polyurethane foam that

would be used to make surfboard blanks. They set up a workshop in Laguna Canyon, far from the prying eyes of competitors that visited Hobie's Dana Point shop. After much experimentation, they concocted the right recipe and, from then on, Hobie's boards were made of foam core and fiberglass, a formula that would change the surfing industry forever. With these new materials, Hobie was able to mass-produce boards that were lighter, more responsive and easier to ride. And, with the release of the surf movie "Gidget" in 1959, demand soared. Hobie quickly became the No. 1 surfboard brand in the world, and the foam-core board remains the industry standard today.

The entrepreneur also helped shape local surf culture. In 1955, he and other industry legends organized and competed in the Brooks Street Surfing Classic. "Consistent with his maxim 'build them a toy and a game to play with it,' Hobie lobbied the city for the event permit," Paul says. That first year, Hobie came in second place. In 1956 and 1957, Hobie placed first, proving his abilities as a competent and competitive surfer.

BRANCHING OUT

Jumping from water to land, Hobie began making skateboards in 1962. Riding a wave of ups and downs in the skateboard industry, Hobie would later introduce a line of skateboards with polyurethane wheels that were more user-friendly than previous clay versions. And yet, when the skateboarding business went downhill in 1979, Hobie decided to sign over the licensing and move on.

While developing skateboards, Hobie also was tinkering with sailboats. In the late 1960s, inspired by an outrigger sailing canoe, Hobie started designing and building his now-famous Hobie Cat catamarans, which would skim the water and give surfers another adventure to try when the waves were flat. With his surfboard business booming, Hobie didn't want to put a lot of time or money into these twin-hulled crafts, but Art Hendrickson was willing to go into business with Hobie to see where they could take it.

There were other small catamarans being tested at the time, but Hobie's design included a pick-up rudder so that it could be sailed onto or off of the beach, rather than having to be moored offshore. The Hobie Cat revolutionized the sailing industry and soon became one of the world's top-selling sailboats. Hobie went on to design more than 10 different models of Hobie Cats.

A LASTING LEGACY

Hobie's legacy as an inventor and businessman is hard to beat. The Hobie brand has become a household name with water sports enthusiasts



Jeff Alter (Hobie's son) at the Hobie Surf Shop in Dana Point, which is one of five in Southern California.

worldwide. Today, there are five Hobie Surf Shops—all in Southern California, including one in Laguna—that have sold tens of thousands of Hobie surfboards and Hobie stand-up paddleboards (SUP), which are also sold around the world through a dealer network.

Currently, Hobie's sons, Hobie Jr. and Jeff, operate Hobie Designs and oversee the company's licensing operations, surfboard and SUP manufacturing. However, Hobie sold the surf shops in 1996 to local Mark Christy (whose sister is married to Jeff). "Hobie called and said he knew the perfect buyer for the stores," Mark recalls. "I asked who and he said, 'It's you, Mark. You live the lifestyle and love the ocean.' I told him I didn't know anything about the retail business and he said, 'Just do what I did. Hire the best people you can find, and let them do what they do.'"

"So I took a chance, hired some amazing people and it has been one heck of a ride since," Mark continues. "... We're lucky to carry on the company he started back in 1950 and we are all still having a 'Hobie Day' every day we show up at work."

Continuing to move the iconic brand forward, Hurley collaborated with Hobie to design and sell a complete line of classic surf apparel called Hobie by Hurley in 2011. Hobie also has manufactured high-quality polarized sunglasses since 1982 and continues to be a leader in this category.

Hobie Cat is managed separately in Oceanside, Calif., with a focus on sailboats and kayaks. Internationally, there are approximately 500 dealers that have sold more than 200,000 Hobie Cats plus Hobie's line of kayaks, including some that replace the paddle with MirageDrive—pedal-powered underwater fins—leaving hands free to fish or take photos.

In addition to the company's worldwide

presence, Hobie's legacy can be seen throughout Laguna Beach. According to Mark, the Hobie retail store opened in 1978 on Forest Avenue and moved up the block to the current location in 1988. Today, the building is home to a surf-themed sculpted metal mural, "The Waterman's Wall," created by artist Randy Morgan in 2012. Randy added the Hobie logo on the catamaran and depicted Hobie tandem surfing with his longtime surfing partner Laurie Hoover.

Hobie's kindness is also remembered around town through stories of those who had the chance to know him. Laguna Beach City Councilman Kelly Boyd, who was a member of the Hobie Surf and Paddle Team as a teenager, recalls borrowing Hobie's personal surfboard. "He was kind enough to let me use his board and trusted me to bring it back," Kelly says. "He would let me go into his house and take his board off the wall and surf it. He told me, 'Just don't ding it.'"

Stories like these help to keep Hobie's memory alive. After battling cancer, Hobie died March 29 at his home in Palm Desert, Calif., leaving behind his wife Susan, ex-wife Sharon and their children Jeff, Hobie Jr. and Paula, as well as numerous grandchildren. On April 18, off the coast of Dana Point, hundreds of friends, family and admirers honored Hobie's wish to have a traditional Hawaiian paddle-out ceremony after he passed away.

Above all, Jeff says he would like people to remember his father for his ethics. "I think what struck me the most after the memorial was that the common theme from friends, employees, strangers—just about everybody my father came in contact with—seemed to have such great things to say about him and his ethics," Jeff shares. "I truly believe he went through his life never making an enemy and always lending a hand where needed." LBM

THROUGH *the* GENERATIONS

From legends to rising groms, surfers of all ages are turning into big kahunas as they master the waves.

By Peter A. Balaskas | Photos by Robert Zaleski

Surfing at Laguna Beach is more than just an exercise in strength and endurance; it's a dynamic lifestyle where a participant's frame of mind is at one with nature, and all the senses come alive. First, there's the anticipation as surfers line up for their first takeoff on the next rising groundswell. The adrenaline builds as they take a bottom turn, and then perform an aerial toward the peak, feeling the fan spray in their faces. Next, they get ready for a layback as they ride one of the hugest barrels they've ever seen. The roar inside the water tunnel is almost deafening, but the rush of the moment carries them through the other end in euphoria.

Over the years, Laguna has been a hot spot for surfers who travel from all over Southern California to ride the biggest of bombs and barrels. One of the best examples of Laguna's love for surfing is the Brooks Street Surfing Classic, which began in 1955 and is still considered the oldest surfing competition in the world. Not only are seasoned veterans drawn to the Laguna coast but also groms, who are cutting their teeth on Boogie boards and longboards. Here are a few of Laguna's long-lasting surf legends and up-and-coming newbies who aspire to be like their elder masters.





Walter Vizsolay

THE RENAISSANCE MAN



Walter Vizsolay is a man of many talents. In the local art world, he is renowned for his oil-based Laguna landscapes, golden beaches and sunsets, and shining sapphire waves. But Walter's passion for painting is only matched by his devotion for surfing, which he began at 11 years old. "I used to love going down to the beach with my parents; we had just come to America from Hungary," Walter says. "I would see people bodysurfing and board surfing, and I knew that I wanted to learn to do that."

Walter's path to surfing legend started with bodysurfing in the shore break. Then, his brother, Alfonz, purchased and repaired a broken Velzy surfboard that he would take to the Santa Ana River Jetties, where he explored his love for surfing.

Now 65 years old, Walter has perfected his signature techniques, including his bottom turns, cutbacks, sideslipping the board down the face of the wave and pulling it back into the curl to stay in the right part of the wave, and even doing a headstand in its curl. It's no surprise that he's won countless surfing accolades, including an honor from one of America's popular surfboard companies. "One of my favorite achievements was surfing for Hobie [Alter]," Walter says. "He would have his shapers make me boards. My favorite was a Phil Edwards model."

In between painting, Walter can still be seen riding the waves at Oak Street, Heisler Park and Sleepy Hollow Street beaches, savoring the smell of the ocean and the hot sands of Laguna Beach.

Jeff Booth

THE BROOKS STREET STAR

Laguna Beach is known for its plentiful surfing sites: Oak Street, Hakama (between Thalia and Anita streets), Agate Street and Garbage Hole (a break in front of Laguna Village and The Cliff Restaurant). But the one locale that 45-year-old surf champ Jeff Booth loves to visit is Brooks Street—he shares that if you can ride Brooks, you can adapt and ride any kind of waves in Laguna.

"It has a nice ledge drop on the takeoff, plus lots of changes in the aspect of the wave, along with some backwash to make it interesting," Jeff says.

"When Brooks gets really big, you can ride it in from Second Reef (an outside break at Brooks Street), which is a total blast."

If there is a downside to visiting popular surfing sites such as Brooks Street, Jeff says it's the crowds, especially those who don't wait for



their proper turn in the lineup. Oftentimes, lack of surfing etiquette can ruin the overall rush of breaking the waves. Jeff's approach of hitting big turns with power and speed, as well as adding a little style and smoothness to his techniques, has earned this veteran many surfing awards, including winning in every age bracket at the Brooks Street event, from the 12-and-under division in 1980 to the professional division as

an adult. In fact, Jeff finished fourth in the 1995 Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) World Championship Tour.

But it all comes down to the frame of mind: to connect with the ocean waves. "Surfing is a journey; there are many aspects to it," Jeff says. "Learning, dominating, mastering and just plain old enjoying it. No matter where you are on the mountain, as a surfer, you are in an elite club that most people on the planet will never get to experience."

TOP SURF PHOTO BY SEAN HUNTER BROWN; BOTTOM INSET PHOTO BY JODY TONGCO; ACTION PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF BOOTH

Taylor Pitz

THE CLASS ACT

Twenty-one-year-old Taylor Pitz loves to practice different kinds of surfing techniques. But if there is one maneuver that almost serves as a guilty pleasure for her, it's the cannonball, which she has discovered is quite a crowd pleaser and a perfect way to make new friends in the lineup.

"I especially love doing the cannonball on left-breaking waves, which is my backside," Taylor says. "I allow the wave to break a little outside of where I take off. I then allow the whitewash to hit me, leap off my board, tuck in all my limbs, and free fall through the air to the bottom of the wave."

Starting at 10 years old, while attending the Laguna Presbyterian Church's Club H2O Surf Camp, Taylor's passion for surfing and her experience grew. She sharpened her skills and maintained her discipline during competitions, ultimately winning the National Scholastic Surfing Association's high school women's national

category during her senior year in 2011. She also worked with the USA Surf Team in 2009-2010 and competed in the International Surfing Association's World Junior Surfing Championships in New Zealand in 2010.

Besides riding the wave face, Taylor is also pursuing her bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in environmental systems

and society at the University of California, Los Angeles. And she offers some sound advice regarding how to balance the best of both worlds. "It's easy to get caught up in the surf world, but ... going to college has allowed me to keep surfing [as] a part of my life, while at the same time, exploring so many other options the world has to offer."



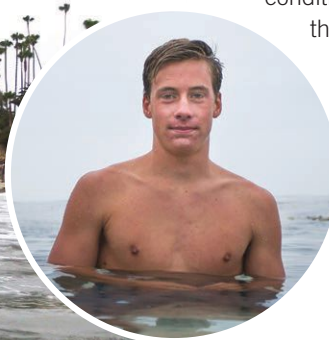
Cameron de Pfyffer

THE ADRENALINE JUNKIE

Like many beginners, Cameron de Pfyffer learned to surf at Doheny State Beach, just south of Laguna. After starting at age 8, his surfing skills began to blossom when he went to San Onofre for bigger and longer rides. Now 18 years old, Cameron surfs at more challenging sites, such as the Laguna-based North Reef off of St. Anne's Street and Rockpile Beach, always expanding his learning curve. "I enjoy pulling off difficult maneuvers and the adrenaline from surfing big waves," Cameron says. "I like that every wave is different and the conditions are always changing. You have to learn to predict the waves' conditions by checking the weather and tides."

His ever-evolving maneuvers and instincts have led Cameron to become Laguna Beach High School's Most Valuable Surfer in 2013 and 2014. One of his inspirations is the late surfing champion Andy Irons, who won his world title three times, even when he was challenged by another surf great, Kelly Slater. Cameron admires Andy's tenacity and discipline at the Pipe Masters Final and ASP World Championship Tour.

Cameron's admiration for surf greats like Andy is matched only by his intensity and focused drive. With regard to his technique, he shares that it's a combination of making quick decisions before your next move. And, of course, it is essential to always practice. "Recommendation to beginner surfer[s]: arm strength and tenacity," he says. "The more you surf, the better you will get. So, just keep surfing."



Trey Lockhart

THE BARREL-RIDING PRO



There are many reasons why 12-year-old Trey Lockhart loves the ocean and loves to surf. “[It’s] the sense of freedom it gives me,” Trey explains. “I love surfing with my friends, and we all really push each other to be the best we can be and try new tricks. But I have to say what I love the absolute most is the feeling of the barrel coming over me.”

Trey has grabbed his passion for surfing by the metaphorical throat since he was 3 years old, and he’s not showing any signs of letting go. When it comes to learning new techniques at his favorite spots, such as Thalia Street reef area and Sleepy Hollow—a place where he can ride his favorite barrels—he’s always trying to perfect the more difficult moves, including air reverses and the blow tail.

Trey’s greatest mental challenge, however, occurs when he enters competitions, where he strives to maintain confidence in his abilities. “When I am competing, I always second-guess myself, stress, and then become impatient,” he says. “In competition surfing, there is so much pressure to perform, and you want to win and do your best. I overthink my every move.”

But what pleases Trey the most is that his younger brother, Tyson, is following in his footsteps. Tyson is on a quest to be the best surfer he can be, just like Trey—and who knows where this sport will take the Lockhart brothers, riding the barrels together in Laguna Beach.

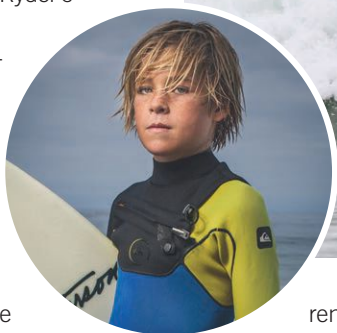
Ryder Fish

THE FAST FISH

Up-and-comer Ryder Fish, 8, has two surfing heroes: superstars Kelly Slater and Laird Hamilton, each with different styles and philosophies. Their diverse qualities only enhance Ryder’s love even more.

“[Kelly] has been a great example to kids because he inspires them to keep working hard and to have a good attitude,” Ryder explains of his surfing idol. “He seems really mellow and humble, and he doesn’t brag about his surfing. [Laird will] go for like anything; he doesn’t care. And he hasn’t done one contest, so he inspires kids to just surf because they love it and not to try and get first place.”

Since he was 4 years old, Ryder has been making his presence known in the surfing world; most recently, Quiksilver accepted Ryder to be in their Flo-gram, a special program for young surfers that they hope to shepherd into full sponsorship and membership on their official team. The grom has already enjoyed the perks from the



renowned sports equipment company, including receiving quarterly shopping passes of product/surf gear per year. Now, what grom wouldn’t want that?

“This is an incredible opportunity and stepping stone to one day maybe being on the actual Quiksilver team where they are paying for awesome trips and stuff,” Ryder says. “I know that there is a lot of hard work for me to do, and I just have to keep working hard.”

In the meantime, young Ryder will continue to

improve his favorite techniques, such as performing hard cutbacks. He practices difficult techniques at Agate and Thalia Street beaches, where as time goes on, Ryder will no doubt evolve into another Laguna surfing legend. **LBM**



Uncover hidden content in this story with **LB MAG PLUS**, including a behind-the-scenes video by Craig de Pfyffer. For steps on how to access LB Mag Plus, see page 10.

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BEST of the BEACHES

Five residents reveal their favorite spots to splash, lounge and surf, reminding us that, for Laguna Beach natives, paradise is right around the corner.

BY BRIA BALLIET





Above and left: Erin O'Neil and her family adore Wood's Cove, which Erin says is "kind of off the beaten path."

It is no secret that our gorgeous seaside town boasts some of the most amazing beaches in the world. The soft sand is perfect for lounging, building sand castles or taking a shore-side jog, while the stunning turquoise waters are teeming with wildlife. From bright garibaldi to playful sea lions, dolphins and even gray whales, there is no shortage of incredible living creatures to observe in Laguna Beach. Throw in the near-perfect weather year-round and it is no wonder that vacationers come from all over the world to experience this magical place that we call home.

Though Laguna is swarmed with such visitors during the summer months, locals know the best places to go to escape the crowds and still beat the heat. We chatted with five Laguna Beach natives to get their take on the ultimate coastal spots to enjoy the beauty and adventures that our beaches have to offer. From an entrepreneur and new mom to the founder of a world-renowned skimboard company, each found it difficult to settle on just one stretch of sand, but their struggle proves just how remarkable and unique the coastal paradise is here in Laguna. Here, discover some of our readers' favorite beaches—and what they love about them.

WOOD'S COVE: THE LOCAL HANGOUT

As a new mom and owner of Ruby Mint—a brand new luxury beach towel line—Laguna Beach local Erin O'Neil has high standards when it comes to which beaches she will visit with her daughter Ryan Ruby. Luckily, most of Laguna's gorgeous coastline meets her strict criteria. "I grew up going to Shaw's Cove, so I have this

nostalgia for that. And then as a teenager, I would go to Thalia [Street Beach] because all the surfers were down there; ... there were all the cute boys," she laughs.

But her current favorite spot? "It's definitely Wood's Cove," she shares. "It's super local-based. It's kind of off the beaten path a little. I feel like you have to know about it to get there." She also appreciates the calm tide at the beach, which means very gentle waves for baby Ryan to splash in as she grows up.

With an abundance of sea life just beneath the water's surface, amazing tide pools and the

legendary "blowhole"—which she has jumped into on more than one occasion—it's no wonder that the mom-turned-entrepreneur loves the charming cove. But for Erin, the biggest draw is the local feel. "You just walk down there and you know a lot of people and it's a lot of familiar faces and everyone is bouncing back and forth, chatting it up, watching out for each other in the water," she says.

And that is exactly how she would want to spend her ultimate day at Wood's Cove, comfortable and among friends. "We're the kind of people that go down [to the beach] all day. ... We'd definitely pack lots of food and drink and snorkeling gear, of course, and kind of just post up all day long," she says. "That's our ideal day."

BROOKS STREET: THE SURFER'S SANCTUARY

As a skimboarding legend and co-founder of premier skimboarding brand Victoria Skimboards, Tex Haines has spend most of his life jaunting up and down Laguna's coast. For this reason, choosing just one favorite shoreline was definitely a feat. "Each beach has its unique characteristics that make it great," he muses. "I grew up visiting Victoria as an Altadena tourist on weekends and during summer. So Victoria will always be my spawning grounds. I also lived above Crescent [Bay] for quite a few years, so it gets the most picturesque/great tide pools award, especially with the great bluff-top park overlooking it," Tex shares. But the beach he settled on as his favorite is the one that appeals the most to his surfer roots. "Now I [live] near Brooks Street and, with



Tex Haines (not pictured) enjoys riding the waves at Brooks Street Beach, a prime surf spot.



Victoria Beach offers a secluded getaway, a fairy tale-esque tower and tide pools teeming with sea life, shares Rachel Tejada.

lots of surfing and skimming, I end up there most of the time.”

A mecca for local surfers, Brooks Street plays host to its namesake Brooks St. Surfing Classic, which is hailed as the world’s longest running surf competition. Tex himself has competed many times and has especially fond memories of winning the competition’s master division on two separate occasions.

While Tex still loves surfing and skimming at his favorite beach, his beloved activities do not come without dangers, and maybe a few lost possessions. “My wedding band is out there somewhere,” he admits. “I managed to push it off my finger with my big toe as I tried to surf too close to shore and did a human pretzel.” So fans of Brooks Street’s skim and surf scene should keep

their eyes peeled in the water. “‘Vires acquirit eundo’ [which means gaining strength as it goes] is inscribed into it, just in case some detector-head found it,” he says, hopefully.

VICTORIA BEACH: THE PRIVATE OASIS

A favorite among the Lagunita community residents, Victoria Beach also garners a loyal following of outsiders who make the not-always-convenient trek to its stunning shores because, well, it’s worth it. “It almost feels like your own private oasis, it really does,” says Rachel Tejada, who heads the Tide Water Docent Program at The Inn at Laguna Beach.

To explore the gem of a beach for yourself, patience is a virtue. Parking in the area is difficult, but all good things come with a price. The

flat sand and gentle waves have made the cove a favorite spot for skimboarders (just ask Tex Haines), but Rachel loves its topography for her own reasons. Unsurprisingly, the nature lover and tide pool expert holds a special place in her heart for the wildlife that inhabits the pools at Victoria, in addition to the perfectly smooth sand and clear waters. “I just love the exploration side of our beaches,” she shares. “And being able to look at the tide pools that they have to offer.”

There isn’t one specific memory that cements Rachel’s feelings for Victoria, but rather the consistency of the beach’s beauty and its unique sights such as the enchanting and fairy tale-esque tower that has become a trademark of the beach. As she says, “From the ‘Rapunzel turret’ beckoning people to continue walking down the beach



Tibetan monks kayak with Billy Fried at Irvine Cove.

A DIVINE INTERVENTION AT IRVINE COVE

Billy Fried, founder of La Vida Laguna, recounts a rare occurrence at one of his favorite beaches, Irvine Cove, which he will remember forever.

“One of my best days at Irvine Cove happened when I took a group of Tibetan monks kayaking [back in October 2010],” he says. “They were here doing a sand mandala [an ancient Tibetan Buddhist art form] at the Neighborhood Congregational Church. My kayak helpers were pastor B.J. Beu and Native American teacher Andrew Soliz, one of the most spiritual people I know.

“I was humbled to be amongst such enlightened people; however, nothing enlightens like nature,” he continues. “When we got to Irvine Cove, the harbor seals swam out to greet us, and the monks fell silent from the grandeur of nature. I was happy to welcome them to my cathedral.”

It is these fond memories that tie us to where the sand meets the sea, here in Laguna Beach.

... to the fact that Treasure Island is so close to explore as well, ... I feel like Victoria Beach is one of Laguna's best hidden secrets."

SHAW'S COVE: THE SECLUDED BEAUTY

For Mark Christy, Laguna Beach native and co-owner of local Hobie Surf Shops and Tuvalu, as well as the new owner of The Ranch at Laguna Beach (formerly the Aliso Creek Inn & Golf Course), the stunning shores and calm waters of Shaw's Cove allow him to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of real life and just unwind with friends and family. "If I'm just spending the day with friends, Shaw's Cove is pretty tough to beat in terms of the aesthetics, the setting and water clarity," he says.

But the beauty of the tiny cove isn't all that appeals to Mark. Its seclusion—away from the swarm of crowds that invade other beaches—is a big draw for the ocean enthusiast. "My ideal day at the beach would be any day where I forgot my phone at home," he shares. "To completely disengage from 'real life' for a few hours and decompress takes me right back to my youth, growing up on the beaches of Laguna and spending what seemed like endless days laying on the warm sand and wondering where life would take me."

One of Mark's favorite memories revolves around one such magically calm day, on Thanksgiving several years ago. After launching his stand-up paddleboard from the pristine shores of Shaw's Cove, Mark paddled north, all the way to Crystal Cove. "At this point, I literally could not paddle anymore. A slight wind kicked up, but the water was still completely glassy," he remembers. "I just turned around, headed south using my body as a spinnaker and gently paddled back to Shaw's while watching a nearly nonstop display of sea lions, dolphins, rays and large fish dancing on and beneath the surface. It is literally impossible to describe that perfect moment in time."

LITTLE SECRET SEASHELL COVE: THE HIDDEN PARADISE

One of the most alluring aspects of Laguna's shores is that there is an abundance of hidden coves, tide pools and rock formations to explore for those who are willing to go on a bit of an adventure. One such hidden gem is the favorite hangout of Laguna Beach surf instructor and multimedia artist Steven "Sli Dawg" Chew. "As a surfer growing up here in Laguna, you would think I would pick a surfing beach here in Laguna," he shares.

But, instead of spilling details that may irk other local surfers, he offers up some information about a very secret and pristine hideaway.



ROBERT ZALESKI

Shaw's Cove, tucked away from the crowds, is a favorite of Mark Christy's (not pictured) for paddling and relaxing.



JODY TONGCO

Steven "Sli Dawg" Chew speaks poetically about a secret beach covered with blue mussel shells in north Laguna.

And—in true artist fashion—he does so with a poetic riddle.

"I will tell you a tad bit about a treasure called Little Secret Seashell Cove, where there is a little private natural pool that lays upon a bed of mother of pearl from all the broken seashells that glisten in the sunny waters there," he describes, noting the numerous blue mussel shells that cover the area and provide for his ideal day of shell collecting with a loved one. "A picnic with someone special and a bottle of chilled white wine can be sneaky and fun," he adds.

For those who wish to visit this fabled magic

pool for themselves, Steven isn't giving up the secret so easily. But, with a little determination and creativity, it may be possible to find with the help of Steven's clues.

"The magic of this nestled pearl of a place is that all the elements have to come together to really see her in all her seaside glory," he continues. "It can even be impossible to get there some days because the waves are too big or the tides are too high. But if you luck upon that small slice of paradise on that right day in north Laguna, be sure to thank the sweet ocean sirens that live there for sharing their secret song." **LBM**



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Black-and-white Cannes cropped rash guard, \$92, Antibes ruched bottom, \$85, by Vitamin A, available at Molly Brown's Laguna Beach



Pink and orange halter top with zippers, \$110, bottom, \$90, available at Beach Bunny Swimwear; pink bracelet, \$32, turquoise bracelet, \$48, by Kate Spade, available at Bloomingdale's, South Coast Plaza



Kahala top, \$100, Bondi bottom, \$78, by
Mikoh, available at The Shop, Laguna Beach



Peek a Boo bandeau top, \$81, Lacey bottom, \$68, by L-Space, available at Molly Brown's Swimwear, Laguna Beach





Red one-piece suit, \$862, available at La Perla, South Coast Plaza; sunglasses, \$470, by Chanel, available at Bloomingdale's, South Coast Plaza

Tropical print bikini,
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BEAUTY AND THE BEACH

KEEP SKIN GLOWING, HAIR GLOSSY AND MAKEUP FRESH WITH TIPS, TRICKS AND SUMMER'S HOTTEST TRENDS FROM LAGUNA BEACH EXPERTS.

By Bria Balliet

A summer spent in Laguna means that frolicking in the sun, sand and surf will most likely be a part of your daily routine. However, spending days at the beach or lounging poolside doesn't mean that your beauty regimen should take a hit. The salt, chlorine and harsh rays of the sun can really do a number on tresses and skin, causing dry, brittle hair, sunspots and wrinkles if a nourishing maintenance routine isn't followed.

Additionally, heavy makeup and intricate hairstyles involving blow-drying and straightening tend to be so unappealing in scalding summer heat that they are often traded for convenient-but-dull ponytail and lip balm combos. Luckily, Laguna has its very own experts on hair, skin care and makeup who offer up their professional advice and low-maintenance looks to keep the body nourished and lovely all summer long.

SKIN DEEP

The care and keeping of skin is essential during the summer months, when harsh elements are constantly attacking delicate skin. In fact, unprotected sun exposure—including improper use of sunscreen—is the biggest culprit in summertime skin problems. “Keep in mind that the body obtains all of the benefits of sun [such as Vitamin D and tan] within 15 minutes of sun exposure,” shares Dr. Zein Obagi of the Obagi Skin Health Institute, which has a Laguna location. “Multiple problems can appear or can be aggravated during the summer, [such as] redness and skin sensitivity in fair-skinned individuals [and] the aggravation of rosacea and facial redness,” he says. And, in many instances, perfectly harmless intentions lead to unintended consequences when it comes to spending time in the sun's rays.

For example, Zein says that wearing perfume on areas of the body that see a lot of sun—such as the chest or side of the neck—can lead to textural skin damage and discoloration of the skin. “Perfume plus sun equals photosensitivity and irritation,” he warns.

Even those who make the effort to wear

sunscreen every day may be less protected than they thought. For instance, heavy, oily sunscreens can cause more harm than good, clogging pores and exaggerating pre-existing skin conditions like rosacea. To combat this issue, many companies—including Obagi—carry skin-healthy and oil-free options that protect without smothering.

In addition, many people forget to cleanse the skin before sunblock application, making it less effective. “Without washing the skin, sunscreens

are easily rubbed off the skin resulting in the loss of needed protection,” Zein shares. “[Also], waterproof sunscreens are just gimmicks. They lose their efficacy in the water and all sunscreens should be reapplied after swimming.”

Keeping all of this in mind, Zein recommends a few more simple steps to keep skin blemish- and wrinkle-free. Firstly, it is best to avoid sun exposure during midday, when the sun's rays are at their strongest—usually between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you know that you will be out in the sun,

Wearing a full-brimmed hat and sunscreen helps protect skin from the sun's harmful rays.



Dr. Zein Obagi (at left) recommends eating vegetables and drinking plenty of water to keep skin healthy.



“[A natural look] doesn’t mean no makeup. It means makeup that looks natural ... lit from within [and] fresh.” —Berit Digerud

prepare by wearing protective clothing and a hat or visor (a floppy beach hat is always on trend.) He also notes that a vegetable-rich diet, taking antioxidant supplements and—most importantly—drinking plenty of water will attribute to overall skin health.

If you forget these tips and end up with a painful sunburn, follow this suggestion to help ease the discomfort: “Take one aspirin or ibuprofen with food one hour after sun exposure for its anti-inflammatory benefits,” Zein recommends. And the rumor that taking a hot shower after a sunburn will “remove” the heat is unfounded, to say the least. Showering with cool or lukewarm water is a better idea as hot water can irritate burned skin.

By following Zein’s advice, sun damage and skin issues can be minimized and healthy skin can be maintained all summer long.

A FLAWLESS FACE

Once skin is healthy and moisturized, it will be the perfect canvas for simple and chic summer makeup. Laguna Beach-based makeup artist Berit Digerud encourages her clients to adopt a less-is-more approach to their cosmetic habits year-round and drop the Kim Kardashian overdone makeup style. “That heavy look is just not going to be flattering for most of us in real life and up



Top: Berit Digerud demonstrates summer makeup trends. Above: Ingredients like avocado and coconut oil create a moisturizing at-home hair treatment.

close,” she says. “It’s like you’re wearing a mask. So you want to show the best of yourself, enhance a little bit and maybe conceal a few things that we don’t want to show the rest of the world.”

Berit aims to give every client what she calls an “effortlessly flawless” look. Born and raised in Norway, she always has strived to combine her love of cosmetics with her belief that natural beauty is the best kind. And, in the laid-back beach town of Laguna, a natural look is embraced—with sheer makeup working best in hotter months along the coast. “When someone comes to me and says, ‘I want a healthy glow; I want to look healthy and refreshed,’ that’s what I’ve always liked,” she says.

“And what I’m seeing now for summer is we’re going to see more of that.”

For those who are getting cold sweats thinking about leaving the house without their “face,” fear not. “That doesn’t mean no makeup,” she clarifies. “It means makeup that looks natural ... lit from within [and] fresh.”

To prep the face, forgo traditional heavy foundations and opt for a light and multifunctional BB cream. “It’s really a tinted moisturizer sometimes with a little bit of added luminescence that gives us a natural glow,” Berit says. “It just makes the skin not look flat and fills in the pores and gives the skin an even, smooth appearance.” Most BB creams available also offer light sun protection, which is a must in this beach town if you are prone to forgetting sunscreen.

After evening out the skin, make the face look more youthful and alert with a classic brow. “Filling in [the eyebrows] really frames the face and gives a little ‘face-lift,’” Berit shares. For daytime lids, opt for a lengthening and waterproof mascara—it will offer all-day staying power, even on sweltering days—and finish with a swipe of liner across the top lid only to open up the eyes. Berit loves felt eyeliner pens because they give the look of a liquid liner without the difficulty and mess. Plus, they are easy to throw in a purse if crunched for time.

Lastly, Berit recommends topping off the look with a punch of color in the form of a lip and cheek stain. The multiuse product will save time and is portable and convenient. To determine the right color, Berit says it’s all about skin tone. “If someone has a nice tan, why not show it off with fruity colors like orange and apricot and guava,” she recommends. Those with a lighter complexion should pick up a pink-beige or berry color that will make skin pop.

Though it may be tempting to add more products, sticking to this classic summer look will ensure a beach-ready and beautiful face all season.

TOP IT OFF

To top off the perfect summer look—literally and figuratively—a great hairstyle is a must. Since active ladies of Laguna may not have the time or patience to blow-dry, curl and straighten their locks into a perfect coif during the heat of summer, Romina Costa—the artistic director of Kim Vō Salon at Montage Laguna Beach—offers some low-maintenance styles and tips for glossy summer tresses.

Though the long bohemian waves of summer’s

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Romina Costa, artistic director of Kim Vō Salon at Montage Laguna Beach, suggests a long bob style for summer.

past will always be a beautiful look, the trend for this season has moved toward shorter hairstyles. “A lot of my local clients that live here in Laguna Beach and Newport Beach are moving away from the super long [hair] ... and opting for something a little shorter, which I’m really refreshed [by],” Romina says.

One of the chicest short styles that is also incredibly low maintenance is the long bob. Celebrities from Gwyneth Paltrow to Anne Hathaway have sported the collarbone-length style, which is beloved for its versatility. “It’s ... a slight angled bob that looks great straight, it looks good with beachy waves or curled and they can still pull it up if they need to,” Romina explains. “So, it’s kind of a perfect style for anybody.”

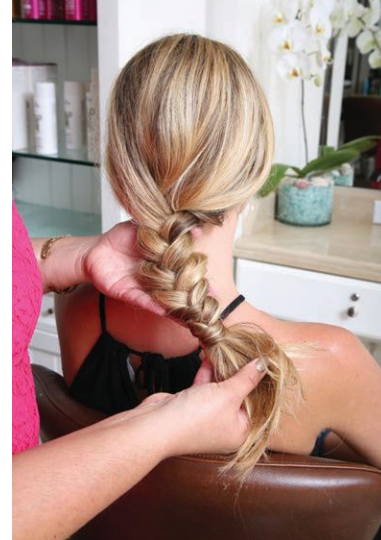
Those who prefer to keep their hair long have plenty of options to keep it out of the way and still stylish. A classic top-knot is always popular according to Romina, or to change it up a bit, bring the bun a little lower for a simple chignon. In addition, a good braid works wonders for windswept hair and can be thrown together last minute—with or without a hair tie. “I’ve recently started doing a fun braid. Just a very messy side braid without a hair tie,” Romina says. “There’s a cool way you can do it that will hold the braid without putting a rubber band on it.”

That same minimalist approach applies to summer hair color as well, Romina notes, commenting on the popularity of the “soft ombre” trend. “It’s great because it’s low upkeep but it looks really fresh,” she says of the treatment, which gradually lightens the hair as it gets closer to the ends to create a sun-kissed glow. “It ... makes the color shine and brings a little bit more dimension [to the style].”

Once cut and color are taken care of, it is important to maintain hair health during the summer, no matter the length. A conditioning mask once a month works wonders and can easily be made at home with two products that are probably already in the kitchen.

“I’ve been having a lot of clients—here in Laguna Beach, especially, because it’s so very natural and people are very organic and in to home treatments—take a little bit of coconut oil, a little bit of a mashed avocado, whip that up together, put it in your hair, leave it in for 30 minutes and it’s ... the best conditioning mask ever,” Romina insists.

Make the most of summer beauty trends by committing to healthy practices and grabbing a few essential products. With minimal effort, it is possible to look great with low-maintenance skin care and hair styles all season, no matter what the weather may bring. **LBM**



GET THE LOOK: BEACHY BRAID

Rōmina Costa, artistic director of Kim Vo Salon at Montage Laguna Beach, offers a step-by-step tutorial to achieve an easy, tousled braid that’s beachy-chic with minimal effort. “This braid is great for an easy yet modern look that is perfectly ‘undone,’” she explains. “It uses no hair tie, just your own hair to hold it in place.”

1. Add texture to your hair with a beach spray that mattifies as well as adds body. Touse hair with your fingers until product is evenly distributed. A good spray to try is Schwarzkopf Professional OSiS+ Dust It powder.

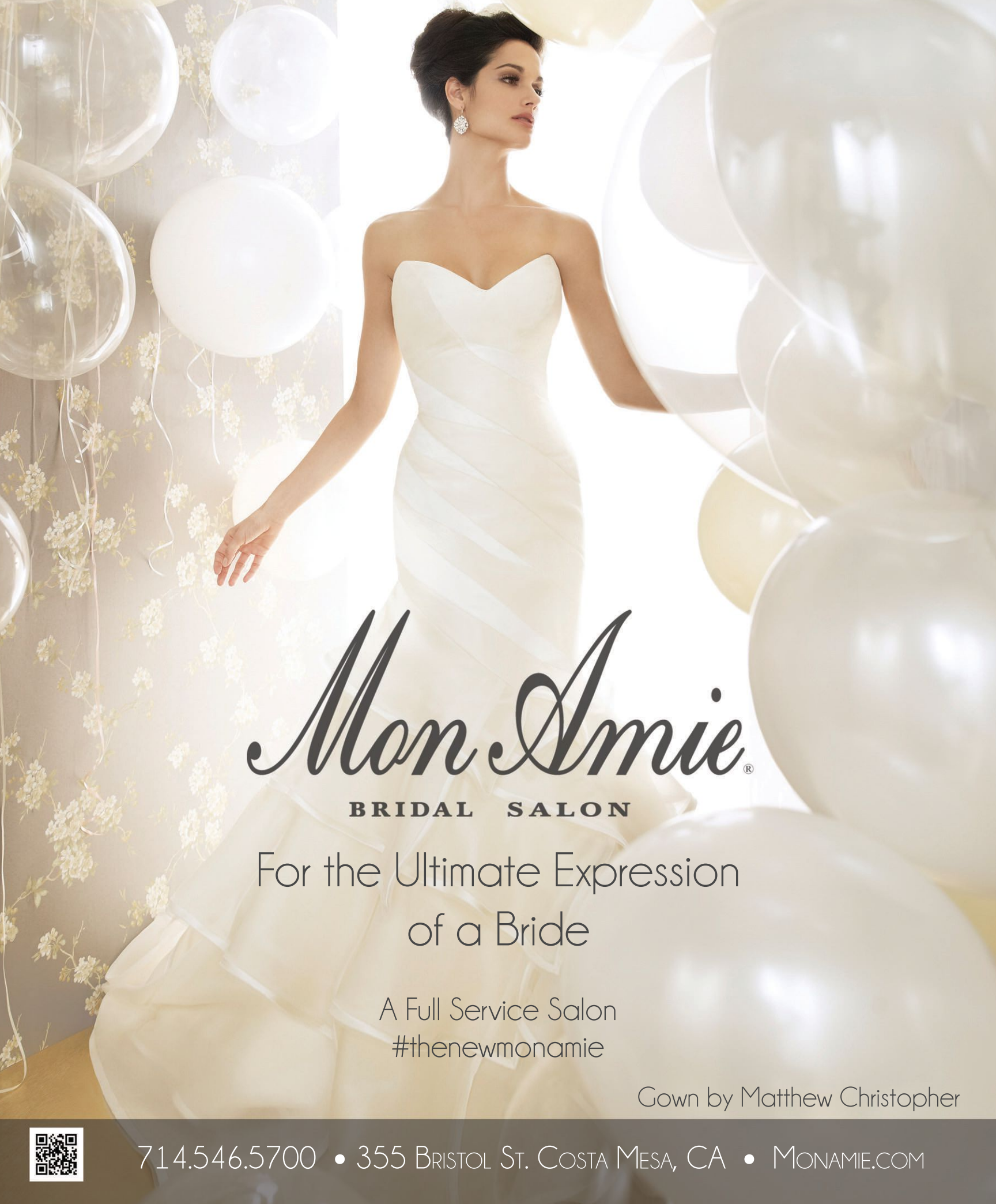


2. Part hair in three very messy sections. Start your braid ensuring that each section is not completely separated from the others on the end. “This is a little backward thinking since we are always taught to keep your braid sections nice and neat,” Romina says. “There are no neat sections—and no wrong or right—in this type of braid.”



3. After braiding, flip ends and tuck them into the end of the braid and pull until tight. Pull out random pieces of hair throughout this messy braid. As Romina says, “... Now you’re ready to hit the beach, shopping or lunch with friends.”





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Outside the Lines

Contemporary gallery Artists Republic 4 Tomorrow provides a platform for those who defy the mainstream limits of what it means to be an artist.

By Tess Eyrich



JODY TONGCO

At Artists Republic 4 Tomorrow (AR4T), co-owner Mark Weiner (left) and founder Torrey Cook showcase contemporary pieces that bring together art and action sports.

WALK INTO ARTISTS REPUBLIC 4 TOMORROW (AR4T) on any given day and you'll be greeted warmly by the gallery's founder, Torrey Cook, and co-owner Mark Weiner. As friends, fellow gallery owners and artists filter into the space to chat, survey the latest pieces on view and browse a selection of books curated by Costa Mesa's As Issued bookstore, it'll become strikingly clear that AR4T is much more than just a gallery; it's a gathering place for people who appreciate art not only for its aesthetic benefits, but for the

sense of community that often springs from creative expression.

AR4T's founding in May 2010 catalyzed a sea change in Laguna that's resulted in a significant boom in contemporary art galleries, with up-and-comers like saltfineart, Orange County Creatives and Donna Morin's DM Studio finding success alongside local mainstays known for showing more traditional work. Here, the duo behind the game-changing gallery shares AR4T's story as it celebrates its fourth anniversary.

NEW TO THIS TOWN

AR4T's genesis, though somewhat unconventional, is a testament to its owners' passions for contemporary art.

A Southern California native, Torrey's professional background includes time spent in San Diego as an editor at Warp Magazine, a Transworld Media publication that covered action sports and music, and San Francisco, where she first began exhibiting her own art at a friend's pop-up gallery.



JODY TIONGCO



JESSE FULTON

Top left: David Blake's paintings on exhibit at AR4T; right: David Blake's "We Saved Trestles"; bottom left: Don Pendleton, skateboard graphics artist, speaks with guests.

"For me, the feeling of having people look at my work and being a part of something big like that was so exciting," she says. "I'd shown my work in little spots here and there, but to show with a group in a gallery setting was completely new and different. It was awesome."

So awesome, in fact, that when she moved back to Southern California to work in the action sports apparel industry, she began putting together her own pop-up exhibitions to tie in with various marketing initiatives. After several years of honing her skills as a sort of guerilla curator, she decided to search for her own gallery space, eventually happening upon the kind of real estate boon that's too good to pass up in Laguna: an inexpensive lease directly across from Main Beach.

"It was something good to start with where we could do some experimental stuff," she says of the space. "I knew we weren't going to be bringing in

art like what was in Laguna already." At the time, she notes, the only other space comparable to what would become AR4T was The Surf Gallery operated by Will Pennartz, who shuttered the beloved Laguna hangout in 2010. Will would prove to be a valued mentor to Torrey in the early days of AR4T, and she honored his former gallery in 2013 with a retrospective of surf-themed prints, paintings and photographs.

It was also through Will that she eventually met Mark, a collector who splits his time between Los Angeles and Dana Point. "What I saw in the window [at AR4T] was not what anyone else was doing in Laguna—that really hit me," Mark says of his initial introduction to the gallery, adding that he lacks a professional arts background and just really likes "being around art."

The two became fast friends and official partners in the ownership of the gallery around two years ago, maintaining AR4T's original mission

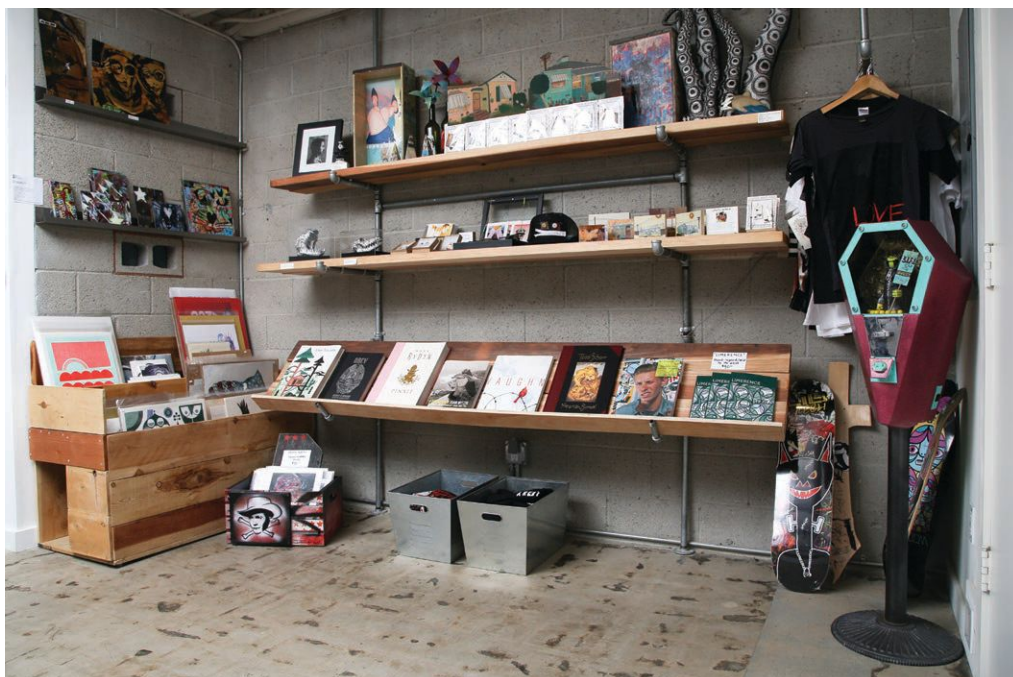
UP NEXT AT AR4T

"EASY SUNDAY": Organized in conjunction with the Vans U.S. Open of Surfing, "Easy Sunday" runs from July 5 through Aug. 3, bringing together artists Nathaniel Russell, Rich Jacobs, Zio Ziegler, Chris Yormick and Jay Howell.

"THE DAY YOU ARRIVED": From Aug. 7-31, AR4T showcases the art of Dallas-based painter Carlos Donjuan, whose work reimagines illegal aliens as fantastical creatures.

"SURFACE STREET": The gallery hosts iconic skateboarder and newly christened Black Flag frontman Mike Vallely, who will present original photographs, paintings and spoken-word poetry the weekend of Sept. 4-7.

"EXPRESSION SESSION 2": AR4T commemorates Laguna's Surf Gallery, which closed in 2010, with an exhibition of surf-themed art curated by Will Pennartz, the gallery's former owner, from Sept. 13 through Oct. 5.



In addition to artwork, AR4T offers a selection of books curated by Costa Mesa's As Issued bookstore.

of bringing a new breed of contemporary art to Laguna: pieces that expose the intersections between artistic work and action sports like skateboarding, surfing and snowboarding.

"My husband and I have both been in this youth culture world of snowboarding and skateboarding forever, and through that we've met and made relationships with so many amazing artists; you've seen their work all over a snowboard or on an ad, but the public hasn't seen their fine art sides," Torrey says. "And those are all outlets of creative expression, so it's only natural that they intersect."

MUTUAL PROGRESSION

For both Torrey and Mark, one of the most fulfilling aspects of overseeing the gallery has involved forming lasting relationships with emerging and established artists like local painters Ben Brough and Robert "Sticky" Shaw as well as woodcutting giant Dennis McNett, who has produced art and graphics for brands including Volcom, Vans and Anti-Hero skateboards.

"It's kind of like creating a family network," Torrey muses. "Seeing some of these guys grow has been very, very cool. ... We [had a solo show] in June with Sticky. He was one of the first shows

that I had, and I remember that I squeezed him in between two shows. I had a two-week block, and he said, 'I'll take it!' To see him progress and to see his collector base grow—that's really cool."

The gallery, too, grew over its first three years in operation and, in August 2013, Torrey and Mark relocated to an airy space off Pacific Coast Highway in the up-and-coming HIP District that stretches from Thalia Street to Bluebird Canyon Drive. "I think this section of town is really great for art," Torrey says of the new space, which is conveniently located just steps away from Thalia Surf Shop and Handplant skate shop.

Also contributing to the expansion is a landmark partnership with Vans that has added dimension to the gallery's roster of artists. Like most of AR4T's relationships, the pairing developed organically; Torrey, whose husband works on the corporate side of Vans, decided to approach the company's leadership last year with a proposal after noticing that many of the artists she was working with had connections to the skateboarding powerhouse.

"Vans had just put together an art committee, and they're doing a lot more with artists," she explains. "... We're the first gallery that Vans is supporting like this. ... I feel really fortunate that they selected us to partner with—it's been awesome so far." Such partnerships have become increasingly common over the past 10 years among brands like RVCA, which launched its Artist Network Program to support visual artists and musicians, and Volcom, whose team of artists is nearly as robust as its team of competitive skaters.

Over the past nine months, the relationship between AR4T and Vans has produced a



Music is often a part of the creative atmosphere at AR4T.



Vans artist Rich Jacobs painted a mural on a wall of the gallery's patio.

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Muralist Zio Ziegler, who had a solo exhibit at AR4T in January, was among the major players featured in a show at the gallery in partnership with Vans.

range of memorable shows from major players like muralist Zio Ziegler, digital designer Don Pendleton and award-winning painter Russ Pope, whose work was spotlighted this past April in a joint exhibition with skateboarding legend Neil Blender. Neil is no stranger to creative innovation, having pioneered classic tricks like the lien air (lien is Neil spelled backward) and being one of the first skaters to add his own art to a pro model skate deck. “Before that, there were artists doing work and putting it on decks, but Neil was the first one to say, ‘This is me, and this is what I want to do,’” Torrey recalls. “It shaped that entire attitude and culture of skateboarding.”

The collaboration also has brought the gallery a greater degree of financial security in a business that’s notoriously unstable. “[When we relocated to the HIP District,] we doubled our space and, financially, we were going to be taking some more risks by having more rent,” Torrey says. “I definitely feel like it’s our partnerships that have allowed us to stay here. Our partnership with Vans has allowed us to grow.”

INTENDED EFFECTS

But growing their own gallery isn’t Torrey and Mark’s only objective—they’re quick to emphasize

that the endgame is much more complex than that. They’re committed to helping build a stronger creative community in Laguna, a city that’s acclaimed for its arts but also known as something of a tourist town. “[Many people who visit Laguna] aren’t people who are here every month and can come to your openings and see what you’re doing,” Mark says, stressing the difficulty of gaining a local following in a place that most people consider a vacation destination rather than a home.

Still, they’ve managed to weave together a network of like-minded galleries and loyal friends over the past four years, many of whom made the transition with Torrey and Mark from the Main Beach space to their new location in the HIP District. One of those friends, mixed media artist David Blake, began exhibiting with AR4T in October 2011 during a rock ‘n’ roll-tinged group show called “Heaven’s on Fire.”

“It was a great experience for me, and I immediately had a sense that Torrey was building something unique and special that didn’t exist in Laguna or elsewhere in Orange County, for that matter,” David says of the show and gallery. He describes working with Torrey and Mark as “incredibly positive” and has continued to exhibit with AR4T over the past three years,

his most recent show being “Greetings From the OC,” staged in March 2014.

“I genuinely respect [Torrey and Mark] and have gotten to know them on a personal level,” he continues. “I feel as though we’ve sort of grown up together in a way, and they’ve given me an amazing opportunity to continue to push myself as an artist. ... They have been willing to take risks by showing emerging artists that other galleries might not show.”

Chantal deFelice, the gallery’s manager as well as an exhibited artist at AR4T, also feels incredibly supported. And not only where the gallery is concerned but also in terms of sales and promotion. “We are much more than ‘artists’ to Torrey and Mark,” she says. “It might sound to hokey to refer to the ‘AR4T family,’ but it really is an amazing community that has coalesced in this space and in the gallery’s virtual presence. In the last [several] months since I’ve also been working at the gallery, I have seen even more confirmation that selling art does not have to be a soulless, competitive venture as some aspects of the art world would have you believe.”

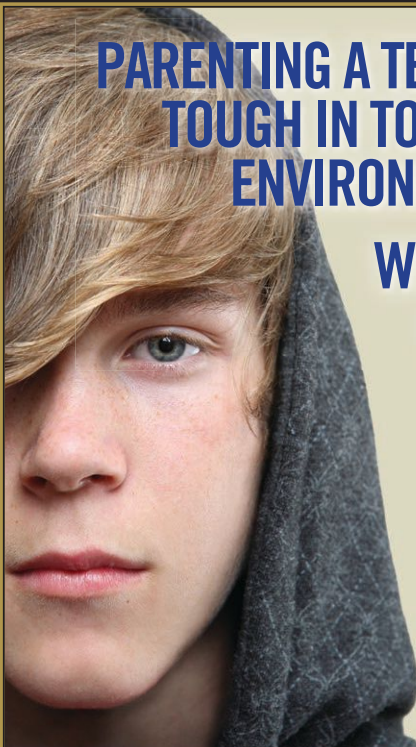
Torrey stays connected to those artists and the greater community through AR4T’s online presence and a second website that she maintains, OC Artists Republic, which showcases contemporary galleries across Orange County. She also serves as a board member for First Thursdays Art Walk, an event in which AR4T has participated since its opening in 2010.

“I do feel like over the past four years, there’s been this kind of camaraderie developing—not just among the contemporary galleries but all of the Art Walk galleries,” she says. With education in mind, she and Mark hope that AR4T will become a resource both for collectors and anyone who appreciates art or craves the friendship that develops from regularly visiting a neighborhood gallery.

Most importantly, they’d like to boost Laguna’s reputation as a cutting-edge arts enclave that rivals cities LA and San Francisco. “Laguna has such a great, diverse art scene,” Torrey adds. “I think it’d be cool to have more awareness, because there’s great stuff going on here.” **LBM**



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BOUNDLESS SUMMER DAYS

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

BY TESS EYRICH

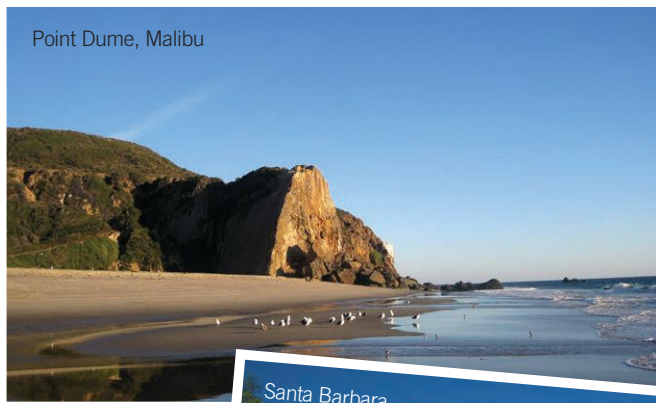
I t's summer again in Laguna, that special time of year when full days at the beach and late brunches at some of the many singular restaurants become a bit more commonplace. We live in a beautiful town—a place so remarkable that it's often

difficult to leave (traffic aside). What's more, Southern California's rugged coastline is ripe for exploration, so pack up the car and hit the road for a summertime adventure through a patchwork of the area's most timeless beach retreats.

San Diego



Point Dume, Malibu



Santa Barbara



LOS ANGELES
Long Beach

San Diego

CHANNEL ISLANDS



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

SAN DIEGO STYLE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Enjoy a steak sandwich at Carnitas' Snack Shack.



Opening day at Del Mar racetrack is July 17.

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

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

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



AN LA STORY, RETOLD

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

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

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

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

Clockwise from top left:
Miso-glazed black cod at
Moonshadows Malibu;
Santa Monica Pier;
Getty Villa



J. PAUL GETTY TRUST

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

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

International influences also take center stage at the Getty Villa, a multilevel, indoor-outdoor

complex that contains more than 44,000 Greek, Roman and Etruscan antiquities. The impressive space was built in the 1970s to mimic a first-century Mediterranean villa, and its pools, manicured gardens and 450-seat outdoor theater are testaments to J. Paul Getty's remarkable vision.

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



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



MUSEUM OF VENTURA COUNTY

SANTA BARBARA IN BLOOM

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

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

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

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

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



MICHAEL HARLAN TURKEL

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

But you'll need at least another half-day to fully take in one of the most fascinating landmarks the

area has to offer. Located just miles from Santa Barbara in Montecito, Ganna Walska Lotusland is an expansive 37-acre property complete with more than 15 enchanting gardens. The gardens make up just one part of the preserved estate of the late Madame Ganna Walska, a Polish opera singer and horticulturalist; touring them is a transformative experience, which can be arranged by appointment only, so be sure to book reservations in advance.

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

REST YOUR HEAD

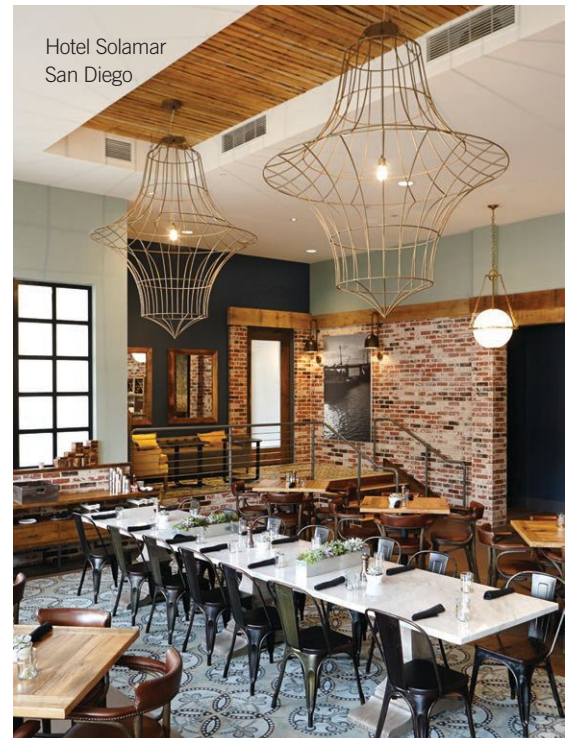
Much more than just pit stops between destinations on the map, these hotels and resorts offer luxury accommodations and amenities guaranteed to enhance any Southern California road trip.

SAN DIEGO/LA JOLLA

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

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

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



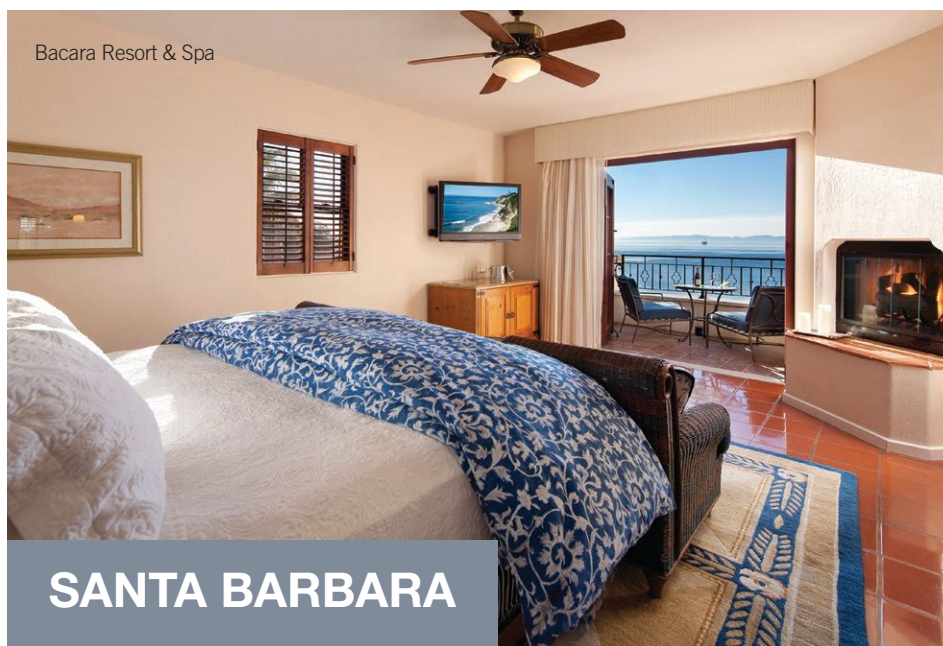
LOS ANGELES

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

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

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

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



SANTA BARBARA

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

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

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



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LAGUNA'S HABITAT

DEEPLY ROOTED

The residents on El Camino del Mar not only have built families, but also a sense of community over the generations they've lived on the street.

By Margie Monin Dombrowski | Photos by Jody Tiongco

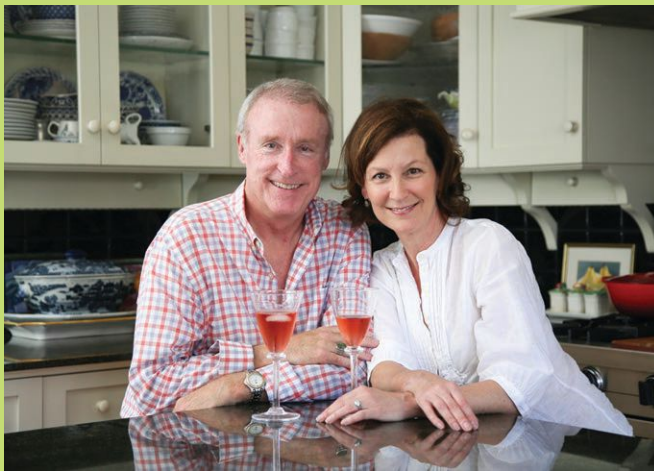


Living on El Camino del Mar means that all the city of Laguna Beach has to offer is a mere footsteps away—Main Beach, Sleepy Hollow, art galleries, the farmers market, local shops, restaurants and the high school track—but that's not the only reason why folks choose to raise their families and stay on this street for generations. While some would think that walking distance to all these attractions is one of the most desirable traits for this neighborhood, it's more so the sidewalk-lined streets, white picket fences, homes built with traditional character and charm, and overall sense of community that make it the quintessential street to call home.

"Driving around the village in Laguna, this street is very different," El Camino del Mar resident John Hovanesian says. "Someone once described this as the street where the Cleavers live. It's a neighborhood where most people who live here have been here for 20-plus years. It's the exception. People just don't seem to leave the street."



FAMILY FACTS: Kevin and Stephanie Donovan, Jinx and Jasper (retired racing greyhounds from Mexico) **DAY JOB:** Kevin is a partner in Laguna-based GlenOaks Yogurt; Stephanie is co-founder of a women's fundraising group, Womenade, and a former volunteer reading tutor at Top of the World Elementary School. **SPACE:** 2,000 square feet, three bedrooms, three bathrooms **HOUSE TIMELINE:** Built around 1945, purchased in 1987, kitchen remodeled in 1998 **FABULOUS FEATURE:** An antique chest repurposed as a sink vanity with granite countertop in a downstairs bathroom



COLLECTED AND ECLECTIC

There's something nice about the continuity of knowing people for almost 30 years, that if you ever needed something, you could count on [them]," says Stephanie Donovan, who's lived on El Camino del Mar since 1987 with her husband, Kevin, and their two children, who are now on their own. Back during the 1993 Laguna Beach fire, Stephanie recalls neighbors hosing down roofs to save the other homes on the street—a memory that has showed her how special this place really is. New families have moved in since then, but the neighborhood "still has that feeling of a little community within itself that's really special."

Built in 1945, the Donovan home was designed in a subtle Monterey colonial style with a covered balcony stretching across the front of the house on the second story. Inside, a wood open-beam ceiling and hardwood floors create warmth and make the space inviting. "It has a homey, cozy feel," Stephanie says. "It's the one comment we get when people walk in the house. I think that has a lot to do with having an older home that has a little more character and details."

With an eye for bright colors, the Donavans fill their home with many unique collections, which include everything from old Laguna landscape paintings and still life paintings of fruit (one of Stephanie's obsessions) to turn-of-the-century

seltzer bottles, blue-and-white dishes and pottery. "We've been married almost 39 years," Stephanie says. "So, we have a lot of pieces that we've picked up over time, either at the antique store or collections of things, that mean something to us [and] are pieces we like and figure we'll make it work somewhere."

French doors in the family room open up to the lush garden outside, where Kevin and Stephanie grow their own fruits, vegetables, perennial plants, flowers and bulbs. Garden views from the living room, family room and kitchen connect the interior to the outdoor landscape. "Most days, we leave our doors open so our dogs can wander in and out," Stephanie says.

FAMILY FACTS:

Christopher and Deborah Vanley, Dickens (soft-coated wheaten terrier), Charlie (shih tzu) and Gracie (mini poodle mix) DAY

JOB: Christopher is a pathologist for Mission Hospital; Deborah is a retired pharmacist. SPACE: 2,300 square feet, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

HOUSE TIMELINE: Built in 1935, purchased in 1983, kitchen remodeled in 1990, exterior renovated and bathroom remodeled in early 2000s

FABULOUS FEATURE: The mahogany, arts-and-crafts front door featuring art glass by Laguna designer Craig Herbert



ARTS AND CRAFTS REVIVAL

When the Vanleys moved into their 1935 home on El Camino del Mar, “it just looked like a boring stucco house on the outside,” admits homeowner Deborah Vanley. On the inside, however, there were arts and crafts elements just waiting to be revealed. The Vanleys then hired Laguna designer Gregg Abel to bring out the home’s true potential and streamline the overall look.

Making over the home’s exterior gave it a more authentic arts and crafts flavor, which features a stone facade with brick accents, a wood-shingle roof, leaded wood-framed windows, outdoor arts-and-crafts-style lanterns and lighting fixtures, and a mahogany front door with an iridescent art glass window by Laguna designer Craig

Herbert. An eyebrow window, a detail that was popularized in the late 19th century, peeks out over a front bay window.

One of the home’s original features, the interior wood paneling, is locally referred to as “Laguna paneling” because of its presence in many historic Laguna homes. “Most of the inside is all wood; it doesn’t show fingerprints, so it was a great place to raise kids,” says Deborah, whose children have since grown up and moved out. “To this day, you can still get this wood from the lumberyard in the canyon. It’s kind of indestructible. If something happens to one panel, you can just go buy a new one and replace it.”

In the living room, mission-style lanterns

hang from a dark open-beam ceiling, while several period arts and crafts pieces are sprinkled throughout the home, from a Stickley chair to pottery and lamps, which blend in with the warm background.

Bringing the outside in and the inside out enhances the home’s welcoming vibe. “All major rooms open out to the courtyard with French doors,” Deborah says. The kitchen’s sliding window opens up to the outside, “so people could be out on the courtyard enjoying a cocktail, and I could still converse with them while I finish making dinner,” she adds.

“Where we live, we could eat outside almost half the year, so we have most of our evening meals out there in the nice weather.”



FAMILY FACTS:

John and Tanya Hovanesian and their three children (ages 4, 8 and 11) **DAY JOB:** John is an eye surgeon for Harvard Eye Associates in Laguna Hills and the commissioner for the Orange County Council of Boy Scouts of America; Tanya is a full-time mom, Sunday School teacher and Scouts volunteer. **SPACE:** 3,500 square feet, five bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms **HOUSE TIMELINE:** Built in the mid-1950s, purchased in 2006 **FABULOUS FEATURE:** The magic theater in John's home office



FAMILY-FRIENDLY HAVEN

For the Hovanesians, who keep busy with volunteer work and their three children, virtually everything inside their home is comfortable, casual and centered around the family. “It’s the kind of house you raise kids in,” John Hovanesian says of his California Cape Cod-style home with layered yellow siding and a white picket fence, where the family has lived since 2006.

At the heart of it all is the family’s kitchen. “That makes it very livable because it’s not only physically in the center of the house, but it’s also where we live,” wife Tanya Hovanesian says. One rounded end of the granite-topped kitchen island with barstools provides a spot for food prep, homework, sitting with laptops when the

kids are in bed and, of course, dining together. “Everything empties out into that one section of the house where the kitchen island is,” she adds. “When people come over, that’s where everybody congregates. We always try to have as many family sit-down meals there as possible.”

While most of the home takes on a more traditional aesthetic, the family’s living room is decorated in a style Tanya refers to as “tribal.” An eclectic mix of ethnic furnishings and accessories inject personality into the space: Navajo-patterned draperies, Kazakh area rugs, a multicolored Moroccan table and an antique Indian-painted clothing chest.

Paintings by artists in Armenia add color to the walls and help tie the look together. John

does a lot of volunteer work there, and often brings back new pieces to display that remind him of his travels and give a nod to the family’s Armenian ancestry.

Other fun details give the home a kid-friendly twist. Outside in a small yard, for example, a playhouse for the Hovanesian kids is designed as a mini replica of the family’s home, complete with yellow siding.

In John’s office, a magic theater and stage with red velvet draperies and gold tassels allows the children to carry on the family tradition (John used to be a magician and, now, the Hovanesians’ children have taken on the hobby as well). “It’s a fun place to entertain and be entertained,” John says. **LBM**

REAL ESTATE *Showcase*



TOUR LAGUNA'S TOP HOMES

FROM QUAIN T BEACH COTTAGES TO LUXURY HILLTOP ESTATES, LAGUNA Beach 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: 544 Emerald Bay, Laguna Beach
Offering price: \$6,995,000
Agents: Jim Ardery and Diane Cannon
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties
Contact info: Jim: 949-887-3823; Diane: 949-230-1200

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15 Blue Lagoon, Laguna Beach (Adjacent to Montage Resort) **\$1,599,000** Rent \$5k/mo furn.
Front Row Luxury Condo with Ocean Views, 2 Bdrm + 2 Baths, 1,500 sq.ft.

COMING SOON!



Monarch Beach Resort, Dana Point (Price Avail upon request) Exclusive St. Regis Resort Sea Villa. Enjoy Resort Pools/Spa/Fitness & Room Srv. 4 Bdrm + Office, 4 Baths 3,300+ sq.ft.

IN ESCROW



15 Vista Luci, Newport Coast – Pelican Hill/Montecito residence **\$4,918,000**
Panoramic Harbor View. Pool/Spa. Luxury 4,805 sq.ft. 5 Bdrm + 5 Baths.

JUST SOLD



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

JUST SOLD



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

JUST SOLD



175/177 Dumond Dr, Victoria Beach **\$3,100,000**
Spectacular Contemporary Duplex - Steps from Sand. 3 Bdrm + 3 Baths. 2,500 sq.ft.

LAGUNA BEACH • MONARCH BEACH • LAGUNA NIGUEL • DANA POINT • NEWPORT COAST
COASTAL SALES ~ LUXURY RENTALS

#1 OF ORANGE COUNTY'S TOP 100* **Awarded to Jim Ardery & Diane Cannon of** **Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties**

Jim Ardery and Diane Cannon, of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties' Laguna Beach office, are ranked #1 in Orange County for the first quarter of 2014. The team was also recently honored with the Chairman's Circle Diamond. The achievement ranks Ardery and Cannon at the top ½ of 1 percent of the brokerage's vast national network of sales professionals.

Ardery and Cannon focus on the marketing and sale of fine homes and luxury estates throughout the California Riviera. The #1 ranked team in coastal real estate in Orange County for their brokerage for many years, they have excelled as a result of their high ethical standards and comprehensive market knowledge.

"Jim and Diane bring a tremendous amount of value to their clients' transactions," said Jim Vermilya, manager of the Laguna Beach office. "Their professional approach to real estate and willingness to collaborate with their colleagues on behalf of their clients has allowed them to build an outstanding reputation."

Previously the broker/owner of three successful Laguna Beach-area real estate brokerages, Ardery's background in the local market spans more than 35 years. With a large network of professional alliances and exceptional business sense, he is known for his ability to find hidden listings for his buyers and deliver positive results for his sellers.

Leveraging her complex understanding of Emerald Bay and the surrounding communities for the benefit of her clients, Cannon excels at building relationships. Highly skilled at negotiating and marketing, she explained that the team's success with representing sellers has been due to their focus on advertising in the most widely read print and online destinations.

"We believe that the selling of your home is so important that we never use assistants to do our work for us. That means every showing and/ or interaction with the prospective buyer and seller involves us. We both work every day for our sellers and buyers from the first showings to negotiating the offers and we are there for all of the inspections to make sure everything goes perfectly until the close of escrow. We are amazed that some agents take a listing and that is the last you will see them until an offer comes in, that's not the way we work, or run our business."

Jim Ardery and Diane Cannon may be contacted through Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties, at 949-887-3823 or 949-230-1200, respectively; or via email at JimArdery@bhhsca.com, or diane@lbhomebuying.com.



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1347 CATALINA, LAGUNA BEACH **\$1,429,000**
CHARMING COTTAGE in Laguna Village. Beautifully remodeled with large master bedroom and bath, second bedroom with bath and an office area. Two car garage. Very close to the beach, shopping, and restaurants.



PANORAMIC OCEAN VIEW HOME **\$1,895,000**
In Top Of The World...expanded 3BD/2BA home has it all. Large master bedroom, beautiful open kitchen with casual dining island, and Costa Esmeralda Italian Granite. Large family room & ocean view deck.



AWARD WINNING CONTEMPORARY **\$2,295,000**
Award Winning Home by Al Lopez Architect. Spectacular entry waterfall, located on a cul-de-sac in an upscale neighborhood of Laguna Beach. Highly upgraded with stone floors. 3BD, huge family room. Formal living room & adjacent music room or office. On the top floor there is a work-out room or 4BD with great ocean views. Over 3700 sq. ft. of perfection.



CHARMING, TO SAY THE LEAST! **\$1,690,000**
NESTLED INTO THE TREES...Gorgeous 3 bedrooms, 3½ baths, large living room with fireplace. Great ocean, Catalina, and sunset views from the upstairs and from the large entertainment patio. Spacious **four car garage** with additional street parking. Located at the top of Alta Vista.



DROP DEAD VIEWS, THREE ARCH BAY **\$7,500,000**
4BD/4½BA. Courtyard entry. French limestone, granite, & much more. Located on the point, surrounded by the Ocean. Great oceanfront decks. One of the best buys on the oceanfront at this time!



CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE **\$1,695,000**
Wonderful, light, bright and airy home nestled into the hillside. Great views! The city trolley stops in front and goes to beach. Open floor plan with large living room & gorgeous stone fireplace, opening onto the kitchen and separate dining room, great bricked terrace and large yard with ocean views.

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- Chairman's Circle Diamond Award
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- 34 years in Laguna Real Estate
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Laguna Beach, CA
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\$9,995,000

Represented by
Hillary Caston (949) 922-8490
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Laguna Niguel, CA
4 bedrooms, 6 baths
\$3,188,000

Represented by
Alona Tetter
(949) 433-5255



Laguna Beach, CA
4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths
\$3,300,000

Represented by
Pam Levin
(949) 887-9808



DANA POINT \$2,995,000 : PRICE REDUCTION
341 MONARCH BAY DRIVE

Beachfront bungalow with four bedrooms and three baths.
 Whitewater, coastline, beach and Catalina views.



LAGUNA NIGUEL \$2,599,000-\$2,799,000
59 HASTINGS

Exquisite family home. Six bedrooms, five baths with over 4,700 square feet.
 Pool/spa, panoramic, valley and ocean views in a gated community.



DANA POINT \$2,350,000
183 MONARCH BAY DRIVE

Oceanfront gated community. Over 5,000 square foot
 single level home on a 15,000 square foot lot.



LAGUNA BEACH \$2,150,000
31423 COAST HIGHWAY #59

Beachfront single level condo. Three bedroom, two bath corner unit.
 Guard gated community with pool, spa, gym and elevator.



SAN CLEMENTE \$1,775,000
1529 BUENA VISTA - A

Furnished oceanfront single level condo. 1,800 square foot two bedroom,
 two and a half bath with 1,100 square foot terrace. Gated building.



DANA POINT \$8,000/LEASE
42 MONARCH BAY DRIVE

Across from oceanfront. Three bedroom, three bath, den,
 and formal dining room. Coastline and beach views.

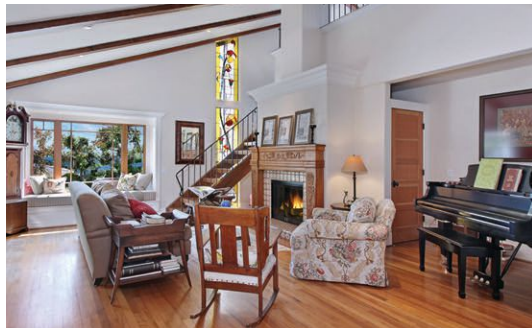


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CHRIS WARREN | 949.493.6779
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LAGUNA BEACH \$2,495,000
1930 CATALINA

A rare find in one of Laguna Beach's most coveted neighborhoods, this beautifully appointed, welcoming home offers single-level living at its finest. Designed for privacy, this Gregg Abel inspiration radiates Laguna's charm. Surrounded by gardens and trees, set back from downtown, this serene residence is only minutes from the surf and sand. The gracious home showcases a modern design with relaxed organic finishes. The moment you enter the Dutch door - an open floor plan with original hardwood floors, unique stone, custom wood-beams, crown moldings, and new windows. Entertain or dine al fresco in the comfortable outdoor living room equipped with all the amenities. Delightful patios offer vistas of gardens and the Pacific. The gourmet kitchen equipped with a "La Cornue" range sets the stage to the expansive living spaces with views of the surrounding nature and ocean. The residence comprises three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms with a second floor loft. The master suite features a large walk-in closet and lush bath with soaking tub perched above a private Shangri-la of green foliage. Do not miss this exceptional offering in Laguna's Woods Cove.



DANIELLE WILSON | 949.584.6469
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COLLEEN KELLY | 949.274.2272
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Donna Pfanner has been honored with international recognition earned as a top-producing agent, but her greatest satisfaction comes from the pleasure she's had serving clients in southern California's breathtaking coastal communities. Pfanner is deeply knowledgeable about the area's amenities, schools and enclaves – particularly Three Arch Bay, where she has lived with her family since 2001, served on the Architectural Review Board, and was proudly invited to join the HÔM Sotheby's International Realty team with an office adjacent to Three Arch Bay servicing Laguna Beach, nearby Monarch Beach, and Dana Point.

Her success is a reflection of her ability to listen to clients, thoroughly understand their objectives, and focus energy on ensuring their goals are achieved, whether she's guiding first-time buyers or developing a sales strategy targeted to HÔM Sotheby's international clientele. She's also earned a reputation for discretion and confidentiality – qualities that are essential in high-profile transactions, such as a private sale in Laguna Beach that was among the area's most prestigious.

A graduate of Pepperdine University with a degree in business management, Pfanner entered real estate in 2005 following a successful career in publishing with industry giants Condé Nast and Times Mirror. Her marketing, time management and negotiation skills quickly made her a standout in luxury real estate, with high client referral rates and repeat business and outstanding relationships with colleagues and clients alike.

Areas of Expertise:

Three Arch Bay, Laguna Beach

Monarch Beach, Dana Point

DONNA PFANNER | 949.342.3682 | dpfanner@homgroup.com

LUXURY PROPERTIES BY SHAUNA COVINGTON

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1685 Del Mar Ave. | LAGUNA BEACH
 4 bedrooms 3.5 baths 5,700 sq. ft.
 \$3,395,000 | 1685delmar.net



32041 Del Obispo | SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
 4 bedroom 5.5 bath 6,500 sq. ft. 2.25 Acres
 \$5,600,000 | 32041delobispo.com



22902 Oceanbreeze Way | LAGUNA NIGUEL
 Ocean View 4 bedroom 5.5 bath 5,301 sq. ft.
 \$5,495,000 | 22902oceanbreezeWay.net



300 E. Bay Ave. | NEWPORT BEACH
 5 Bedroom 4.5 bath 3,200 sq. ft.
 \$2,849,000 | 300bayave.com



319 Agate Street | LAGUNA BEACH
 4 Bedroom 2.5 Bath 2,800 sq. ft.
 \$3,295,000 | 319agate.com



31525 Bluff Drive | LAGUNA BEACH
 5 Bedroom 4.5 Bath 3,409 sq. ft.
 \$3,499,000 | 31525bluff.com



24691 El Camino Capistrano | DANA POINT
 5 bedrooms 3.5 bath 4,237 sq. ft.
 \$2,650,000 | 24691ElCaminoCapistrano.com



1499 Terrace Way | LAGUNA BEACH
 4 bedrooms 3 baths 2,822 sq. ft. Ocean View.
 \$1,695,000 | 1499TerraceWay.com



486 Locust Street | LAGUNA BEACH
 Single Story North Laguna. 3 bedroom 2.5 bath.
 \$2,399,000 | 486locust.com

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LAGUNA BEACH | 1624 Hillcrest Drive Offered for \$1,625,000
Prime North Laguna beach close location. Single-level home boasting pride of ownership with an inviting, remodeled and open design.



LAGUNA BEACH | 729 Marlin Offered for \$3,195,000
Soft contemporary home located above Victoria Beach and the famed Montage Resort. Panoramic coastline and island views. Four-car garage.



LAGUNA BEACH | 1165 Skyline Drive Offered for \$2,195,000
Beautifully remodeled Cape Cod home with ocean views in highly desirable Mystic Hills neighborhood.



LAGUNA BEACH | 613 Catalina Offered for \$1,795,000
Exquisite, renovated cottage only blocks to the beach. Entertainer's backyard includes luscious landscaping.



LAGUNA BEACH | 11 Castle Rock Road Offered for \$929,000
Enjoy this private and tranquil home on over one-third of an acre with panoramic views of Laguna Canyon.



NEWPORT BEACH | 57 Sea Pine Lane Offered for \$959,000
Rare find. Overlooking the sixth fairway of Big Canyon Golf course. Remodeled two bedroom plus an office. Quality, value and location.



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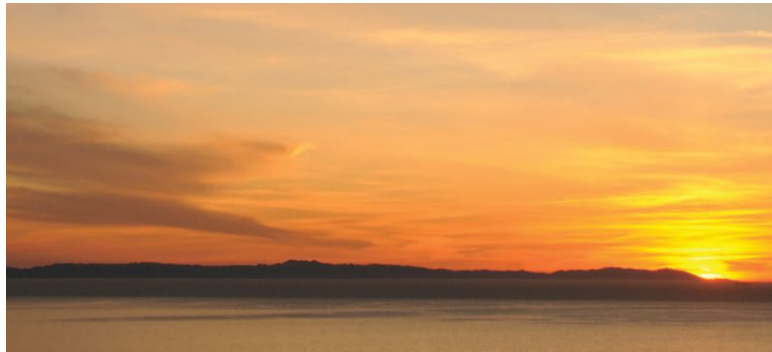
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LAGUNA BEACH | 2586 Temple Hills Drive Offered for \$2,499,000
Enjoy panoramic ocean, Catalina Island, city lights and canyon views from this unique home. Sitting on over one acre of land in desirable Temple Hills.



LAGUNA BEACH | 202 Fern Street Offered for \$1,995,000
Scheduled completion for August 30, 2014. Brand new construction with ocean views. Approximately 2,000 square feet with three bedrooms.

RECENT SALES BY MARCUS SKENDERIAN



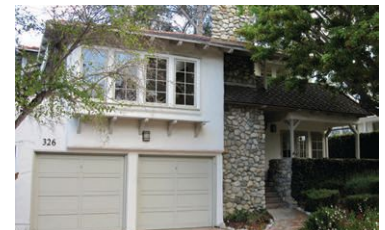
LAGUNA BEACH
1645 Tahiti*



LAGUNA BEACH
672 Wendt Terrace*



LAGUNA BEACH
1395 Temple Hills Drive**



LAGUNA BEACH
326 Ruby**



LAGUNA BEACH
338 Lewis**



LAGUNA BEACH
3023 Mountain View**



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966 Coast View**



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VILLA

VILLAREALESTATE.COM



31401 Mar Vista Avenue | LAGUNA BEACH | \$14,400,000 | 31401marvistaavenue.com

Big Sur meets Laguna Beach in this approx 11-acre estate with incredible ocean, coast and canyon views. A private drive leads you over a wooden bridge to this property, perched high above Tablerock Beach and Secret Cove in South Laguna and surrounded by natural preserved open space for the ultimate in privacy.



32091 Point Place | LAGUNA BEACH | \$5,950,000 | 32091PointPlace.com

Staked out in the 1930's as one of the prime oceanfront residential locations in Laguna Beach and architecturally lauded by Sunset Magazine in 1950's, this very special property has not been available for purchase since 1971.



MIKE JOHNSON

949 698 1302

mjohnson@villarealestate.com

thecoastalconfidential.com

**456 Locust Street**

NORTH LAGUNA BEACH | \$3,995,000

This extraordinary, single-story, traditional style, white clapboard-sided, vintage home is located in North Laguna Beach on two legal lots in the coveted "Tree Streets" neighborhood. Sitting behind a tall privacy hedge, this rare gem home is completely remodeled and was expertly expanded by the designer owner; the home bristles with the charm and character of yesteryear, yet is completely updated for modern living. In addition, the home features gleaming hardwood floors, shiny white paneled walls, a wet bar, a spacious living room with fireplace, a formal dining room, a luxurious master suite, three additional bedrooms and an abundance of French doors. The property is finished with a 60' lap pool, spa, a wine cellar, detached garage and ocean views. 456locust.com

**STEVE HIGH**

949 874 4724
shigh@villarealestate.com

EVAN CORKETT

949 285 1055
ecorkett@villarealestate.com
highcorkett.com

**LINDSAY BIBB**

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LAGUNA LIDO #304

RARELY AVAILABLE!! Wonderful Oceanfront Condo, Center Front, In the Cove Building in the Laguna Lido! Beautifully Designed and Appointed Granite, Cabinetry, Oceanfront Master Bedroom and Two Gorgeous Travertine Baths! Deck off the Living Room for Total Oceanfront Enjoyment with a BBQ and Raised Table and Chairs for Entertaining. The Lido is like a Mini Resort, Right on Lovely Totuava Beach... with an ELEVATOR TO THE SAND! **Offered for \$2,495,000**

IN ESCROW!



27 TOULON, LAGUNA SUR, LAGUNA NIGUEL

Enjoy Catalina, Coastline and Sunset views from this Spacious Three Bedroom Laguna Sur Townhome with Three Fireplaces, Gorgeous and Spacious Granite Kitchen and Wine Area. Wonderful Floor Plan! Laguna Sur has Fabulous Amenities, including Two Pool / Spa areas, Tennis and Endless Walking Paths with Forever Coastline Vistas!

Reduced to \$999,000. Call Suzanne to show!

WRAP AROUND OCEAN VIEW DECK



LAGUNA LIDO #101

Feel the Warmth of the Sun and Ocean Breezes as you Enjoy your Meals on Your Large, Private Wrap-Around Deck, with Amazing Ocean Views! Custom Craftsmanship Throughout, Lovely Arched Doorways, Beamed Ceilings and Raw Italian Marble Floors. Charming and Delightful! Elevator to the sand, Beach Lockers, Fabulous Gym, Saline Pool, Steam Room... Come and Enjoy! **Offered for \$2,695,000**

TOP FLOOR – NEWLY REFRESHED!



LAGUNA ROYALE #84

Top Floor Unit has Incredible Views of the Laguna Coastline... and and Elevator to the Beach! Gorgeous Coastline, Catalina and Sunset Views from this Top Floor unit! Versatile unit has two sets of Sliding doors, one on either side of the Large Private Deck. New Appliances include Stove, Refrigerator and Washer and Dryer...Skylight in the second bathroom.

Offered for \$1,450,000



Suzanne Robinson

CalBRE #00915756



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Corona Del Mar | \$1,900,000



San Juan Capistrano | \$4,988,000



North Tustin | \$2,700,000



Laguna Niguel | \$4,488,000



Laguna Beach | \$5,988,000



Irvine | \$9,088,000



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1305 CIRCLE WAY | A NORTH LAGUNA TREASURE | \$2,895,000

Rare opportunity to purchase this enchanting North Laguna treasure majestically perched on the elevated corner of Cliff Drive and Circle Way, directly across the street from the entrance to famous Crescent Bay Beach! Featuring three bedrooms, three bath and two very large decks capturing spectacular ocean and Catalina sunset views! Highly coveted Circle Way is a tiny enclave of charming homes nestled on a cup-de-sac with two entrances to the beach. This very emotional home also has a private back yard, 2 car oversized garage and an abundance of potential to create your own personalized Beach house or vacation home. 1305CircleWay.com



2790 QUEDA WAY | 2,395,000

Dramatic white water and rugged coastline views epitomize the allure of this spacious home nestled at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, within walking distance to charming Victoria Beach, restaurants and cafes. Romantic master suite with fireplace, walk-in wardrobe, panoramic views and spa bath with steam shower. 2 additional en-suite bedrooms are included. Large open kitchen with Viking appliances and sleek breakfast counter for cozy dining. Formal dining room, living room and family room. Wonderful opportunity to transform this home to your personal tastes. Room to create an fabulous view deck over garage. 2790QuedaWay.com

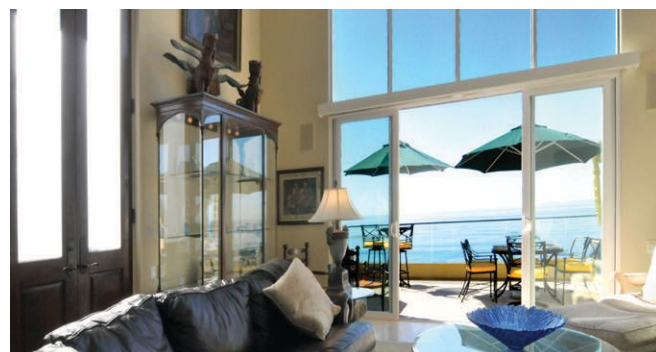
Gloria Jewell: Bureau of Real Estate BRE # 00810998

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Beach Front Living in Laguna

Rare Opportunity — Sophisticated Ocean Front Condominium



939 Gaviota Drive

2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths • View living room with a private beach-front terrace • View dining room & renovated kitchen • View master suite with balcony • Guest suite with luxe bath • Direct beach access plus private beach-side patio • Two car parking & storage • Walking distance to Main Beach & Village of Laguna Beach • Offered at \$3,500,000

www.939Gaviota.com



Pattie Lawton

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Alain Pinel Realtors

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Web: LawtonSF.com



Michael Lawton, CCIM/SIOR

BRE: 00475288

Lawton Real Estate

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Email: michael@lawtonre.com

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AZITASADEGHI

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2529 S. COAST HIGHWAY | LAGUNA BEACH | 12BD 11BA | LISTED AT \$30,000,000

A rare and exquisite gem on the California Riviera. The love story of Mariona, also known as Villa Rockledge, begins at the gate of this historic estate- one of the most spectacular homes in Laguna Beach. Built by the renowned developer Frank Miller of the Mission Inn, Riverside, CA. Known as the Castle by the Sea, this property has a 25,000 sq. ft. lot of uncompromising beauty. The estate includes 4 guest villas and has been restored and offers 12 bedrooms, 11 bathrooms, breathtaking ocean views, private parking for 12 cars, lush grounds and a private cove with a tidepool. This historic masterpiece is a rare find. MarionaLaguna.com



1715 OCEAN WAY | LAGUNA BEACH | 3BD 3.5BA | \$12,800,000 OR \$45,000/MO

Welcome to 1715 Ocean Way!!! Wow!! One of a Kind Oceanfront residence. Indoor /outdoor living with panoramic ocean views from every room. Hard to describe the sounds of crashing waves and magnificent, endless, forever ocean views from floor to ceiling seamless windows. This residence offers every amenity for beachside living. Three master bedrooms with en-suite. 1715OceanWay.com

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thec cliffrestaurant.com

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907 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-281-7383;
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surfandsandresort.com

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MONARCH BEACH

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TIVOLI TERRACE

650 Laguna Canyon Rd.; 949-494-9650;
tivoliterrace.com

TIVOLI TOO!

777 Laguna Canyon Rd.; 949-494-6044;
tivoli-too.com

Summer Fresh at Stonehill

The ever-evolving menu at Stonehill Tavern—at The St. Regis at Monarch Beach in Dana Point—reflects the incredibly artistic mind of Executive Chef Raj Dixit, and this summer's additions are no exception. With a strong focus on the freshest ingredients—the restaurant sources all produce within a 10-mile radius—Raj has created mouthwatering vegetable dishes that are the perfect complement to the already exceptional menu. For example, the “four o'clock tomatoes,” named for the time of day that they are picked for that evening's consumption, may very well be the most delicious you'll ever eat. Similarly, the shishito peppers with cilantro and garlic, and the “magic beans” (which magically disappear from the plate), will leave diners wondering how they ever scoffed at eating their veggies. Served alongside Raj's delectable pan-roasted skate wing or the new Asian-inspired ramen, which features freshly picked mushrooms and melt-in-your-mouth wagyu beef, the summer vegetable selection shines. And since you've had your greens, there's no need to feel guilty about ordering dessert. —B.B.



The summer menu at Stonehill Tavern features ingredients sourced within a 10-mile radius.



Elegant styling and breezy decor make up Ivory's dining room



Ivory's crabcakes arrive topped with a Thai chili aioli.



The goat cheese and beet salad is beautifully plated with fresh greens.

AN IVORY ESCAPE

Laguna Canyon's newest eatery provides a reprieve from the hustle and bustle of downtown amid airy decor and delicious cuisine.

By Bria Balliet | Photos by Jody Tiongco

UPON ARRIVING AT IVORY RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, WHICH is comfortably situated between the Sawdust Art Festival grounds and seven-degrees, the first thought to cross one's mind is undoubtedly, "Oh my goodness gracious, there's parking!" However, the convenience of finding a free spot to dock your vehicle is merely the first of many pleasant surprises that await those who visit Ivory.

Crossing the threshold into the establishment, one is immediately greeted with a sense of calm sophistication. White drapes and a marble bar top contrast beautifully with the dark wood furniture, the design scheme reflecting the elegantly modern taste of owner Marsha Benson. Hand-picking everything from the serene background music to the artwork on the walls, Marsha has created an escape that offers delicious food to boot.

Prior to its grand opening in May, the restaurant staff was able to hold a soft opening weekend, which, according to Marsha, allowed them to collect valuable opinions from guests and make strategic adjustments. The result is a brand-new restaurant that already has a strong handle on its recipes and gorgeous presentation of all its dishes.

To start off the meal, the Boom Boom Shrimp is a must-try appetizer. Lightly breaded and tossed in a sweet Thai chili glaze, the shrimp are delightfully crispy and surprisingly light. Or, for those who would prefer a more veggie-filled starter, the goat cheese and beet salad is refreshing and

perfect for scorching summer days. Beautifully plated, thick-cut slices of roasted red and yellow beets are accompanied by a spring mix of greens and topped with creamy goat cheese and chive oil. Flavorful and satisfying, it's easy to see why this is one of the eatery's most popular salads.

Other starters include a lobster and shrimp macaroni and cheese, crabcakes and prosciutto-topped bruschetta. And although it would be easy to fill up on Ivory's delectable appetizer selections, its entrees are absolutely worth saving room for.

The filet mignon portobello, for example, is served with garlic mashed potatoes and topped with sliced portobello mushrooms and a bearnaise sauce, packing tons of flavor. Another incredible entree is the braised short ribs. Tender rib meat is simmered until it is melt-in-your-mouth juicy, and then served up with savory white truffle risotto and seasonal veggies.

In addition, any seafood lover will be thrilled with the Chilean sea bass, which arrives smothered in a creamy lobster sauce and alongside fresh asparagus. Deliciously blackened on the outside, but still fresh and flaky, this dish exemplifies Abel's talent in the kitchen.

To cap the meal, Abel offers an ever-changing selection of homemade desserts that vary based on seasonal ingredients and what inspires the chef. It is this dedication to fresh ingredients, the beautiful presentations and, above all, the delicious menu that point toward a very successful future for Ivory. *LBM*

IVORY RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

853 Laguna Canyon Rd.; 949-715-0261; ivoryrestaurantandlounge.com

HOURS: Tuesday-Sunday, 5-10 p.m.

TIP: Don't skip the sauce! Chef Abel Gonzales' house-made sauces give flavor and depth to every dish.



Chowder Fries smothered in clam chowder and bacon



Slapfish boasts a simple “grab ‘n’ go” setup.



The lobster roll is made with 100 percent Maine lobster served in a buttery roll.

SEAFOOD WITH STYLE

Branded as a “modern seafood shack,” Slapfish swims into Laguna Beach with its fresh-from-the-sea cuisine.

By Alli Tong | Photos by Jody Tiongco

FROM FOOD TRUCK TO GASTRONOMIC EMPIRE, SLAPFISH IS literally taking the world by storm. In just a few short years, the restaurant has grown from a food truck roaming the streets of Southern California in 2011 to its second OC location in Laguna Beach in May to an international franchise with locations set to open in the Middle East, including Dubai. “We definitely weren’t expecting it,” says owner and chef Andrew Gruel about expanding overseas.

And it seems like “unexpected” is a word that has come across Andrew’s table more than once since he’s headed up the burgeoning eatery that opened its first brick-and-mortar restaurant in Huntington Beach in 2012. Take, for instance, the surprising combination of clam chowder and french fries, which Andrew dubs Chowder Fries. This “happy accident” came into fruition a few years ago while Andrew was running the Slapfish food truck at the OC Fair & Event Center and had an unforeseen flash of hungry diners. During the mad rush, he threw together the fries and chowder, and the combo took off.

While the food truck is no more, its magnetism has kept going strong, bringing it to Laguna Beach. And it’s the perfect fit for our seaside town, actually. Since the restaurant is a proponent of sustainable seafood (it has a partnership with Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach), ocean-minded diners can rest assured that each bite is ecologically approved. “We can provide people high quality but not break the bank,” Andrew shares of

the fare, which is mostly under \$10. “... You can just have flip-flops on, but have high-quality seafood.” That level of approachability, which is perfect for the laid-back, seafaring community of Laguna, has melded well with patrons. Walk into the locale in the courtyard on the corner of PCH and Broadway and find a simple setup that’s meant for “grab ‘n’ go.”

Diners who prefer to sit down, however, whether in the courtyard or in the bar seating indoors, might want to start with an appetizer, such as the aforementioned Chowder Fries—crispy fries smothered in creamy clam chowder and topped with bacon—or the fried pickles served with Awesome Sauce, a house-made, mayonnaise-based sauce with smoked pepper. Next, after diners’ mouths are uncontrollably salivating, they can bite into the star of its dishes: the seafood. A must-try is the lobster roll, made with 100 percent, juicy, plump Maine lobster, which is served between a buttery roll with a dash of mayo and lemon, and its signature Slapfish potato chips. Or, try the hake, mahi or shrimp, served up in a salad or in a taco. Choose one of its many flavorful house-made sauces, including the Awesome Sauce, Jersey (creamy lemon-herb), Rooster Cocktail (Sriracha-spiked cocktail sauce) and more, to complement your dish.

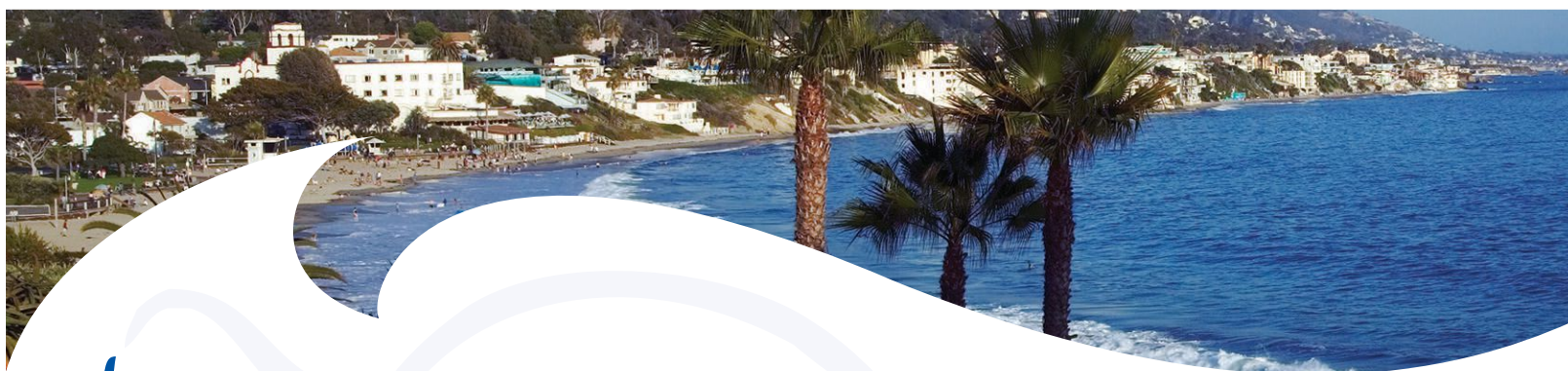
The addition of Slapfish to Laguna’s culinary scene is a great one. Whether it’s grabbing a bite to eat after a day at the beach or a late-night snack, Slapfish makes outstanding seafood accessible to anyone at any time. **LBM**

SLAPFISH

211 Broadway;
949-715-0464;
slapfishrestaurant.com

HOURS: Monday-Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

TIP: Calling all social media fanatics! Check in at Slapfish on Yelp, Facebook or Instagram and receive a complimentary lobster toast.



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Kiwi-Banana Smoothie

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LORI KENYON



Ingredients:

- 1 kiwi, peeled
- 1 banana, cut into chunks and frozen
- 1 large handful spinach
- 1 cup almond milk or coconut water
- 1 tablespoon flaxseeds, ground

DIRECTIONS:

Mix all ingredients in a blender until smooth and creamy. Enjoy!

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400 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-376-6886;
tommybahama.com

UMAMI BURGER

610 N. Coast Hwy.; 949-342-1210; umami.com

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222 Forest Ave.; 949-376-7955;
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anastasiaboutique.com

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broadwaybyamarsantana.com

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cafezoolu.com

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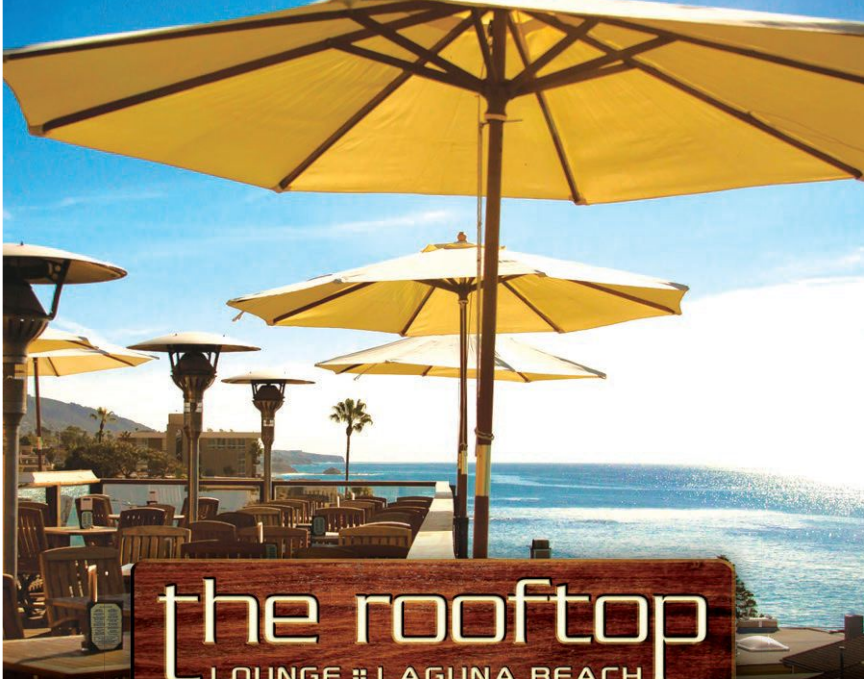


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RESTAURANT HAPPENINGS

It's time for a face-lift—**LAS BRISAS** will embark on an exciting makeover in 2015 as part of parent company Real Mex's massive overhaul plans. A fine-dining chef plans to revamp the menu and the layout will change to emphasize the bar and more patio seating. (949-497-5434; lasbrisaslagunabeach.com)

There seems to be a lot going on over at **UMAMI BURGER**, too, and food truck lovers will be happy to hear this news: The restaurant chain has partnered with Southern California-based food truck Coolhaus, whose popular ice cream sandwiches are now on the dessert menu at select Umami locations, including Laguna.

Umami Burger is also participating in an Artists Series and has just launched a collection in collaboration with LA-based chef José Andrés and the Black Keys band. The aptly titled José Andrés burger is made with a cured ham and pork patty, piquillo pepper confit, caramelized onions and Manchego cheese, while the Black Keys Akron Burger (the band is from Akron, Ohio) features a beef patty, Velveeta fondue, secret sauce, yellow mustard, chopped onions and dill pickles. Additionally, \$1 from each burger sold goes to charity. (949-342-1210; umami.com)

To emphasize its commitment to sustainable seafood, **SLAPFISH** chef Andrew Gruel is featuring a Summer of Sustainability campaign that allows diners to experience responsibly sourced seafood in a series of specials. For the week of July 14-20, try the Copper River salmon hand pie, which is lightly stuffed with avocado and chilies, and served with tomatillo sauce. Likewise, for the week of July 21-27, savor the baked Carlsbad Luna oysters with a wild mushroom and bacon stuffing. (949-715-0464; slapfishrestaurant.com)

Congratulations to two Laguna eateries: **THE DECK ON LAGUNA BEACH** and **SPLASHES AT SURF & SAND RESORT** were named to OpenTable's "Top 100 Best Outdoor Dining Restaurants in America" list based on diners' reviews. —A.T.



Black Keys Akron Burger at Umami Burger

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rumari.net

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romeocucina.com

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zpizza.com

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zeytooncafe.com

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Scooping Up New Flavors

Who screams for ice cream? We all do! In a marriage made in culinary heaven, Ruby's Diner in Laguna Beach is the first to team up with renowned Santa Cruz-based ice cream shop Marianne's to serve up premium treats, such as handmade cones and cups. This union is fitting for Ruby's, which is known for its nostalgic red-and-white facade, as Marianne's has been a staple in the sweet treat market since the 1940s. While diners can still savor Ruby's current popular favorites like sundaes and shakes, they can now indulge a little more with the addition of Marianne's singular flavors, such as fan favorite 10-20 (caramel ice cream, fudge and Oreo cookies), northern Oregon blackberry, mint chip, coffee-almond fudge and rainbow sherbet. (949-497-7829; rubys.com) —A. T.

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fusionart.us

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royalthaicuisine.com

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thaibroslaguna.com

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GALLERIES, PLEASE SUBMIT
YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS IN
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INSPIRED BY NATURE

As locals and visitors flock to Laguna's beautiful coastlines and parks this summer, the city's galleries, too, are celebrating the outdoors with stunning landscape paintings by artists Giorgio Dimichina and Gregory Hull.

Section by Ashley Ryan



Giorgio Dimichina's work typically depicts everyday life in the Italian countryside, like in "La Casita" (pictured here).

GIORGIO DIMICHINA (ARTIST EYE LAGUNA GALLERY)

HOME BASE: Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but moved to the United States at the age of 5; now lives in Southern California

BACKGROUND: Worked as a freelance illustrator for 28 years before his wife convinced him to create his own artwork; began showing as a guest at Artist Eye around three years ago before becoming one of the gallery's permanent artists; his artistic skills have been self-taught through many hours of practice and dedication.

MEDIA OF CHOICE: Acrylic paint on canvas; sometimes watercolor

PREVIOUSLY SHOWN IN: Laguna Beach; Giorgio is working on producing more paintings in order to show in additional galleries.

WORK: Giorgio's artwork typically features romantic scenes depicting scenery and everyday life in Tuscan gardens and the rolling Italian countryside, or along the streets and canals of Venice.

His bright, sunny paintings are infused with color and shadows that provide realistic depictions of everything big and small in Italy. From detailed images of grapes on a vine to scenes of tree-lined walkways in front of beautiful Italian villas, his work is both visually and emotionally pleasing.

When selecting scenes, he first sketches them out. "I can visualize things with color in my mind," Giorgio explains. In addition to a vibrant and varied color palette, he permeates his work with dappled light. "I really love the play of light and shadow."

By pouring emotion into his work, he is able to form a connection unknown to many artists. "I've realized in my lifetime that the kind of memories you recall later are the feelings," Giorgio says.

"I choose places where I feel at peace and infuse my feelings into my paintings. There's a magical moment where the painting comes alive and I feel like I'm actually there."

His latest works differ slightly from his usual landscape format, featuring the Italian Renaissance and Carnevale festival. These detailed pieces will contain the same color and lighting techniques as well as the romantic feel, but they will depict subjects like Carnevale masks and alluring Renaissance women bathed in candlelight.

Giorgio's latest work may be viewed at Artist Eye Laguna Gallery throughout the month of August including an artist reception Aug. 16. (949-497-5898; artisteyelagunagallery.com)

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Gregory Hull derives his painting style from California impressionists. "Mammoth Journey" is pictured here.

GREGORY HULL (THE REDFERN GALLERY)

HOME BASE: Born in Oklahoma, he has lived in Utah, California, Pennsylvania and Spain, and now lives in Sedona, Ariz., traveling to California multiple times a year to paint.

BACKGROUND: Received a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master of fine arts degree in painting, both from the University of Utah

MEDIA OF CHOICE: Oil paint on canvas

PREVIOUSLY SHOWN IN: San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Avalon, all in California; Tucson and Flagstaff, Ariz.; Santa Fe, N.M.; Pagosa Springs, Colo.; Chicago; New York; Palm Beach, Fla.; and an American embassy in Kuwait

WORK: Gregory started out painting figures and still-lives but has since transitioned to landscapes, citing the California impressionists as a major influence in his artistic style. He takes to the outdoors to paint en plein-air, generating powerful scenes full of color that elicit a specific emotion in the viewer.

He chooses painting locations by the places that strike him, then tries to convey those feelings through his artwork; sometimes the details aren't as important as conveying how the viewer should feel about the painting. He starts by laying down the major elements of the scene—color correction and intricate details can be added after the fact.

For any plein-air painter, color and light play an important role, and it is no different with Gregory's work. The images he creates are filled with the colors of land, water and sky: greens, blues and browns. Additional colors are used for other subject matter—red for

desert rocks, purple for wildflowers and yellow for the sun's light.

The lighting is a major factor in the scenes Gregory chooses to paint. "The way the light is falling on the land is very important," he says. "Early mornings or late afternoons give you beautiful, glowing light."

This glow can be found along Laguna's coastline at sunset, one place that Gregory lists as a favorite to work. Although he also enjoys painting along California's central coast near Santa Barbara, he doesn't limit his work to shorelines. He paints mountainous regions in California's eastern Sierra Nevada, including Mammoth Lakes and Yosemite National Park, as well as at Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

Gregory's work will be on display at The Redfern Gallery through July. (949-497-3356; redferngallery.com)

SUMMER SUN INSPIRES ART IN LAGUNA

Laguna's galleries are celebrating the summer months with paintings to match, celebrating the sunshine and warm temperatures with paintings of local beauty. Starting last month and running through Sept. 15, Pacific Edge Gallery will host the "Best of Laguna" group show, featuring artwork by Maria Bertran, Tom Swimm, Sandra Jones Campbell, Jacobus Baas and Bryan Mark Taylor. But Pacific Edge is not the only gallery to celebrate the city this summer; The Redfern Gallery is also honoring Laguna with a monthlong exhibition titled "The Masters" in August. This show will feature images from Laguna's past, celebrating early settlement in Laguna with paintings of the quaint village, the sprawling canyon hills and the colorful coastline. In addition, Laguna North Gallery will host "Summer in Laguna," a group showcase that will feature works by 13 different artists depicting their favorite scenes in Laguna Beach, in pastels as well as watercolor and oil paintings, until Aug. 31.



ANNUAL ART-A-FAIR RETURNS TO LAGUNA

Art-A-Fair, one of Laguna's most well-known fine art festivals, brings art from around the world to Laguna, adding to the already vast artist community. The annual festival allows visitors to get involved in the creative process, watching artists as they work and learning about their inspiration and techniques. Paintings, photographs, jewelry and sculptures will be exhibited on the festival grounds and visitors can stop by Tivoli Too! for some delicious cuisine in a lovely garden setting. Additionally, art workshops will provide adults with a way to learn from experienced, award-winning artists to explore new techniques in every style from oil painting to ceramics. The festival is ongoing through Aug. 31. (949-494-4514; art-a-fair.com)

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ARTISTS AND GALLERIES

GALLERY EVENTS

ARTIST EYE LAGUNA GALLERY

During the month of July, the gallery will showcase work from Evan Roy Dahlke, whose large-scale abstract paintings represent the artist's spirituality and serve as a means of inspiration. (949-497-5898; artisteyelagunagallery.com)

FOREST & OCEAN GALLERY

The gallery will showcase the latest photograph from Cheyne Walls, titled "Gates of the Valley," to commemorate the anniversary of the Yosemite Grant, which set aside land purely for preservation for the first time in our nation's history. President Lincoln signed the grant 150 years ago on June 30, 1864. The photograph will be on display until the end of July. (949-371-3313; forestoceangallery.com)

JOANNE ARTMAN GALLERY

Artist James Verbicky will present multimedia collages with layers of resin, dye, color and texture in his exhibition, "Divisionaire." He alters vintage advertisements to encourage viewers to contemplate the role of the media and its bombardment in modern culture. The exhibition will run through Aug. 31 with an artist reception Aug. 7. (949-510-5481; joanneartmangallery.com)

LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

The Laguna Art Museum will host the show "In Praise of Sunshine," which will feature artwork by landscape watercolorist Rex Brandt. The showcase, through Sept. 21, will feature nearly 50 of Rex's paintings with the theme of sunshine for which he was well



Discover the work of multimedia artist James Verbicky at JoAnne Artman Gallery through Aug. 31.

known. An illustrated catalog created by the artist also will be on display. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

SANDSTONE GALLERY

Printmaker Anne Moore will be showing in the Skylight Room with her "Trespassing Times" showcase. It will feature new one-of-a-kind monotypes created by Anne. The colors are dark and brooding, but have a captivating quality you won't want to miss. They will be on display from Aug. 6 to Sept. 1. (949-497-6775; sandstonegallery.com)

SILVER BLUE & GOLD GALLERY

Although many are familiar with common faceted birthstones, they are less familiar with cabochons, or polished stones. July's cabochon birthstone is jasper, and to celebrate, Silver Blue & Gold will exhibit jewelry created with jasper stones. (949-715-3000; silverblueandgold.com)

STUDIO 7 GALLERY

Twelve of Laguna's plein-air painters will display their pieces showcasing beautiful atmospheric colors and outdoor scenes through the month of July. These paintings will accompany daily demonstrations by featured artists who will showcase the fine art of painting "en plein air." (949-497-1080; studio7gallery.com)

THE SIGNATURE GALLERY

Vince Broglio will display his "Resin Movement Show" throughout the month of August. A resin sculptor from Northern California, Vince has created a new and interesting technique of recycling resin from his surfboard fiberglass company. After letting the resin collect for two years, the artist molds the layered substance to form ocean- and surf-inspired pieces that also tell a story. The artist reception will be Aug. 7 from 6-9 p.m. (949-376-4244; thesignaturegallery.com) LBM

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WHY NOT IN LAGUNA?

Our guest columnist proposes that we—literally—paint the town.

By Theodore P. Schraff III

FACEBOOK/CITY OF PHILADELPHIA MURAL ARTS PROGRAM



"Garden of Delight" mural by David Guinn from the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program

FACEBOOK/CHUCK PLACE



The Funk Zone in Santa Barbara

ART AND LAGUNA BEACH. LAGUNA BEACH AND art. The words are almost interchangeable. We have the Festival of Arts, the Sawdust Art Festival, Art-A-Fair, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna College of Art & Design and countless galleries to peruse. But there's something missing in Laguna: outdoor, endlessly changing, ever-enlightening and celebratory murals.

There are so many open, usable spaces to create, exhibit and propel art here. Laguna deserves more art in the form of murals. While there are a few murals in town—including the lovely "Whaling Wall" by Wyland on Pacific Coast Highway and Roy Gonzalez's recent mural outside the Laguna Riviera Beach Resort at St. Ann's Beach—there are still so many blank walls waiting to be adorned.

Search the Internet with the words "City of Murals" and results bring up Steubenville, Ohio, and Philadelphia, which boasts more than 3,600 murals throughout the city. Say what? How did these cities acquire that delightful moniker? And, more importantly, what can we do to steal the

crown of being designated as the City of Murals? Blank canvases are scattered throughout this city, begging to be splattered with color and inspirational images that make up this world-renowned artist's village called Laguna Beach.

To generate more public murals, I propose an initiative where businesses could donate their walls and become a local art purveyor. There also could be temporary installations by lining walls with paper, cloth or canvas. To get residents involved, the city could have an annual Paint the Town mural contest. Or, other local organizations, such as the Laguna Outreach for Community Arts, could host a youth mural open and invite kids to come create art with watercolors, chalk and finger paints—all nontoxic, of course.

In fact, other cities already do this. Santa Barbara's graffiti- and mural-lined Funk Zone holds a Second Saturday Art Walk, a new monthly event initiated to highlight the neighborhood's vibrant artistic community. Here, new murals are showcased (and encouraged) by

the community. I could see something like this on First Thursdays Art Walk. This evening event could turn into a daylong event, inviting locals and visitors to partake in mural painting at a designated location.

Imagine driving through town while soaking in public art—blank, boring walls transformed with swirling images of Hollywood stars, past and present, who've lived here on the wall of Laguna South Coast Cinemas; an homage to the city's surf culture on the untouched wall of Coast Liquor on South Coast Highway at Mountain Road; or depictions of Mother Earth, including Laguna Beach's stunning beaches, crystal-clear waters teeming with sea life, and beautiful canyons below blue skies, on the sterile wall at Glenneyre and Mermaid streets. Those locations are just a beginning. So, why not, Laguna? Let's paint the town. **LBM**

Theodore P. Schraff III is a Laguna resident, part-time educator, part-time learner and all-around lover of music, fun and art.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'VE SEEN IN ANOTHER CITY THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN LAGUNA BEACH? WRITE TO US AT EDITOR@LAGUNABEACHMAG.COM. YOU COULD BE OUR NEXT GUEST COLUMNIST.



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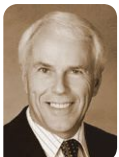


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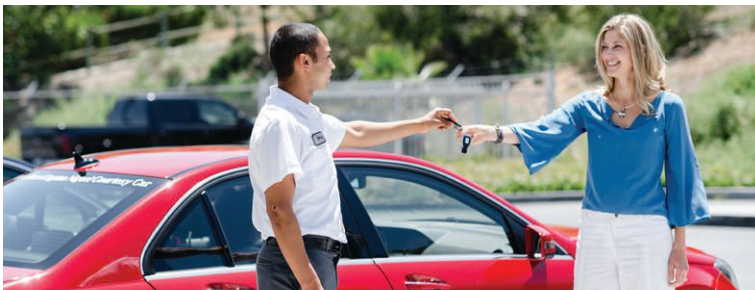
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