



what's new

IN CALIFORNIA

FALL 2010

There is always something new and exciting in California. As your resource for statewide news, the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC) is pleased to present this release describing new developments taking place in the various regions of the Golden State. Please note that dates listed are subject to change. Confirm with appropriate media contacts.

Consumers can receive free California travel planning information by visiting CTTC's Web site at visitcalifornia.com or by writing to the address below. Residents of the United States and Canada can also receive travel planning information by calling 1-800-862-2543. International travelers need to dial +1-916-444-4429.

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CA STATEWIDE

California Tourism's New Road Trips Guide Available

The California Travel & Tourism Commission's Road Trips 2010 is a comprehensive guidebook that encourages visitors to explore the wonders of the Golden State, while helping them plan their next California getaway. The annual publication with driving itineraries, distributed free to visitors around the world, highlights the varied and unique experiences that one can have throughout the state over a period of a few days or a longer vacation.

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Air Canada Launches Two New Services to California

Air Canada recently announced new services for a handful of North American cities, including daily, year-round service to Orange County (Santa Ana) that started April 6, and San Diego that started June 17—all of which fortify its Toronto hub and strengthen its position as the leading transborder carrier with the most daily flights between Canada and the U.S. of any airline.

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SC SHASTA CASCADE

Lost Coast Surfboards Rents Stand-Up Paddle Boards

For those thrill-seekers looking to try something new, give Lost Coast Surfboards a call to rent a stand-up paddle board. They are located at Brandy Creek Beach right on the beautiful Whiskeytown Lake, 15 minutes west of Redding. For those just starting out, you can learn the basics by taking a private lesson. Included in the rental is a lifejacket, board and a paddle. This is the newest water sport, perfect for all ages, and it's a new and unique way to see Whiskeytown Lake.

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Clearwater Lodge at the Pit River Joins Orvis Program

Clearwater Lodge at the Pit River, a historic, full-service fly fishing lodge, has been selected to join the Orvis Endorsed Lodge Program, making it the only lodge with this stamp of approval in California. For more than two decades, Orvis, a respected leader in outdoor goods and services, has selected the best fly fishing operations and destinations in North America to include in its program. The lodge is known as a top fly fishing destination with access to five of California's great wild trout rivers and spring-fed stillwaters. With its home waters encompassing 100 miles between Mount Lassen and Mount Shasta, the lodge offers a variety of fly fishing experiences. The lodge has the most extensive fly fishing school in the West, offering multi-day schools for all ability levels and guided fly fishing trips with knowledgeable guides. Guests can sign up for everything from an introduction to fly fishing to nymphing, dry fly fishing, advanced sinking line, master fly fishing and guiding. The school also has basic fly fishing classes tailored specifically for women, taught by women.

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Paul Bunyan's Forest Camp Offers New Water Feature, GPS Adventures

Paul Bunyan's Forest Camp at Turtle Bay Exploration Park sports a brand new water feature thanks to months of hard work from Turtle Bay's exhibits team and generous donor support. The water feature brings the story of the Sacramento River and California's "liquid gold" to life for Turtle Bay visitors. The cool, wet, hands-on experience attracts the young and young-at-heart in droves. Visitors can also join the many excited GPS and geocaching enthusiasts with the opening of the new GPS Adventure exhibition.

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Shasta Pines Motel Completes Remodel

The Shasta Pines Motel recently completed a remodel of its facilities, including 17 rooms and 14 brand new luxury suites. Travelers will enjoy the motel's convenient location to a variety of popular destinations. Offering 14 non-smoking rooms and providing 100% pet-free lodging, the rooms and suites now offer a comfortable and modern designed interior with high-end furniture, including the newly added Simmons Pillow Top mattresses, perfect after a long day exploring the outlying areas and attractions. The eight king and six two-bed queen suites contain 32-inch LCD flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi. The motel also offers ample parking for boats and RVs, and even has a BBQ area located next to the pool.

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Lakehead Campground and RV Park Adds Cabin Tents

For those seeking a unique outdoor camping experience, visit the Lakehead Campground and RV Park, which recently added three Cabin Tents. These adorable and roomy Cabin Tents are hassle free, since they are already set up. Inside, you'll find a cozy space with beds, electricity, a light and a fan for the warmer months. One can also enjoy free Wi-Fi or play a game of horseshoes, walk along the lake, swim in the pool or participate in many other recreational activities. Lakehead offers one large 10 x 14 Cabin Tent, which sleeps up to six people. It has two double beds, as well as floor cots if needed. The other two smaller Cabin Tents have one double bed and sleep up to four with extra cots. The tents are situated on a raised foundation and are even carpeted. The site also includes a picnic table, fire pit and BBQ perfect for outdoor grillers.

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Dinner Cruises Available on Titan Houseboat

Due to popular demand, and for the first time ever, houseboats.com has made its colossal 65-foot Titan houseboat available for evening dinner cruises. Their experienced crew escorts groups onto beautiful Shasta Lake for a scenic excursion while relaxing and dining in luxury and style. The triple-decked Titan accommodates up to 25 people and features a spacious top deck entertainment arena and open-air hot tub. The focal point of the elegant main salon is a widescreen television home theater system, full wet bar and fireplace. This is a unique setting and concept for special events and celebrations of any kind. Catering is available, or parties may bring their own refreshments. Cruises run by reservation between April and October. Rate is \$675 for a five-hour cruise; catering is additional.

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Glory Mountain Retreat Renovated

The Glory Mountain Retreat is a recently renovated quaint chalet situated on 2 acres with mountain views. Guests can choose from one of their deluxe suites or an individual room with plush bedding, free Wi-Fi and complimentary wine. Every guest receives a full breakfast, afternoon refreshments and evening hors d'oeuvres. Near the retreat, guests can discover a number of recreational activities including a 2-mile run/walk loop, hiking and biking. The chalet is only five minutes away from Shasta Lake.

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Gateway Science Museum Opens

Earlier this year, the Chico area welcomed the Gateway Science Museum, located in a chic modern-style building, which also has an interesting and unique landscape surrounding it. Outside, visitors will find five separate eco-regions, including a paleo flora area, riparian zone, buffer zone, delta and northern lower mountain region. These eco-regions contain a variety of trees, shrubs and grasses along with a number of other plant species for visitors to discover. Continuing inside, visitors will find a number of different exhibits that are constantly changing throughout the year. The museum also offers herbarium workshops and summer camps for the public's enjoyment. Through the combined resources of California State University, Chico, the Gateway Science Museum strives to provide the public with an educational and culturally enriching experience.

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Historic Mendocino Property Is Restored & Reopened

Located in Hopland, the gateway to Mendocino County, Campovida has an incredibly interesting history. Originally opened by the winemaking Fetzer family in 1983, the 51-acre property was well known for being the first organic food and wine center in the U.S., and once hosted such culinary greats as Emeril Lagasse, Julia Child and John Ash. It has been closed to the public for the last five years, but reopened during the summer under new ownership and management. The property features a 13-acre biodiversity-rich, organic garden featuring more than 2,000 varieties of fresh fruit, herbs, vegetables, ornamental and edible flowers; the Dining Pavilion, which seats up to 120 guests with two kitchens—one demonstration and one commercial; a Farmhouse Inn facility with seven rooms and swimming pool; a field house with living room, kitchen, three bedrooms and three full baths and a private cottage; an area

for public exhibitions on gardening and wine and food products; a barn under renovation, a board room and reception area; and 10 acres of organic Sangiovese and Viognier. Visitors to Campovida can enjoy local wines and epicurean items presented through a collaborative, interactive onsite program with Mendocino Farms called "A Place to Taste," including a wine tasting room featuring a range of local, organic and biodynamic wines from the Magnanimus Wine Group; pairings with herbs and products from the property and region and guided tours of the gardens. Beginning fall of 2010, Campovida will offer culinary events, classes and programs.

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Children's Redwood Forest Reopens

Following a major fire in 2003, the Children's Forest in Humboldt Redwoods State Park reopened during the summer season. The forest trail is a beautiful and mostly flat three-quarter-mile loop with wide open space underneath the old growth canopy. To access, drive 1 mile north from Myers Flat on the Avenue of the Giants to Williams Grove. From there, cross the summer seasonal bridge over the South Fork of the Eel River to the trailhead. Check in at the park visitor center for weekly guided walks on the trail.

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New Skate Park in Eureka

Located in the Cooper Gulch recreation area, the 12,000-square-foot skate park contains something for new and experienced skaters alike, including bowls and street features. The largest bowl includes a 10-foot overt pocket with two more 8-foot pockets and 6-foot hips. All of the larger bowls have pool coping. The park is located near downtown Eureka in Cooper Gulch, which also includes a scenic disc golf course.

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Famed Vintner Opens Unique Wine Tasting Room

Mike Draxton, who has produced wines for a number of labels, including El Roy, Heliodoro and Henry Bronson, is opening a tasting room in Geyserville's Alexander Valley. All of his wines are made from estate-grown or purchased grapes from the Alexander Valley. His new Vintners Signatures tasting room highlights the magic that happens when you combine the right grower, varietal and location with an experienced winemaking team. The tasting room is a unique concept as it features the partnership of grower and winemaker; the wines available for tasting are all the product of small lots from exceptional vineyards in Sonoma and Napa County, hand-crafted to express the unique character of specific vineyards.

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Wine Tastings in Unusual Places—Safari West

The new Wines over Watusi Program launches in October to coincide with the grape harvest in Sonoma and Napa Valley. This unique offer includes a private safari for 10 people with one of Safari West's knowledgeable guides to tour Sonoma County's Safari West 400-acre preserve, with the addition of a private wine tasting somewhere along the trail. The guide will select a hilltop location where guests will park in the shade under Sonoma County's live oaks and bay trees, on an authentic African mud cloth, sit back and enjoy select wines vinted in Sonoma, Napa and South Africa accompanied by hand-selected artisanal cheeses.

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Sonoma Orchid Inn Goes Solar & Creates Guest Space

The Sonoma Orchid Inn were already ardent recyclers and composters for their organic vegetable gardens, kept a flock of free-range chickens, CFLed every light on their property and used green cleansers. Just recently, they became completely solar with a \$150,000 energy remodel. But unlike any other hospitality business's solar array, they designed and installed one that enhanced their inn by providing a guest patio. Solar panels were installed as a shade-giving patio on a hill behind the inn surrounded by their organic vegetable garden and alongside their growing fruit orchard. The beautiful patio provides areas for cool and inviting relaxation and picnic areas for guests. The nine-room inn in the Russian River wine appellation is already well known for its gourmet breakfasts, award-winning baked goods and wired amenities, including Tivo in guest rooms.

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Skunk Train "Mobile Memento" Project

Late last year, the Skunk Train and the Arts Council of Mendocino County released a Call to Artists for a very special project, and from among the many entries, two very talented Northern California artists were chosen. Their task was to transform the exterior and the interior of one designated Skunk Train rail car into a mobile work of art. The remarkable result was unveiled last April. The new rail car is used for special events, as well as for regular trips at a premium ticket price. Riders of this exclusive rail car enjoy the best that Mendocino has to offer: spectacular views, Mendocino County wine and beer tastings, and intriguing and inspiring artwork.

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New Tasting Room & Art Gallery: John Hanes Gallery and Londer Vineyards

There's a brand new art gallery right in the heart of Boonville, and housed within it is a brand new tasting room. The John Hanes Gallery showcases unique and beautiful local art. Londer Vineyards, a small family winery that focuses on producing award-winning Pinot Noirs, Chardonnays and Gewurztraminers, has teamed up with the gallery to pour their wines within.

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Cultural Initiative Celebrates Ties to Shanghai

Programs celebrating the San Francisco Bay Area's long-standing ties to Shanghai will be held in San Francisco, Berkeley and San Jose throughout 2010. More than 30 cultural institutions and civic groups are participating in a cultural initiative that corresponds with the World Expo in Shanghai through October 31. Exhibitions, performances, film series, lectures, a symposium and more have been announced. The cornerstone of the celebration in San Francisco is "Shanghai," a major exhibition at the Asian Art Museum, through September 5. Spanning a time period of 160 years, the exhibition includes 130 artworks, such as trade oil paintings, Shanghai deco furniture and rugs, revolutionary poster art, fashion, movie clips and contemporary art installations. Since 1979, Shanghai, one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world, has been a Sister City of San Francisco.

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Wine Excursions with Master Sommelier

Venture off the Meadowood estate and into Napa Valley for a half or full-day wine excursion with Meadowood's resident wine educator, Gilles de Chambure. Start the morning with a vineyard tour followed by a private winery tour and tasting. At mid-day, break for a casual lunch or picnic. A second winery visit may be added in the afternoon. This guided exploration includes an introduction to Napa Valley's climate, geography and viticulture. Guests also enjoy a discussion of local history and a current view of who's who in the world of wine.

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New Boutique Hotel in Downtown Oakland

Travelers coming to Oakland for business or pleasure now have even more options for staying downtown. The newly opened Clarion Hotel Oakland on 13th Street and Franklin offers easy access to BART, the Fox Oakland and Paramount Theatres, the Oakland Museum of California, Old Oakland Chinatown and the many fine restaurants in the area. The 64 rooms include six king suites, 57 full-size bedrooms and six accessible guestrooms. All rooms include high-speed Internet access, 32-inch flat-screen television with cable, in-room coffee maker, in-room voicemail, iron and ironing board, hair dryer and radio/alarm clock. Other amenities include a conference room, banquet room with 1,000 square feet of event space, fitness center, business center and complimentary local calls.

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The Contemporary Jewish Museum Presents New Exhibitions

“Reclaimed: Paintings from the Collection of Jacques Goudstikker” takes place October 29 through March 29, 2011, and includes rarely seen Old Master paintings that reveal the legacy of a preeminent Jewish art dealer whose vast collection was looted by the Nazis. “As It Is Written: Project 304,805” is running now through March 29, 2011, and is centered around a soferet (a professionally trained female scribe) who, while on public view, will write out the entire text of the Torah over the course of a full year. “Black Sabbath: The Secret Musical History of Black-Jewish Relations” can also be seen August 26 through March 2011 and is based on the 2010 compilation by the Idelsohn Society of Musical Preservation. It’s a musical experience where the visitor is immersed in the sounds of a unique slice of recording history. This exhibition explores the Black-Jewish musical encounter, a secret history of the many Black responses to Jewish music, life, and culture.

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The de Young Hosts Exhibitions

Two consecutive special exhibitions, “Birth of Impressionism: Masterpieces from the Musée d’Orsay and Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne” and “Beyond: Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the Musée d’Orsay” are on view at the de Young Museum through January 2011. Each exhibition includes approximately 100 paintings from the Musée d’Orsay’s permanent collection, and highlights the work of nearly 40 artists, including Cézanne, Degas, Gauguin, Manet, Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Rousseau, Seurat, Sisley, Toulouse-Lautrec, Van Gogh and Vuillard. The Musée d’Orsay is loaning the exhibitions while it undergoes a partial closure for refurbishment and reinstallation in anticipation of the Musée’s 25th anniversary in 2011. The de Young is the only museum in the world to host both exhibitions.

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“I Left My Car in San Francisco” Package

The Napa River Inn and the Napa Valley Wine Train are pleased to launch the “I Left My Car in San Francisco” overnight Wine Country experience. The mid-week package offers visitors travel from San Francisco to Napa via ferry service and includes a train ride through Napa Valley’s countryside on The Napa Valley Wine Train, as well as a host of activities to experience on foot. The Napa River Inn, the only Michelin three-starred downtown Napa hotel, is located in the historic Napa Mill, a National Registered Landmark built in 1884 and a world-class urban destination in the heart of California’s beautiful wine country.

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What’s New in Santa Cruz County

Capitola’s Gayle’s Bakery and Rosticceria opens a new 600-square-foot covered patio that features an inviting fireplace. An expanded seating area can host up to 52 guests, complete with restful rattan chairs and colorful wooden tables. Beautiful artwork by mosaic sculpture artist Terrie Kvenild adorns the casual, fun and welcoming new patio. Visitors can relax by the roaring outdoor fireplace and savor a freshly baked pastry, specialty sandwich or blue-plate dinner made from scratch. The inaugural Santa Cruz Concours D’Elegance will take place at Chaminade Resort & Spa on September 3–5. Set in the mountains overlooking the Monterey Bay and surrounded by ideal cruising roads, the event’s world-class cars will be displayed on the mission-style, luxury resort’s 300-acre property. The Concours D’Elegance will feature a number of activities, including live and silent auctions and a fashion show. Concours entrants will have the opportunity to participate in an Ultimate Driving Tour that will take selected rare and historic cars on a scenic driving tour of the area.

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What’s New in San Francisco

The San Francisco opera season opens with “Aida” September 10, and performances of “Le Nozze di Figaro” and “Madame Butterfly” during the San Francisco Opera’s fall season. Sixty-six performances of 10 opera productions, seven of them new to San Francisco audiences, are planned. Additionally, AT&T Park has become the first major league ballpark to receive LEED Silver certification for existing buildings, operations and maintenance. AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants since April 2000, received the certification for sustainability and efficiencies in the areas of human and environmental health, including sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation in operations.

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Go Zipping at Roaring Camp

Zip up to Roaring Camp Railroads for its newest attraction in eco-experiential travel: two very different guided canopy tours of the redwood forest. Known for its train rides, guided walks and bike rides through the redwoods, Roaring Camp is offering another view, high in the forest canopy. One sky-high adventure takes visitors from tree tower to tree tower via cable zip lines at heights nearing 150 feet. A softer, but no less exhilarating adventure, guides visitors over elevated footbridges and platforms. One viewing platform measuring 300 square feet promises a picturesque venue for small group lunches. Guides relate interesting facts about the forest and local ecology throughout both experiential tours.

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Cavallo Point—the Lodge at the Golden Gate Achieves LEED Gold Standard

Cavallo Point—the Lodge at the Golden Gate has been certified by the U.S. Green Building Council for achieving a LEED Gold standard for environmentally sustainable design and construction. It is the first national park lodge to receive LEED certification. In addition, the project, developed and opened in 2008 on the site of Fort Baker, which is a turn-of-the century military outpost now part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, is the first hotel on the National Register of Historic Places to be certified. The project involved careful rehabilitation of the original historic buildings and interior features, along with a minimal amount of new construction. The lodge site is a multi-building campus, comprising 34 buildings on 45 acres.

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Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Unveils New Ride

A new Haunted Castle ride utilizes nearly 10,000 square feet of basement space at the boardwalk. In a unique design twist, riders load at boardwalk level, then spiral down backwards into the basement. Riders glide through dimly lit rooms filled with spooky special effects. The location of the new Haunted Castle has been home to a number of haunted rides over the years, starting with “Dante’s Inferno” in 1931. Bucking economic forecasts and amusement industry trends, the boardwalk’s nearly \$9 million Haunted Castle project includes new basement space, new game and retail space at the boardwalk level, and additional administrative office space on the second story.

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WWW.BEACHBOARDWALK.COM

What’s New in Yountville

The Bardessono, a 62-room eco-chic property in Yountville, sports a green spa, underground geothermal system and smart guestrooms, which recently received the coveted LEED Platinum certification. The award was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the hotel, restaurant and spa, as well as the broader community. Bardessono is the third hotel in the world and second property in the nation to receive this distinction. Debuting last May, Somerston Wine Company’s newly-constructed 4,000-square-foot retail/tasting venue features wines from the company’s three brands: Priest Ranch, Highflyer and Somerston, as well as a locavore café, art and regional entertainment. The old world Italian-style design features a patio and rooftop terrace with floors and furniture milled from salvaged woods off the 1,700-acre ranch.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: KOLEEN HAMBLIN,
KOLI COMMUNICATIONS, 1-800-487-9057,
LINK2KOLI@AOL.COM, WWW.YOUNTVILLE.COM

Berkeley Dining Passport Debuts

The first-ever Berkeley Dining Passport rewards diners with a year of discounts and special offers at more than 20 top Berkeley restaurants. A program of the Berkeley Restaurant Alliance and Visit Berkeley (and benefitting the Berkeley Food & Housing Project), the Berkeley Dining Passport rewards culinary travelers as they savor the world, save money and help to alleviate hunger and homelessness. Berkeley Dining Passports are \$20 and available at all participating restaurants and additional outlets. Participating restaurants include: Adagia, Anh Hong, Bistro Liaison, Breads of India, Cafe Platano, Caffè Venezia, Cioccolata di Vino, eVe, Digs Bistro, Filippos, FIVE, Henry’s Gastropub, King Tsin, Kirala, La Rose Bistro, Rick and Ann’s, Riva Cucina, Taste of the Himalayas, Thai Delight, Trattoria Corso and Zatar. With offers ranging from free corkage, appetizers and desserts to dollars off and discounts, Berkeley Dining Passport holders have a full year to leverage the savings and have their keepsake-quality passport booklets honored over and over again by participating restaurants.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: DAN MARENGO,
VISIT BERKELEY, (510) 549-7040,
DMARENGO@VISITBERKELEY.COM,
WWW.BERKELEYDININGPASSPORT.COM

“VIVO: Days of the Dead 2010” at the Oakland Museum of California

“VIVO: Days of the Dead 2010 Dias” runs October 6 through December 5. Curated by Jaime Cortez, “VIVO” explores the ever evolving Meso-American and Californian tradition of *Días de los Muertos*. Participating artists and school groups will use humor, emotion and symbolic offerings to commemorate those who have died and, in doing so, celebrate life. Also at the Oakland Museum of California until January 2011 is “Pixar: 25 Years of Animation,” a major exhibition of more than 500 works by the artists at Pixar Animation Studios, including drawings, paintings and sculptures that illustrate the creative process and craftsmanship behind Pixar’s wildly successful computer-animated films. A number of significant works are on public display for the first time, including art from *Ratatouille*, *WALL•E*, *Up* and Pixar’s latest feature film, *Toy Story 3*. “Pixar” also includes an updated, awe-inspiring version of the Pixar Artscape, a widescreen media installation. The exhibition is accompanied by screenings of Pixar’s feature and short films, a special program of lectures, talks and workshops with Pixar artists, and a new and expanded exhibition catalogue.

MEDIA CONTACT: MANETTE BELLIVEAU,
OAKLAND CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU,
(510) 208-0526, MANETTE@OAKLANDCVB.COM,
WWW.OAKLANDCVB.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: VISITOR INFORMATION,
OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA,
(510) 238-2200, COMMUNICATIONS@MUSEUMCA.ORG,
WWW.MUSEUMCA.ORG

Hotel Keen Opens in Palo Alto

Hotel Keen has launched as a new stylish boutique hotel in downtown Palo Alto as the latest addition to the BPR Properties hotel group. From its modern and efficient guestrooms to amenities fit for the hip and sophisticated traveler, the 42-room hotel does not skimp on design, comfort or value. Checking into the hotel, their own “personal concierge” greets guests, with Hotel Keen’s staff providing services tailored to each individual. The lobby is the place for visitors to energize and prepare for the day, or relax and unwind in the evening. The hotel has incorporated services designed for the busy and active

lifestyle, including complimentary grab-and-go breakfast, a shared honesty bar and nightly regional wine tastings in the lobby. The compact guest room design provides for form, function and flair without compromising comfort and service. Utilizing the room space to its fullest, each room includes a custom-built, innovative bed and desk combination with an ergonomic desk chair. Writable and erasable white board walls are provided for those late night brainstorm sessions, while Nintendo Wii rentals can be played on the in-room 37-inch flat-screen televisions with high-definition programming.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: MICHAEL NI, ANDREW FREEMAN & CO. (415) 781-5421, MICHAEL@AFANDCO.COM, WWW.AFANDCO.COM



Delta Discovery Cruises from Stockton Marina

Delta Discovery Cruises, a family-owned business, has expanded operations to include the City of Stockton. The newly acquired vessel, Island Girl, is a luxurious 149-passenger motor yacht and is now based out of the Stockton Waterfront Marina. Public and private cruises include a delicious champagne brunch, scenic lunch and sunset dinner cruises. On board is a full bar with liquor, wine, beer, sodas and juices. Delta Discovery Cruises also offers many themed events aboard the Island Girl, including Caribbean nights with live music and Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre shows. For local baseball and hockey fans, there will be special Meet the Players cruises. Stockton's many waterfront festivals will include historical and scenic cruises aboard the Island Girl.

MEDIA CONTACT: WES RHEA, STOCKTON CONFERENCE & VISITORS BUREAU, (209) 337-2721, WES@VISITSTOCKTON.ORG, WWW.VISITSTOCKTON.ORG

PUBLIC CONTACT: HEATHER INGRAM, DELTA DISCOVERY CRUISES, (925) 252-9300, DELTACRUISES@GMAIL.COM, WWW.DELTADISCOVERYCRUISES.COM

New Wine & Cheese Tasting Room in Winters

Turkovich Family Wines recently celebrated the grand opening of their new Winery and Tasting Room in historic downtown Winters, located at 304 Railroad Ave. The tasting room is open Thursday through Sunday for sampling of current releases. Also housed in the same tasting room as the Turkovich Family Winery is the Winters Cheese Co., which focuses on making quality artisan cheeses following time-honored practices as well as combining traditional cheeses with flavors and products from the land.

MEDIA CONTACT: TIFFANY DOZIER, YOLO CVB, (530) 297-1900, TIFFANY@YOLOCVB.ORG, WWW.YOLOCVB.ORG

PUBLIC CONTACT: YOLO COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU, (530) 297-1900, INFO@YOLOCVB.ORG, WWW.YOLOCVB.ORG

New Hampton Inn & Suites Opens in Manteca

Hampton Inn & Suites has opened in Manteca in the Lifestyle Mall next to the new Bass Pro Shop and in the new Outlet Center. The Hampton Inn & Suites has 101 rooms, including 38 suites.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: HAMPTON INN & SUITES MANTECA, (209) 823-1926, WWW.HAMPTON.COM

Historic Gibson House in Woodland Now Open

This historic 1850s Classical Revival era mansion sits on two landscaped acres and is the perfect place to host weddings, reunions and other gatherings. The Victorian Gibson House & Museum Park is on the National Register of Historic Places and features perennial flower gardens, green lawns, a 250-year-old oak tree and a historical museum in the main mansion.

MEDIA CONTACT: TIFFANY DOZIER, YOLO COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU, (530) 297-1900, TIFFANY@YOLOCVB.ORG, WWW.YOLOCVB.ORG

PUBLIC CONTACT: DAN RICE, YOLO COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GIBSON HOUSE, (530) 666-1045, YCHM.OFFICE@SBCGLOBAL.NET, WWW.YOLO.NET/YCHM

Yolo County Visitors Bureau Releases Winery Guide

The Yolo CVB is excited to announce the release of its new Winery Guide & Map. The guide features vineyards, wineries and tasting rooms throughout Yolo County. Travelers can visit www.yolocvb.org to download the map.

MEDIA CONTACT: TIFFANY DOZIER, YOLO CVB, (530) 297-1900, TIFFANY@YOLOCVB.ORG, WWW.YOLOCVB.ORG

PUBLIC CONTACT: YOLO COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU, YOLO CVB, (530) 297-1900, INFO@YOLOCVB.ORG, WWW.YOLOCVB.ORG

Hyatt Place Hotel Opens on UC Davis Campus

Located in the heart of the Central Valley, Hyatt Place UC Davis is conveniently situated on the beautiful University of California, Davis, college campus. Guests can enjoy specialty Starbucks coffee drinks and friendly conversation at the intimate Bakery Café and the 24-hour Guest Kitchen, which offers cafe-quality, made-to-order meals and snacks along with a daily complimentary continental breakfast. Other amenities include complimentary hotel-wide Wi-Fi, self-service check-in/check-out kiosks, complimentary parking, 24-hour Stay Fit fitness center with Life Fitness cardio equipment and outdoor pool.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: VERNITA CREWS, HYATT PLACE UC DAVIS, (530) 756-9500 EXT. 5104, VERNITA.CREWS@HYATT.COM, WWW.HYATT.COM



Crocker Art Museum Hosts Free Grand Opening Celebration October 10

Celebrate the grand opening of the new 125,000-square-foot Teel Family Pavilion with entertainment for children, families and adults. The all-day art festival will kick off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with community and museum leaders. Highlights of the day's festivities include a global arts block party with food, beer and wine; a creative community center with hands-on art activities and performances by regional dance troupes, bands and puppeteers; as well as artist demonstrations, roaming street performers and living history interpreters, swing and salsa dance.

MEDIA CONTACT: KATHLEEN RICHARDS, CROCKER ART MUSEUM, (916) 808-5157, KCONATY@CITYOFSACRAMENTO.ORG, WWW.CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG

PUBLIC CONTACT: CROCKER ART MUSEUM, (916) 808-7000, CAM@CITYOFSACRAMENTO.ORG, WWW.CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG

New Mark Twain Exhibit Opens at Angels Camp Museum

Mark Twain's short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," leaped Twain and Calaveras County into fame. Today, Mark Twain is especially celebrated in Angels Camp, where there are numerous sculptures, statues and events honoring the author. The most recent tribute to Twain is a new permanent, core exhibit at the Angels Camp Museum. The exhibit highlights how the author came to stay in Angels Camp, the 88 days of his stay here and how his famous short story came about. Quotes from Twain, who was also known as "the Wild Humorist," can be found throughout the exhibit. Visitors can also view letters that Twain wrote during his travels. The new exhibit details Twain's talent and how his writing marked the beginning of a new kind of American literature.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: LISA MAYO, CALAVERAS VISITORS BUREAU, 1-800-225-3764, LISA@GOCALAVERAS.COM, WWW.GOCALAVERAS.COM

Enhanced Camping Guide Offered

The California Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds is now promoting state, federal and locally run parks as well as privately owned campgrounds, RV parks and resorts in the Camp-California! Guide. This camper's guide to California has tripled its database with the addition of both government-run campgrounds and private campgrounds that are not affiliated with the statewide campground association. The additions increased Camp-California's database from 350 parks to more than 1,000 campgrounds, with a digital version of the guide available now at www.camp-california.com. Approximately 250,000 copies of the four-color print edition are being distributed free of charge at visitor's centers, California Welcome Centers and RV shows throughout the state. Consumers can also request their own free copy by sending an e-mail to info@camp-california.com.

MEDIA CONTACT: DEBBIE SIPE, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RV PARKS & CAMPGROUNDS, (530) 885-1624, DEBBIE@CALARVC.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: DEBBIE SIPE, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RV PARKS & CAMPGROUNDS, (530) 885-1624, INFO@CAMP-CALIFORNIA.COM, WWW.CAMP-CALIFORNIA.COM

"Lowriders: The Art of Low and Slow" Exhibit

Lowriders have long been a symbol of cultural tradition and identity. The customized hydraulic setup, candy color paint jobs, chrome detailing and stylized artistic touch of these cars have evolved from their Chicano community base to the broad spectrum of society. "Lowriders: The Art of Low and Slow," on exhibit October 9 through January 9, 2011 at the California Automobile Museum, will explore the passion that comes with creating these vehicles and the history and evolution of lowrider culture. The exhibit will showcase some of the most ornate and visually captivating lowrider vehicles from the local community and beyond.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: KAELA NELSON, CALIFORNIA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM, (916) 442-6802, PR@CALAUTOMUSEUM.ORG, WWW.CALAUTOMUSEUM.ORG

New California State Capitol Museum Exhibit

"A Most Glorious Heritage: The History of California State Parks" runs September 30 through September 2, 2011. Since the 1860s, many Californians understood the call to protect the natural heritage they beheld. Their foresight and vision preserved California's redwood forests, beaches and historic sites before they disappeared forever to development and private interests. This exhibit explores the history of California's State Parks and the people who devoted their lives to creating and preserving the land and sites we enjoy today.

MEDIA CONTACT: PATI BROWN, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, (916) 445-4098, PATI@PARKS.CA.GOV, WWW.CSRMF.ORG

PUBLIC CONTACT: VISITORS INFORMATION, CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL MUSEUM, (916) 324-0333, CAPSCHED@PARKS.CA.GOV, WWW.CAPITOLMUSEUM.CA.GOV

Wine Bike Tours in Murphys

There's no better way to tour the vineyards near the charming town of Murphys than from the seat of a bicycle. As guests pedal past the gently rolling hills and pastoral vineyards of Calaveras County, they enjoy a refreshing sensory experience that simply cannot be achieved from a car. The group is led by GetOnYourMARK owner and cycling coach Shelley Marenka and provides the chance to visit wineries you otherwise might miss, and talk directly with the owners and winemakers. Each tour group enjoys a catered gourmet picnic lunch, served overlooking the vineyards or on the wine tasting grounds. The pace of the bike tours is catered to recreational cyclists. With a casual pace and frequent stops, the emphasis is on enjoying the scenery and having a great time with friends. Wine tasting and a gourmet lunch in historic Murphys follows the vineyard cycling adventure.

MEDIA CONTACT: LISA MAYO, CALAVERAS VISITORS BUREAU, (209) 736-0049, LISA@GOCALAVERAS.COM, WWW.GOCALAVERAS.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: SHELLEY MARENKA, GETONYOURMARK, (209) 890-6244, GETONYOURMARK@GMAIL.COM, WWW.GETONYOURMARK.COM

HS

HIGH SIERRA

First-Ever Lake Tahoe Restaurant Week September 5-12

Lake Tahoe Restaurant Week puts the spotlight on High Sierra fine dining, giving local food aficionados and visitors an opportunity to enjoy three-course, prix-fixe menus at more than 30 participating restaurants, both new and established favorites, throughout the Lake Tahoe region for \$20, \$30 and \$40 per person. Many of the dining establishments taking part are located in charming and historical venues, and their chefs regularly employ local, seasonal and organic ingredients as part of their menus. The inaugural event kicks off Labor Day Weekend, Sunday, September 5, and runs through Sunday, September 12, taking advantage of Tahoe's idyllic fall weather, which lends itself to changing foliage hikes and pristine kayak adventures on the country's largest alpine lake.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: PETTIT GILWEE, PETTIT GILWEE PUBLIC RELATIONS, (530) 583-2138, PETTIT@GILWEEPR.COM, WWW.TAHOERESTAURANTWEEK.COM

Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education (ESICE) Releases CD

The Roadside Heritage® Project and ESICE have produced an audio program showcasing the cultural, natural and scientific heritage of the eastern Sierra Nevada. The program includes interviews with historians, scientists and long-time residents. This most recent CD release is currently available for free at museums, chambers of commerce, and visitor centers in Inyo and Mono County. The website, www.roadsideheritage.org, complements these efforts by offering free downloads of all the audio stories, as well as interactive topo maps of the region; science videos about obsidian, mineralogy and volcanoes; along with stories by local Native Americans and podcasts made by local students.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: JAN RHOADES, EASTERN SIERRA INSTITUTE FOR COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION, (760) 873-9855, JAN@ESICE.ORG, WWW.ESICE.ORG

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite Opens Spa, Expands Conference Space

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite National Park recently opened the 10,000-square-foot Ascent Spa and 15,000-square-foot enhanced comprehensive conference facility. The new spa increases the AAA four-diamond resort's wellness offerings with new treatment rooms, dry saunas, steam rooms and health classes for guests to enjoy. Ascent Spa also draws upon the natural splendor that is Yosemite National Park to help guests relax and rejuvenate. The entire spa features award-winning and environmentally-friendly Eminence Organic Spa products. Guests can also exercise in an enhanced fitness facility that includes free weights, Nautilus machines and cardio equipment. Tenaya Lodge's new conference space includes a 10,000-square-foot grand ballroom, smaller meeting spaces and an outdoor pavilion designed for special events, group dining and team-building events. Tenaya Lodge's award-winning culinary team continues to cater all events held at the resort.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: ALISON SCHWARTZ, ASTONE, (916) 552-7971, ASCHWARTZ@ASTONE.COM, WWW.ASTONE.COM

Holiday Inn Express Now Truckee Donner Lodge

The Holiday Inn Express in Truckee is now operating independently as the Truckee Donner Lodge and has completed a \$700,000 remodel, including guest rooms and lobby renovations. The lobby includes new casegoods, furniture, breakfast bar, carpet and wall coverings. Guest room enhancements include new window treatments, wet bars, furniture, flat-screen TVs, Serta mattresses and new lighting fixtures. All of the newly renovated rooms feature local art.

MEDIA CONTACT: JENNY FRANKLIN, SWITCHBACK PR + MARKETING, INC., (530) 550-2267, JENNY@SWITCHBACKPR.COM, WWW.SWITCHBACKPR.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: LYNN SAUNDERS, TRUCKEE DONNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, (530) 587-2757, LYNN@TRUCKEE.COM, WWW.TRUCKEE.COM

Yosemite National Park Celebrates 120th Birthday

Yosemite National Park celebrates its 120th birthday this fall with a unique companion in California's history: California's State Route 120, Tuolumne County's scenic gateway to the northern entrance, and the fastest route into Yosemite National Park. This promotion will focus on Yosemite's history as a tourist destination in popular culture as captured by professional and amateur photographers. A 52-page book of photographs, *Vintage Yosemite: Then, Now & Forever California's Heritage Wilderness*, by Christine Tuohy with a foreword by Yosemite photographer Jeff Nixon will be featured along with a photograph exhibit. There will be a companion website, www.vintageyosemite.com; a magazine supplement; and interactive social media site will encourage people to post their family Yosemite photographs and experiences. Beginning in September 2010, Discover Yosemite Packages with overnight accommodations, lunch, transportation park admission and guided tours into the park will be offered at prices ranging from \$60 to \$120 per person double occupancy with lodging choices in Sonora and Groveland, CA. Tours and packages will also be available in the spring and fall 2011.

MEDIA CONTACT: PAUL BELL, EXPLORE SONORA MAGAZINE, (209) 588-9205, PRESS@PAULBELL.BIZ, WWW.PAULBELL.BIZ

PUBLIC CONTACT: KARIN BROWN, HERITAGE TRAVEL, (209) 533-4322, VINTAGEYOSEMITE@EXPLORESONORA.COM, WWW.VINTAGEYOSEMITE.COM

The Village at Squaw Valley Increases Event Space

Meeting and event planners that want to organize gatherings in one of the most scenic destinations in the west will now have an additional 67,500 square feet of space to take advantage of. The Village at Squaw Valley USA is now offering 10 times the amount of meeting space as before—from 7,500 to 75,000 square feet, including locations on both the lower and upper mountain. The 75,000 square feet of customizable meeting spaces include everything from newly renovated locations suitable for groups of 700 or more to intimate private rooms for small meetings. Some of the new choices include the Top of the Mountain Terrace Room, located on the

second floor of High Camp at an elevation of 8,200 feet. The Terrace Room offers breathtaking panoramic views of Squaw Valley and Lake Tahoe. With almost 7,700 square feet of meeting space, it's ideally suited for dinner parties up to 230 people. The Arc At the Gold Coast Center at the top of the Funitel features 14,000 square feet of meeting and event space. The Village at Squaw's conference facilities are wired for audio-visual presentations and tele-conferencing, and include high-speed Internet access. One, two and three-bedroom luxury accommodations include gas fireplaces, heated floors, patios, kitchens, daily housekeeping service, high-speed Internet access and DVD players. Additional amenities include 24-hour front desk staff, outdoor hot tubs and billiards lounge.

MEDIA CONTACT: NATASHA BOURLIN, LYMAN PR, (775) 240-8749, NATASHA@LYMANPR.COM, WWW.LYMANPR.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: BRANDON SIRSTINS, THE VILLAGE AT SQUAW VALLEY USA, (530) 584-6227, BSIRSTINS@SQUAW.COM, WWW.THEVILLAGEATSQUAW.COM

Artisan's Marketplace Opens in Truckee

An Artisan's Marketplace gallery has opened in Brickeltown in downtown Truckee. More than a dozen local artists and artisans from the Tahoe-Truckee region are displaying their works in this locale, which opened in March. Visitors can stop in to admire or purchase local art, including hand-painted wood furnishings, ceramic sculpture and pottery, paint-on silk, jewelry, photography and more.

MEDIA CONTACT: JENNY FRANKLIN, SWITCHBACK PR + MARKETING, (530) 550-2252, JENNY@SWITCHBACKPR.COM, WWW.SWITCHBACKPR.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: HOLLY BEATIE, HIGH SIERRA BOTANICALS, (530) 550-0885, HOLLY.HSB@HIGHOCTAVEHEALING.COM, WWW.HIGHSIERRABOTANICALS.COM

North Lake Tahoe Hosts Quicksilver Stand-Up Paddle Board Race Series

Dubbed the largest flat-water stand-up paddle board venue in the world, Lake Tahoe has added another distinction to its list as the host of the 2010 Quicksilver Tahoe Stand-Up Paddle Board Race Series. The series, which began in May, concludes with the Tahoe Fall Classic on September 26 when participants paddle 22 miles from Camp Richardson in South Lake Tahoe, across the country's largest alpine lake, to Kings Beach on the North Shore. Visitors can also get into the act with free on-water stand-up paddle board demonstrations hosted at the event.

MEDIA CONTACT: PETTIT GILWEE, PETTIT GILWEE PUBLIC RELATIONS, (530) 583-2138, PETTIT@GILWEEPR.COM, WWW.GILWEEPR.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: NORTH LAKE TAHOE VISITORS BUREAUS, 1-888-434-1262, INFO@GOTAHOENORTH.COM, WWW.GOTAHOENORTH.COM

New Truckee Ranger Station Opens

The Truckee Ranger Station has recently opened its doors just across the freeway from its former location. This visitor-friendly hub offers outdoor enthusiasts information about trails, campgrounds and points of interest in the Tahoe National Forest, such as recommended hiking and biking trailheads and scenic driving tour maps. They also carry a selection of books, which help travelers interpret the forest and learn more about the area's flowers and critters. The Truckee Ranger Station, which currently is seeking Silver LEED certification, provides visitors with an excellent jumping-off point to help them find their adventure in the forest.

MEDIA CONTACT: JENNY FRANKLIN, SWITCHBACK PR + MARKETING, INC., (530) 550-2267, JENNY@SWITCHBACKPR.COM, WWW.SWITCHBACKPR.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: LYNN SAUNDERS, TRUCKEE DONNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, (530) 587-2757, LYNN@TRUCKEE.COM, WWW.TRUCKEE.COM

Truckee Railroad Museum Now Open

After much anticipation, the Truckee Railroad Museum opened its doors May 8 on National Train Day. Situated right next to the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and the downtown train depot, the museum is housed in a caboosie and features displays of models, historic photographs and artifacts representing the area's rich railroad heritage.

MEDIA CONTACT: JENNY FRANKLIN, SWITCHBACK PR + MARKETING, INC., (530) 550-2267, JENNY@SWITCHBACKPR.COM, WWW.SWITCHBACKPR.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: LYNN SAUNDERS, TRUCKEE DONNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, (530) 587-2757, LYNN@TRUCKEE.COM, WWW.TRUCKEE.COM



Sunset's Savor the Central Coast Weekend September 30–October 3

The inaugural "Savor the Central Coast" weekend event kicks off with a special night at San Luis Obispo's famous Thursday night Farmers Market. The weekend fun continues with a very unique winemaker's dinner in San Luis Obispo's Mission Plaza and Sunset's Wine Awards Dinner on Friday. Saturday and Sunday, guests play throughout the county with several exclusive Culinary and Harvest Day Tours, and spend time at the Savor Pavilion on the Historic Santa Margarita Ranch, which will be center stage for all the restaurants and wineries from throughout the Central Coast. The finale is at Avila Beach with a concert and fireworks show. Food Network chef Tyler Florence will charm his way into the hearts of foodies as the official celebrity chef of the event, and will provide cooking demonstrations and host book signings both Saturday and Sunday.

MEDIA CONTACT: CARRIE HEAD, SLO COUNTY VISITOR AND CONFERENCE BUREAU, (805) 781-2530, CARRIE@SANLUISOBISPOCOUNTY.COM, WWW.SANLUISOBISPOCOUNTY.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: VISITOR BUREAU, SLO COUNTY, (805) 541-8000, CARRIE@SANLUISOBISPOCOUNTY.COM, WWW.SANLUISOBISPOCOUNTY.COM

Expanded Santa Maria-Style Barbecue Booklet Available

The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor & Convention Bureau now offers an expanded version of its popular Santa Maria-style barbecue booklet. The booklet is complimentary upon request by visiting the Chamber of Commerce at 614 South Broadway in Santa Maria or calling 1-800-331-3779. It can also be downloaded in PDF form at http://santamariavisitor.com/cm/santa_maria_barbecue/barbecue.html. In addition to showcasing the rich history of Santa Maria-style barbecue, the 14-page booklet features an updated list of restaurants, caterers and purveyors who specialize in this regional culinary tradition. The booklet also complements the official Santa Maria-Style Barbecue Blog at www.santamariavalleybbq.com, which the chamber launched in early 2009.

MEDIA CONTACT: CHRISTOPHER WEIR, MOONCATCHER, (805) 239-0020, CW@MOONCATCHER.COM, WWW.MOONCATCHER.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: SANTA MARIA VALLEY VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU, 1-800-331-3779, INFO@SANTAMARIA.COM, WWW.SANTAMARIA.COM

Santa Barbara Tasty Cupcake & Wine Tour

Santa Barbara Adventure Company paired two favorite treats to create a new, mouth-watering adventure: the Tasty Cupcake & Wine Tour. Guests tour the Santa Ynez Valley tasting wine, learning the difference between a pinot blanc and a pinot gris, as on a typical wine tour. But the icing on the cake is a stop at Enjoy Cupcakes in Solvang, where guests sample six miniature wine-infused cupcakes with incredible flavors, such as Pomegranate Mango Chardonnay and Chocolate Blackberry Syrah. The Cupcake tour is available Thursday through Sunday and includes wine tasting at three locations, cupcake tasting, shuttle service, deli lunch and a knowledgeable guide.

MEDIA CONTACT: SHANNON BROOKS, SANTA BARBARA CVB, (805) 966-9222, SBROOKS@SANTABARBARACA.COM, WWW.SANTABARBARACA.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: SANTA BARBARA ADVENTURE CO., (805) 884-9283, LETSGO@SBADVENTURECO.COM, WWW.SBADVENTURECO.COM

Adelaide Inn Partners with Cloud Climbers Jeep Wine Tours

The Adelaide Inn has partnered with Cloud Climbers Jeep Wine Tours as a new way to go wine tasting in the Paso Robles wine region, with its more than 200 tasting rooms. The Adelaide Inn is an independent family-owned and operated hotel for more than 45 years. Cloud Climbers Jeep Wine Tours-trained guides and small-sized groups blend together to ensure the best possible Paso Robles wine tasting tour experience. Visitors climb aboard comfortable, safe, custom six and seven-passenger Jeep Wranglers or classic Jeep Scramblers to experience the beautiful countryside and vineyards of the Paso Robles area. Along the way, Cloud Climbers guides provide narration and information about the history of the wineries and the finer points of grape growing and wine tasting.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: DEBBIE NAGLE, ADELAIDE INN, (805) 238-2770, DEBBIE@ADELAIDEINN.COM, WWW.ADELAIDEINN.COM

V6 Ranch Offers Cowboy Academy and Cattle Drives

The V6 Ranch in Parkfield provides unforgettable trail riding vacation experiences. Visitors can even cowboy up for one of the authentic cattle drives during the spring and fall. The V6 Ranch has more than 50 miles of trails to ride on the family's 20,000-acre ranch in the scenic Diablo Mountain Range of Central California. Guests can bring their own horse or ride one of the ranch's. The ranch offers RV hookups, modern restroom and shower facilities, a warm-up arena, lakes, swimming, fishing, home-style meals from the V6 Ranch Grill, and comfortable lodging at the V6 Ranch Lodge. The V6 Ranch is host to the annual Parkfield Rodeo, AQHA Cowboy Academy, National Arabian Horse Association Ride and Parkfield Bluegrass Festival, and hosts group trail rides and clinics throughout the year.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: BARBARA VARIAN, V6 RANCH, (805) 463-2493, BARBARA@PARKFIELD.COM, WWW.PARKFIELD.COM

Inaugural Paso Robles Harvest Marathon

The day's events include a 26.2-mile marathon, two-person marathon relay and a 5k run. The first 100 entries will receive a special prize. The course will begin and end at Sylvester Winery on Buena Vista Drive in Paso Robles and offers views of the vineyards and countryside at harvest time.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: JULIE OPHEIM, PASO ROBLES HARVEST MARATHON, 1-877-264-6979, PASOMARATHON@YAHOO.COM, WWW.PASOROBLESMARATHON.COM

San Luis Obispo Announces First GranFondo

The inaugural SLO GranFondo, October 23, will be challenging since it offers some of the world's most beautiful terrain along the rugged coast of northern San Luis Obispo County. The cycling ride offers three fully supported routes throughout San Luis Obispo County to suit the occasional rider or the seasoned competitor. Riders will ride along the professionals and amateurs at the SLO GranFondo.

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PUBLIC CONTACT: VISITOR CENTER, SLO CHAMBER, (805) 781-2777, SLOCHAMBER@SLOCHAMBER.ORG, WWW.VISITSLO.COM

Blue Dolphin Inn Completes Renovation

The new Blue Dolphin Inn made its debut after an extensive \$1.2 million-dollar renovation. Situated on Moonstone Beach in Cambria, the Blue Dolphin Inn offers 20 newly designed guestrooms, including six specialty hotel rooms inspired by locales from all over the world that are home to dolphins. The intimate and casual atmosphere combined with unparalleled ocean views offers guests an authentic oceanside experience while they are enjoying an exciting myriad of activities in Cambria. Located just 5 miles from historic Hearst Castle, the boutique hotel features a beach-and-ocean-inspired décor by designer Lisa Marlow, an interior designer based in Paso Robles. The design captures the seaside ambience and picturesque qualities of Cambria, drawing inspiration from the ocean and in particular paying homage to the dolphin locations from around the world. Each of the six specialty rooms is named for a body of water from different locations in the world where dolphins are known to be prevalent and features design elements that are appropriate to that area.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: TANO TAITANO,
BLUE DOLPHIN INN, (805) 927-5600,
TANO@CAMBRIAINNS.COM, WWW.CAMBRIAINNS.COM

Ojai Vineyard Tasting Room Opens

Ventura County continues to emerge as a wine tasting region with the new Ojai Vineyard Tasting Room, which opened during the summer in a historic firehouse. The Ojai Vineyard, which has produced handmade wines since 1983, offers more than 20 different variety of wines at the new tasting room for the visiting public to sample. The Ojai Vineyard works closely with a dozen different vineyards on the Central Coast of California and produces wines from syrah, Grenache, mourvedre, pinot noir, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc and vignier.

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(805) 389-9495, JFLIPPENPR@ROADRUNNER.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: RYAN WHITE,
OJAI VISITORS BUREAU, 1-888-OJAI NOW,
INFO@OJAVISITORS.COM, WWW.OJAVISITORS.COM

Monterey's New Inn at Del Monte Beach

A restored 1929 low-rise building in Beaux Arts style, The Inn at Del Monte Beach is located across from a sandy beach on a main city thoroughfare. Tucked away from the tourists' hustle and bustle, the inn is within walking distance of major cultural, recreational and visiting attractions. Once guests walk into the lobby with its restored turn-of-the-century ambience, they forget all about the outside world. Retreating to the serenity of the rooftop, guests enjoy a panoramic view of the entire Monterey Bay, the city skyline and surrounding mountains. The unique concept of lodging introduces new elements of the "hip boutique vibe," complete with luxurious amenities. The rooms are designed to display luxury and intimacy—without the waste of useless space. Plush linens, marbled baths, bamboo flooring and cozy mattresses beg guests to never leave.

MEDIA CONTACT: CELESTE WHITE,
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CELESTE@MCCVB.ORG, WWW.SEEMONTEREY.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: KOLEEN HAMLIN,
KOLI COMMUNICATIONS, 1-800-487-9057,
LINK2KOLI@AOL.COM, WWW.SEEMONTEREY.COM



Aquarium of the Pacific Announces New Expansion

The Aquarium of the Pacific's newest permanent expansion, the \$5.5-million Molina Animal Care Center, will enable visitors to see daily animal care shows with education staff, watch the aquarium's veterinarian conduct medical exams and learn more about the world of aquatic medicine. The new 14,000-square-foot Molina Center will accommodate mammals, birds and fish, and provide enhanced healthcare as well as opportunities for aquarium visitors to see veterinary medicine in action. The Aquarium of the Pacific will be one of the few aquariums that provide an opportunity for guests to observe while its doctor is examining an animal patient.

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PUBLIC CONTACT: AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC,
(562) 590-3100, WWW.AQUARIUMOFPACIFIC.ORG

Major Makeover of The Queen Mary

With new management Delaware North Company at the helm, the legendary Queen Mary is receiving significant upgrades throughout the ship. The company has begun refurbishing the ship's 314 staterooms with original portholes and bathtubs (including knobs for hot and cold saltwater), carpet, bedding, drapery and lighting. Newly added to the rooms are flat-screen televisions, hair dryers and iPod docking stations. All three of the ship's restaurants received makeovers, including the signature dining room, Sir Winston's, with updated silverware and glassware, drapes, carpets and walls. The menu has been enhanced with healthier portions and sustainable seafood choices. For those looking to "take the plunge" aboard the ship, the Wedding Chapel refreshed its carpet, drapery and lighting while refinishing the wood for the pews.

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PUBLIC CONTACT: QUEEN MARY,
1-877-342-0738, WWW.QUEENMARY.COM

Dive Immersion: Your Chance to Dive in an Aquarium

For the first-time ever, general certified divers are now invited to dive into the Aquarium of the Pacific. Guests can journey into the warm, 350,000-gallon Tropical Reef Habitat to meet more than 1,000 tropical fish up close and personal. In this two-and-a-half-hour experience, they get a personal behind-the-scenes tour of the dive program, a dive in the aquarium's largest exhibit, a certificate of completion, souvenir towel, use of an underwater camera and a memory card of photos to take home. All equipment is provided, and an RSVP is required. A minimum of an Open Water certification from a nationally recognized scuba certifying agency and a picture I.D. are required and must be brought with guests on their diving day.

MEDIA CONTACT: MARILYN PADILLA, AQUARIUM OF
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PUBLIC CONTACT: AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC,
(562) 590-3100, AQUARIUMOFPACIFIC@LBAOP.ORG,
WWW.AQUARIUMOFPACIFIC.ORG

Santa Monica Place Open

Bloomingdale's, Nordstrom, Hugo Boss, Burberry and Kitson have moved to the beach. These famous retailers and others have a new home at the brand new Santa Monica Place Mall, which opened August 6. Santa Monica Place is an outdoor shopping haven with a beachside setting and ocean breezes, unique meetings and event space, stellar ocean-view dining on a rooftop deck, and more. This is where SoHo meets South Beach. Santa Monica Place is the fifth shopping haven in the city, joining Third Street Promenade, Main Street, Montana Avenue and Pico Boulevard—all shopping and entertainment destinations offering an eclectic mix of boutique and brand name delights.

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PUBLIC CONTACT: KIM BAKER, SANTA MONICA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, 1-800-544-5319, KBAKER@SANTAMONICA.COM, WWW.SANTAMONICA.COM

Renovations at the Legendary Hyatt LA Completed

Renovations to the Hyatt Regency Century's Plaza debuted in April. The more than \$1 million upgrade brings a totally new look and image to the widely popular series of junior ballrooms, including the Westside Room, where actors Sonny and Cher launched their variety act together. Adding to the hotel's expansive portfolio of elegant event space, the Plaza Level's distinct design provides more than 12,000 square feet of meeting space. Groups ranging from 150 to 500 will enter the space and be surrounded by plush wall-to-wall carpeting in warm tones. Included in the Plaza Level re-design is a new 24-hour business center with high-speed Internet computer stations, printer, fax and business supplies. Renovation of the Hyatt's Executive Conference Center (formerly the South Mezzanine) is now complete as well, successfully wrapping the second phase of the landmark property's public area upgrades. Situated on the hotel's mezzanine level, the redone space is devoted solely to accommodate small group size meetings of up to 100 people.

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Mr. Six's DanceCoaster Debuts at Six Flags Magic Mountain

Six Flags Magic Mountain debuted Mr. Six's DanceCoaster, named after the company's fun-loving, iconic dancing mascot, during the summer. Located near last season's newest innovative thrill ride, Terminator® Salvation™: The Ride, Mr. Six's DanceCoaster is designed for the entire family. The steel coaster is 679 feet long with a 28-foot lift hill, reaching speeds up to 21 miles per hour. A single train, built to look like Mr. Six's dance shoes, features eight cars where riders sit two across in a single row for a total of 16 riders for the just under one minute ride duration. Colors for the new coaster are in keeping with Mr. Six's formal attire of black, white and red.

MEDIA CONTACT: PUBLIC RELATIONS, SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN, (661) 255-4819, SMCARPEN@SFTP.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: GUEST RELATIONS, SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN, (661) 255-4111, WWW.SIXFLAGS.COM/MAGICMOUNTAIN

Miyako Hybrid Hotel Opens

The LEED-silver certified Miyako Hybrid Hotel, located just minutes from Los Angeles International Airport, Southland beaches, and downtown Los Angeles, and equal distance between Disneyland and Universal Studios, opened in December. With stunning meeting and event space, and uniquely appointed guest rooms with the best of Eastern and Western amenities, a visit to the Miyako feels like a true getaway. The hotel, which is home to the stunning Gonpachi Restaurant, is also pleased to announce the opening of spaRelaxen in June. This Japanese day spa is the first in the U.S. to offer ganban-yoku, a specialty of Japanese bathing culture that involves lying on a large bed comprised of stone mined from the mountains of Kyushu, Japan.

MEDIA CONTACT: TRISHA COLE, WAGSTAFF WORLDWIDE, (323) 871-1151, TRISHA@WAGSTAFFWORLDWIDE.COM, WWW.WAGSTAFFWORLDWIDE.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: MIYAKO HYBRID HOTEL, (310) 212-5111, WWW.MIYAKOHYBRIDHOTEL.COM

Pacific Park Presents Two New Family-Share Rides

It's two new rides for kids—and their families—at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier. The 2-acre amusement park added Inkie's Pirate Ship and Inkie's Wave Jumper, which opened in July, to its roster of family-share rides. Inkie's Pirate Ship is a swashbuckling-themed picaroon ride that lifts guests to-and-fro in a clockwise and counter clockwise motion for an all-out, sea-like adventure on this grand pirate ship. Inkie's Wave Jumper is a pier-top surf ride that rotates in a clockwise motion while riders "jump" up and down and bounce around, just like riding a wave.

MEDIA CONTACT: CAMERON ANDREWS, PIER COMMUNICATIONS, (562) 432-5300, CAMERON@PIERCOMM.COM, WWW.PACPARK.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: JEFF KLOCKE, PACIFIC PARK ON THE SANTA MONICA PIER, (310) 260-8744 X235, JKLOCKE@PACPARK.COM, WWW.PACPARK.COM

King Kong 360 3D at Universal Studios Hollywood

King Kong 360 3D, a new attraction based on the Oscar®-winning 2005 Peter Jackson film, is Universal Studios Hollywood's new signature attraction. Riders on the Studio Tour tram are transported, via a darkened soundstage, back to King Kong's home—Skull Island. The action, which takes place before King Kong ever makes his way to the modern world, culminates in a ferocious battle between the world's most famous ape and a 35-foot dinosaur. Visitors are thrust in the middle of the action—through the magic of the world's largest Surround Digital 3D projection system—and feel the tram jolt and reverberate as the 3D battle unfolds around them.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: CAROL MARTINEZ, LA INC., (213) 236-2357, CMARTINEZ@LAINC.US, WWW.DISCOVERLOSANGELES.COM

Catalina Island's New Activities and Updates

Santa Catalina Island is undergoing an \$11 million revitalization, adding an array of activities and amenities to the historic destination. Major changes include a complete renovation of the beachside 71-room, two-story Pavilion Hotel, now offering private lanais for many rooms; two luxury suites with breathtaking views; a wine and cheese bar; indoor and ocean-view lounges; and

an internet café. Descanso Beach Club will offer private cabanas and chair rentals, plus serving as the new activity and Discovery Tour headquarters. The waterfront Avalon Grille will offer new American cuisine and world-class microbrews, wines and cocktails in an al fresco atmosphere. A new Zip Line Eco Tour will begin almost 600 feet above Avalon, reach speeds of up to 45 miles per hour, and run nearly 4,000 feet down to the seashore. Innovative diving helmets and guides will allow guests to tour the sea floor's kelp forests and abundant marine life while on the new Sea Trek Undersea Adventure. With the new GPS Ranger Walking Tour, visitors can experience Avalon's landmarks and historical points of interest at their own pace, using a high-tech guide.

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California Science Center Offers "Ecosystems"

The much-anticipated "Ecosystems" exhibit at the California Science Center, which opened March 25, allows visitors to experience an unprecedented blend of live plants and animals, and hands-on science exhibits in 11 immersive environments—unique among science centers in the U.S. From walking through a living kelp forest to experimenting on a polar ice wall, explorers investigate some of the Earth's most fascinating ecosystems. Highlights include a 188,000-gallon kelp tank populated with more than 1,500 live fish, kelp and other marine life; a desert flash flood; and a special gallery dedicated to the urban ecology of Los Angeles. Ecosystems occupies 45,000 square feet and contains more than 250 species of plants and animals. This new experience is the centerpiece of Phase II of the Science Center's Master Plan. In addition to the new Ecosystems exhibits, Phase II also expands the World of Life exhibition hall, and provides new administrative offices and animal care facilities, making the California Science Center one of the largest science centers in the country.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: CAROL MARTINEZ,
LA INC., (213) 236-2357, CMARTINEZ@LAINC.US,
WWW.DISCOVERLOSANGELES.COM

"Mummies of the World" Exhibition Opens

"Mummies of the World," a new exhibition of the largest collection of mummies and artifacts ever assembled, is open at the California Science Center through November 28. Visiting only seven museums worldwide and premiering in Los Angeles, this is a one-of-a-kind collection of mummies and artifacts from around the globe, some dating as far back as 6,500 years. Interactive exhibits allow guests to explore who the mummies were while alive, where and how they lived, and what they can tell us about the past. Learn about recent technology that has revealed new secrets about ancient life and changed the way scientists study mummies.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: CAROL MARTINEZ,
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WWW.DISCOVERLOSANGELES.COM



Disneyland Resort Debuts "World of Color" and "Silly Symphony Swings"

The much-anticipated nighttime "World of Color" debuted last summer as the first major milestone in the expansion of Disney's California Adventure park. "World of Color" brings Disney animation to life with powerful fountains that become stars of the show as they create the world's largest projected water screen by combining hundreds of magnificent fountains, dazzling colors and an all-new kaleidoscope of audio and visual effects. The production is a must-see imaginative journey into the colorful worlds of animated Disney classics such as The Lion King and Pocahontas, along with Disney*Pixar films Toy Story, WALL•E and many more. An all new viewing area offers prime waterside viewing of the show. Also open is "Silly Symphony Swings," which replaces the original Orange Stinger.

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DISNEYLAND, (714) 284-6386,
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WWW.DISNEYLAND.COM

"Rocket Lab" and "Tinkertoy: Build Your Imagination" at Discovery Science Museum

Discovery Science Center's newest permanent exhibit, "Rocket Lab" launched in July. Located inside the museum's famous cube, this Lab highlights the history and science behind rocket travel. Experience a rocket launch by surrounding yourself by video screens, blasts of fog and state-of-the-art sound effects. Then, explore a new traveling exhibit based on the classic building toy adored by generations of children. The exhibit, "Tinkertoy: Build Your Imagination" runs through September 26 with educational and fun activities inspired by GE's successful "Imagination at Work" campaign—showing how innovation can positively influence everyday life and create solutions to real world challenges.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: KELLY GEORGE,
DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER, (714) 913-5018,
KGEORGE@DISCOVERYCUBE.ORG,
WWW.DISCOVERYCUBE.ORG

New Air Service for OC's John Wayne Airport

New Continental Airlines service into John Wayne Airport began March 7. Continental Airlines began the only service from Orange County to the Islands of Hawaii. There are four weekly flights from John Wayne Airport (SNA) to Maui (OGG) and daily flights between SNA and Honolulu (HNL). The OC's only international flights began April 8. Air Canada flies non-stop between Orange County's John Wayne Airport (SNA) and Toronto, Canada's Pearson International Airport (YYZ). The daily flight departs John Wayne Airport at 8 a.m. and arrives at Pearson International Airport in Toronto at 3:41 p.m. local time. Flight time is 4 hours and 41 minutes.

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PUBLIC CONTACT: JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT,
(949) 252-5200, WWW.OCAIR.COM

Pacific Edge Hotel Opens in Laguna Beach

Joie de Vivre, California's largest boutique hotel collection, is adding a fifth southern California property to its collection with the newly renovated Pacific Edge Hotel, a boutique property situated in the heart of the famed downtown district of Laguna Beach. Set on a pristine white sand beach, the 132-room property is in the final stages of renovations. Pacific Edge boasts uninterrupted ocean views and is just blocks from the chic shopping, arts and dining enclave of Laguna Beach. With modern amenities, casual residential touches, and a tinge of retro-chic attitude, it is an ideal beach destination for both business and vacation travelers who are looking to retreat, but not unplug from society. Pacific Edge features 28 comfortable suites, one Villa, a multi-purpose cottage called "Hide," and 104 deluxe guestrooms. The full-service hotel also features two heated swimming pools and a Jacuzzi, a gym and spa, along with a surf lounge for private events. A unique "Beach Sherpa service" will make trips down to the water fast and convenient, while Wi-Fi is free throughout the property.

MEDIA CONTACT: JENNIFER SIDES, BLINKLA, (424) 864-9134, JEN@BLINKLOSANGELES.COM, WWW.BLINKLOSANGELES.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: PACIFIC EDGE HOTEL, (949) 494-8566, WWW.PACIFICEDGEHOTEL.COM

Walk on Water in Huntington Beach

The newest craze in water sports hits Huntington Beach—stand-up paddle boarding. This sport, which involves paddling a large surfboard with an extended paddle to propel forward movement, actually first began in the 1940s when famed Hawaiian surfer Duke Kahanamoku wanted to try something other than traditional surfing or outrigger canoe racing. An activity for all ages (the younger kids can actually sit on the board while an adult paddles), paddle boarding is much easier than it looks. Most beginners learn how to paddle board in the beautiful Huntington

Beach Harbour, an enclosed harbor with little to no waves. More experienced paddle boarders will practice their sport out in the ocean with either shorter, more lightweight boards to catch waves as they would with a regular surfboard, or with the classic large paddle boards for paddling out past the waves to enjoy the amazing aquatic surroundings. Rocky McKinnon, a local paddle boarder and board shaper taught by some of the most elite watermen in the world, champions the sport in Huntington Beach and teaches lessons at reasonable costs for small groups or families.

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PUBLIC CONTACT: ROCKY MCKINNON, MCKINNON SHAPES & DESIGNS, (714) 377-6101, ROCKYMCKINNON@MCKINNONSURFBOARDS.COM, WWW.MCKINNONSURFBOARDS.COM

Newport Beach Hotel Renovation Completed

Following months of renovating and redecorating, the Newport Beach Hotel is ready to show off its new look to visitors. Since joining the Four Sisters Inns collection last year, the historic 15-room inn has had a sprucing up that includes a completely redecorated lobby with white wicker furnishings, updated bathrooms in the oceanfront rooms, fresh white bedding with nautical blue striped accents, new window treatments, light fixtures, plants, and updated plumbing and electrical systems. One thing that hasn't changed is the 1904 hotel's enviable setting. Located on the Boardwalk at Oceanfront Boulevard between 23rd and 24th streets, the Newport Beach Hotel is still the closest hotel to the beach. That means guests step out the front door to face Newport's 5-mile stretch of soft sand, the Newport Pier and the Boardwalk's popular biking, skating and walking trail.

MEDIA CONTACT: SHARON ROONEY, FOUR SISTERS INNS, (707) 838-1637, SHARON@FOURSISTERS.COM, WWW.FOURSISTERS.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: MANAGER INNKEEPER, NEWPORT BEACH HOTEL, 1-800-571-8749, INFO@NEWPORTBEACHWALKHOTEL.COM, WWW.NEWPORTBEACHWALKHOTEL.COM

Surf City SCVNGR Debuts in Huntington Beach

The Huntington Beach Marketing and Visitors Bureau developed this fun new way to discover Surf City USA by using your smart phone. Surf City SCVNGR is all about going places, completing challenges and earning points to unlock special badges and features, in addition to monthly prizes offered by Huntington Beach merchants. For instance, to earn points for the "Board Short Challenge" on your smart phone's SVNGR application, go into one of the local surf shops, try on a pair of their newest board shorts, strike your best surfer pose and snap a picture. Then upload your picture to that challenge's page and score some points—it's that simple! Challenges can also be played by those without smart phones, using SMS text and picture messages. New challenges and prizes are being added monthly, so guests will have the opportunity to play the games differently each time.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: MADISON FISHER, HUNTINGTON BEACH MARKETING AND VISITORS BUREAU, (714) 969-3492, MADISON@SURFCITYUSA.COM, WWW.SURFCITYUSA.COM

New Dockside Tour Aboard John Wayne's Former Yacht

One of the most famous and historical yachts in Newport Beach, the Wild Goose, was once owned by the Oscar-winning western star John Wayne and is now featured in a new, exclusive narrated dockside tour. The Wild Goose first sailed in 1943, as the United States Navy Minesweeper YMS 328 during World War II. Of the 481 minesweepers manufactured, only four—including the Wild Goose—remain today. When John Wayne bought the minesweeper a decade later, he set about creating a private retreat for family and friends. The Wild Goose Tour includes a one-hour dockside visit spotlighting the boat's storied past. Cost for the excursion is \$25 per person. Reservations are needed to book these tours, and a 10-person group minimum is required.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: DANIEL GUERRERO, VISIT NEWPORT BEACH INC., (949) 554-9766, DANIEL@VISITNEWPORTBEACH.COM, WWW.VISITNEWPORTBEACH.COM

Hyatt Regency Orange County Undergoes \$25-Million Renovation

The Hyatt Regency Orange County recently underwent a \$25 million property improvement project. The renovation included all guestrooms and suites, meeting space, lobby, front desk, restaurant, lounge, recreation deck and fitness center. All North Tower suite renovations include new carpet, wall-coverings, furniture, case goods, flat-screen televisions and more. The same improvements were made to the South Tower guestrooms. Additionally, the newly renovated and expanded StayFit Fitness Center is now open 24 hours per day. The 10,000-square-foot Royal Ballroom has been completed, and is now one of the most advanced ballrooms in the Anaheim area. The room received an attractive new ceiling, and features fiber optic cabling, VGA outlets, wireless Internet and a state-of-the-art Lutron lighting system. The entire 65,000 square feet of meeting space was updated to include new carpet and wall coverings. The restaurant has transformed into TusCA, featuring dishes inspired by the hearty cuisine of Italy's Tuscan region and its emphasis on abundance and seasonality.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: NICOLE GRAVELLE, HYATT REGENCY ORANGE COUNTY, (714) 740-6032, NICOLE.GRAVELLE@HYATT.COM, WWW.ORANGECOUNTY.HYATT.COM

Costa Mesa's Boutique Hotel Now The Hotel Hanford

The 230-room Holiday Inn Costa Mesa near South Coast Plaza has been remade into Orange County's latest independent boutique hotel. Newport Beach-based Hanford Hotels Inc., which owns the property, dropped the Holiday Inn name, and it became The Hotel Hanford. Along with the new name, a \$7-million renovation of the inside and outside of the hotel is well under way. It is a big change for a hotel that has been a Holiday Inn since 1973.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: DAN PITTMAN, PITTMAN PR, (714) 282-9994, DAN@PITTMANPR.COM, WWW.THEHOTELHANFORD.COM

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DESERTS

Palm Springs Air Museum Hosts Ending of World War II Celebration

A four-month long series of special lectures, films and flight exhibitions will commemorate the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II at the Palm Springs Air Museum November 6 through February 26, 2011. World War II veterans are honored at each Saturday program and are most of the featured speakers. The series of Saturday programs on the 65th anniversary is included with regular admission to this aviation museum that houses more than 28 flyable vintage aircraft, within 75,000 square feet of exhibit and hangar space.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: ANN GREER, PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM, (760) 778-6262, ANN@PALMSPRINGSAIRMUSEUM, WWW.PALMSPRINGSAIRMUSEUM.ORG

Two New Boutique Hotels Open in Palm Springs

The Pool House is a mid-century boutique hotel that opened in May. The intimate six-room property is embraced with stunning mountain views, and rooms that open onto the pool deck with plush cabanas. On the property, visitors can enjoy its onsite restaurant, The Blue Pear, which features a full-service menu. Another boutique hotel that recently opened is POSH Palm Springs. The 1930s Art Deco architectural gem is an 11-room property that offers all-inclusive service of complimentary three-course gourmet breakfast, light poolside lunches and evening happy hours with appetizer.

MEDIA CONTACT: HILLARY ANGEL, PALM SPRINGS BUREAU OF TOURISM, (760) 778-8415, HANGEL@VISITPALMSPRINGS.COM, WWW.VISITPALMSPRINGS.COM

PUBLIC CONTACT: PALM SPRINGS BUREAU OF TOURISM, (760) 778-8418, INFO@VISITPALMSPRINGS.COM, WWW.VISITPALMSPRINGS.COM

Death Valley Adds Bike Rentals and Tours

The Furnace Creek Resort in Death Valley National Park has introduced bicycle rentals at the Ranch at Furnace Creek, as well as guided bicycle tours featuring van transfers to and from the start and finish locations, light snacks and beverages. Rates for rentals are \$34 for a half day and \$49 for a full day. An introductory rate of 20% off is being offered. For a limited time, guests of the resort also qualify for a complimentary one-hour ride. Rates for the guided tours are \$99 for the Hell's Gate Downhill Ride and \$79 for the Artist's Drive Ride. The Hell's Gate Downhill Ride begins 22 miles from Furnace Creek, with guides providing a thorough orientation to the bicycle and associated safety equipment. The ride is 10 miles long and incorporates significant elevation changes. The Artist's Drive tour begins approximately 10 miles from Furnace Creek. This ride is for the experienced rider and requires moderate cycling skill and physical endurance. While much of the ride is downhill, there are steep and winding ascents and descents along the route. After an orientation, participants will tour 9 miles through canyons with vertical walls on each side and will take a break at Artist's Palette, followed by 7 miles of riding with the tour ending at Badwater Road. The bikes and rider will then be transported back to Furnace Creek Resort.

MEDIA CONTACT: MONA MESEREAU, (720) 842-5271, MONA_MESEREAU@MSN.COM, WWW.FURNACECREEKRESORT.COM

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INLAND EMPIRE

Temecula Valley Winery Opens Doors

Temecula Valley's newest winery, Monte De Oro, recently opened its doors. Monte De Oro Winery is Temecula Valley's first natural gravity flow winery, offering a 180-degree panoramic view of the Palomar, San Jacinto and San Bernardino mountains. Designed to be a state-of-the-art facility, the winery houses a 9,000-square-foot underground barrel room and an 8,500-square-foot hospitality facility, featuring a 32-foot-high main tasting room, two special event/VIP tasting rooms, an upscale wine gift shop and a gourmet kitchen.

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New Tasting Room Opens in Old Town Temecula

Lorimar Winery announced the grand opening of its tasting room in Old Town Temecula next to the Old Town Temecula Community Theater. It offers a relaxing atmosphere with premium wines and a friendly well-trained staff. While a Tuscan-style winery is being built a few miles away in Temecula Valley Wine Country, the tasting room is open and bursting with activity in a charming brick building located in the center of Old Town Temecula at Front & Main Street. Complementing the Lorimar tasting room experience are numerous nearby boutique shops, antique galleries, live theater and world-class restaurants.

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What's New in Rancho Cucamonga

From professional, family-friendly theater productions to live concerts and comedy shows, the Lewis Family Playhouse offers something for everyone. The playhouse kicks off its fifth season with the hits of 80s rock group Loverboy. Great concerts continue throughout the season, including the lovely Latin sounds of the Mariachi Divas; country swing with Asleep at the Wheel; memorable Irish melodies by Michael Londra in Celtic Yuletide; the smooth, silky voices of M-Pact; and holiday favorites by the world-renowned Glenn Miller Orchestra. Plus, two of the industry's top jazz/pop vocalists, Diane Schuur and Bobby Caldwell, will come to town for Sing 'N Swing! Family audiences are in for a treat as the MainStreet Theatre Company once again brings three fantastic, family-friendly shows, beginning with that lovable school-bound mouse in "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse," followed by the charming and eccentric cupboard characters of "The Gingerbread Man," and a sharp and spunky, red-headed darling in "Anne of Green Gables." Each show offers a memorable story for the whole family that's full of fun, fantasy and friendship.

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Ontario Convention & Visitors Bureau Opens The MarketPlace

The Ontario Convention and Visitors Bureau invites visitors and residents alike to enjoy the addition of its new 7-acre open space located adjacent to the Ontario Convention Center. Recently acquired and renovated, The MarketPlace offers the ideal destination for music festivals, farmers markets and other outdoor events. With nearly 3,000 square feet of adjacent building space, visitors can utilize both the indoor and outdoor venues.

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY

"Lizards & Snakes: Alive!" Opens October 16 at San Diego Natural History Museum

Small and shy—or big and fierce? Bright as a jewel—or hardly visible? Four legs? Two legs? No legs at all? When talking about lizards and snakes—the squamates—the answer is usually... Yes! This ancient group, whose scientific name is Latin for "scaled," is more diverse than mammals, and as old as dinosaurs. And they're almost everywhere: harsh desert to lush rainforest, high in the treetops, and beneath the ground. Whatever the environment, one of the 8,000 squamate species on Earth calls it home. We share the planet, but we often overlook these quiet neighbors. So welcome to the world of squamates, and get ready to be surprised!

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Four Points by Sheraton Offers Renovated Meeting and Guestrooms

Four Points by Sheraton San Diego has remodeled 13,000 square feet of meeting space. The renovated Palm Conference Center features a 3,300-square-foot ballroom, divisible into four sections. Four convenient breakout rooms comfortably accommodate sessions of 10 to 60 people. The remodeled Grand Pavilion, adjacent to the Conference Center, offers seating for up to 600 people for meals and is ideal for social events in a tranquil park setting. Also remodeled are the property's 225 guest rooms, including seven suites with marble bathrooms, microwave, refrigerator and 42-inch flat-screen television.

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Kid City Reopening at Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

Kid City, the children's museum within the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, will complete Phase 2 of renovations designed to update the exhibition and add all new hands-on learning interactive, reopening October 23. Kid City is designed especially for preschool children, and features several themed areas that encourage hands-on learning for children ages 5 and under. Upgrades include a permanent Ball Wall with multiple chutes, tubing, tracks, pinwheels and other moving objects that will excite and delight young visitors. An updated Grocery Store with an interactive nutrition component teaches children about the importance of healthy food choices. Visitors will also enjoy the Little Learner's Lab, which features an innovative water and sand educational play area. Discovery Boxes and a touch-station featuring a magnifying camera for up-close exploration add to the fun found in Kid City.

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What's New in San Diego

Lyric Opera San Diego presents crowd-pleasing musical masterpieces from around the globe. Upcoming performances include "Gigi," September 24–October 3, a delightful musical classic that is returning to the San Diego stage for the first time in 20 years, and "The Barber of Seville," November 12–21, recognized as one of the most popular comic operas of all time. The Cygnet Theatre in Old Town will present "The Norman Conquests," through November 2, a trilogy of connected plays performed in repertoire. These hilarious stories take a look at the lives of six family members over one weekend in a home in the English countryside. The three plays, "Table Manners," "Round and Round" and "Garden and Living Together," revolve around Norman, a charming librarian, and the women in his life. Each play depicts the same weekend but from separate parts of the house, and in turn, reveals unique secrets, surprising answers and lots of laughs.

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Paradise Point Resort & Spa Remodeled

Paradise Point Resort & Spa along Mission Bay is open with a fresh new look to its 462 bungalow-style guestrooms and expansive bayfront meeting facilities following an extensive \$20-million renovation. Featuring an exotic South Pacific motif, guestrooms were transformed into airy and sophisticated retreats with sleek hardwoods, handcrafted Batik-style bed throws, expansive windows, and contemporary artworks and furnishings. In addition, each room features chic marble or granite bathrooms, flat-screen plasma televisions, wireless Internet access and private patios. The meeting space renovation includes upgrades to more than 35,000 square feet of space, encompassing the same design detail of the South Pacific in the resort's 29 meeting and banquet rooms and three ballrooms.

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Green Award for the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina

The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina (SSDHM) has earned the "Two Palm Leadership Level" in California's Green Lodging Program, the highest level attainable. It is now the most sustainable convention hotel in San Diego, and the largest property in Southern California to have earned the ranking. To achieve the Two Palm Leadership Level, the SSDHM had to meet and maintain seven criteria, including waste minimization and management, reuse and recycling, energy efficiency, hazardous materials management, conservation and management, freshwater resource management, and environmentally and socially sensitive purchasing policies.

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San Diego Museum Presents New Exhibit

The San Diego Museum of Art presents "Toulouse-Lautrec's Paris: Selections from the Baldwin M. Baldwin Collection" through December 12. Comprised of nearly 100 works by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, the Baldwin M. Baldwin collection pays tribute to an extraordinary modern artist, and one of the museum's foremost patrons. Shown together in San Diego for the first time in 20 years, "Toulouse-Lautrec's Paris" provides a last-look at this first-class collection of paintings, drawings, prints, and posters before the museum begins a campaign to conserve and digitize these important works.

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Old Town's Cosmopolitan Hotel Open

The three-year, multimillion-dollar restoration of Old Town San Diego's Cosmopolitan Hotel has been completed; the "crown jewel of the State Park system" is now open. The Cosmo enjoys a prime location in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, surrounded by museums, historic landmarks and quaint shops, overlooking a grassy plaza. The Cosmopolitan includes an indoor and outdoor restaurant by the same name, boutique hotel with 10 rooms on the second level, along with private dining rooms for special occasions. Originally constructed as the home of San Diego pioneer and early settler Juan Bandini between 1827 and 1829, the Cosmo (as it is affectionately called by Old Towners) is one of the most significant buildings in California, with a history spanning 175 years. It was used first as a home for Bandini's family and later adapted and converted into a hotel, apartment building, olive factory and restaurant. The building is not only a rarity because of its long history, but it has been associated with some of California's most important people and events, and its distinctive architectural

character helps tell the story of the birthplace of California. There are few historic buildings remaining in the state that rival its scale as representative of a 19th century commercial building that combined Mexican adobe and American wood-framing techniques.

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

North Lake Tahoe's Crystal Bay Poised for Transformation

North Lake Tahoe's Crystal Bay casino corridor is poised for a significant transformation, with plans for a new green hotel and wellness center that will become the leader in environmentally responsible redevelopment. The destination resort will include 300 hotel rooms, 59 condominiums, a world-class wellness center and cutting-edge improvements to energy use, water clarity and carbon footprints of traditional hotels. Also planned within the pedestrian village is retail and dining, meeting space, public parks and underground parking. According to the developer Boulder Bay LLC, they are expecting to begin this transformation in spring 2011.

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Groundbreaking of the Wallis Annenberg Center

Construction for a new cultural landmark in Beverly Hills, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, is well under way. The historic 1934 Beverly Hills Post Office will be transformed into a performing arts venue just steps away from the famed Golden Triangle of Beverly Hills. The original post office structure will be preserved and adapted, and it will house a 150-seat flexible studio space, three classrooms, a donor lounge,

production support services and administrative offices. Eight rare WPA-era fresco murals crown the marble-clad walls of the Grand Hall and capture a powerful period of history, portraying the country's labor force and postal service. A 500-seat state-of-the-art theater will be constructed adjacent to the registered landmark building, and audiences will access the new contemporary Goldsmith Theater through an elegant promenade that begins in the Grand Hall, leads to the studio theater and connects via a staircase to the Goldsmith. The site will be rich with lush greenery and will feature a serene sculpture garden. With an estimated completion scheduled for late 2012, the center will become home to the finest theater, music, dance and professional children's theater.

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Point Reyes Hostel Expanding with LEED Facility

The National Park Service at Point Reyes National Seashore broke ground in July on an extension to the Point Reyes Hostel. The new facility is constructed according to LEED green building standards, and includes four private family rooms (each sleeping up to five people), a self-service kitchen, indoor and outdoor guest lounges, as well as living quarters for hostel staff. The new facility is designed to maximize natural light and heat efficiency, and will include a photovoltaic solar energy system installed on the roof. The interior includes cork flooring and recycled glass countertops, and the surrounding landscaping features native, drought resistant plants. The National Park Service aims to receive LEED Silver certification for the hostel's new building. The Point Reyes Hostel is situated 2 miles from Limantour Beach, and is the only non-camping lodging facility within the National Seashore. The hostel's expansion is funded largely by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and is scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

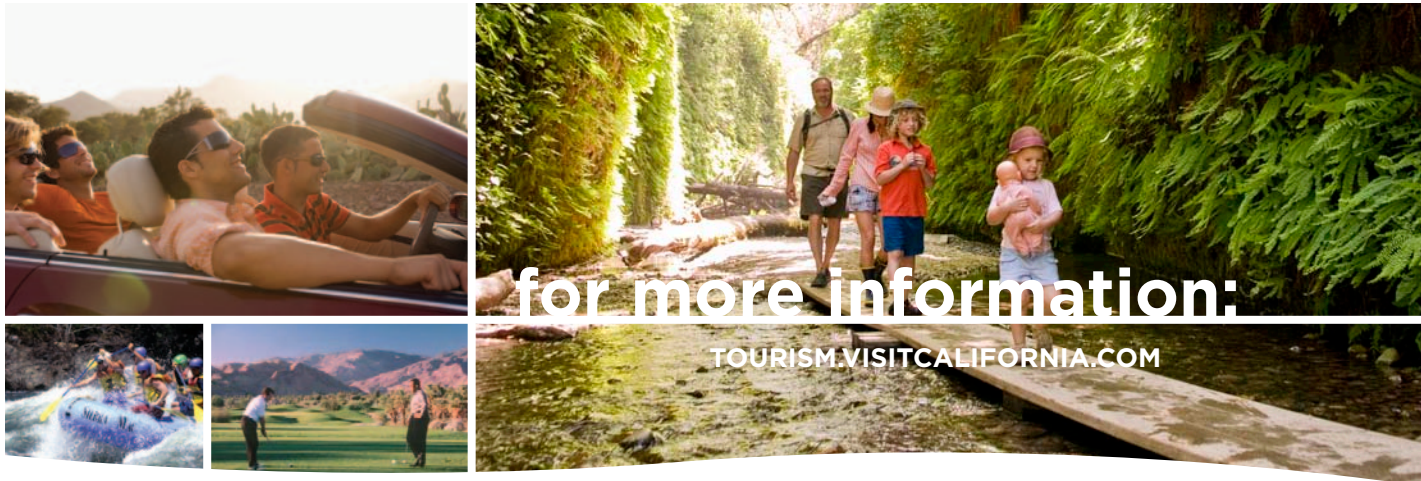
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