

# WHAT'S NEW IN CALIFORNIA

SUMMER 2023



visit  
California





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Visit California is pleased to present this Summer 2023 update on What's New in California. The information in this publication is also available on our online Media Center at [media.visitcalifornia.com](https://media.visitcalifornia.com). There you can dynamically search the most up-to-date information by category and region. For even more information and inspiration, please visit our consumer website at [visitcalifornia.com](https://visitcalifornia.com).

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Above:  
Alila Ventana Big Sur, Big Sur, CA  
On the cover:  
Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park, CA

# What's New

What's New in California showcases new openings and developments happening across the Golden State. Find inspiration for stories revolving around accommodations, culinary, arts and entertainment, family, outdoors, and tours and transportation. Dates listed are subject to change. Confirm with appropriate media contacts listed with each entry.

## Accommodations



### AMADOR

#### **Imperial Hotel Opens in Amador City**

Built in 1879, this brick building replaced a wood-frame hotel destroyed by fire in 1878. The **Imperial Hotel** was extensively restored in 1968 and 1988 and again proudly serves its original purpose in California Gold Country. The new owners (who also own nearby Break Even Beermakers) took over the property in fall 2022. They brought modern updates and a new interior that honors the property's history through its original brick walls, massive wood beams, high ceilings and wood floors. The property features six guest rooms in the main building, with an additional three luxurious cottage rooms a block away. The main building opened this spring, and the Cottages are being refreshed and will open this summer.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** JENNIFER SWEENEY, JENNIFER SWEENEY COMMUNICATIONS, 916-215-1769, [JENNIFER@JSWEENEYCOMMS.COM](mailto:JENNIFER@JSWEENEYCOMMS.COM)

### BIG BEAR

#### **Marina Riviera Big Bear Now Open for Reservations**

Elevating the hospitality landscape in Southern California's premier mountain town of Big Bear Lake is **Marina Riviera** with the opening of its redesigned guestrooms and cabins. The 1968 Viking-inspired lodge has been lovingly restored by Casetta Group, creating a design-driven, elemental boutique experience within the year-round destination. In the San Bernardino Mountains on the lake's south shore edge, Marina Riviera embodies the great outdoors, immersed in refined modern mountain comfort. The hotel comprises 42 guest rooms in the main lodge – all with beautiful lake views, many with private balconies – and six two-bedroom cabins located across Big Bear Blvd. Marina Riviera is a 10-minute shuttle ride to Big Bear Mountain Resort and within a five-minute walk to the shops, dining, and entertainment in The Village at Big Bear Lake. Slated to open later in 2023 are an onsite private beach, swimming pool, hot tub, sauna, and outdoor fire pits, with a bar & restaurant still to come.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KEVINIE WOO, KEVINIE WOO PR, 310-270-5675, [KEVINIE@KEVINIEWOOPR.COM](mailto:KEVINIE@KEVINIEWOOPR.COM)

## CARLSBAD

### **Ocean Pearl Spa Reimagined: New Look, New Treatments**

**Ocean Pearl Spa**, located at the Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa, unveils a new look after undergoing an interior renovation and reimagining its treatment and service offerings to enhance each guest's overall wellness experience. Guided by a personalized and holistic approach to wellness, the treatment therapies include soothing body polishes, tailored massages, and custom facials, all featuring marine-based botanicals and skin care products made to nourish and restore. The spa has also partnered with Carlsbad-based Skin Authority to offer the company's selection of clean performance and sustainable skincare products used in facial treatments. In addition to the new selection of treatment therapies, the spa interiors were also refreshed. The ambiance celebrates the Carlsbad coast with calming tones and seaside chic decor throughout its eight treatment rooms, relaxation areas and locker rooms

**MEDIA CONTACT:** FERNANDA LOPEZ, CHEMISTRY PR, 520-370-0991, [FERNANDA@CHEMISTRYPR.COM](mailto:FERNANDA@CHEMISTRYPR.COM)

## HEALDSBURG

### **The Ruse Healdsburg Opens**

**The Ruse Healdsburg** is a thoughtfully curated and designed boutique 11-room resort inn on three private acres. It offers an inviting twist on the traditional wine country stay, seamlessly blending Victorian charm with modern lines and unexpected amenities. The resort boasts a pool and spa pool, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus putting green, two bocce courts and six pickleball courts. A dedicated concierge is available to assist guests, and a complimentary breakfast is provided along with a bottle of wine for each room. Guests of The Ruse enjoy exclusive access to the private Mayacama resort, renowned as wine country's premier golf destination, offering exceptional golfing and spa services. The Pavilion at The Ruse presents a unique culinary experience, showcasing ingredients sourced from local farmers and artisans right in the heart of Wine Country. Each day, guests can savor a complimentary breakfast at the Pavilion where the menu features ever-changing options showcasing the highest quality and thoughtfully curated local fare

prepared by Executive Chef Craig Linowski. With its picturesque setting and amenities, The Ruse is ideal for corporate and group meetings, family gatherings, and special events.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** MONTY SANDER, FULLER & SANDER COMMUNICATIONS, [MONTY@FULLERANDSANDER.COM](mailto:MONTY@FULLERANDSANDER.COM)

## LOWER LAKE

### **Huttopia Wine Country Now Open**

**Huttopia**, a popular family-owned European, elevated camping brand recognized for its collection of sustainable ready-to-camp, or "prêt-à-camper," lodging concepts across the world, announced the debut of its Northern California Wine Country property in partnership with Six Sigma Ranch and Winery. Recently opened in June, Huttopia Wine County features fully solar-powered facilities, making it the world's first Huttopia camp to be truly off-grid. Set on the 4,300-acre Six Sigma Ranch and Winery, less than two hours from San Francisco and Sacramento, Huttopia opened with a collection of 63 fully solar-powered wood & canvas tents in three different configurations accommodating from 2-5 guests; the ready-to-camp property offers guests uninterrupted access to miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, wine tastings and vineyard tours. On-site amenities include a central lodge, kids' playground, camp store and Airstream food truck, local wines, a solar-heated pool and board games.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** CLAIRE SKINNER, LDPR, 904-303-8323, [CLAIRE@LDPR.COM](mailto:CLAIRE@LDPR.COM)



## PETALUMA

### Petaluma's New Hilton Home2 Suites

With much anticipation, **Petaluma** welcomed Home2 Suites the first week of May 2023. Boasting 140 well-appointed rooms, each equipped with a kitchen, this newest addition is just two minutes from Lagunitas Brewing and 10 minutes from Historic Downtown Petaluma and its cultural hub. Visitors can explore the walkable shopping area where architectural gems of the 1800s house many one-of-a-kind, galleries, shops and antiques. Then, enjoy a flight of Petaluma Gap wines and a delicious meal where the starring ingredients are grown from nearby organic farms. Rent a paddle, pedal, or rowboat and frolic on the Petaluma River, or head to the beaches of Bodega Bay and Sonoma Coast State Park, only 25 miles away. Visiting pets will be treated to their own amenities during their stays, including front desk treats, green spaces and free waste bags. Team members will happily recommend pet-friendly restaurants, vet clinics and dog parks.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** MARY ROUALDES, PETALUMA VISITORS PROGRAM, 707-769-0429, [MARY@VISITPETALUMA.COM](mailto:MARY@VISITPETALUMA.COM)

## SAN DIEGO

### Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Unveils New California Vibe this Summer

**Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter** will be ready to welcome the new global traveler to a '70s-inspired California vibe in downtown San Diego this summer. The \$22.5 million hotel transformation was designed by Waldrop+Nichols Studio, award-winning interior designers from Dallas, Texas. Tech-savvy and eco-conscious guests looking to work and have fun will enjoy the new interior which includes contrasting textures and curvilinear furnishings ready for relaxing with a cocktail. The aesthetic offers an in-vogue movement-inspired expression where everyone can experience the relaxed, mellow mood. Stay and get a snapshot of California culture with a chill vibe in all 256 tower guest rooms, 30 loft suites, restaurant, bar, lobby and 16,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting space.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** PALOMA CONCORDIA, PAPALODOWN AGENCY, 415-992-1428, [PALOMA@PAPALODOWN.COM](mailto:PALOMA@PAPALODOWN.COM)

### Palihotel San Diego Now Open

Palisociety reimagined the historic Hotel St. James, originally built in 1912, into **Palihotel San Diego**, a vibrant and bustling mainstay that opened in May 2023 in the heart of San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. Featuring 122 guest rooms, Palihotel San Diego brings a youthful, design-centric offering to San Diego's hotel landscape, showcasing a preppy, nautical-inspired charm, a new restaurant, and a guest-exclusive roof deck offering daily social hour and the best views of the city. The hotel features Saint James French Diner, an all-day dining room that will blend the approachable nature of an American diner with the subtle elegance of a French bistro.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** EDNA GUTIERREZ, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, 619-557-2887, [EGUTIERREZ@SANDIEGO.ORG](mailto:EGUTIERREZ@SANDIEGO.ORG)

## Culinary



### CHESTER

#### Timber House Restaurant & Lodge Return

**The Timber House Restaurant**, built in 1962 but closed for many years in Chester, CA, is now open with new owners Toni and Robert Vanella and Carol and Berton Bertagna. The two used to vacation at Lake Almano while growing up and wished to become part of the community where they had many memories. As established distillers in Durham, CA, the owners built Timber House Brewery and Distillery adjacent to the restaurant and lodge. Their craft beers are available on tap in the bar. The restaurant offers pub fare, lunch and dinner. The couples also restored the Timber Lodge Hotel, which re-opened three years ago and features nine themed rooms with décor suited to the lake and mountain lifestyle.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KATHERINE SANSONE, SANSONE+ PR & MARKETING, 510-418-2466, [KATHERINE@SANSONEPLUS.COM](mailto:KATHERINE@SANSONEPLUS.COM)

### DANA POINT

#### Young's Beach Shack Opens on Salt Creek Beach

This new outdoor beach cafe, with oceanfront views of Orange County's iconic surf spots, offers locally sourced coastal cuisine, seven tap handles of curated craft beers, and an approachable wine program. Patrons can enjoy the park's various beach activities while savoring healthy and classic beach fare. A nod to the region's heritage, **Young's Beach Shack** takes its name from the original Young's Beach Camp at Salt Creek Beach. First built in 1928, Young's Beach Camp originally charged a quarter for daily beach admission to what is now Salt Creek

Beach. The updated establishment, Young's Beach Shack, acknowledges the location's history with an architectural design that embraces the natural beauty and unique attributes of Dana Point. Young's Beach Shack is located at 33521 Ritz Carlton Drive in Dana Point, and will be open from 7:00 a.m. to sunset daily. Parking is available for \$1/hour.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** EMILY GUARIN, VICTORIA KING PUBLIC RELATIONS, 310-207-5175, [EMILY@VKPR.COM](mailto:EMILY@VKPR.COM)

### FORT BRAGG

#### The Inn at Newport Ranch Launches New Culinary Program with Chef Patrick Meany

**The Inn at Newport Ranch** just launched its new culinary program with chef Patrick Meany and a focus on foraging and ranch-grown ingredients. With a background working with some of the finest restaurants, including the two-Michelin-starred Harbor House in Elk, CA and the Thomas Keller Group, Meany will make the most of ingredients foraged and produced on property. These include meat from Angus and Charolais Cattle raised on the property, as well as California nutmeg, fiddlehead ferns and a variety of mushrooms. Meany will also use his unique talents with fermentation to make in-house miso, shoyu and other ingredients from scratch. He will forgo typical restaurant pantry items flown in from overseas, such as truffle oil and balsamic vinegar, in favor of a larder featuring staples made with local ingredients. Guests will also have the opportunity to learn to forage and enjoy their finds with a special dinner.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KATHRYN RIORDAN, THE ACE AGENCY, 651-329-2316, [CHANDRA@DANDELIONPR.COM](mailto:CHANDRA@DANDELIONPR.COM)

## LONG BEACH

### A PCH Now Open at 2nd & PCH

River Jetty Restaurant Group partners, Hollywood producer Joseph ‘McG’ Nichol and restaurateur Jordan Otterbein, known for A Restaurant, A Market, and A Crystal Cove in Newport Beach and CdM Restaurant in Corona del Mar, have recently traveled up the coast to open their fifth Pacific Coast Highway hotspot, **A PCH**. Located at 2ND & PCH, Long Beach’s hub for best-in-class dining and shopping, A PCH is open daily for lunch and dinner and brunch on the weekend. Take in panoramic views overlooking Alamitos Bay from the 2,500-square-foot enclosed and weatherproofed patio, and experience laid-back coastal luxury in a lively and welcoming atmosphere featuring a show-stopping brass central bar, red and blue banquets, unique curated artwork and modern fixtures. With Executive Chef Luis Capiz at the helm, the seasonally inspired modern-American menu showcases River Jetty Restaurant Group’s most-loved dishes of land and sea along with a curated selection of artisanal cocktails with a local flare. Weekly happenings include Wine Wednesday with half-off wine and bubbles from open to close, and vibe-style dining with a DJ starting at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KATHRYN RIORDAN, THE ACE AGENCY, 651-329-2316, [KATHRYN@THEACEAGENCY.COM](mailto:KATHRYN@THEACEAGENCY.COM)

## OAKHURST

### Sierra Sky Ranch Opens New Lively Public House - Cowboy Tavern

Cowboy Tavern, a lively public house with craft cocktails and elevated comfort food, opened in 2022 and will reopen after its winter hiatus in May for its first summer season. Chef Brandon Bollenbacher and the culinary team use fresh, locally sourced ingredients to create culinary masterpieces from scratch that pack a punch of flavor and the comfort of a home-cooked meal. Cowboy Tavern is conveniently located on the **Sierra Sky Ranch** property, a cattle ranch dating back to 1875 that has been converted into a 28-room ranch house.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KATE HOLDEN, [VISIT YOSEMITE | MADERA COUNTY](mailto:VISITYOSEMITE|MADERACOUNTY), 559-683-4636, [KATE@YOSEMITEHISYEAR.COM](mailto:KATE@YOSEMITEHISYEAR.COM)

## OCEANSIDE

### New Oceanside Speakeasies Focus on Late-Night Fun

**Oceanside’s** nightlife scene has received a double boost with two new speakeasies offering creative craft cocktails and immersive themed experiences. Ladies Love Outlaws is located inside Heritage Barbecue & Beer Co. and boasts a dark and moody atmosphere with a laid-back Honky Tonk vibe. The bar’s vintage jukebox is loaded with classic country gold, and the bar features aptly named cocktails like “Big Buckle Energy.” The Space Pad at Kilowatt Brewery is an otherworldly cocktail lounge inspired by the planet Rillispore. Guests enter through a space elevator to experience the 1950s atomic era-styled cosmic ambiance and can choose from a menu of innovative cocktails designed by Mixologist Cristian Diaz, known for his work at Disneyland’s Trader Sam’s Enchanted Tiki Bar. Menu items include cocktails with flavored smoke bubbles, lava lamp drinks that change color, and spherefied cocktails that patrons can bite into.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** SHAE GEARY, [VISIT OCEANSIDE](mailto:VISITOCEANSIDE), 760-721-1101, [SHAE@VISITOCEANSIDE.ORG](mailto:SHAE@VISITOCEANSIDE.ORG)

## SAN DIEGO

### Kimpton Alma San Diego Opens Leave of Absence

**Kimpton Alma San Diego**, the recently opened boutique hotel set in the heart of the historic Gaslamp Quarter, debuted its newest dining venue, Leave of Absence, a rooftop, poolside hangout serving fresh fare and craveable cocktails just in time for summer. **Leave of Absence** is located on the hotel's pool deck and features a menu of delicious finger foods straight out of the stone, wood-fired oven and handcrafted cocktails meant to be enjoyed in the sun and by the pool. This venue marks the third dining destination spearheaded by acclaimed Los Angeles-based chef-restaurateur Jason Neroni within Kimpton Alma. Some menu items include chicken shawarma meatballs, Hanger steak shashlik, baked rigatoni, wood-fired flatbreads, the Raspado, a Jamaican-inspired slushy spiked with mezcal; the Taiji cocktail and more.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** SHAYNA ZEIGEN, SEQUEL, 619-922-2483, [SZEIGEN@SEQUEL-INC.COM](mailto:SZEIGEN@SEQUEL-INC.COM)

### Hommage Bakehouse Expands, Opening Flagship Location in Mission Valley

**Hommage Bakehouse**, the bakery behind some of San Diego's flakiest croissants, naturally leavened bread and iconic kouign-amanns, has its sights set on opening a flagship location in Mission Valley this August 2023. The San Diego-based bakery led by Partner/Head Baker Justin Gaspar, is focused on staying true to the historical spirit of bread making while tying in exceptional ingredients and offering an ever-changing menu of artisanal bread and pastries. Hommage believes that every neighborhood should have access to a great bakery and wants to be just that for Mission Valley.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** HAYLEY BICK, KATALYST PR, 516-965-7373, [HAYLEY@KATALYST-PR.COM](mailto:HAYLEY@KATALYST-PR.COM)

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Ghirardelli Chocolate Company Reopens Flagship Store

Ghirardelli Chocolate Company reopened its flagship store, the Original **Ghirardelli Chocolate & Ice Cream Shop**, at Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco. After a six-month renovation of the historic building, the store celebrates Ghirardelli's history and craftsmanship as a U.S. chocolate pioneer and the company's legacy in San Francisco dating back to the 1850s. The new design features North America's largest flowing chocolate wall, the original, 19-foot "G" from the historic marque Ghirardelli sign, a replica San Francisco cable car that doubles as a seating area, antique chocolate-making equipment on display, and much more for guests to discover. Introduced in 1966, the Original Chocolate and Ice Cream Shop was Ghirardelli's first location that focused on sundaes. The menu will feature 15 different sundaes, including Ghirardelli's World-Famous Hot Fudge Sundae.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** NATHAN HAMBLEY, EDIBLE-INC, 206-664-8634, [NATHAN.HAMBLEY@EDIBLE-INC.COM](mailto:NATHAN.HAMBLEY@EDIBLE-INC.COM)

### Kiln Now Open in San Francisco

Opened May 2023 in Hayes Valley, **Kiln** is a new 3,400-square-foot fine-dining concept from Partner/Chef John Wesley and Partner/General Manager Julianna Yang, who previously worked together at Michelin-starred Sons & Daughters. Wesley and Yang were inspired to introduce a transformative dining experience that showcases worldly ingredients, highlevel technique and excellent hospitality. The Tasting Menu (18-20 courses, \$225) and Bar Menu (8-10 courses, \$135) are a study of intention, simplicity, and purity of flavor with an ingredient-forward and technique-driven approach to global cuisine. Kiln's purveyors include 90% local farmers, sustainably sourced meats, and wild-caught seasonal seafood - all of which share the restaurant's dedication to the finest products. Beverage Director Vincent Balao, formerly the Lead Sommelier at Atelier Crenn, designed a program that features classic old world and new-world wines, champagnes, beers, ciders, sake, and alcohol-free spirits.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** ASHLEY HAMIK, ASHLEY HAMIK COMMUNICATIONS, 707-849-0212, [ASHLEY@ASHLEYHAMIK.COM](mailto:ASHLEY@ASHLEYHAMIK.COM)



## SANTA MARIA VALLEY

### The Gatehouse at Bien Nacido Opens

The Miller family is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Bien Nacido Vineyard**. To commemorate this milestone, the family is debuting a brand-new hospitality center, The Gatehouse at Bien Nacido, allowing guests to experience this historic estate and its wines like never before. Situated on the land of a Spanish Land Grant from the early 1800s, Bien Nacido was planted by brothers Bob and Steve Miller in 1973. They named it Bien Nacido, which means “well born” in Spanish, signifying the passion and commitment they shared in bringing this vineyard to life. Home to the first cool-climate Syrah grapes on the Central Coast, Bien Nacido has a long history of producing distinctive Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah wines from the Santa Maria Valley AVA. Guests are invited to experience the magic of this exclusive property daily through The Gatehouse’s thoughtful collection of tasting experiences and tours.

### Old Town Orcutt Welcomes a New Vibe with Lark + Sparrow

Anyone who walks through the doors of Old Town Orcutt’s newest vintage boutique and gourmet market truly knows what a gem this new business is. Described as “a vibe” by its patrons, **Lark + Sparrow** is an amalgamation of its owners’ lived experiences brought to life in a new wine and beer bar offering gourmet food and a vintage market in Old Town Orcutt, located at the heart of Santa Maria Valley.

### Liquid Gravity Brewing Company Opens New Taproom in Old Town Orcutt

**Liquid Gravity Brewing Company** was founded by San Luis Obispo native Brendan Gough. A brewing industry veteran, Gough has spent his career brewing on the Central Coast. After working for Doc Cellars, Central Coast Brewing and Firestone Walker, to name a few, Gough decided to venture on his own and Liquid Gravity was born. The beers brewed and developed at Liquid Gravity Brewing Company push boundaries. By focusing on big, bold, flavor-rich beers, exotic ingredients, and cutting-edge brewing techniques, Liquid Gravity aims to offer an

experience unlike any other on the Central Coast. In May 2023, Liquid Gravity opened its second taproom in Old Town Orcutt. Located at 156 Broadway Street, Ste. F, the new taproom opens at noon Tuesday through Sunday.

### Welcome Back to Cambria Estate Winery

After a year of work in its winery and tasting room, **Cambria Estate Winery’s** makeover is now complete. Inside, guests will find a beautiful, new tasting lounge complete with new flooring, furniture and décor, among other renovations. Outdoors, the facility offers a fully refurbished patio. Located just off the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail, the Cambria Estate Winery in Santa Maria is known for its scenic, hillside setting and sustainably-crafted wines featuring Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Rhone varieties grown on the estate. Choose from the Estate tasting (\$25 per person), Reserve tasting (\$35 per person), or Picnic Bottle Service (\$50 table fee + bottle price).

**MEDIA CONTACT:** NICOLE SHEARER, KPS3, 530-448-6485  
[NICOLE.SHEARER@KPS3.COM](mailto:NICOLE.SHEARER@KPS3.COM)

## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

### Fess Parker Debuts Newly Renovated Epiphany Tasting Room

The recent renovation of **Fess Parker’s Epiphany Tasting Room** in the Santa Ynez Valley of Santa Barbara County, California, caters to discerning leisure travelers and wine enthusiasts. The renovation enhances the outdoor tasting experience, resulting in the introduction of new pavers and shade sails, perimeter bench seating, upgraded cushions and finishes for the lounge furniture, and the addition of a new outdoor service bar in the expansive garden area. These enhancements are carefully designed to create a comfortable and functional space where guests can savor Rhône varietal wines while immersing themselves in the surrounding area’s natural beauty. Overseeing the renovation was Josh White, a dedicated family member committed to preserving the legacy of Fess Parker as a family-owned and operated business.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** NATHALIE GILLER, CINCH PR, 805-705-9060,  
[NATHALIEG@CINCHPR.COM](mailto:NATHALIEG@CINCHPR.COM)

## Arts & Entertainment



### OCEANSIDE

#### California Surf Museum Oceanside Debuts New STEAM Exhibit: The Science of Surfing

Visitors to the **California Surf Museum** Oceanside can enjoy a new eye-opening, fun and informative exhibit that explores the many surprising connections between science and the advancement of modern surfing. The Science of Surfing is a new multi-media exhibit carefully curated to comply with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) and the California Next Generation Science Standards and is a learning tool for students from elementary school through high school and beyond. This entertaining and educational display highlights wave energy, tides, types of surf breaks and conditions, and the custodianship of our oceans, which is illustrated through a series of charts, diagrams, photographs, art and video monitors. By blending history and science, the display covers a wide variety of information designed to engage all visitors, regardless of their familiarity with surfing.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** SHAE GEARY, [VISIT OCEANSIDE](#), 760-721-1101, [SHAE@VISITOCESANSIDE.ORG](mailto:SHAE@VISITOCESANSIDE.ORG)

### PACIFICA

#### Malt & Stone Opens its Doors in Pacifica

**Malt + Stone**, a trendy, curated collection of goods in the heart of Pacifica, officially opened at 1625 Palmetto Ave. Shoppers will find women's and children's fashion and unique modern home goods, accessories and plants. The brand began as a handmade jewelry company, and since, founder Caitlyn Cuadra has grown it into what it is today. Their goal is to make everyone feel confident in their skin and proud to be made by women, for women. Shop hours are 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The new store will join other local favorites along Palmetto Ave., including Cotton Crustacean, Royal Bee Yarn Co., 731 Designs and more!

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KEVIN ALMEIDA, CREATIVE DIGITAL AGENCY/ CITY OF PACIFICA, 213-509-7630, [KEVIN@CREATIVEDIGITALAGENCY.COM](mailto:KEVIN@CREATIVEDIGITALAGENCY.COM)

### SAN DIEGO

#### New Additions at One Paseo

**One Paseo**, the urban village in San Diego's north county coastal community of Del Mar, has become a destination for dining, shopping and events. Leading into the summer, the coast-meets-country curated mixed-use space will welcome several additions and updates to its already stacked collection, including Land & Sea (recently opened in April), a golf and surf lifestyle shop, South of Nick's, the Mexican-inspired sister concept to Nick's Del Mar (opened in June) and The Great (opened in May), an industry favorite womenswear line.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** HAYLEY BICK, KATALYST PR, 516-965-7373, [HAYLEY@KATALYST-PR.COM](mailto:HAYLEY@KATALYST-PR.COM)



## Family



### BUENA PARK

#### **Fiesta Village Reopens at Knott's Berry Farm**

**Knott's Berry Farm** in Buena Park opened its reimagined Fiesta Village this summer, which has been transformed into a space that celebrates the Hispanic roots of Southern California. New dining options, a marketplace reminiscent of Olvera Street in Los Angeles, and more will wow visitors. The foodie paradise also includes a new quick service tacos and burritos option in the former Casa California space. Papas Mexicana sells tried and true carne asada fries, among other delicious eats. La Papa Loca is now Cantina Del Sur, where guests can order various specialty drinks. Last but not least, a taco stand dubbed Taqueria Fiesta is on deck for a quick bite as guests go from attraction to attraction. Fiesta Village reopened with the updated MonteZOOMa: The Forbidden Fortress coaster, including a randomized launch sequence that gives guests a different experience every time.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KARINA DIEZ, VISIT BUENA PARK, 714-562-3561, [KDIEZ@BUENAPARK.COM](mailto:KDIEZ@BUENAPARK.COM)

### SAN DIEGO

#### **New Family Offerings at Belmont Park**

**Belmont Park**, a historic oceanfront amusement park located in Mission Beach, has big plans in motion for its 100th anniversary in 2025 – including opening a new ride. In the meantime, a new interactive climbing tower called Sun Kid Tower will debut this summer, offering thrillseekers views of the Pacific Ocean and Mission Beach boardwalk. The park also recently replaced its Control Freak ride with Flip Out, and expanded its Lazerblast Arcade, adding 14 new games and additional prizes.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** EDNA GUTIERREZ, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, 619-557-2887, [EGUTIERREZ@SANDIEGO.ORG](mailto:EGUTIERREZ@SANDIEGO.ORG)

## Technology & Tours



### BURBANK

#### **Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood Celebrates the Studio's 100th Anniversary with New Exhibit**

**Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood**, the world's premier attraction for getting fans closer to the entertainment they love, debuts "100 Years of Warner Bros." This new exhibit celebrates the Studio's centennial anniversary and the studio tour's 50th anniversary. The installation explores 100 years of Warner Bros.' impact on storytelling, recognizing a range of classic and contemporary productions, including *Casablanca*, DC Comics, *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter*, *Abbott Elementary*, and beyond. The exhibit officially opened on April 5 in the Warner Bros. Studio Tour Welcome Center. From animation, superheroes, iconic television shows, memorable costumes, blockbuster hits, and more, the exhibit showcases 100 years of storytelling.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** JERRY CERTONIO, WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR HOLLYWOOD, 661-644-2455, [JERRY.CERTONIO@WARNERBROS.COM](mailto:JERRY.CERTONIO@WARNERBROS.COM)

### LOS ANGELES & SAN DIEGO

#### **New Store Openings for Unlimited Biking in California**

**Unlimited Biking** is one of the largest bike rentals, tours, and experiences providers, with over 250+ travel partners operating domestically and internationally. In addition, the company works with boutique and major hotels to provide private bikes and e-bikes as an amenity for guests in some of the largest cities in the country, including San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. Unlimited

Biking's recently opened stores in San Diego and Los Angeles are located at 330 K Street, San Diego, CA 92101 and 1431 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The amenity program provides partner hotels with regular or electric bikes and docking stations onsite as a value-added guest amenity. Hotel guests can also visit one of the local Unlimited Biking stores if onsite space is limited. This service is designed for everyone, from single travelers to large families.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** JAKE WENGROFF, TECHNICA COMMUNICATIONS, 408-806-9626, [UNLIMITEBIKING@TECHNICA.INC](mailto:UNLIMITEBIKING@TECHNICA.INC)

### SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

#### **Free Factory Tours at Annieglass**

Ann Morhauser is celebrating four decades of producing her highly successful glass tableware and gifts this year. **Annieglass** pieces are individually crafted, dishwasher safe and chip resistant, and complement casual get-togethers and formal soirées. Annieglass is made at Ann's studio factory in the south Santa Cruz County town of Watsonville, and each piece is hand-engraved. Free factory tours are offered on Fridays and Saturdays.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** CHRISTINA GLYNN, [VISIT SANTA CRUZ COUNTY](mailto:VISIT_SANTA_CRUZ_COUNTY), 831-239-7080, [CGLYNN@SANTACRUZ.ORG](mailto:CGLYNN@SANTACRUZ.ORG)



# Contact Us

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VICE PRESIDENT OF  
COMMUNICATIONS

**Ryan Becker**

[rbecker@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:rbecker@visitcalifornia.com)



DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Angie Pappas**

[apappas@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:apappas@visitcalifornia.com)



DOMESTIC PUBLIC  
RELATIONS MANAGER

**Kristen Bonilla**

[kbonilla@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:kbonilla@visitcalifornia.com)



PUBLIC RELATIONS  
MANAGER

**Xavier Roque**

[xroque@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:xroque@visitcalifornia.com)



MEDIA RELATIONS  
COORDINATOR

**Molly Bloss**

[mbloss@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:mbloss@visitcalifornia.com)