

WHAT'S NEW IN CALIFORNIA

SPRING 2024



visit
California



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Visit California is pleased to present this Spring 2024 update on What's New in California. The information in this publication is also available on our online Media Center at 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.

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Above:
Michelin Star Restaurant: Barndiva, Healdsburg, CA

On the cover:
RV Camping near Sequoia National Park, CA

What's New

What's New in California showcases new openings and developments happening across the Golden State. Find inspiration for stories centering around accommodations, arts and entertainment, culinary, family, outdoors, technology and tours, and anniversaries and milestones. Dates listed are subject to change without notice. Confirm with the appropriate media contacts listed with each entry.

Accommodations



DANA POINT

El Caminante Bar & Bungalows Opening Soon

El Caminante Bar & Bungalows, a boutique hotel complete with an adjoining coastal and Mediterranean-inspired Boutique Café is slated to open in May 2024 in Dana Point. El Caminante sits hidden in the serene enclave of Capistrano Beach – along the iconic Pacific Coast Highway, offering ocean views in every room! Guests will embark on a journey to a Spanish Riviera oasis, featuring 30 bungalows, ranging from The Hacienda suite with a private sun deck, to charming rooms featuring Dutch doors leading to expansive private patios offering panoramic views of the sea mere steps away, and the surrounding palm trees, bougainvilleas, and fruit trees. El Caminante's Boutique Café, The Bar, brings the flavors of the Coastal Mediterranean to life – all prepared and served from a vintage airstream positioned alongside the restaurant.

MEDIA CONTACT: MADDIE WOLFE, AF&CO, 510-325-0130,
MADDIE@AFANDCO.COM

GROVELAND

New Getaway at Yosemite's Doorstep

Firefall Ranch at Yosemite offers an unparalleled blend of rustic elegance, exceptional nature-forward experiences and sustainable travel practices, all within minutes of Yosemite's popular northwest entrance. A beckoning retreat for discerning travelers, the Ranch comprises 55 thoughtfully designed, stand-alone cottages and villas dispersed amongst 300 acres of serene meadowland and forested rolling hills. This getaway is filled with striking design flourishes throughout the grounds, including a pool area, restaurant, tavern, general store, wine room and event center. Firefall Ranch is fortunate to partner with sister Yosemite properties **Rush Creek Lodge & Spa** and **Evergreen Lodge**, both Certified B Corporations that are leading the way in sustainable travel with social responsibility and an environmental stewardship program at the core of their operations.

MEDIA CONTACT: LIANNA WEHRUNG, AF&CO, 619-602-6762,
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HUMBOLDT COUNTY

My Humboldt Abode Now Open Amongst Ancient Redwoods

My Humboldt Abode welcomes guests to relax and recalibrate while staying on the four acre retreat property of ancient redwood along the shores of the pristine Eel River. Located at the gateway to the rugged beaches and trailheads of the Lost Coast and just a short distance from Humboldt Redwoods State Park and world-renowned Avenue of the Giants, guest can immerse themselves amongst the ancient redwoods and relax through activities such as forest bathing, massage therapy, reiki energy healing, and various spa services. With the concierge services, guests can stay and play, booking wine tastings, adventure tours, sport fishing, kayaking and more.

MEDIA CONTACT: SAMANTHA WILSON, MY HUMBOLDT ABODE, 707-223-5646, SWAMI@MYHUMBOLDTABODE.COM

MARINA DEL REY

Extensive Hotel Renovations in L.A.'s Marina

In 2024, Marina del Rey, the vibrant coastal community of Los Angeles, continues its renaissance, featuring extensive hotel renovations. Hilton Garden Inn, Marina del Rey just completed a renovation of its 136 guest rooms and suites, including their spacious loft studios, boasting a vibrant and welcoming setting for guests. Additionally, the hotel refreshed its lobby, adding a "Pantry Pavilion" for grab and go drinks and snacks, along with their restaurant and outdoor spaces. Jamaica Bay Inn, Tapestry Collection by Hilton will complete a renovation of its 111 guest rooms and suites in the spring. The redesigned rooms will reflect the property's proximity to the ocean, weaving in nautical colors and textures as a nod to the Marina.

MEDIA CONTACT: KAT JACOB, MARINA DEL REY TOURISM BOARD, 310-306-9900, KJACOB@VISITMDR.COM

MARIPOSA COUNTY

New Lodging in Yosemite Mariposa County for 2024

Yosemite Mariposa County, the home to Yosemite National Park, is celebrating new lodging properties in 2024. This spring a new glamping option, **Wildhaven Yosemite**, will open its first phase in May. Wildhaven Yosemite will offer glamping tents and cozy cabins on a beautiful property with mountain and long valley views. Its extra-large,

safari-style tents, and modular cabins with baths feature comfortable beds with linens, electricity, heaters, and all the furnishings needed for a comfortable night's sleep. After a few years of closures, the **Yosemite High Sierra Camps** will open again in summer 2024. Nestled high in the wilderness and surrounded by nature, the five camps are only accessible on foot or by mule.

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NAPA VALLEY

The Meritage Resort and Spa Unveils \$25 Million Reimagination

The Meritage Resort and Spa proudly unveiled a \$25 million reimagination this April, debuting 322 transformed guest rooms, renovated amenities, lobby and bar area, an updated bowling lounge, a brand new steakhouse and elevated bubbly tasting room. Renowned as a premier, one-stop shop for everything Napa, the now 467-room resort is proud to introduce guests to the next evolution of The Meritage experience: a gateway to the best of California Wine Country. The nine-acre retreat is now home to multiple on-site tasting rooms, a locally sourced artisanal market, and a state-of-the-art cooking center all housed in an eclectic Food & Wine Village. The campus features six dining options, a bowling alley, two pools and wellness centers, and the 22,000-square-foot Spa Terra, nestled in an Estate Cave beneath the property's own Trinitas vineyard. With 80,000 combined square feet of venue space, ranging from the region's largest indoor ballroom to a hillside garden, as well as rich programming and a schedule full of classes, concerts, and events, the resort is a wine country playground and a destination in itself. Made possible by the Busch Family and **Pacific Hospitality Group's** multi-million dollar investment, the overall renovation project was inspired by the acres of land on which the property is set and the rolling golden hills that surround it.

MEDIA CONTACT: CHLOE MORENO, THE MERITAGE RESORT & SPA, 815-999-1045, CHLOE@DIAMONDPR.COM

Silverado Resort Completes Renovation of Meeting Space

Silverado Resort, an iconic landmark resort in the heart of classic Napa Valley wine country, has put the finishing touches on the \$1.5 million renovation of 17,000 square feet of meeting and event space encompassing the ballroom, conference and meeting rooms and pre-function areas. This comes on the heels of a refresh of the resort's indoor and alfresco signature restaurant, **The Grill**, with a bright look, inspired new menus and a verdant chef's garden. Other recent upgrades include new golf carts with GPS, Bluetooth music and tech to let golfers order food and drink while playing the resort's two championship courses. For tennis enthusiasts, the resort boasts nine newly-refinished tennis courts alongside the recent addition of three state-of-the-art pickleball courts. New guestrooms are coming later this year.

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SANTA MONICA

Sandbourne Hotel Debuts After Revitalization

Hotel guests will indulge in an extraordinary experience at the new Sandbourne Santa Monica this spring. Formerly Le Merigot Santa Monica, this revitalized hotel promises wonders beyond comparison with chic design curation from architect and designer Gulla Jónsdóttir. Discover 175 exquisitely designed guest rooms and suites with 400-square-foot patios, each a haven of comfort and luxury. For culinary delights, enjoy the new restaurant helmed by esteemed local Chef Raphael Lunetta, where every bite is a symphony of California flavors. Visitors will prepare to be enchanted by a plethora of additional delights and surprises upon arrival, including event space totaling 10,000 square feet.

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Culinary



COSTA MESA

New Restaurants in Costa Mesa

Costa Mesa, one of the most inventive food destinations in Orange County, has multiple new offerings. Straight from Mexico City, **Churrería El Moro** introduces its US flagship location in Northgate Market, offering the best churros and chocolate since 1935. **The Plot**, a near-zero waste kitchen, features 100% plant-based dishes rich in flavor and sustainability, marking the newest location by a dynamic husband and wife team. **Maizano** reshapes the landscape of elevated Mexican cuisine, offering a contemporary interpretation of traditional recipes from Yucatán, Puebla, and Oaxaca. **Costa Mesa Kitchens**, a ghost kitchen, boasts over 24 unique restaurants, including Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop Kitchen, creating a bustling culinary playground.

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ELK GROVE

Slow & Low Becomes Elk Groves Newest Smokehouse

Located in Historic Elk Grove, **Slow & Low** will occupy a 2,400 square-foot brick building which has been completely renovated with a spacious outdoor patio and state-of-the-art custom smoker. The restaurant will feature barbecue favorites in addition to vegan and vegetarian options. Michael Hargis, founder of the popular LowBrau German beer hall in Midtown Sacramento, is expanding his presence to the greater Sacramento region with the addition of Slow & Low in Elk Grove. Guests should expect a small-town gathering place with mouthwatering plates at Slow & Low beginning in spring.

MEDIA CONTACT: CASEY FABBRI, EXPLORE ELK GROVE, 916-512-8211, CASEY@EXPLOREELKGROVE.COM

EMERYVILLE

Pippal Launches Innovative Cocktail Program

Pippal, one of San Francisco's newest, innovative cocktail programs, tells the rich story of India's heritage landmarks through each beverage. The new, regional Indian concept in Emeryville celebrates India as seen through the eyes of the team's creative lead bartender, Izler Thomas. Every cocktail on the menu pays homage to a specific heritage property in India and incorporates flavor profiles that reflect the ingredients found in that region. From the majestic Taj Mahal to the serene backwaters of Kerala, every cocktail tells a story inspired by the historical charm of these architectural wonders, creating a sensory experience that transcends the ordinary.

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HEALDSBURG

New Healdsburg Mocktail Trail Debuts

Continuing the trend towards embracing low or no alcohol options, the **Mocktail Trail in Healdsburg** offers diverse mocktail menus from many popular Healdsburg restaurants. Mixologists at **Lo & Behold**, **Spoon Bar**, **Bravas Bar de Tapas**, **Chalkboard**, **Goodnights Prime Steak & Spirits**, **Little Saint**, **The Rooftop at Harmon House**, and **Willi's Seafood and Raw Bar** have crafted drinks that feature a no-spirits menu going well beyond typical alcohol-free cocktails. From Spanish-inspired mocktails to coastal creations, each stop on the trail promises a unique and delightful experience.

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LA JOLLA

Whaling Bar Reopens

Following a 10-year closure, the **Whaling Bar** reopened in early 2024 located inside the Valencia Hotel. Originally opened in the 1940's, the Whaling Bar was a favorite among notable locals and luminaries like Tom Hanks and Robin Williams. The new rendition will incorporate a new design but will bring back some original nautical-themed paintings and cocktails. The cocktail lounge will continue as part of the hotel, but its cocktail and bar menu will be created and managed by the SDCM Restaurant Group.

MEDIA CONTACT: PAUL GARCIA, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, 619-557-2821, PGARCIA@SANDIEGO.ORG

LOS ANGELES

The Bar Debuts at Short Stories Hotel

The Fairfax neighborhood welcomed **The Bar at Short Stories Hotel**, an elevated lounge & bar concept offering a cocktail-forward experience. Nestled in Short Stories Hotel's central courtyard oasis, the lounge evokes a secret garden sanctuary with European touches of Italian marble as well as a classic stone fountain and is heavily landscaped with lush vegetation under a canopy of African Sumac trees. Introducing an innovative approach to mixology culture with recipes that are prepared using contemporary techniques, the craft cocktails feature unexpected pairings that are also creative and playful. The wine list spotlights a succinct yet broad collection of old and new world labels, with a strong focus on California winemaking. Complementing the beverage menu, the culinary selection highlights classic American fare, boasting familiar favorites and refined small plates, with an emphasis on shareable dining.

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LA Welcomes Recently-Opened SHOR

The team behind a twice Michelin-recognized restaurant opened the doors to their second culinary venture, **SHOR**, an experience inspired by bazaars, in the heart of the Hawaiian Gardens neighborhood in LA. Led by Chef Imran 'Ali' Mookhi, SHOR is advancing Mookhi's mission to revolutionize high-end Desi cuisine in the West. Inspired by Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, SHOR's menu offers 100% halal global flavors in sophisticated presentations. To complete this immersive experience, the team brought on Executive Pastry Chef Mark Medina, Le Cordon Bleu Alum, to develop an elevated pastry menu that embodies the integral flavors of Desi cuisine. Adhering to the halal non-alcoholic tradition, SHOR features a unique non-alcoholic beverage selection including zero-proof versions of classic cocktails and a water bar, boasting an international collection, including the exclusive \$1,000 Japanese Filico Jewelry bottle.

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MARIPOSA

Downtown Mariposa Welcomes Happy Goat Diner

The **Happy Goat Diner** has opened its doors in the heart of downtown Mariposa. The farm to table restaurant serves updated American classic food for breakfast and lunch with food grown at the Happy Goat Farm just a few miles away. The 1,850 acre farm was established in 2020 and is dedicated to serving the local community through a variety of programs. Shuttle service from the restaurant to happy hour at the nearby farm where diners can listen to live music in a beautiful terraced landscape. Starting in 2024, the afternoon Fun on the Farm Happy Hour experience will be available to the general public. In the evenings, guests can snuggle with and feed the goats while enjoying a cocktail made with ingredients from the farm. Their "Goats for Good" program offers fire grazing by the 300 Happy Goats, a service that will be offered for free in 2024 for residents of Mariposa County.

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PASO ROBLES

Tank Garage Opening its Second Location

Tank Garage Winery, a wine brand and 1930s era gas station-turned-winery in the Napa Valley town of Calistoga, is opening a second tasting room in Paso Robles in spring 2024. The winery features eclectic wine blends and vintage vibes, with the goal of making wines with soul and purpose.

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SAN FRANCISCO

Z&Y Peking Duck Now Open with New Event Space

Z&Y Peking Duck, San Francisco's newest restaurant that celebrates the centuries-old, Chinese culinary icon the Beijing Peking Duck, is now open with the completion of its new event space designed for social and corporate events and VIP parties. Featuring modern Chinese décor with a vibrant red and gold color scheme, the space has been completely remodeled for private parties and events for up to 60 people and features two large custom tables with built in lazy Susans. The space features dragon decor to signify strength and prosperity, delicate, red oversized paper chandeliers, and warm wood accents with slatted wood separators to create an intimate and welcoming atmosphere.

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SAN LUIS OBISPO

Luna Red Opens in Downtown San Luis Obispo

Nestled beside the Mission de Tolosa in downtown San Luis Obispo, **Luna Red** delivers an extraordinary dining experience in a vibrant and artistic ambiance. Chef Shaun Behrens' vision is embodied in a menu of small plates, reflecting his deep commitment to utilizing locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients. Luna Red excels in crafting delectable tapas and distinctive cocktails, dedicated to championing local farmers, artists and musicians, with a mission to elevate SLO's service industry standards through community-based sustainability and culture.

MEDIA CONTACT: HOLLIE WEST, SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 805-786-2777, HOLLIE@SLOCHAMBER.ORG

SOLVANG

New Restaurant Openings in Solvang from Two Local Chefs

Chef Budi Kazali, former chef and owner of the beloved Ballard Inn, will return to the kitchen in his forthcoming restaurant concept located in the longtime Succulent Café space on Solvang's Mission Drive. Similar to The Gathering Table, his last restaurant at the Ballard Inn, the restaurant aims to open in the spring of 2024 with menu items of mixed cuisines meant for convivial sharing, most with an Asian cuisine-inspired influence. Named in honor of Chef Cullen Campbell's former Phoenix, AZ hospitality concepts, "Crudo" restaurant and bar will open this spring directly across from Solvang's Alisal windmill. Occupying the first floor of a two-story venue, Crudo will be an intimate bar with a regionally-sourced, raw fish-focused menu inspired by the Italian 'crudo' preparations of raw ingredients. Crudo will later be joined by a sister sushi and izakaya-style restaurant.

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Arts & Entertainment



HEALDSBURG

Record Shop Open in Tasting Room

Montagne Russe, a small winery in Healdsburg, has elevated its wine tasting experience with the grand opening of **Vino and Vinyl's**, a record shop located within its tasting room. Guests can now enjoy Montagne Russe's wine selections while perusing and listening to over 2,000 new and used records, available for trade or purchase.

MEDIA CONTACT: BIRGITT VAUGHAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, 707-919-5894, PUBLICRELATIONS@SONOMACOUNTY.COM

OCEANSIDE

Art and Music Expansion in Oceanside

Vinyl and music enthusiasts can immerse themselves in curated tracks, Mediterranean bites and refreshing beverages ranging from gourmet coffee to cleverly crafted cocktails at the new **Sound by the Sea** listening room, founded by musician and sound engineer Dominique Vanheck. The **Oceanside Museum of Art** premieres a new exhibit featuring images of Oceanside over the last decade. The museum collaborated with *Osider Magazine* photographer Zach Cordner for a unique showcase of local people, places and personalities. Also debuting at the museum, the Ving Simpson exhibit featuring paintings and sculptures from Simpson's Oceanside studio created between 1994-2023. The exhibit includes a colorful mix of symbolic forms, representations of abstract thought and expressions of shared universal mysteries.

MEDIA CONTACT: SHAE GEARY, VISIT OCEANSIDE, 760-721-1101, SHAE@VISITOCESANSIDE.ORG

PALM SPRINGS

New DIY Wellness Program Launches at Azure Sky Hotel

Located in Tahquitz River Estates, **Azure Sky Hotel**, the 14-room, adults-only resort is close to all the action, but the serenity of the hotel grounds provides the ultimate spot for guests who want to incorporate wellness into their desert stay. There are a host of ways to feel well at Azure Sky from aesthetic wellness to physical wellness and everything in between. Simply entering the space is calming. The Meadow Courtyard lawn, firepits, patios and endless pool loungers surrounding the resort pool and hot tub offer endless ways to enjoy the outdoors. Getting caught up on rest is critical at Azure Sky, as experienced in custom built-in "floating" beds.

MEDIA CONTACT: TRISHA COLE, TRUST TRISHA, 310-569-5892, TRISHA@TRUSTTRISHA.COM

REDDING

New Wildlife Lantern Festival in Redding

Opening March 29 and running through May 26, 2024, **Glowing Wild** is an illuminated wildlife lantern festival at the iconic Sundial Bridge in Redding, CA, featuring 10 acres of displays inspired by colorful Asian lanterns that showcase plants and animals worldwide. This inaugural **Glowing Wild** exhibit will feature giant illuminated botanical gardens, animated light sculptures of wildlife, theme music, glowing swings and bubbles, food and drinks by Mosaic Restaurant and more across the McConnell Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. The **Glowing Wild** Lantern Festival comes alive as the sun goes down over the Sacramento River.

MEDIA CONTACT: JENNIFER ZIMMER, VISIT REDDING, 530-945-1566, JENNIFER@VISITREDDING.COM

SAN DIEGO

World Design Capital Opens in San Diego

World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana 2024 (WDC 2024) is a celebration of art, design and innovation from our region. The first cross-border designation in World Design Capital history, San Diego is the first U.S. city ever to receive the designation and Tijuana is the second city in Mexico to hold the title. Throughout the year, WDC will host a series of exhibitions, summits, and events including the debut of the World Design Festival (May 1-5) in Tijuana and the World Design Experience (Sept. 18-25) in San Diego. WDC will also be supporting over 300 public events and initiatives that address the region's most pressing challenges through design, and create a unified force for regional transformation. WDC has also commissioned a cross-bored temporary public art exhibition by internationally recognized visual artist, Daniel Ruanova and full-service architecture and design agency Heleo that will come to life in the Plaza de Panama at Balboa Park and the Palacio Municipal de Tijuana.

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TUOLUMNE COUNTY

New Exhibition at Tuolumne County Museum

The **Tuolumne County Museum** in Sonora, which holds the largest collection of California Gold Rush artifacts, presents a new exhibition, "**Telling Stories of Mexican California: Real Life & Myth Making**," highlighting the true stories of California's Mexican period, which lasted from 1822-1846. The exhibit, developed and organized by the California Historical Society and tours through Exhibit Envoy, broadly outlines California's history leading up to statehood as a backdrop to the factual and fictional stories that emerged after the US takeover. It considers nineteenth-century Mexican American individuals and families who told their stories and looks at some of the early narratives that helped create an enduring California mythos, as well as never-been-told stories.

MEDIA CONTACT: BRAD FISHER, TUOLUMNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 209-532-4227, COORDINATOR.TCMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

VENTURA

New Bookstore in Downtown Ventura

Smitten, a local and women-owned romance bookstore, has officially opened in downtown Ventura. Smitten is a welcoming inclusive space that highlights women and non-binary literature and creators. In addition to a large selection of literature, the store offers a diverse selection of gifts and other items such as art prints, greeting cards, stickers, jewelry, journals, tarot decks, treats, and more. Smitten also offers opportunities to interact and enjoy various authors, book clubs and other activities that allow members of our community to connect with like-minded people.

MEDIA CONTACT: AMANDA SELIG, FARIA SOCIAL, 805-512-2056, AMANDA@FARIASOCIAL.COM

WOODSIDE

New Initiatives by Indigenous Leaders at this Historic Estate in San Mateo County

Filoli is working with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone to create the new **Lamchin Interpretive Center**, a place to share the story of the first people of the San Francisco Peninsula. The Interpretive Center will open in June 2024 along with a brand new trail, expanding access to the 650+ acres of natural lands that surround the iconic House and Garden. Filoli sits on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Lamchin, an independent tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, the original inhabitants and stewards of the San Francisco Peninsula. The new Interpretive Center will be unique in that the exhibition is co-curated with the Ramaytush Ohlone leaders and will tell a story of Indigenous people through time.

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Family



ANAHEIM

Disneyland Resort Reveals New Experiences for Season of the Force

Season of the Force is underway at Disneyland Resort through June 2, featuring new and limited-time Star Wars offerings at Disneyland Park. For a limited time, guests may encounter Sabine Wren from the Disney+ series “Ahsoka” at Star Wars: Galaxy’s Edge. The playful and curious BDX Droids, who appeared last year during a one-day playtest, are also scheduled to make daily appearances around Black Spire Outpost during Season of the Force. Other offerings include a Seek and Find mission to discover hidden cylinders, specialty food and beverages like the Toydaria Swirl and Dewback Chili Noodles, and new merchandise.

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GILROY

Big Blooms and Big Splashes at Gilroy Gardens

Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park is kicking off the 2024 season with the return of Fantastical Flowers, a spring celebration featuring larger-than-life silk flowers, live entertainment, colorful flower beds, and big blooming fun throughout the park. As the weather warms up, guests will enjoy the grand opening of the all-new Lakeside Splash water play area. Kids can splash, spin, spray and play on a multi-deck structure with water slides and fun interactive features like the Water Maze. Luxury family cabanas encircle the new water play area, providing relaxation while enjoying scenic views of Coyote Lake. Food and drinks can be delivered right to your lounge chair.

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SAN DIEGO

New Jellyfish Experience Debuts at SeaWorld San Diego

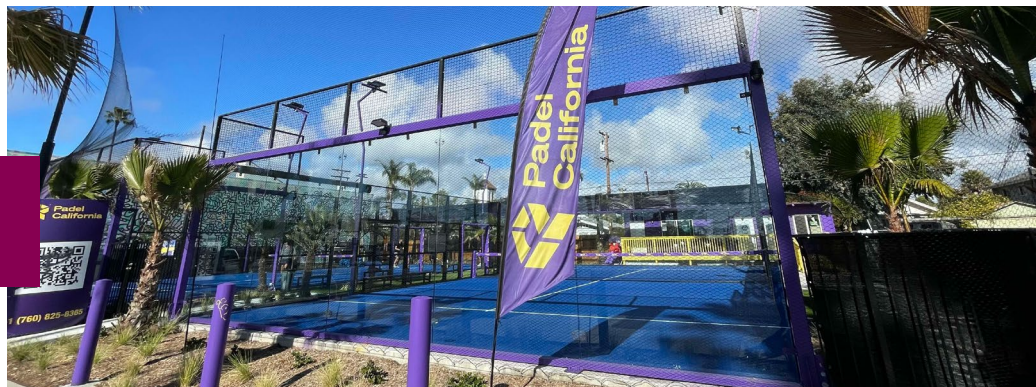
SeaWorld San Diego invites guests to experience the world of jellyfish in a new and interactive way with the debut of **Jewels of the Sea: The Jellyfish Experience** this spring. Visitors can see striking habitats, from one of the largest jelly cylinders in the country to an iconic walk-through arch and a giant viewing wall. Each of the three galleries will feature a jelly species to discover including Moon Jellyfish, Pacific Sea Nettles, Upside-Down Jellyfish and Comb Jellies.

Legoland Celebrates 25th “Brickday” with New Rides

LEGOLAND California is gearing up to celebrate its 25th birthday (aka “brickday”) in a big way. In celebration, the park just introduced Dino Valley, a new land with three rides, a wholly transformed dino-dig space, and character meet and greets this spring. The new attractions include DUPLO Little Dino Trail, Explorer River Quest, and Coastersaurus. This summer, North America’s first-ever LEGO World Parade will debut with six themed floats and entertainers inspired by LEGO City, LEGO NINJAGO, LEGO Friends, LEGO City Deep Sea Adventure and DUPLO.

MEDIA CONTACT: PAUL GARCIA, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, 619-557-2821, PGARCIA@SANDIEGO.ORG

Outdoors



OCEANSIDE

New Padel and Pickleball Options in Oceanside

Padel has made its way to Oceanside through **Padel California**, an innovative sports company bringing thrilling and fast-paced sports to California. With a prime location on Coast Highway in the heart of Downtown Oceanside, visitors have easy access to Padel California's courts. Padel is a racket sport with a dynamic and strategic game played on a court slightly larger than pickleball with faster balls that can be hit off court walls. Padel California in Oceanside offers lessons, courts, gear and more. Those looking to play pickleball can reserve one of the brand new courts at Arrowood Golf Course for \$24 an hour or become a member of their social club and enjoy free pickleball usage.

MEDIA CONTACT: SHAE GEARY, VISIT OCEANSIDE, 760-721-1101, SHAE@VISITOCESANSIDE.ORG

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Castle Rock State Park Expands

Castle Rock State Park will soon grow to nearly 6,000 acres with the addition of forest lands, ridgetops and a new entranceway and main hub for the park. The additional 200 acres, purchased by California State Parks from the Sempervirens Fund, opens up more trails, picnic areas, climbing rocks, campsites and other points of interest. With an average attendance of 180,000 visitors a year, the expansion includes old growth redwood forest and portions sit above the San Lorenzo River, a 30-mile-long body of water whose headways originate in Castle Rock State Park and winds through the Santa Cruz Mountains, eventually emptying into the Monterey Bay.

MEDIA CONTACT: CHRISTINA GLYNN, VISIT SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, 831-239-7080, CGLYNN@SANTACRUZ.ORG

SONOMA COUNTY

New Seasonal Hike at Kunde Family Winery

Fifth generation winegrower Jordan Kunde serves as your expert guide through the **Kunde Estate** for seasonal dog hikes. Discover paths that wind from the valley floor in the Valley of the Moon into the majestic Mayacamas Mountain range. Along the way, delve into the sustainable winegrowing and winemaking practices of Kunde Family Winery, gaining insights from grape to glass with your four-legged companion. This moderately strenuous hike, lasting approximately 4 hours, culminates in a Kunde wine tasting paired with a wine country lunch.

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Technology & Transportation



FRESNO

New Flight Connects Fresno and Atlanta

Fresno airport welcomes a new direct flight to Atlanta starting in June happening daily. As the airport has continued to grow significantly the last few years, the new flight improves access to the east coast and more access to international travel. Fresno provides access to the central valley in addition to easy access to the central coast.

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SAN DIEGO

Breeze Airways Welcomed to SAN

San Diego International Airport (SAN) recently announced it will welcome Breeze Airways this spring and will offer five new flight options in and out of San Diego. Starting in late April, Breeze Airways will offer nonstop flights to Raleigh–Durham, North Carolina, followed by Jacksonville, Florida; Norfolk, Virginia; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. International airlines have recently announced their spring operating schedules for the San Diego International Airport. British Airways announced that they will increase flights to twice daily to accommodate the rising number of travelers. Lufthansa and Japan Air will continue their current operation of 5 and 4 weekly flights, respectively. Both Air Canada and EasyJet have announced tentative schedules with near daily service for various cities.

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SONOMA COUNTY

Avelo Airlines' Newest West Coast Base

Charles M. Schulz –Sonoma County Airport (STS) is Avelo Airlines' newest west coast base of flight operations. Scheduled to commence operations on May 1st, this move allows Avelo to increase traveler service, convenience and reliability. Avelo Airlines has also extended its air service from STS to Palm Springs International Airport through the summer season. Avelo Airlines has also added flight service from STS to Boise, ID; Pasco, WA; Salem, OR, and Kalispell, MT.

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TEMECULA VALLEY

10Lake Valley – So Cal Wildlands Regional Brand Launch

10Lake Valley is Southern California's newest tourism destination, spanning 214 square miles of epic Southwest Riverside County. The regional brand went live in March 2024, showcasing endless opportunities for adventure across eight thriving communities. The interactive site includes trip-planning tools, featured events and more.

MEDIA CONTACT: FIND INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY CONTACTS HERE: 10LAKEVALLEY.COM/CONTACT

Anniversaries & Milestones



SAN DIEGO

Natural History Museum Celebrates 150 Years

In celebration of the **San Diego Natural History Museum's** 150th birthday in 2024, the museum is offering free, one-time admission during the visitor's birthday month. The museum continues the party with a new outdoor **Nature Trail**, opening in spring 2024, showcasing varieties of beneficial plants native to the San Diego and Baja regions.

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SAN FRANCISCO

120 Years of Timeless Elegance at the Westin St. Francis

The **Westin St. Francis**, a beloved landmark in the heart of San Francisco, is celebrating its 120th anniversary in March, marking over a century of exceptional hospitality and enduring sophistication. As part of the anniversary celebration, The Westin St. Francis will unveil the Paris of the West Historical Museum, showcasing the hotel's illustrious history and its role in shaping the cultural landscape of San Francisco. Visitors can immerse themselves in the hotel's heritage and discover iconic artifacts, including the famous coin washing machine. For the first time ever, guests and visitors will have the unique opportunity to see the hotel's famous coin washing machine in action. In honor of the 120th anniversary, the hotel has relocated this historic machine from the basement to the new Paris of the West Historical Museum.

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UNIVERSAL CITY

Universal Studios Hollywood Celebrates 60th Anniversary of Studio Tour

Universal Studios Hollywood invites guests to take a nostalgic walk down memory lane as the destination celebrates the Studio Tour's 60th milestone anniversary with a dedicated experiential program from April 26 through Aug. 11, 2024. Highlights include the return of the iconic red and white candy-striped Glamor Trams; the opportunity to step off the tram and onto a legendary movie set with exciting photo opportunities; a renovation of the "Earthquake – The Big One" attraction (1989); an original time machine picture car on display at Courthouse Square; the return of the Runaway Train (1976); a behemoth dimensional Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur display; themed merchandise and food; and more.

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