Kick Off Winter on California’s Slopes

Starting Nov. 7, resorts across the state are revving up their snowmaking machines and getting their lifts turning—welcome news to eager snow enthusiasts anxious to kick off the winter season. With all the recent renovations and new additions taking place on the slopes, this snow season will be better than ever! California is home to hundreds of miles of white-capped mountains, offering visitors top-notch snow activities all winter and well into the spring months. Whether it’s skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, ice skating, snow climbing, snowshoeing, or even sleigh riding, guests can enjoy all forms of snow play up and down the state. The fun doesn’t stop when the sun goes down. Resorts are catering to the après ski crowd with live music venues, fire pits, DJs, new places to dine and dance the night away. In addition to the plethora of winter recreation, each year California resorts deck the mountaintops with holiday cheer and this season is no exception. Families can enjoy elaborate tree-lighting celebrations, holiday festivals and interactive events, firework displays and more.

California Restaurant Month Offers Dining Deals this January

January is California Restaurant Month. To honor this monthlong celebration, restaurants across the state are offering guests the chance to snag gourmet meals at a fraction of the typical price. From delicious prix fixe menus and gourmet events to celebrity dinners and wine-pairing functions, foodies are encouraged to explore the Golden State and try any of the numerous participating restaurants available in 36 destinations across California. Take advantage of this once-a-year offering and let us help you plan your next dining adventure—you won’t regret it! Complete listings for cities, dates and restaurants are available at DineinCA.com.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: JENNIFER SWEENEY, VISIT CALIFORNIA, (916) 233-0255, JSWEENEY@VISITCALIFORNIA.COM, MEDIA.VISITCALIFORNIA.COM.
Enjoy California Parks with Perks

Sure, you can Instagram amazing vistas from sunrise to sunset at California’s state and national parks. But you can also take a class or learn a new skill at a host of California’s protected parklands, adding a new dimension to a vacation. Here’s a sampling of places to take the plunge (sometimes literally) and try new experiences:

- **Rock-climbing lessons**: Yosemite National Park, Joshua Tree National Park
- **Wildflowers walks**: Anza-Borrego State Park
- **Guided kayak/canoe paddles**: Channel Islands National Park, Mono Lake State Park
- **Guided mountain bike rides**: Redwoods State and National parks
- **“Glamping” luxury camping**: Lassen Volcanic National Park, Yosemite National Park
- **Photography classes**: Pt. Reyes National Seashore; Yosemite National Park
- **Guided scuba diving adventures**: Channel Islands National Park
- **Cave exploring**: Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks
- **Backroad adventures**: Death Valley National Park
- **Gold-panning lessons**: Columbia State Historic Park, Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park
- **Scenic Segway tours**: Angel Island State Park

California’s parks are open and waiting for visitors! With more than 5 million acres of state and national parks just waiting to be explored, now is the time to visit!

**Win-River Casino to Open New Resort**

This winter, the Win-River Casino is expanding to become the Win-River Resort and Casino with the addition of an 84-room hotel featuring a full-service spa, fitness center, pool and outdoor deck. In addition, the casino has added a food and drink service station, new restrooms and 6,000 square feet of new gaming space to complement the original but recently renovated 3,400 square feet of gaming space.

**Heritage House Resort Completing Major Renovations**

Having recently reopened its doors after a five-year closure, Little River’s historic Heritage House Resort is set to complete a multi-million dollar renovation in early 2014. Improvements include all-new decor and the addition of large private decks with views of the Pacific Ocean from all 70 guest rooms; a full-service spa, wellness center and fitness center; and the new 5200 Restaurant and Lounge helmed by Chef Fabrice Dubuc. The Four Diamond-rated resort, which originally opened in 1877, sits on 37 acres of private beaches and gardens along the Pacific coast and has served as the location of numerous motion pictures, including the classic *Same Time Next Year* starring Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn.

**Mr. Crave Bistro and Cafe Now Open in Little Saigon**

Located at the Cova Hotel on Little Saigon’s Ellis Street, Mr. Crave Bistro and Cafe is now open with a menu of classic California cuisine and an eclectic selection of craft beers and wine. The freshly renovated space functions as a restaurant and lounge, and features chic, modern interior design with rich wood hues, custom artwork, steel-wrapped tables and whimsical Mason jar chandeliers.

**San Francisco’s Russian Hill Welcomes Verbena Restaurant**

Verbena will open in San Francisco’s Russian Hill neighborhood by early December under the guidance of the team behind Berkeley’s acclaimed Gather restaurant. The 2,200-square-foot restaurant will feature a menu of seasonal California cuisine designed by awarding-winning Chef Sean Baker and a wine program overseen by Sommelier Michael Ireland. The space, most recently home to Marbella and Rex Cafe, was redesigned by Abueg Morris Architects, whose previous projects include Nopalito, Comal and Roam
**Fog City Restaurant Now Open on the Embarcadero**

The Fog City Diner, which originally opened along the Embarcadero in 1985, closed for a complete renovation in March and has been completely re-imagined by Chef/Owners Bruce Hill, Bill Higgins and Bill Upson. The new Fog City restaurant offers innovative, eclectic cuisine in an open space created by Bay Area architect Michael Guthrie with an exhibition kitchen lit by a wood-burning oven and an onyx-hued central bar. Menu highlights include fresh seafood and meats cooked on a wood-fired grill, house-made custard and fresh French crullers, barrel-aged cocktails, local wines and a large artisanal beer selection.

**Blue Bottle Coffee to Open New Oakland Location**

Oakland’s nationally acclaimed Blue Bottle Coffee will open a new location in the W.C. Morse building, a historic property that, unlike much of the surrounding neighborhood, survived the region’s 1906 earthquake. The new location will be company’s largest, with about 2,000 square feet and 20-foot ceilings. The shop will include an espresso machine showroom where the company’s tech department will be on hand to help with home espresso machine repair.

**New Hall Wines Visitor’s Center in St. Helena**

Hall Wines has opened a new, state-of-the-art Visitor’s Center in Napa’s St. Helena which will began offering tastings on Jan. 1. The new LEED Gold Certified space will be filled with rotating art exhibits and installations to complement the center’s wine tasting programs. In addition, guided tours of area wineries will be offered, and an exhibition kitchen will host culinary programs.

**Super Kids Save the World at the Bay Area Discovery Museum**

Opening at the Bay Area Discovery Museum on Jan. 18, Super Kids Save the World is an ecological awareness exhibition based upon the British children’s book *George Saves the World by Luncheon* written by Jo Readman and illustrated by Ley Honor Roberts. At the exhibit, children learn to save energy and resources to protect the environment through a variety of activities, including powering lights with a bicycle generator and recycling products for new uses. Designed with green materials and practices, Super Kids Save the World focuses on the four Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle.

**New Santa Cruz Trail Open For Hiking, Biking and Horseback Riding**

The Emma McCrary Trail, a new 1.5-mile, multi-use dirt trail through Pogonip Park, is now open and connected to the trail network inside the 620-acre city park. The new 3-foot-
wide path was created by more than 300 volunteers and took a year to complete. It begins at Golf Club Drive trailhead and links to the Rincon Trail that leads to UC Santa Cruz. With accessibility for all levels of hikers and bikers, it features a nice up-and-down flow for bicyclists, includes six bridges over small drainages, and is designed to withstand winter rains and heavy traffic.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** CHRISTINA GLYNN, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CONFERENCE & VISITORS COUNCIL, (831) 429-7281 EXT. 112, CGLYNN@SANTACRUZ.ORG

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**Santa Cruz Wharf Celebrates 100 Years**

One of the oldest piers in the state, the Santa Cruz Wharf, will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2014. The wharf serves as its own business district, complete with shops and restaurants, and is the gateway to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. At nearly a century old, it continues to flourish as both a working and recreational wharf with 1.5 million annual visitors.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** CHRISTINA GLYNN, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CONFERENCE & VISITORS COUNCIL, (831) 429-7281 EXT. 112, CGLYNN@SANTACRUZ.ORG

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**Sam’s Chowder House Now Open in Palo Alto**

Downtown Palo Alto is now home to the Bay Area’s second location of Sam’s Chowder House. Like the original in Half Moon Bay, the new restaurant offers casual and authentic seafood dishes reminiscent of a New England-style chowder house. The menu includes lobster rolls, fish and chips, clam chowder, an oyster bar and an ever-changing selection of fresh fish, live Maine lobster and fresh local crab. Private dining and lobster clam bakes are also available with advanced reservations.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** KRYSTAL CONOVER, SAM’S CHOWDER HOUSE, (310) 941-4148, KRYSTAL@SAMSCHOWDERHOUSE.COM, WWW.SAMSCHOWDERHOUSE.COM

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**Lucero Olive Oil Tasting Room Debuts in Napa**

In addition to the more than 25 wine tasting rooms in downtown Napa, travelers will soon have the opportunity to taste award-winning olive oil at the new Lucero Olive Oil Tasting Room. Known for its strong natural flavors and healthy antioxidants, Lucero Olive Oil is the fruition of three generations of olive farming and olive oil production in Northern California. The tasting room will offer crushed Meyer lemon olive oil, chocolate-infused extra virgin olive oil, traditional extra virgin olive oils and many others.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** LINDSAY MARTIN, AUGUSTINE IDEAS, (916) 774-9600, LMARTIN@AUGUSTINEIDEAS.COM

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** DOWNTOWN NAPA ASSOCIATION, (707) 257-0322, HELLO@DONAPA.COM, WWW.DONAPA.COM

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**New Hotels, Restaurants and Wineries in Calistoga**

Just in time for the winter season, Napa Valley’s Calistoga is debuting new lodging and epicurean offerings. The town welcomes the Sunburst Hotel, a 50-room boutique property in the heart of downtown, and the newly remodeled Calistoga Inn and Brewery, which is reopening following extensive renovations. Also newly opened are the artisanal Italian eatery D’Amici Ristorante and the Tamber Bey Winery at Sundance Ranch.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** CHRISTINE RIVAS, AUGUSTINE IDEAS, (916) 774-9600, CRIVAS@AUGUSTINEIDEAS.COM

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** CALISTOGA VISITORS CENTER, (707) 942-6333, INFO@VISITCALISTOGA.COM, WWW.VISITCALISTOGA.COM

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**Historic Rio Nido Lodge Reopens in Russian River**

Originally opened in 1918, the historic Rio Nido Lodge at the Russian River has recently reopened under new ownership. The new owners, Brett and Julia Gibbs, have extensively renovated the lodge, which now features 11 guest rooms, a private guest cottage, the Moon River Marketplace coffee shop and expanded event and banquet spaces. The couple also plans to continue the lodge’s legacy as a performance space for local and touring artists.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** BRETT GIBBS, RIO NIDO LODGE AT THE RUSSIAN RIVER, (707) 604-7641, BRETT@RIONIDOLODGE.COM, WWW.RIONIDOLODGE.COM

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**Major Renovations Complete at the Half Moon Bay Lodge**

The Spanish-style Half Moon Bay Lodge has recently completed a $1.5 million renovation of its guest rooms and public spaces. All of the lodge’s 80 guest rooms, which now feature a private deck or terrace overlooking the Arnold Palmer-designed Half Moon Bay Golf Links, have been completely remodeled with new decor, furniture and linens. Additional renovations include a new lobby, expanded indoor and outdoor meeting facilities that can accommodate up to 60 guests, and a new 400-square-foot covered patio complete with fire pit and outdoor lounge furniture.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** KELLY CHAMBERLIN, CHAMBERLIN PUBLIC RELATIONS, (415) 336-4332, KELLY@CHAMBERLINPR.COM

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**FishLine App Launches In Half Moon Bay**

Visitors to Half Moon Bay can now track down the freshest seafood catches of the day on their phone with the new FishLine app. With a tap of the screen, it tells users where to purchase fresh, locally harvested seafood along the coast between Half Moon Bay and southern San Luis Obispo County. The app allows visitors to purchase directly off the boat from fishermen, from local seafood markets, farmer’s markets, restaurants and cafés, or by mail order. FishLine includes preparation directions and recipes, as well as a feature whereby the Princeton Seafood Company will cook the catch for you.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** KELLY CHAMBERLIN, CHAMBERLIN PUBLIC RELATIONS, (415) 336-4332, KELLY@CHAMBERLINPR.COM
Zombie Train Debuts in Yolo County

The Sacramento River Train has added a unique new ride to its roster this winter: the Zombie Train. The two-hour journey spends its first 75 minutes traveling through a post-apocalyptic, zombie theme park complete with attacking members of the undead, followed by a relaxing 45-minute, zombie-free return trip. Guest who wish to be part of the Zombie Train Militia can purchase upgraded tickets and be equipped with laser guns to take out the marauding zombies.

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

Davis Downtown Launches New Website with Happy Hour Finder

Davis Downtown has launched a new website dedicated to helping visitors navigate the wealth of shops, restaurants, theaters, art and more in downtown Davis. One of the new features on the website is a section dedicated to finding the ideal happy hour by allowing travelers to search locations using criteria such as beer, sangria/margaritas, special cocktails, well drinks, wine and appetizers. The website can be found at www.davisdowntown.com.

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

Christmas Town at Bakersfield’s Kern County Museum

Beginning Nov. 29, the Kern County Museum in Bakersfield will transform its Pioneer Village into Christmas Town for the holiday season. The new attraction will feature special tours of Pioneer Town’s historic homes, carolers, carriage rides, food vendors, light shows, a sledding hill and an ice-skating rink. Christmas Town will be open Monday through Saturday from 4 to 9 p.m. and admission is $10.

MEDIA CONTACT: ROGER PEREZ, KERN COUNTY MUSEUM, (661) 868-8400, RPEREZ@KERNCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG.
PUBLIC CONTACT: VISITOR INFORMATION, KERN COUNTY MUSEUM, (661) 868-8400, WWW.KERNCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG.

The Haggin Museum Presents Driven to Dream: Stockton’s Car Culture

On display at the Haggin Museum through January 5, 2014, Driven to Dream: Stockton’s Car Culture showcases nine vintage vehicles from area car enthusiasts and a selection of pen and ink works by Ralph Yardley, an illustrator for The Stockton Record in the early 20th century who chronicled the city’s transformation from the horse age to the automotive age. Among the cars on display are a 1912 Pop-Hartford Touring Car, a 1936 Galliano Marmon 4 Midget Racer and a 1959 Nash Metropolitan. Admission to the museum is $10 for adults, $7 for seniors, $5 for youths and free for children younger than 10.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: WES RHEA, VISIT STOCKTON, (209) 938-1551, WES@VISITSTOCKTON.ORG, WWW.CELEBRATESTOCKTON.COM.

Crocker Art Museum to Debut New Warren MacKenzie Exhibition

The Crocker Art Museum will exhibit The Shape of Things: Warren MacKenzie Ceramics from Nov. 10 through Feb. 23. Throughout his 60-year career, Warren MacKenzie explored the interplay between the intentional and the unexpected by creating solidly built ceramics made for daily use as serving, eating and drinking vessels. The exhibit showcases the artist’s pioneering techniques with objects donated from the collection of Susanna and George Grossman.

MEDIA CONTACT: TANIA TORRES, CROCKER ART MUSEUM, (916) 808-5157, TTORIES@CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG.
PUBLIC CONTACT: CROCKER ART MUSEUM, (916) 808-7000, CROCKER@CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG, WWW.CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG.

Sam Francis: Five Decades of Abstract Expressionism at the Crocker Art Museum

The Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento will present Sam Francis: Five Decades of Abstract Expressionism from Jan. 26 through April 20. Featuring a range of the artist’s paintings and unique works on paper, this survey highlights different periods of his career, from early pieces made in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1940s to the expansive body of work he created from the 1950s through the 1990s. The exhibit organized by the Sam Francis Foundation includes works created in the artist’s studios throughout California, as well as those made when Francis was living in New York, Switzerland, and Japan.

MEDIA CONTACT: TANIA TORRES, CROCKER ART MUSEUM, (916) 808-5157, TTORIES@CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG.
PUBLIC CONTACT: CROCKER ART MUSEUM, (916) 808-7000, CROCKER@CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG, WWW.CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG.
New Historical Ghost Tours in Placerville’s Old Hangtown

Gold Rush Tales in Placerville now offers Main Street Walks in Old Hangtown, a humorous historical guided tour of the area’s many supernatural sites. Ghosts featured in the tour include a former front desk clerk who pinches the bottoms of the living and the infamous hangman who loaned the town its nickname. The hour-long tours cover roughly a half mile of Main Street and run year-round at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Admission is $5 per person.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: JODY FRANKLIN, EL DORADO COUNTY VISITOR’S AUTHORITY, (800) 457-6279, TOURISM@ELDORADOCOUNTY.ORG, WWW.VISIT-ELDORADO.COM.

El Dorado County Debuts the El Dorado Lake Tahoe Film Site Guide

The new El Dorado Lake Tahoe Film Site Guide is now available from the El Dorado County Visitor’s Authority. Using the guide, visitors can customize their own self-guided, Hollywood-style tour of area sites where more than 40 blockbuster films were shot. These include the beautiful South Fork of the American River, where Steven Spielberg filmed scenes for Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom and the PiPi Campground that Robert Redford used in The Horse Whisperer.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: JODY FRANKLIN, EL DORADO COUNTY VISITOR’S AUTHORITY, (800) 457-6279, TOURISM@ELDORADOCOUNTY.ORG, WWW.VISIT-ELDORADO.COM.

Major Improvements at Sugar Bowl Resort

Sugar Bowl Resort is unrolling a series of upgrades for the upcoming winter season. Ski improvements include the addition of a $3 million Crow’s Peak Chairlift accessing the previously hike-to advanced/intermediate terrain of Strawberry Fields, and more than 150 acres of new terrain, including two groomed runs, wind-protected glades and thrilling steeps and chutes. The resort is also expanding options at its Royal Gorge Cross Country Center, the nation’s largest with more than 125 miles of ski trails, to include dedicated snowbike trails and the Sierra Snowkite Center, the first and only resort snowkiting center in California. For guests of the resort’s Snowbound Village, a new $4.5 million Sporthaus Fitness and Aquatic Center will be open in February, offering off-the-slope exercise and activity options. In addition, the resort is constructing a new permanent campus for its Sugar Bowl Academy, the nation’s only ski-in/ski-out academy that consistently places athletes on the U.S. Ski Team and in the country’s best universities.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: DEENA BETCHER, MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, (760) 934-0645, DBETCHER@MAMMOTH-MTN.COM, WWW.JUNEMOUNTAIN.COM.

Mammoth Mountain Named Official U.S. Olympic Training Ground

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association has named Mammoth Mountain as an Official Training Ground for U.S. Freeskiing and U.S. Snowboarding teams. The top skiers and snowboarders in the country will prepare for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia at Mammoth Mountain, and the U.S. Olympic Snowboarding Teams for the halfpipe and new slopestyle events will be announced at the mountain during the finale of the Sprint U.S. Snowboarding Grand Prix on Jan. 18-19.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: DEENA BETCHER, MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, (760) 934-0645, DBETCHER@MAMMOTH-MTN.COM, WWW.JUNEMOUNTAIN.COM.

June Mountain to Reopen for Winter 2013 With Extensive Technology Upgrades

Skiers will find June Mountain has been upgraded with RFID (radio-frequency identification) lift pass technology for the winter 2013/2014 season. Enhancements include the conversion of all ticketing to RFID, the installation of new point of sales systems and RFID gates across the resort, and the upgrade of network equipment in preparation for the coming Digital 395 fiber optic corridor. The project cost more than $200,000 and will be complete by the opening day of the winter season.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: ERIC DOYNE, DISPATCH COMMUNICATIONS, (415) 652-8452, ERIC@DISPATCHCO.COM.
South Lake Tahoe Welcomes New Five Star Hotel

Opening in early winter 2013, the Landing Resort and Spa will be South Lake Tahoe’s first five-star boutique hotel. Located adjacent to Lakeside Beach, all of the resort’s guest rooms feature fireplaces, 55-inch HD TVs, walk-in rain showers and marble bathrooms with heated floors. On-site amenities will include a full-service spa, hair salon, gift boutique, fitness center, pool and hot tub, and Jimmy’s Taverna, a restaurant and lounge specializing in wood-fired Greek seafood. In addition, the new resort will boast inviting event spaces, including the 300-person-capacity Grand Rooftop Terrace overlooking Lake Tahoe.

MEDIA CONTACT: JON SWEEN, THE LANDING RESORT AND SPA, (530) 721-0843, JCS@THELANDINGRESORTANDSPA.COM.
PUBLIC CONTACT: GUEST SERVICES, THE LANDING RESORT AND SPA, (530) 542-5263, INFO@THELANDINGRESORTANDSPA.COM, WWW.THELANDINGRESORTANDSPA.COM.

Northstar California Upgrades to be Completed

Northstar California is in the midst of a growth period that has seen the addition of more than $30 million in capital improvements, with several new upgrades to the resort this winter. Northstar’s Ritz Carlton Lake Tahoe will open its new Backyard Bar and BBQ adjacent to the ski slopes in early winter. The restaurant will feature traditional barbecue favorites, wood-fired pizzas, traditional burgers and bratwurst, home-style side dishes and desserts, and a seasonal beverage program with saloon-inspired cocktails and local craft beer selections. In addition, the resort is renovating the cabins on its Big Springs Gondola tramway and opening the Ripperoo Riglet Park teaching facility, which will feature specialized terrain to help three to six-year-olds become comfortable on a snowboard.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: JESS VANPERNIS WEAVER, JVP COMMUNICATIONS, (530) 448-6981, JESSICA@JVPCOMMUNICATIONS.COM.

New Epic Discovery Program at Heavenly Mountain Resort

Heavenly Mountain resort is expanding its Adventure Peak offerings to include a four-lane zip line center, a treetop canopy tour, two ropes courses and an additional 3,000-foot-long zip line as part of the resort’s new Epic Discovery program, a campaign designed to connect families and non-skiers with the national forests in active, fun and engaging ways.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: ERIC DOYNE, DISPATCH COMMUNICATIONS, (415) 652-8452, ERIC@DISPATCHCO.COM.

The Sierra Club Launches Sierra Nevada Winter Experience Program

The Sierra Club is now offering Sierra Nevada Winter Experience packages that include backcountry ski touring and an overnight stay in rustic mountain huts. The new packages take visitors to some of the highest peaks in North America and are designed for skiing adventure enthusiasts. Packages details vary, as do dates and prices.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: LIZ BOWLING, SWITCHBACK PR, (303) 726-7104, LIZ@SWITCHBACKPR.COM.

Major Improvements at Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort

Sierra-at-Tahoe has invested $4.5 million in a new facility at the base of the mountain for winter 2013. The former skier services area has been replaced with a new plaza featuring a 9,000-square-foot Sprung structure with restaurants, retail outlets, indoor and outdoor seating, fire pit gathering areas, a large sun deck area, and a venue for live music and events. The resort is also expanding its Yoda’s Riglet Park to include a Burton Star Wars Echo Base teaching center, giving children ages 7 to 12 the opportunity to quickly learn to snowboard by incorporating terrain-based teaching with familiar characters from the movie franchise.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: JENN BOYD, WEIDINGER PUBLIC RELATIONS, (775) 588-2412, JENNIFER@WEIDINGERPR.COM.

Improvements Continue at Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows

As part of a five-year, $70 million renovation program, Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows ski resorts in Lake Tahoe have invested $8 million in room renovations and resort-wide improvements that will debut this winter. New offerings include Wanderlust Yoga Studio, the transformation of the Chalet at Alpine Meadows into a Barvarian-style beer garden, new electric car chargers at Squaw Valley, and $1.2 million in room renovations to the condominium suites at the Village at Squaw Valley. These improvements mark year three of the program, with $38 million invested so far.
Major Theater Renovations in Santa Barbara

Two historic theaters in Santa Barbara have undergone extensive renovations and will reopen this winter. The Vic Theater has been transformed into an intimate, contemporary, 300-seat theater that will serve as the permanent home for Santa Barbara’s Ensemble Theatre Company and host a variety of performing arts organizations throughout the year. Lobero Theater improvements include new, more comfortable seats with greater legroom, expanded restrooms, a new heating and air conditioning system, improved accessibility throughout, and a more safe and welcoming entrance.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ, VISIT SANTA BARBARA, (805) 966-9222 EXT. 112, MICHELLE@SANTABARBARA.COM, WWW.SANTABARBARA.COM.

Ocean Grill Restaurant Opens In Avila Beach

Now open in Avila Beach, the Ocean Grill restaurant is a collaborative venture between Forster-Gill, Cabo San Luis owner/operator Dan Harper, and Executive Chef Michael Reyes. The recently opened restaurant offers expansive ocean views and an open-air design featuring both indoor and outdoor seating. The Coastal California menu relies heavily on seasonal ingredients from local farms, fisheries and wineries.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KACI KNIGHTON, TJA ADVERTISING, (805) 541-6020, KACI@TJAADVERTISING.COM.
**PUBLIC CONTACT:** MICHAEL REYES, THE OCEAN GRILL, (805) 595-4050.

New Indoor Skatepark Debuts in Santa Maria

The Santa Maria Valley is now home to the largest indoor skatepark on the Central Coast. The 11,000-square-foot One Way Skatepark, owned by brothers Dan and Dave Pankratz, is located in the Santa Maria Town Center Mall and was built by Ramp Carnies, a leader in skatepark design and construction. The new skatepark offers lessons at all levels, specialized camps, and an on-site sporting goods store.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** MALEI WEIR, MOONCATCHER PR, (805) 239-0020, MW@MOONCATCHER.COM, WWW.MOONCATCHER.COM.
**PUBLIC CONTACT:** DAN PANKRATZ, ONE WAY SKATEPARK, (805) 347-3323, DAN@ONEWAYBOARDSHOP.COM, WWW.ONEWAYBOARDSHOP.COM.

Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum Reopens

The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum recently reopened its collection of vintage railway cars and memorabilia to visitors on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from noon to 4 p.m. at the Santa Maria Transit Center. Exhibits include an early 1900s engine used by the Betteravia Union Sugar Company, a 1930s-era Santa Maria Valley Railroad caboose, and a Sacramento Northern boxcar. The collection, which is owned by seven prominent railway collectors, is also available for private guided tours and Caboose Birthday Party events.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** MALEI WEIR, MOONCATCHER PR, (805) 239-0020, MW@MOONCATCHER.COM, WWW.MOONCATCHER.COM.
**PUBLIC CONTACT:** DICK MININGER, SANTA MARIA RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, (805) 863-6645, ECSINER371@YAHOO.COM, WWW.SMVRHM.COM.

New Pinot Express Zipline at Margarita Adventures

The new 1,800-foot Pinot Express zipline is up and running at Margarita Adventures, the historic Santa Margarita Ranch in the Paso Robles wine country. The gravity-powered ride begins in a mountainside forest 125 feet above the ground, then swoops low over Pinot Noir vines. The Pinot Express joins four previous ziplines as part of Margarita Adventures’ zipline canopy tours, and is the highest, longest and fastest zipline on the property. The cost of the tours remains $99, while the five ziplines now combine for a total of more than 4,500 linear feet. Tours conclude with an optional tasting at the affiliated Ancient Peaks Winery, which specializes in artisan wines grown in the Margarita Vineyard.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** MALEI WEIR, MOONCATCHER PR, (805) 239-0020, MW@MOONCATCHER.COM, WWW.MOONCATCHER.COM.
**PUBLIC CONTACT:** MARGARITA ADVENTURES, (805) 438-3120, CONTACTUS@MARGARITA-ADVENTURES.COM, WWW.MARGARITA-ADVENTURES.COM.

New Pinot Express Zipline at Margarita Adventures

The new 1,800-foot Pinot Express zipline is up and running at Margarita Adventures, the historic Santa Margarita Ranch in the Paso Robles wine country. The gravity-powered ride begins in a mountainside forest 125 feet above the ground, then swoops low over Pinot Noir vines. The Pinot Express joins four previous ziplines as part of Margarita Adventures’ zipline canopy tours, and is the highest, longest and fastest zipline on the property. The cost of the tours remains $99, while the five ziplines now combine for a total of more than 4,500 linear feet. Tours conclude with an optional tasting at the affiliated Ancient Peaks Winery, which specializes in artisan wines grown in the Margarita Vineyard.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** MALEI WEIR, MOONCATCHER PR, (805) 239-0020, MW@MOONCATCHER.COM, WWW.MOONCATCHER.COM.
**PUBLIC CONTACT:** MARGARITA ADVENTURES, (805) 438-3120, CONTACTUS@MARGARITA-ADVENTURES.COM, WWW.MARGARITA-ADVENTURES.COM.

New Golf Academy at Pebble Beach Golf Links

In January, the Pebble Beach Golf Academy and Practice Facility will open at Pebble Beach Resorts. The new 3,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will offer golfers individual game improvement, group instruction, complete warm-up training and club fitting under the guidance of expert instructors. The practice facility will feature an expansive driving range, practice greens and bunkers, and an environment that represents Pebble Beach Golf Links, the number one public golf course in America as rated by Golf Digest.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** RYAN PIERCE, PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY, (831) 625-8557, PIERCER@PEBBLEBEACH.COM, WWW.PEBBLEBEACH.COM.
Ace Hotel to Open in Downtown Los Angeles

In early 2014, the Ace Hotel will open a new location on Broadway in downtown Los Angeles. The artsy hotel chain’s latest property will be located in the historic United Artists building which has been remodeled to include 182 hotel rooms and the 1,600-seat Mary Pickford Theater as an entertainment venue. Originally home to the film studio of the same name, the United Artists building was built in 1927. The Broadway location will be the second Ace Hotel in California, and the seventh worldwide.

MEDIA CONTACT: ERIKA OMN, NADINE JOHNSON AND ASSOCIATES, INC., (213) 328-5555, ERIKA@NADINEJOHNSON.COM
PUBLIC CONTACT: THE ACE HOTEL, (503) 546-9772, ENQUIRC.DTLA@ACEHOTEL.COM, WWW.ACEHOTEL.COM/LOSANGELES.
The Anaheim Packing House Welcomes New Pod Restaurants

In the tradition of global food halls, the Anaheim Packing House will soon be home to approximately 20 culinary artisans sharing a communal eating and entertainment area. A sampling of the new eateries coming this winter includes: specialty french fries from the Kroft; the Packing House Cheese Shop with artisan cheeses and breads; gourmet popsicles at Popbar; Cafecio Organico Guatemalan-style coffee; fish and chips from Chippys; Adya’s unique Indian cuisine; hot pot from the Rolling Boil; Iron Press waffle sandwiches; Italian street food from Ecco Pizza; and What and Sons butchers. In addition, cocktails can be enjoyed at the Blind Rabbit speakeasy and organic wines at the Tool Shed.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** JAMIE WOOD, ANAHEIM PACKING DISTRICT, (714) 966-6661 EXT. 233, JAMIE@ANAHEIMPACKINGDISTRICT.COM, WWW.ANAHEIMPACKINGDISTRICT.COM.

Disneyland Resort Presents World of Color—Winter Dreams

Disneyland Resort has launched a new show at its California Adventure Park: World of Color—Winter Dreams. Running through Dec. 24, the holiday-themed interpretation of the theme park’s popular World of Color is hosted by Olaf the Snowman from the upcoming Disney feature film Frozen. World of Color—Winter Dreams combines new animation with classic winter scenes from Bambi, Fantasia and Toy Story against a backdrop of water and light for a new after-dark spectacular.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** PAUL GARCIA, DISNEY DESTINATIONS, (714) 284-6386, PAUL.M.GARCIA@DISNEY.COM.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** DISNEY DESTINATIONS, (714) 781-4500, DLR.PUBLIC.RELATIONS@DISNEY.COM, WWW.DISNEYLANDNEWS.COM.

Van’s Off the Wall Skatepark Coming to Huntington Beach

The 32,000-square-foot Vans Off the Wall Skatepark and Jack’s Garage Skate Shop are set to open in Huntington Beach this winter. The world-class skatepark will be free to the public, and include a skate bowl along with a street plaza featuring boxes and rails for every level of skater or BMX rider. Jack’s, an original Orange County brand, is partnering with Vans to create a fully stocked skate shop and snack bar on-site. In addition, the building design uses repurposed shipping containers in its construction to minimize its environmental impact. The entire complex will be lighted for night riding seven days a week.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** MADISON FISHER, HUNTINGTON BEACH MARKETING AND VISITORS BUREAU, (714) 969-3492 EXT. 208, MADISON@SURFCITYUSA.COM, WWW.SURFCITYUSA.COM.

Gods and Gifts: The Vatican Ethnological Collection at The Bowers Museum

On display through Feb. 9 at The Bowers Museum, Gods and Gifts: The Vatican Ethnological Collection brings together 65 sets of objects from the Vatican Ethnological Museum representing the arts and culture of Earth’s populated continents. The Vatican’s collection, which dates to 1692, examines diverse religious beliefs and practices through works of art and includes gifts presented to the Pope from heads of state and spiritual leaders. The new exhibition highlights aesthetically compelling and historically significant objects, and is the largest selection of works to ever leave Vatican City.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** MEGAN MARTINEZ, THE BOWERS MUSEUM, (714) 567-3635, MMARTINEZ@BOWERS.ORG.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** VISITOR SERVICES, THE BOWERS MUSEUM, (714) 567-3600, VISITORSERVICES@BOWERS.ORG, WWW.BOWERS.ORG.

The Bowers Museum Debuts Van Cleef and Arpels Exhibit

The Bowers Museum will present A Quest for Beauty: The Art of Van Cleef and Arpels through Feb. 15. Spanning more than 100 years of history, the exhibition will include more than 200 pieces of jewelry, watches and precious accessories, as well as archive drawings and documents of the Place Vendôme High Jewelry Maison from the private collections of Van Cleef and Arpels. The exhibition is built around four themes that continue to inspire the Maison: Nature, Elegance, Exoticism and Femininity. The Bowers Museum is its only West Coast presentation.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** MEGAN MARTINEZ, THE BOWERS MUSEUM, (714) 567-3635, MMARTINEZ@BOWERS.ORG.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** VISITOR SERVICES, THE BOWERS MUSEUM, (714) 567-3600, VISITORSERVICES@BOWERS.ORG, WWW.BOWERS.ORG.
The Island Hotel Launches the Island Club Lounge

Situated on the 20th floor of the Island Hotel, the new Island Club lounge offers sweeping views of the Newport Beach coastline and harbor through floor-to-ceiling windows. With a constantly rotating menu, food is served all day, with a large selection of beer, wine, champagne, and cocktails available in the evenings. The Island Club also features comfortable modern furnishings, work spaces with all the latest business amenities, and concierge services that can arrange VIP tables at area restaurants, book local activities, and acquire tickets to shows and sporting events.

MEDIA CONTACT: JULIE REYNOLDS, THE IRVINE COMPANY, (949) 720-2278, JRYNOLDS@IRVINECOMPANY.COM.
PUBLIC CONTACT: SARAH HULL, ISLAND HOTEL NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 760-4951, SHULL@ISLANDHOTEL.COM, WWW.ISLANDHOTEL.COM.

New Official Laguna Beach Travel Info App

Now available from iTunes, Google Play and Amazon stores, the Official Laguna Beach Travel Info app allows visitors to search for hotels, restaurants, retail stores and activities in Laguna Beach on interactive maps. The app also includes up-to-the-minute weather information and a bus and trolley tracker function for real-time transit arrivals. Full details on the new app can be found at www.lagunabeachinfo.com/app.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: LANA JOHNSON, JOHNSON MEDIA, (949) 222-6499, LANAJOHNSON@ME.COM, WWW.LAGUNABEACHINFO.COM.

Jimmy’s Famous American Tavern Now Open in Dana Point

In Dana Marina Plaza, David Wilhelm has opened a second location of his Jimmy’s Famous American Tavern. Like the original in San Diego’s Point Loma Marina, the certified Green Restaurant features polished concrete floors, tables made of natural materials, leather booths, roll-up garage doors, outdoor patio seating, and a menu prepared from scratch daily. Popular items include the half-pound Jimmy Burger with applewood bacon and jalapeno jelly; buttermilk beer-battered onion rings with house-made chipotle ketchup; unique interpretations of gourmet pub fare, steaks and seafood; and classic comfort food.

MEDIA CONTACT: ROBERT SEDITA, CITY OF DANA POINT, (949) 248-3512, RSEDITA@DANAPoint.ORG.
PUBLIC CONTACT: DAVID WILHELM, JIMMY’S FAMOUS AMERICAN TAVERN, (949) 388-8900, DANAPoint@J-FAT.COM, WWW.J-FATS.COM.

Major Renovations at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort and Spa

This holiday season, the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort and Spa will put the final touches on an extensive renovation to its outdoor patio area. It includes updates to the outdoor bar and restaurant area, all-new patio and lounge furniture and newly installed fire and water features throughout the property. When the remodel is complete, the resort plans to host a holiday cocktail reception with hors d’oeuvres from its Lantana restaurant and specialty drinks from the Agave Sunset bar.

MEDIA CONTACT: MICHAEL RADLICK, CINCH PR, (415) 392-2212, MICHAEL@CINCHPR.COM.
PUBLIC CONTACT: HYATT REGENCY INDIAN WELLS RESORT AND SPA, (760) 341-1000, RESERVATIONS@HYATT.COM, WWW.INDIANWELLS.HYATT.COM.

Inaugural Borrego Springs Film Festival

The first Borrego Springs Film Festival will take place Jan. 23-26 in the center of California’s largest state park: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, a location that has been featured in countless classic films since the 1920s. Awards in categories including Best Feature Film, Best Documentary Film, Best Short Film, Best Screenplay, Best Actor, and Best of Festival will celebrate screen films over a four-day period bookended by opening- and closing-night galas. Festival passes will be available from the Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce beginning Dec. 15.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: LINDA HADDICK, BORREGO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, (760) 767-5555, LHADDICK@BORREGOSPRINGSCHAMBER.COM, WWW.BORREGOSPRINGSFILMFESTIVAL.COM.
La Casa Del Zorro Resort Celebrates Grand Reopening

Hotel Managers Group, one of California’s leading hotel management companies, has reopened La Casa Zorro Resort in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park after completing major renovations over three years. To celebrate the grand reopening, the resort is offering The Legend Returns package that includes a deluxe room with breakfast for $189 per night through Dec. 30. Originally opened in 1937, the 46-acre historic resort features 67 luxury guest rooms and 19 private casitas, each with its own private pool or spa and floor plans that span one to four bedrooms.

Big Bear Village Launches New Scavenger Hunt Adventure

Urban Adventure Quest has launched a new tour that turns Big Bear into a giant game board. The 90-minute tour takes teams of two to five players on a scavenger hunt through Big Bear Village to solve clues and complete challenges using a smart phone as a guide. The new tours start at the Big Bear Visitors Center at 630 Bartlett Road and end at Big Bear Lake. Tours cost $49 per team.

Stone Summit Brewery Now Open in Big Bear Lake

Big Bear Lake recently welcomed the Stone Summit Brewery, the area’s newest craft beer destination. The two-story brewery produces a variety of beers, including honey blonde, porter, India Pale Ale and seasonal flavors like pumpkin spice. It also offers live entertainment and a wide selection of gourmet food.

Big Bear to Debut the Area’s First Commercially Produced Wine

At 6,750 feet above sea level, Stone Summit Vineyard in Big Bear Lake is now the highest-altitude commercial vineyard and winery in the Northern Hemisphere. More than 2,000 vines were planted beginning in May 2012, and it is expected to take at least two years before they are mature enough to produce wine. In the meantime, Stone Summit Vineyard is using grapes grown in Napa Valley and California’s central coast to begin bottling wines under its label this winter, and will pour Big Bear’s first commercial wines, a Chardonnay and a Moscato, at the vineyard’s tasting room.

Farmhouse Kitchen Now Open in Temecula

Now open at the Temecula Creek Inn, the Farmhouse Kitchen is a new rustic but refined eatery designed to encourage social dining. With a menu of locally sourced farmhause fare, premium wines and barrel-aged whiskies, the restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, dinner and weekend brunch. During dinner, an additional Fresh Sheet menu features seasonal dishes. The culinary team at the Farmhouse Kitchen sources ingredients from local purveyors and farmers like Nicolau Family Farms, Old Town Bakery, Temecula Olive Oil Co. and Crow’s Pass Farms to ensure quality and freshness.

Kids Ski and Ride for Free at Big Bear Mountain Resorts

Families who stay overnight between Sunday and Thursday at participating Big Bear Mountain Resorts will now receive one free kid’s lift ticket for each paying adult. The free tickets are valid for children 12 and under at both Snow Summit and Bear Mountain for skiing and snowboarding Monday through Friday. The free tickets are not valid on the weekends or during holiday blackout days.
Major Renovations at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego

The Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego has completed a renovation of its 1,628 guest rooms, making them the newest hotel rooms on San Diego Bay. The hotel has also debuted a new Executive Club Lounge on the 33rd floor Grand Club Level. The next phase of renovation slated for the tallest waterfront building on the West Coast will include revamping its meeting facilities, lounges, restaurants and public spaces.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** LINDSAY WEIGHTMAN, J PUBLIC RELATIONS, (619) 255-7069, LWEIGHTMAN@JPUBLICRELATIONS.COM.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT, (619) 232-1234, CONCIERGE@HYATT.COM, WWW.MANCHESTERGRANDHYATTRENOVATION.COM.

Kona Kai Resort and Marina to Complete Extensive Renovations

Shelter Island’s Kona Kai Resort and Marina will soon complete the final phase of a $22 million renovation project. First-phase renovations, including updates to the resort’s 129 guest rooms and lobby, have already been completed. Phase two renovations, expected to be complete in early 2014, will include a restaurant remodel and renovation of all meeting and event spaces and fitness facilities.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** SARAH WEINBERG, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, (619) 557-2838, SWEINBERG@SANDIEGO.ORG, WWW.SANDIEGO.ORG.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** KONA KAI RESORT AND MARINA, (619) 221-8000, HOTEL@RESORTKONAKAI.COM, WWW.RESORTKONAKAI.COM.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** SARAH WEINBERG, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, (619) 557-2838, SWEINBERG@SANDIEGO.ORG, WWW.SANDIEGO.ORG.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** KONA KAI RESORT AND MARINA, (619) 221-8000, HOTEL@RESORTKONAKAI.COM, WWW.RESORTKONAKAI.COM.

New San Diego Non-Stop Flight Options from Alaska Airlines

This winter, Alaska Airlines is expanding its non-stop routes to and from San Diego’s Lindberg Field. By Dec. 1, the airline will have nonstop daily service to Boise, Idaho. Alaska will also launch seasonal, daily nonstop flights to and from the Mammoth Mountain ski area in California’s High Sierra region from Dec. 19 through April 13.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** SARAH WEINBERG, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, (619) 557-2838, SWEINBERG@SANDIEGO.ORG, WWW.SANDIEGO.ORG.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:** ALASKA AIR, (800) 252-7522, WWW.ALASKAAIR.COM.

The San Diego Museum of Art Debuts Women, War, and Industry

Balboa Park’s San Diego Museum of Art will display Women, War, and Industry, an exhibition pairing World War I and II posters with contemporary works of art capturing women’s roles through industrialization and wartime, now through Feb. 18. The exhibit has a unique tie to the museum’s own wartime history during World War II, when many of the museum’s objects were moved to accommodate a naval hospital installed on-site. Several local artists will be featured in the exhibition, including contemporary artists Jana Quensell and Doris Bittar, and Florence Kemmler, a San Diego photojournalist in the 1920s.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** SARAH WEINBERG, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, (619) 557-2838, SWEINBERG@SANDIEGO.ORG, WWW.SANDIEGO.ORG.

Two New Craft Brewing Culture Exhibits in Balboa Park

Two Balboa Park cultural sites are hosting exhibitions dedicated to craft beer and brewing. Running through Jan. 20 at the San Diego History Center, Bottled and Kegged: San Diego’s Craft Brew Culture explores the city’s brewing history before, during and after Prohibition, and highlights why the region is a hotbed of craft beer production and innovation with interactive displays such as a 500-gallon brew house and a hop smelling and touching station. The San Diego Museum of Man is presenting BEERology, an exhibition that explores the connection between beer brewing and civilization, through summer 2014. BEERology presents stories and artifacts that reveal the links between beer and the agriculture, arts and religion of ancient cultures. Local craft brewers including Green Flash, Port Brewing/Lost Abbey, Ballast Point and more will offer special tastings and parties throughout the exhibition’s run.

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT:** SARAH WEINBERG, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, (619) 557-2838, SWEINBERG@SANDIEGO.ORG, WWW.SANDIEGO.ORG.
On the Fly: Technology Takes Off at the Rueben H. Fleet Science Center

On display at Balboa Park’s Rueben H. Fleet Science Center through Dec. 31, On the Fly: Technology Takes Off showcases the use of unmanned aerial vehicle technology, or UAVs. The exhibition features multiple daily performances by small-scale UAVs and interactive stations where visitors can create flying objects of their own, and then test them out using wind tubes or a motorized airplane launcher.

Media Contact: Sarah Weinberg, San Diego Tourism Authority, (619) 557-2838, sweinberg@sandiego.org, www.sandiego.org.


South Paw Social Club Debuts in San Diego’s East Village

Recently opened in San Diego’s East Village neighborhood near Petco Park, the South Paw Social Club draws inspiration from American baseball culture and the historic Schiefer and Sons Aeroplane Co. building in which it is housed. The restaurant’s menu features American comfort food classics, including burgers, pretzels and the unique Fat Boy Mac, a bowl of cheese-covered noodles topped with crushed Ritz crackers, pretzels and sliced pork belly. In addition, the main bar, decorated with an overhang of distressed timber, holds 32 craft beer taps and offers a variety of signature lemonade-based cocktails.

Media Contact: Sarah Weinberg, San Diego Tourism Authority, (619) 557-2838, sweinberg@sandiego.org, www.sandiego.org.


Downtown San Diego Welcomes New Brazilian Steakhouse

The 20th U.S. location of Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse is now open in San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter featuring the centuries-old gaucho tradition known as churrasco, the art of roasting meats over an open fire. With a prix-fixe menu that features freshly grilled meats carved table side, an extensive salad bar and authentic Brazilian sides, the restaurant offers seating for 350 guests and five private and semi-private dining rooms equipped with AV capabilities and internet streaming for group events, meetings and celebrations. An outdoor patio boasts seating for up to 20 people and the restaurant’s frontage along 6th Avenue has been transformed with full height bi-fold doors that let the outside in.

Media Contact: Sarah Weinberg, San Diego Tourism Authority, (619) 557-2838, sweinberg@sandiego.org, www.sandiego.org.


Iberico Spanish Bistro and Gin Club Now Open in La Jolla

Now open in La Jolla, the Iberico Spanish Bistro and Gin Club is a 3,500-square-foot restaurant, lounge and event space with a rustic-chic decor consisting of blue-glass chandeliers, hardwood floors, exposed brick walls and a wall made of wine glasses. Iberico’s traditional Spanish menu features a family-style tapas selection, with dishes that include red wine braised ox tail, chorizo-stuffed calamari and traditional spicy Spanish potatoes. In addition, as San Diego’s first specialty gin bar, the venue offers an assortment of premium gins, available straight or crafted into signature cocktails.

Media Contact: Sarah Weinberg, San Diego Tourism Authority, (619) 557-2838, sweinberg@sandiego.org, www.sandiego.org.


New Jet Pack Rides Over Mission Bay

Jetpack America now offers jet pack rides over San Diego’s Mission Bay on water-propelled devices with 200-horsepower marine engines that allows guests to travel up to 30 mph up to 30 feet above water. The jetpack is strapped onto the guest’s back with a five-point body harness and seat, giving full maneuverability to soar, hover, turn, dive or walk on water. The basic package includes Jetpack instructional training, equipment overviews and 15 minutes of flight time starting at $159 per person.

Media Contact: Sarah Weinberg, San Diego Tourism Authority, (619) 557-2838, sweinberg@sandiego.org, www.sandiego.org.

Public Contact: Jetpack America, (888) 553-6471, info@jetpackamerica.com, www.jetpackamerica.com.

The Headquarters at Seaport Village Now Open

Now open in San Diego’s Seaport District in the historic Police Headquarters complex, the Headquarters acts as a gateway to a 20-acre waterfront development that includes the iconic Seaport Village. The new development boasts 25 stores and restaurants in a 100,000-square-foot space encompassing four structures around a large central courtyard. Featuring an eclectic mix of eateries and specialty shops, the Headquarters is anchored by restaurants Eddie V’s, Pizzeria Mozza, Puesto, Seasons 52, and The Cheesecake Factory. Retail outlets include Aaron Chang Ocean Art, the Kitson boutique, Madison’s fine leather and luggage, the seaside-inspired fashion of the Urban Beach House and Geppetto’s toys.

Media Contact: Sarah Weinberg, San Diego Tourism Authority, (619) 557-2838, sweinberg@sandiego.org, www.sandiego.org.

LEGO Star Wars X-Wing Starfighter at LEGOLAND

LEGOLAND California Resort in Carlsbad is displaying the LEGO Star Wars X-Wing Starfighter through Dec. 31. The life-size spaceship is the world’s largest LEGO model display, standing over 11 feet tall and 43 feet wide, and was constructed of more than five million LEGO bricks. The model is displayed adjacent to the LEGO Mindstorms attraction in the park’s Imagination Zone.

MEDIA CONTACT: SARAH WEINBERG, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, (619) 557-2838, SWEINBERG@SANDIEGO.ORG, WWW.SANDIEGO.ORG
PUBLIC CONTACT: JULIE ESTRADA, LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT, (760) 918-5377, JULIE.ESTRADA@LEGOLAND.COM, WWW.LEGOLAND.COM.

The Springhill Suites Oceanside to Open in Late Winter

The new Springhill Suites Oceanside will open in February 2014 a block from the beach in downtown Oceanside. Amenities include a rooftop pool and fitness center with panoramic ocean views, street level Baja-style fish restaurant Hello Betty, and stylish lounge areas with fire pits. The hotel will have 149 rooms, many with ocean views, and all outfitted in fun, modern beach décor. Meeting and event space incorporates two connecting interior rooms, for a total of 2,235 square feet of indoor space, and outdoor pre-function space.

MEDIA CONTACT: SHAE GEARY, VISIT OCEANSIDE, (760) 815-8617, SHAEG@SBGLOBAL.NET.
PUBLIC CONTACT: LESLIE GAUL, VISIT OCEANSIDE, (760) 721-1101, LESLIE@VISITOCEANSIDE.ORG, WWW.VISITOCEANSIDE.ORG.

San Diego’s Balboa Park to Celebrate its Centennial in 2015

In 2015, Balboa Park, larger than Central Park and home to more museums than any urban park in the United States, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Panama-California Exposition of 1915, for which the park’s expansive gardens and striking Spanish Colonial Revival architecture were developed. The yearlong festival will highlight the region’s history and explore its future through displays featuring art, commerce, culture and technology. For more information, visit www.balboapark.org/2015.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTACT: GERRY BRAUN, BALBOA PARK CELEBRATION, (619) 331-1942, INC., GBRAUN@BALBOAPARK2015.ORG, WWW.BALBOAPARK.ORG.

Major Renovation of the Redondo Beach Pier

Redondo Beach is undergoing a multi-year, phased renewal program that began with the construction of a new façade for the Redondo Landing building in winter 2012 and is slated to be completed in early 2017. The renovation will return the pier to its golden age, when it was the center of Redondo Beach public life. All shops and restaurants will remain open during the restoration.

MEDIA CONTACT: MARIS SOMERVILLE, SOMERVILLE ASSOCIATES, (310) 207-5663, MARIS@SOMERVILLEPR.COM.
PUBLIC CONTACT: DANIELLE DUTSCH, REDONDO BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU, (310) 376-6911, DANIELLE@REDONDOCHAMBER.ORG, WWW.VISITREDONDO.COM.

Water Park to Open at LEGOLAND

In summer 2014, LEGOLAND California Resort will add a new water park to its collection. The three-acre Legends of Chima water park, based on the LEGO Group’s popular product of the same name, will feature an interactive Lion Temple Wave Pool, 30-foot-tall Mount Cavora dedicated to the eight Chima animal tribes, Cragger’s Swamp hands-on water-play area with water slides and cannons, and Eglor’s Build-A-Boat, where children can build their own boat and race against others through an obstacle course. In addition, a dining area called Wolves’ Cantina is planned.

MEDIA CONTACT: JULIE ESTRADA, LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT, (760) 918-5377, JULIE.ESTRADA@LEGOLAND.COM, WWW.LEGOLAND.COM.
PUBLIC CONTACT: SARAH WEINBERG, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY, (619) 557-2838, SWEINBERG@SANDIEGO.ORG, WWW.SANDIEGO.ORG.
Got a name or address change?
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