

WHAT'S NEW IN CALIFORNIA

SPRING 2021



visit
California



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Visit California is pleased to present this Spring 2021 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:
Fresno Blossom Trail, Fresno, CA

On the cover:
Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Moss Beach, 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 hotels, culinary, arts and entertainment, and outdoor. Dates listed are subject to change. Confirm with appropriate media contacts listed with each entry.

Hotels



ANAHEIM

The Westin Anaheim Resort Opening March 2021

The **Westin Anaheim Resort** is a new luxury property slated to open in March 2021 just steps away from some of Southern California's most popular attractions. As the brand's first new build in Southern California in nearly 25 years, the resort will feature a modern design inspired by Anaheim's historic orange grove roots. A landmark hotel set in the heart of Anaheim's Resort District, The Westin Anaheim Resort will occupy eight acres and offer 618 guestrooms including 121 suites, a signature 2,860-square-foot WestinWORKOUT® Fitness Studio, a resort-style pool, and seven signature restaurants and bars, including Anaheim's only exclusive rooftop bar overlooking Disneyland® Resort's nightly fireworks. The hotel will also feature 23 meeting rooms totaling 47,542 square feet of customizable and high-tech meeting space including a 16,120-square-foot grand ballroom.

Element Anaheim Resort Convention Center Opening March 2021

The **Element Anaheim Resort Convention Center** is also slated for a March 2021 opening. Within a 10-minute walk to top local attractions like Disneyland Resort and the Anaheim Convention Center, this 141-room hotel is a great option for both leisure and business travelers. Whether guests stay at the property for a few days or a few weeks, they will thrive at Element with the conveniences they need. The property offers spacious studio and one-bedroom suites with separate living and sleeping areas, as well as popular kid's suites with bunk beds. Not to mention, rooms include a fully equipped kitchen that is ready for a guest's favorite cuisine. But, if visitors are not in the mood to cook, they can enjoy a daily, free hot breakfast buffet. The property also features a 24-hour fitness center as well as outdoor pool and BBQ areas that provide a relaxing atmosphere to unwind after a day at the convention center or at the theme parks.

MEDIA CONTACT: LINDSAY (MILLER) SWANSON, [VISIT ANAHEIM](#), (714) 336-9619, LSWANSON@VISITANAHEIM.ORG

CATALINA ISLAND

Overnight Stays Now Offered at the Iconic Catalina Casino

For the first time, Catalina Island Company is offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to book a night at its iconic Casino, the 91-year-old Art Deco building known as a symbol of the island's history, arts, culture and romance. The Casino's ballroom will be outfitted with vintage furniture and accessories from the past 90+ years. Stays will consist of a personal tour with a local Avalon historian; a three-course chef's dinner on the Casino's veranda featuring a time period-appropriate menu and signature drinks; a private screening of a Hollywood classic film and movie treats; breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit. The **Catalina Casino Sleepover** is available for limited dates for \$899 (excluding taxes and fees) for a two-night stay.

MEDIA CONTACT: KRISTIN METCALFE, **CATALINA ISLAND COMPANY**, (310) 510-7427, KMETCALFE@SCICO.COM

CENTURY CITY

Fairmont Century Plaza Coming to Century City in Spring 2021

With 400 rooms and 63 luxury residences, the **Fairmont's new Century City location** is expected to open in spring 2021. The hotel is rich in Hollywood history and glamour, having originally opened in 1966 on the 20th Century Fox lot with high tech amenities, including colored TVs in every room (a first for its time!) The hotel has a gourmet café, modern American brasserie, rooftop bar and pool, 14,000-square-foot spa. With a walkable, "city-within-a-city" atmosphere, Minoru Yamasaki's lovingly restored mid-century modern hotel is only a short stroll from innovative outdoor retail and dining establishments.

MEDIA CONTACT: BRENDA URBAN, **FAIRMONT CENTURY PLAZA**, (973) 477-8456, BRENDA.URBAN@FAIRMONT.COM

DANA POINT

Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club Debuts

On January 6, the Dana Point resort previously known as Monarch Beach Resort debuted as **Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club**. The 400-room resort is nestled hillside along the coast of Dana Point, offering panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. A one-of-a-kind Southern California escape, the resort boasts seven culinary concepts, including Bourbon Steak Orange County, AVEO Table + Bar, 33 North, Monarch Bay Beach Club, Part & Parcel Market, Club 19 and Sombra, a private beach club, an expansive outdoor pool area, an award-winning 18-hole golf course, a 30,000 square-foot spa and more.

MEDIA CONTACT: CARSON DENBOW, **VISIT DANA POINT**, (570) 490-0135, CLD73@CORNELL.EDU

GREATER PALM SPRINGS

Azure Palm Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa Opening in March 2021

Azure Palm Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa Oasis, opening in March 2021 in Desert Hot Springs, offers a unique desert spa experience and soaks in healing mineral springs surrounded by the San Jacinto Mountains. The resort will offer 40 overnight accommodations, ranging from spa suites with private mineral spring tubs to balcony view rooms facing the stunning western mountainscape.

MEDIA CONTACT: JOYCE KIEHL, **GREATER PALM SPRINGS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**, (760) 969-1338, JKIEHL@GPSCVB.COM

HERMOSA BEACH

Newly Renovated Beachfront Hotel with Historic Ties to Hermosa Beach

Established as a motel in 1962, **Sea Sprite Hotel** is a newly-renovated, oceanfront, boutique hotel. Sea Sprite now offers 34 tastefully-designed unique rooms and suites featuring hardwood floors, open-pore wood furniture, and a gray-white color palette that elegantly sets the tone for a relaxing coastal getaway. As an oceanfront property, most rooms have a beautiful view of the ocean and are just steps away from the strand. The property also offers room service and various beach activities and rental, all sponsored by local Hermosa Beach businesses.

MEDIA CONTACT: KYLE LEE, **SEA SPRITE HOTEL**, (310) 725-8234, KLEE@VISTAINVESTMENTS.COM

MONTEREY COUNTY

Coastal-inspired Guest Rooms and Suites at Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay

Portola Hotel & Spa's newly renovated and coastal-inspired accommodations offer a relaxing escape with modern, timeless interiors and upgraded amenities. Each of the 379 guest rooms and suites features beautiful wall coverings, contemporary furniture, air conditioning, headboards with built-in lighting and USB outlets, ceiling fans, and double pane windows. Guest rooms offer one king or two queen beds, and select suites are equipped with a queen sofa sleeper. The refreshed interiors give Portola's coastal oasis new life by fusing Spanish missionaries' artisanship with tones of the Monterey bay near iconic Fisherman's Wharf. Warm oak tones, patterned textiles and leather crafted details found throughout the rooms take on the Californios' identity and effortlessly become an extension of the destination's stunning landscape.

MEDIA CONTACT: JACKIE OLSEN, **PORTOLA HOTEL & SPA**, (831) 649-7867, JOLSEN@PORTOLAHOTEL.COM

New Renovations at Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa is set to complete a multimillion-dollar renovation this spring, which includes redesigns of the lobby, guest rooms, suites and exterior landscaping. The renovation will also include the addition of two new spaces: Central Coast Provisions, a market-style shop, and Sea Root Restaurant, an on-site eatery. The overall renovation helps to blur the lines between indoor and outdoor spaces, creating a relaxing and luxurious experience for guests. Considered Monterey County's largest meetings hotel with 40,000 square feet of event space and 560 rooms, Hyatt Regency also received GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation and appointed a hygiene and wellbeing champion to oversee health and sanitation efforts.

New Sleep Program at Post Ranch Inn

In spring 2021, **Post Ranch Inn**, an eco-luxury property perched on the cliffs of Big Sur, will launch a new Sleep Program for guests. This one-of-a-kind program has been designed with the help of one of the top sleep doctors in the U.S. and an indoor air quality expert to help guests sleep better and leave feeling truly rejuvenated.

MEDIA CONTACT: RACHEL DINBOKOWITZ, **MONTEREY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**, (831) 657-6434, RACHEL@SEEMONTEREY.COM

NAPA VALLEY

Four Seasons Resort Napa Valley to Open Early Spring

Representing Napa Valley's first and only resort set within a working winery, **Four Seasons Resort Napa Valley** delivers an authentic luxury retreat where the best of wine, wellness, culinary and design converge. Reservations will go live in a couple months, closely followed by the grand opening. Weddings and events are already being booked for 2021 onward. Located in quaint Calistoga with 85 rooms and suites designed by renowned Erin Martin, Four Seasons Resort Napa Valley will feature TRUSS Restaurant and Bar led by Michelin-starred Executive Chef Erik Anderson, Spa Talisa - inspired by Calistoga's 150-year history as a wellness destination, and a 7.4-acre organic vineyard led by world-class winemaker, Thomas Rivers Brown. Other notable amenities include Four Seasons' acclaimed Kids For All Seasons program, two outdoor pools nestled amid the vineyards, the open-air Campo Poolside restaurant, a regulation Bocce Ball court, and more.

MEDIA CONTACT: NICOLE LAX, **FOUR SEASONS RESORT NAPA VALLEY**, (248) 763-6588, FOURSEASONSNAAPR@JWADEPR.COM

Two New Lodging Properties to Open in Downtown Napa in 2021

Downtown Napa anticipates welcoming two new properties in 2021. **Cambria Hotel Napa Valley**, conveniently located within walking distance of downtown Napa shopping and restaurants, will accept bookings starting in March 2021. The property will feature an outdoor pool with a sun deck and poolside bar, fitness center, bicycle rentals, and a full-service restaurant and bar serving locally inspired dishes and regional craft beers. Slated to open in early 2021, **The George** is a new generation luxury boutique inn featuring nine guest rooms, situated in downtown Napa's picturesque old town neighborhood. The meticulously restored Queen Anne style Victorian home was originally built in 1891 and is tucked away from the downtown bustle but within easy walking distance of everything downtown Napa has to offer.

MEDIA CONTACT: OLGA VERKHOTINA, **DOWNTOWN NAPA**, (916) 477-2020, OVERKHOTINA@AUGUSTINEAGENCY.COM

OAKLAND

Moxy Oakland Opens Spring 2021

Nestled in Oakland's Arts & Entertainment District, the new **Moxy Oakland Downtown** is scheduled to open in spring 2021, greeting travelers with a spirited and fun guest experience starting with a complimentary beverage upon check-in at the bar in the lobby. The property's design details pay homage to the neighborhood's Art Deco theaters in an edgy and modern way. Guest rooms are thoughtfully crafted with cushy beds, TVs with high quality sound systems and speedy Wi-Fi.

MEDIA CONTACT: BRIDGET CHENG, **MOXY OAKLAND**, (408) 966-7788, BRIDGET@AFANDCO.COM

OCEANSIDE

Oceanside Welcomes New Beach Resorts and a Historic Boutique Hotel in Spring 2021

Two new beachfront resorts and a historic boutique hotel are among the highly anticipated new offerings for visitors to Oceanside in 2021. Along with immediate beach access, the adjacent Mission Pacific Hotel and The Seabird Resort will offer guests a combined 387 guestrooms - most with water views - as well as a variety of dining experiences, ocean view pools, meeting spaces, recreation and more. A highlight of the project is the incorporation of the city's historic "Top Gun" house, which has been fully restored. Also opening in 2021 is the Brick Hotel, a 10-room boutique hotel set in a fully retrofitted and restored historic building from 1888. The new hotel is located in the heart of the Oceanside Cultural District near museums, theaters and the popular Thursday-night Sunset market. Visitors will enjoy a first-floor restaurant and cocktail lounge, hotel rooms on the second and third floors, and a rooftop bar.

MEDIA CONTACT: SHAE GEARY, **VISIT OCEANSIDE**, (760) 815-8617, SGEARY@WRIGHTONCOMM.COM

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

New Cormorant Boutique Hotel Brings Upscale, Self-service Luxury Concept to La Jolla

Cormorant Boutique Hotel is bringing a new kind of luxury to La Jolla, San Diego's premier beach destination, this spring. With a prime location just one block from world famous La Jolla Cove and in the heart of La Jolla Village, the Cormorant Boutique Hotel now includes 26 guest rooms featuring fresh, modern and coastal-chic design with upscale, tech-forward amenities. Guests enjoy the comforts of an intimate, luxury hotel with the ability to explore and discover all that La Jolla and San Diego have to offer. Formerly the La Jolla Inn, guest rooms, lobby space and Prospect Market have all been reimagined. Additions to the property include a kitchen, an interior lift, and street-side access to the rooftop lounge. Birdseye, the third-floor rooftop bar and lounge, is designed as a place for guests to soak in panoramic ocean views while relaxing around a fire pit with crafted cocktails in hand after a fun day of exploring.

MEDIA CONTACT: JANISSA REYES, **CORMORANT BOUTIQUE HOTEL**, (619) 780-0974, JREYES@OCEANICENTERPRISES.COM

Ocean Park Inn to Unveil Phase Two of Remodel and Celebrate 30 years in April 2021

Ocean Park Inn (OPI), a family-owned and operated hotel located in the heart of Pacific Beach, is unveiling phase two of its property-wide renovation set for April 2021 in addition to celebrating its 30th anniversary. The beachfront hotel, situated on the iconic Pacific Beach boardwalk just steps from the sand, unveiled 71 newly reimagined guest rooms in June 2020 as part of the first renovation phase. The hotel is currently closed to complete the final phase of the renovation. Upon the re-opening in April, guests will be welcomed with a refreshed pool space, a complete redesign of the lobby and an updated exterior façade designed to complement the mid-century aesthetic of the interior.

MEDIA CONTACT: ALEAHA KOPEC, **OCEAN PARK INN**, (860) 575-4049, ALEAHA@CHEMISTRYPR.COM

SANTA BARBARA

Palihouse Santa Barbara Opening Spring 2021

Palihouse Santa Barbara, a 24-room hideaway with a design aesthetic of "vintage preppy meets the American Riviera," is slated to debut in spring 2021. Tucked in the heart of the historic downtown Presidio Neighborhood, the residential-style boutique property will welcome guests with amenities including complimentary Linus bicycles, a tranquil Mediterranean-style courtyard, a pool with cabanas, Peloton bikes and a Pawlisociety pet program.

Motel 6 Santa Barbara, CA - Beach Celebrates Grand Reopening in Early 2021

Near Santa Barbara's East Beach, the nation's very first 52-room **Motel 6** has been updated with bright, colorful retro furnishings inspired by its 1962 origins (when rates were only \$6 per night) and will celebrate its grand reopening in early 2021. Amenities include '60s-style mini fridges, upgraded linens and luxury mattresses. The property is located just steps from East Beach, and is close to shopping and dining.

MEDIA CONTACT: ANNA JACOBSON, **VISIT SANTA BARBARA**, (406) 539-0047, ANNA@SANTABARBARACA.COM

SANTA ROSA

Iconic Sonoma Wine Country Resort Reimagined

Flamingo Resort is a mid-century hotel in California's Sonoma wine country that was originally designed in 1957 by architect Homer A. Rissman. Set on a 10-acre campus in Santa Rosa, the historic hotel is currently undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation to be completed in summer 2021. The comprehensive transformation will include 156 re-imagined guest rooms and 14 poolside suites, the Flamingo Lazeaway Club restaurant, music lounge, and indoor and outdoor private and communal gathering spaces. San Francisco-based BAR Architects design studio and San Francisco-based SL Hospitality will transform The Flamingo Resort into a spirited escape with a kaleidoscope of new wellbeing and entertainment offerings. The resort also features a year-round heated pool, hot tub, full-service fitness center, Pilates and cycling studio, tennis courts, and pool.

MEDIA CONTACT: CHRIS VOMVOLAKIS, [VISIT SANTA ROSA](#), (707) 953-1416, CHRISV@VISITSANTAROSA.COM

WEST HOLLYWOOD

Pendry West Hollywood Opening in Spring 2021

Pendry is expected to open its first Los Angeles property in West Hollywood in spring 2021, at the former House of Blues site on the iconic Sunset Strip. With 149 rooms and 40 luxury condominiums, the property will feature a rooftop pool, a members-only social club, live-entertainment venue and a bowling alley. Legendary chef, Wolfgang Puck, whose Spago restaurant put Sunset Boulevard on the culinary map, will return to his roots with fresh dining and beverage venues designed exclusively for Pendry West Hollywood.

MEDIA CONTACT: JOAN MAGTIBAY, [PENDRY WEST HOLLYWOOD](#), (480) 529-3059, JMAGTIBAY@JPUBLICRELATIONS.COM

Culinary



CARMEL

New Made-to-Order Donut Shop Opening in Carmel-by-the-Sea

Opening this spring in Carmel-by-the-Sea is **Dutch Door Donuts**, a shop that will serve delicious house-made donuts and the option for drip or nitro coffee daily. The made-to-order shop will offer three daily donut flavors of glazed, chocolate sea salt and sesame cinnamon, plus one seasonal special. Customers will be able to see their donuts taking shape through a glass partition while sitting on bar seats to watch.

MEDIA CONTACT: ASHLEY BRUNE, **VISIT CARMEL**, (775) 323-2977, ASHLEY@THEABBIAGENCY.COM

LOS ALTOS

Chef Manish Tyagi Brings Inventive Indian Fare to Los Altos

Aurum, a modern Indian bistro in downtown Los Altos, is now open for lunch and dinner. The restaurant is a joint project from Chef Manish Tyagi, formerly the Executive Chef of August (1) Five in San Francisco, and Anupam Bhatia, owner of Broadway Masala in Redwood City. The restaurant soft opened with a limited takeout and delivery dinner menu in late December. The menu will continue to evolve as outdoor and indoor dining is permitted. Under Chef Manish Tyagi's guidance, Aurum's menu presents the classic, yet unexplored, charm of India's varied regions, expertly matched with familiar flavors and local California produce. The menu is robust and flavorful with a higher spice level than guests may expect. The menu at Aurum strikes a balance between classic and well-known Indian fare with what

Chef Tyagi describes as India's "forgotten" recipes.

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MONTEREY COUNTY

Array of New Restaurants Open in Monterey County

Babaloo Cuban Café is a brick-and-mortar restaurant in Seaside that features a variety of Cuban sandwiches and sides including empanadas, plantains and more. **Blue Fox Cellars** offers Italian-style wines to enjoy outdoors. Situated in Carmel Valley Village, **Albatross Ridge** transformed the historic dairy barn into a new tasting cottage that offers a variety of wines including some different varietals from its Carmel-by-the-Sea location. Visitors to Carmel-by-the-Sea can now enjoy **Talbott Vineyards'** award-winning chardonnay and pinot noir on a private patio. **Helados La Yaquesita**, a new Mexican frozen treat shop, offers 28 flavors of Marianne's Ice Cream, milkshakes, smoothies and dozens of fruit-infused popsicles with a Mexican twist. **Tutto Buono Eataliano**, a new fast-casual eatery in Monterey, brings Sicilian favorites from a family with nearly 30 years of restaurant experience within the city. Located near the Pacific Grove Municipal Golf course, **Lucy's on Lighthouse** combines two iconic American foods - hot dogs and ice cream. **Deja Blue** recently opened, bringing blues and soul food to Seaside from owner Daryl Choates, who led the Monterey Bay Blues Festival for nearly a quarter century.

MEDIA CONTACT: RACHEL DINBOKOWITZ, **MONTEREY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**, (831) 657-6434, RACHEL@SEEMONTEREY.COM

NAPA VALLEY

New Culinary Delights in Downtown Napa

Downtown Napa welcomed two new culinary hotspots in fall 2020. **First & Franklin Marketplace** blends a full-service deli with a specialty marketplace offering up local wine, craft beers, and Napa Valley gift items. Visitors looking for a quick bite can enjoy grab-and-go or made-to-order sandwiches, salads and charcuterie plates, as well as pre-cooked family meal kits and sides. On a mission to make high-quality the everyday norm, **Contimo Provisions** in Napa opened a new, larger location replacing the CIA at Copia outpost. Featuring their famous breakfast biscuits, sandwiches, and salads, nearly every item on the menu is hand-crafted in house.

New Spirits in Downtown Napa

Napa Valley Distillery, the first distillery to open its doors in the city of Napa since prohibition, opened a new speakeasy tasting salon dubbed the “Hollywood Room” with cocktails crafted from spirits made just a few feet away. The art deco-designed space is punctuated with tiki bar-like decor. The first standalone tasting room dedicated solely to luxury California brandies, **California Brandy House**, opens on First Street in November 2020 for outdoor tastings. The new concept will debut with two leading brandy portfolios, Germain-Robin and Argonaut. Visitors will be guided through tasting flights, including single-barrel samples that are only available at the tasting space.

MEDIA CONTACT: OLGA VERKHOTINA, **DOWNTOWN NAPA**, (916) 477-2020, OVERKHOTINA@AUGUSTINEAGENCY.COM

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

New Sustainable Dining and Imbibing Destination, Acre of Awesome

A new eco-friendly, multi-concept dining and imbibing destination (affectionately referred to as the ‘Acre of Awesome’) has debuted in San Diego’s Barrio Logan neighborhood in the historic Fraser’s Boiler Service building or The Boiler. The employee-owned project (which includes the existing **Thorn Brewing Co.**) launched with the opening of **ReBru Spirits**, a micro-distillery producing small-batch gin, vodka and

whiskey exclusively upcycled from out-of-code and overstock craft beer. Restaurants **Sideyard BBQ by HottMess**, an all-outdoor restaurant serving-up Texas-style smoked BBQ and craft cocktails, and HottMess Woodfired Pizza, offering woodfired Neapolitan-style pizza featuring a proprietary dough recipe that incorporates spent grain from Thorn Brewing Co, are slated to open in April 2021. Guided by a devotion to sustainability, the brewery, distillery and restaurants work holistically to mitigate the environmental impact of all aspects of operations and production.

MEDIA CONTACT: ALEX HARMON, **ACRE OF AWESOME**, (619) 905-8889, ALEX@BAYBIRDINC.COM

Park Hyatt Aviara Resort Announces Collaboration with Acclaimed Chef Richard Blais

Chef Richard Blais, the renowned chef recognized from his many appearances on Bravo’s Top Chef as well as Food Network, will debut a new signature restaurant as part of Park Hyatt Aviara’s recently completed \$50+ million transformation. Set to open March 2021, **Ember & Rye** will be anchored by the world-renowned Aviara Golf Club overlooking the Batiquitos Lagoon. This newly re-imagined culinary experience will specialize in vintage steaks and fresh seafood with a classic California design. Playful and colorful décor will give the space a modern-day country club feel, while a mix of vibrant colors and quirky, bold patterns carries a sense of west coast nostalgia. Indigenous botanicals and live landscaping throughout the location will create a chic garden aesthetic, bringing the outside in, and expansive outdoor seating provides ample space to the lush surroundings.

MEDIA CONTACT: SARA SWIGER, **PARK HYATT AVIARA**, (714) 642-9032, SARA@CANDRPR.COM

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

New Virtual Eatery Concepts Debut in the San Francisco Bay Area

Vine Dining Enterprises' pivot to three virtual concepts with Bay Area pickup and delivery options exemplifies their commitment to finding tasty ways to meet the COVID-19 challenge. Known for the Left Bank Brasserie, LB Steak and Meso Modern Mediterranean venues, Vine has introduced the Mac'n Cheese Shop, Skewery by Meso and Lito's Cocina Hispana. The **Mac'n Cheese Shop** menu has house favorites and a build-your-own choice with pasta and a 4-cheese base customizable with premier toppers and add-ins. There are also entrée side dishes, gluten-free, non-dairy and vegan options. **The Skewery by Meso** menu, served on a skewer, in a wrap or over rice or greens, includes Pick Your Stick selections complemented by grains, wraps or greens plus sides and desserts. Accessible through **Left Bank Brasserie Larkspur** is Lito's Cocina Hispana with a craveable, authentic menu highlighting tacos and paella.

MEDIA CONTACT: TOM WALTON, FORTUNE PUBLIC RELATIONS, (415) 309-1095, TOM@FORTUNEPUBLICRELATIONS.COM

Virtual San Francisco Food Tour with a Live Guide

Experience some of San Francisco's neighborhoods and popular food stops, including the secrets to local artisans' favorite foods, during a **virtual food tour** with a live guide. From Chinatown, to North Beach/Little Italy, the Mission and the Marina, the virtual tours enable participants to interact with local guides and explore San Francisco's neighborhoods, and then virtually explore some popular food stops to watch them make San Francisco favorites. The virtual tours include recipes from the stops, which will even optionally ship the ingredients right to participants, so they can make the treats at home.

MEDIA CONTACT: TOM MEDIN, LOCAL **TASTES OF THE CITY TOURS**, (415) 810-5062, TMEDIN@SFFOODTOUR.COM

SANTA BARBARA

La Paloma Restaurant

Acme Hospitality has opened a neighborhood café and bar that pays tribute to the 1940s-era restaurant of the same name. **La Paloma** takes a page from Californio and rancho cuisine, the foodways of early California settlers and ranchers who incorporated Spanish and Mexican influences into their cooking, from Santa Maria-style oak-grilled barbecue to the original café's beloved Capirotada "bread pudding." Weekly Saturday Specials benefit an emergency grant fund for Acme staff.

MEDIA CONTACT: ANNA JACOBSON, **VISIT SANTA BARBARA**, (406) 539-0047, ANNA@SANTABARBARACA.COM

SANTA ROSA

4th Street Social Club to Bring Hyper-local, Plant-based Dining to Sonoma County

4th Street Social Club in downtown Santa Rosa officially opened in fall 2020. The plant-forward eatery combines owner Melissa Matteson's main passions: gardening, bar food and creative vegetarian cooking. Matteson, a master gardener who has worked in restaurants for 17 years, calls her vision "urban garden-to-table comfort food." The restaurant sources all its fresh produce from Matteson's garden, as well as from other gardens no more than 10 minutes away. While there is some meat available, every dish on the menu can be made vegan or vegetarian. The results include dishes like jackfruit sliders that mimic pulled pork with pickled jalapeno and crushed pineapple on a pretzel bun. Vegetarian ceviche features hearts of palm, artichokes and chickpeas with pickled quail eggs.

MEDIA CONTACT: CHRIS VOMVOLAKIS, **VISIT SANTA ROSA**, (707) 953-1416, CHRISV@VISITSANTAROSA.COM

SONOMA COUNTY

Beresini Vineyards Opens Tasting Room in Glen Ellen

Experience the **Beresini** family's meticulously farmed Pinot Noirs and explore the different vintages at their new tasting room in Glen Ellen. The unique tasting room features a large building-sized barrel, which was used for winemaking, circa 1885. Inside, the space is decorated with gallery-sized hard edge abstract artwork from Edwin Forrest. Steve Beresini, proprietor and winemaker, has been planting and managing vineyards for 50 years, and in 1988, turned a pear orchard into Black Dog Ranch, growing 7 acres of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vineyards. The family began producing their coveted Pinot Noir under the Beresini Vineyard label in 2011. Find out why the Black Labradors of the ranch, each named after characters from The Godfather, rule the vineyards with their trademarked "The Nose Knows" slogan through an intimate tasting of Beresini wines. Tastings of the new Rosé of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay will be available in spring 2021.

The Mill at Glen Ellen Opens with Patio Dining at a Historical Building

Enjoy the classy comfort food at **The Mill at Glen Ellen**, newly opened and featuring Mediterranean-American dishes, beer and wine served in an enchanting outdoor patio space surrounded by gardens and woodlands. The mains on the menu include vegan masala potato patties, tangy ricotta stuffed chicken breasts with wild mushrooms, a Wagyu Top Sirloin Steak with demi glacé, and seasonal specials like jerk chicken with coconut rice or chipotle-glazed Porterhouse pork chops with caramelized apples. Other favorites include chicken wings, Carolina barbecue pulled pork sliders and flavorful pizzas from the wood-burning oven. The restaurant is housed in the 175-year-old former gristmill, where a 40-foot-tall waterwheel welcomes visitors into the tranquil spot overlooking Sonoma Creek.

Top Chef Contestant's Folktable Now Open at Sonoma's Cornerstone

The newly opened **Folktable** at Cornerstone Sonoma is founded by Casey Thompson, a fan favorite on the third season of Top Chef. Using seasonally inspired menus and fresh ingredients sourced from Sonoma County's organic farms and local purveyors, Folktable offers up a truly local culinary experience. During the earlier months of the pandemic Folktable was offered as a pop-up restaurant, and now it has completed construction and is open for takeout in partnership with Sonoma's Best Coffee. The Black Truffle Chicken Hand Pies, beef tartare on hash browns or the drawn butter dungeness crab roll make the perfect savory meal to pair with wines from nearby vineyards.

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Arts & Entertainment



MONTEREY COUNTY

Carmel Mission Celebrates Anniversary and Undergoes Renovation

Carmel Mission is celebrating its 250th anniversary in 2021. To commemorate the anniversary, the Carmel Mission Foundation is working on renovating the Mission's main entrance and restoring a 100-year-old adobe museum that sits adjacent to the renowned Basilica. The newly restored museum and courtyard is slated to open in spring/summer 2021. The Harry Downie Museum at Carmel Mission is also planned to open in October 2021, showcasing "the Evolution of Carmel Mission" photography exhibit.

MEDIA CONTACT: RACHEL DINBOKOWITZ, **MONTEREY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**, (831) 657-6434, RACHEL@SEEMONTEREY.COM

OAKLAND

Oakland Museum of California Garden Renovation

The **Oakland Museum of California (OMCA)** is on track to unveil a newly-refreshed garden and outdoor gathering space in spring 2021 as part of its multi-phased campus improvement project supported by the All In! Campaign for OMCA. This dramatic renovation will include updated outdoor sculptures, revitalized landscaping with native California plantings, new ADA accessible ramps and a permanent stage for outdoor performances. OMCA is also slated to debut a new entrance from Lake Merritt to the Garden, pending the museum's reopening.

MEDIA CONTACT: ASHLEIGH RICHELLE, **OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA**, (858) 472-0607, ARICHELLE@MUSEUMCA.ORG

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Comic-Con Museum Coming Summer 2021

The magic of Comic-Con can be experienced year-round at the new **Comic-Con Museum**, opening summer 2021 in Balboa Park. Super-powered museum-goers can find rotating exhibits, a 4K video theater, classes and seminars, and a gift shop filled with comics and graphic novels. Comic-Con International returns July 22-25, 2021 to the San Diego Convention Center in downtown.

The Shell Opens as San Diego Symphony's New Home

Music lovers will enjoy experiencing performances at The Shell, the new home of the **San Diego Symphony's** popular annual Bayside Nights Summer concert series. Set along San Diego Bay in downtown's Embarcadero Marina Park South, the architecturally striking and acoustically superior outdoor stage is the perfect venue to entertain audiences with beautiful musical performances under the stars. The Shell, which has been under construction since August 2019, features terraced seating for up to 10,000 people.

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SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco Music Hall of Fame Gallery Opening Spring 2021

This spring, the halls of the music-themed Music City Hotel will feature a **gallery** of transcendent local musicians including a curated collection of photographs from Getty Images, The San Francisco Chronicle and numerous local, respected photographers. The photos have been printed three feet high, on brushed aluminum frames. A dozen well-known local and national music writers such as Ben Fong-Torres (Rolling Stone), Emma Silvers (KQED) and Joel Selvin (San Francisco Chronicle) were hired to create original one-of-a-kind gallery text that accompanies each photo. Visitors can check out an iPod or pull out their phones and listen to a playlist of songs by artists featured in the gallery, which includes a guided audio tour with local DJ Mike Watermann.

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SANTA BARBARA

Santa Barbara Zoo Debuting Australian Walkabout Summer 2021

In summer 2021, the Santa Barbara Zoo plans to open the **Australian Walkabout**, a 15,000 square-foot habitat designed to transport guests “Down Under,” where they can walk among the wallabies, kangaroos, emus and native birds. The nearly \$3 million Australian Walkabout Capital Campaign is located in the former elephant exhibit, and is intended to help remind visitors about the importance of conservation both locally and around the world.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art Unveiling New Wing Spring 2021

In spring 2021, the **Santa Barbara Museum of Art** will reveal a new, multi-floor wing. The space will house new photography and contemporary art galleries, as well as renovated galleries, as part of its multi-year, \$50 million renovation. Kupiec Architects’ Bob Kupiec got his start working on projects at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Times Square, Bryant Park and more. Exhibits will be announced in early 2021.

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Outdoor



EUREKA

Opening Soon: The Redwood Sky Walk in Eureka

The new Redwood Sky Walk at the Sequoia Park Zoo in Eureka, California takes nature lovers and explorers of all ages to new heights among some of California's world-famous redwoods. The impressive \$4M canopy trail, opening soon, soars more than 100 feet above the forest floor in California's oldest zoo. At a quarter mile, the Redwood Sky Walk is the longest canopy walk in the Western United States. Suspended bridges and platforms bring visitors up close and personal with in-city old-growth and mature second-growth redwoods in a completely new and very special way. Viewing the forest floor far below and the canopy soaring above (over 250 feet at the tallest point!) wows, delights, educates and inspires visitors to learn about the rich hidden ecology of the magnificent redwood forest. The experience is intentionally integrated with the zoo and complements the natural environment, current animal exhibits and nature play areas. The Redwood Sky Walk is ADA compliant with the exception of an adventure section with square open mesh decking, making a thrilling but safe experience. Admission to the Sky Walk is included with paid entry to the Sequoia Park Zoo.

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MADERA COUNTY

Pedal Forward Bikes and Adventure Now Open Near Yosemite

Two Oakhurst residents who were furloughed during the pandemic changed gears with the new Pedal Forward Bikes & Adventure shop now open near Yosemite National Park. Founders Michael Broderick and Jorge Negret drew upon their hospitality backgrounds to reimagine what a bike shop can be – a resource for adventures and a welcome center for beginners and experts, alike. In addition to a full range of services, **Pedal Forward Bikes** and Adventure hosts weekly shop rides, encouraging participants to stay fit and make connections within the area's cycling community.

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MONTEREY COUNTY

New Short Course at Pebble Beach Resorts Opening Spring 2021

World-renowned Pebble Beach Resorts is partnering with Tiger Woods to design a new short course at the former site of Peter Hay Golf Course. Located directly between the Pebble Beach Pro Shop and Golf Academy, the new facility will include a **short course** comprising nine par-3 holes ranging in length from 47 to 106 yards and measuring 670 yards in total and a 20,000-square-foot putting course that can be set up in a variety of different hole and routing combinations. The facility will also include a 5,000-square-foot food and beverage venue featuring a full kitchen and bar, indoor seating, and the resort's largest outdoor patio positioned for expansive views of the short course, putting course, Carmel Bay and Point Lobos. The grand opening of the entire facility is currently scheduled for spring 2021. Woods' design philosophy for the short course is anchored on playability and creativity.

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SANTA BARBARA

New Santa Barbara Bike Share Program

The City of Santa Barbara and **BCycle** have started installing docks for a new fleet of electric bikes downtown. The system will include 250 electric bikes, which the public will be able to unlock from an app on their phone and return to dock locations across the city. PeopleforBikes, an independent advocacy organization, recently ranked Santa Barbara as the fourth best bicycling city in the U.S.

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SHASTA CASCADE

Free Virtual Education Programs at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is offering a series of **free virtual education programs**. Specific curriculum-based program topics include unique geology of the park with changing landscapes through weathering and erosion, endangered species, fire ecology, and California gold rush history including the boom and bust of the mining era. Whiskeytown's live, personal programs are being hosted via Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration and the park asks for at least two weeks advance notice to book a program.

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SONOMA COUNTY

New Ways to Heal with Natural Horsemanship at Equi-Sense

Slow down, disconnect from technology, and connect to nature, horses and the self with Erica Tom, PhD, at **Equi-Sense**. Learn about how horses experience the world and learn to develop harmonious relationships with them in a secluded working farm in Occidental, Sonoma County. Through observing the body language of horses and grooming these magnificent animals, guests will discover new perspectives on self-awareness, developing meaningful relationships and mind-body medicine. Equi-Sense offers fully customizable natural horsemanship experiences for individuals, families, first responders and groups, and helps integrate self-care techniques into guest's daily lives.

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