

TRAVEL

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015 :: LATIMES.COM/TRAVEL

SAN FRANCISCO!

U.S.!

SOCAL!

**NEW!
NEW!
NEW!**

THE SIERRA!

CATALINA!

THE WORLD!

BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK TO EXPLORE THE LATEST HOT SPOTS

Happy first day of summer — and summer vacation planning. ✨ If you're looking to spice up your respite, you've come to the right place. ✨ Here are scores of ideas to enhance your time away, whether you're visiting Southern California, the Sierra or San Francisco, crossing the country, the borders or the oceans. ✨ New restaurants? Check. Hotels? Check. Places to see, things to do, events to enjoy? Check, check and check. ✨ Make your picks, pack those bags and take off for summer of '15 fun. **L3-5**

SUMMER VACATION

Hyper-local, all Californian

BY APRIL ORCUTT

Palm Springs and Coachella Valley

Sure, it's blazingly hot in Palm Springs and Coachella Valley in the summer — that's why they have all those swimming pools. But, as they said in the '60s when Midcentury Modern style ruled here, you can enjoy the pools but then save water by showering with a friend.

Discover more about that famous Midcentury Modern architecture at the Palm Springs Art Museum's new **Architecture and Design Center** in the Edwards Harris Pavilion downtown.

Info: (760) 423-5260, www.psmuseum.org/architecture-design-center

L'Horizon (formerly the Horizon Hotel), a property that's seen the likes of Marilyn Monroe, Betty Grable and several U.S. presidents, reopens Wednesday after a "multimillion-dollar re-envisioning" with 25 bungalows on three acres. Doubles from \$600 a night.

Info: (760) 323-1858, www.thorizonpalmsprings.com

Triada Palm Springs in the Movie Colony area opened in October with eight casitas, eight suites and 20 units with full kitchens. Doubles from \$100 a night.

Info: (760) 844-7000, www.triadapalmsprings.com

The former Viceroy Palm Springs became the **Avalon Palm Springs** in April with emphasis on "alchemy, holistic health and global herbal medicine" in its Estrella Spa. Doubles from \$180.

Info: (760) 320-4117, www.avalonpalmsprings.com

Two Bunch Palms in Desert Hot Springs claims to be the first carbon neutral resort in North America. It launches its 3½-acre solar-generating farm Sunday, on the summer solstice. Doubles from \$219 a night.

Info: (760) 329-8791, www.two-bunchpalms.com

Skip that car and try the **Palm Springs Buzz**, a trolley that began in December and covers about 12 miles with 31 stops from 11 a.m. till 1 a.m. Thursdays through Sundays.

Info: Palm Springs Buzz, www.thdocksidemarket.com

San Diego area

Sea gulls no doubt dream of joining chefs and visitors at the **Tuna Harbor Docks Market** with all its freshly caught seafood and aqua-farmed seaweed. Emphasis is on local fisherfolk who use sustainable fishing methods.

Info: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, www.thdocksidemarket.com

Funky, foody fun: A 30,000-square-foot formerly vacant lot is now **Quartyard**, which opened in February as an urban park in the East Village neighborhood with a farmers market and a dog park.

Info: www.quartyardsd.com

The boutique **Hotel Marisol Coronado** reopened in the fall



MARK EPSTEIN Laguna Beach House

THE COASTAL VIBE is carried into the lobby at Laguna Beach House in Laguna Beach, which underwent a \$1.5-million remodel.

after a major renovation of the 88-year-old hotel. Better, though, is its location two blocks from Coronado Beach. Doubles from \$199 a night.

Info: (619) 365-4677, www.marisolcoronado.com

In June 2014 the **Kona Kai Resort & Spa** on Shelter Island completed a \$22-million renovation and in November launched SpaTerre featuring ancient Indonesian spa treatments. Doubles from \$199 a night.

Info: (619) 221-8000, www.resortkonakai.com

Newport Beach

Next to the beach on the Newport Peninsula, the **Newport Beach Hotel**, one of the Four Sisters Inns, opened five remodeled suites with full kitchens in April. Doubles from \$225 a night.

Info: (800) 571-8749, (949) 673-7030, www.newportbeachwalkhotel.com

The 292-room **Island Hotel** in Newport Beach finished a year-and-a-half renovation this month, adding the Island Club, a 2,000-square-foot lounge with 360-degree views from the 20th floor. The redesigned pool area has cabanas, a poolside bar and large-screen TVs. Doubles from \$259 a night.

Info: (866) 554-4620, (949) 759-0808, www.islandhotel.com

Dana Point

The **St. Regis Monarch Beach** in Dana Point is scheduled to complete a \$30-million redo of its 400 guest rooms and suites later this month, but the really fun part is that the resort adopted two goats (alas, off site) to provide milk for fresh goat cheese. Doubles from \$425 a night.

Info: (800) 722-1543, (949) 234-3900, www.stregismb.com

Laguna Beach

Designed to "reflect the laid-back California vibe," the **Laguna Beach House** (formerly the Laguna Cliffs Inn) completed a \$1.5-

million remodel in April, placing emphasis on beach life and surfing. Doubles from \$197 a night.

Info: (800) 297-0007, www.thelagunabeachhouse.com

Santa Monica

The **Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel** in March opened a swimming pool on the fourth floor where guests can gaze at the Pacific Ocean and Santa Monica Pier without getting sand between their toes. Doubles from \$398 a night.

Info: (888) 332-0160, (310) 458-6700, www.loewshotels.com/santa-monica/

The LEED-certified **Ambrose Hotel** relaunched earlier this month with an emphasis on health, environmental responsibility and casual Santa Monica charm. Doubles from \$269 a night.

Info: (855) 426-2767, www.ambrosehotel.com

Santa Barbara

Two baby Masai giraffes have been born at the **Santa Barbara Zoo** in the last seven months: Buttercup on Nov. 18, 2014, and Asha on March 19.

Info: (805) 962-5339, www.sbzoo.org/animals/giraffe/

A new shark cove and improved shark-touch tank were added to the **Santa Barbara Museum of Nature History Sea Center** on Stearns Wharf this spring. In February, the center redid its touch pools, which emphasize Santa Barbara's marine ecosystem.

Info: (805) 962-2526, www.sb-nature.org/twsc/2.html

The **Good Lion**, a craft-cocktail bar named for an Ernest Hemingway children's story, opened in November.

Info: (805) 845-8754, www.goodlioncocktails.com

Bacara Resort & Spa, with a beachfront location in Goleta near Santa Barbara, has renovated all of its 360 guest rooms and suites, and the last of those will reopen in

July. The resort also added a pool-side bar with fireside lounges and high-definition TVs. Doubles from \$350 a night.

Info: (855) 968-0100, (805) 290-1475, www.bacarasort.com

Central Coast

With traditional half-timbered architecture outside and sleek modern Scandinavian style inside, the new **Landsby** boutique inn in Solvang emphasizes Danish traditions and wine-country atmosphere. Doubles from \$249 a night.

Info: (805) 688-3121, www.the-landsby.com

The **Allegretto**, a new luxury resort on 20 acres of gardens and vineyards, is to open in August in Paso Robles. Offerings will include cooking classes as well as visits to local wineries, ranches and farms. Doubles from \$279 a night.

Info: (800) 764-4614, (805) 296-3120, www.lat.ms/IFc5LLP

The luxe **Bernardus Lodge & Spa**, which relaunched in April, sits on 28 acres in the Carmel Valley. The multimillion-dollar remodel reconfigured guest rooms as well as public and event spaces. Doubles from \$475 a night.

Info: (831) 658-3400, www.bernarduslodge.com

After sitting vacant in Santa Cruz for 70 years, an 1890 mansion in Stick-Eastlake style has undergone a \$3-million restoration and opened in November as the **Rio Vista Luxury Suites**. The original curved wooden grand staircase and redwood entry have been restored to their former grandeur. Doubles from \$99 a night.

Info: (831) 621-2929, www.riovistasuites.com

Napa Valley

After a top-to-bottom modernization and makeover, **Napa Vineyard House's** suites and two-bedroom cottage were reopened in May. All accommodations have views of vineyards. Doubles from \$325 a night.

Info: (707) 927-3909, www.napa-vineyardhouse.com

Harvest Inn by Charlie Palmer, in St. Helena, in May added four 475-square-foot Harvest Lofts. Also new, Palmer's Harvest Table restaurant. Doubles from \$269 a night.

Info: (800) 950-8466, www.harvestinn.com

In May, following a \$1.2-million renovation and expansion, **Solage Calistoga** in Calistoga reopened its Spa Solage with more than 3,000 square feet of space. Doubles from \$545 a night.

Info: (855) 942-7442, www.solagecalistoga.com

The historic **Indian Springs Resort & Spa**, also in Calistoga, added 75 new Mission Revival-style bungalows and lodge rooms in October. The remodel also added meeting rooms and event gardens. Doubles from \$239 a night.

Info: (707) 942-4913, www.indianspringscalistoga.com

Sacramento

The first **California Craft Beer Summit** will be Sept. 11 and 12.

Info: (916) 228-4260, www.lat.ms/1Hxd0Er

Although his vegetarian restaurant, **Mother**, is very popular, in early July chef Michael Thiemann will open a heartier place, **Empress Tavern**, which will specialize in rotisserie meats.

Info: www.empresstavern.com

Fort Bragg

A four-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail opened this spring in Fort Bragg. As part of Noyo Headlands Park — and locally called the Fort Bragg Coastal Trail — the new segment connects with another five-mile-long seaside trail. The southern segment of the park will open in mid-September.

Info: www.californiacoastal-trail.info

travel@latimes.com

What's landed on, flown over Catalina

BY ROSEMARY MCCLURE

When you visited Avalon in the early 1900s, rows of tents greeted you. The town on Santa Catalina Island has come a long way since then. You still can find tent camping, but Catalina's tourist vibe improves every year. If you're looking for luxury rooms with a chic seaside look, Avalon's the place; if you want to take a tour that's out of this world, try the new UFO Tour; if you're looking for bourbon-spiked ice cream or Italian coffee, stop by the new beachfront Descanso Fresh cafe. Here's a look at some of the island's other new summer offerings.

Hotels

The new kid in town is actually a 1921 Catalina icon. **The Inn at Mt. Ada**, on a hillside overlooking Avalon, was closed for a bit while it changed hands, but it has now reopened and is better than ever. Once the summer home of William Wrigley Jr., the chewing gum tycoon who developed Catalina into a tourist destination, the inn has a fantastic panoramic view of Avalon and the bay. On a clear day, you can see the mainland.

The six-guest-room bed-and-breakfast has been painted, re-decorated and is in the middle of a multimillion-dollar renovation, said Randall Herrel Sr., president and chief executive of the Santa Catalina Island Co., which is operating the inn. Doubles from \$390 a night include two meals and use of a golf cart.

Info: (800) 608-7669, www.visit-catalina.com

catalinaisland.com

Catalina Canyon Resort & Spa, in the hills behind the city, refurbished all 75 guest rooms and public areas earlier this year and has a heated pool, a rare commodity on the island. A plus for dog owners: It allows your canine to stay too. (Two other dog-friendly spots — Hermosa Hotel and Catalina Boat House — also accommodate dogs.) Doubles from \$237 per night.

Info: (310) 510-0325, www.catalinacanyonresort.com

Hotel Mac Rae, which fronts the bay, dates to the 1920s and also has been renovated. It now sports a fresh look and a courtyard patio. Doubles from \$179 a night.

Info: (800) 698-2266, www.hotelmacrae.com

Activities

Among new ways to pass the time this summer: **Island Spa**, Catalina's first destination day spa. The new facility includes a pool, overlooks the harbor and has nine treatment rooms, a cafe, two lounges and an ocean-view deck. Try the hot-sand therapy for achy muscles. Or stop by Thursday, when the spa is having an open house with complimentary treatments as well as snacks and beverages from the cafe.

Info: (310) 510-7300, www.islandspacatalina.com

Get a buzz on with the **Happy Hour Tour of Avalon**, a late-afternoon walking tour that hits island



DANIEL A. ANDERSON

THE ISLAND SPA across from the harbor is Santa Catalina Island's first destination day spa. It has nine treatment rooms.

watering holes for a taste of Catalina's specialty drinks. The 90-minute tour costs \$69 per person and usually can be booked on Fridays and Saturdays. Alcohol and snacks are included.

Info: (424) 226-9443, www.catalinafoodtours.com

Island visitors can learn more about the ancient tradition of falconry on the new **Falconry Activity**

Tour slated to begin in late July. Trained falcons are used on the island to discourage sea gulls from pilfering food from tourists. Now Santa Catalina Island Co. will offer a chance for visitors to observe and interact with the birds.

Info: www.visitcatalinaisland.com

Is Catalina a UFO hot spot? Find out on **Catalina UFO Tours**, which

offers a one-hour evening walking tour. Catalina has had hundreds of UFO sightings, said tour leader Lili Dana. Cost: \$20.

Info: (310) 510-9635, www.catalinaufotours.com

Arts and crafts fans can get their hands dirty while they learn about Catalina's famed art tile tradition. **Silver Canyon Pottery** offers interactive tours that give participants a chance to create their own handmade tiles for \$45 a person.

Info: (310) 499-8799, www.silvercanyonpottery.com

Restaurants

Looking for ice cream with a kick? The rocking beach scene at Avalon's Descanso Beach Club has a new gourmet espresso bar and cafe, **Descanso Fresh**, which also offers spiked ice creams. The restaurant features homemade breakfast pastries, specialty coffees and teas, fresh pressed juices, crepes, smoothies, grab-and-go sandwiches and other breakfast and lunch items.

Info: www.lat.ms/1L3PYE0

You also will be able to pick up fresh morning pastries at **Ben's Bakery**, opening this summer in the Atwater Arcade, 119 Sumner Ave., Avalon.

Ben's will have fresh food and beverages, including specialty coffees and teas, grab-and-go items and custom bakery goods for special occasions.

Info: www.visitcatalinaisland.com

travel@latimes.com