

# WHAT'S NEW IN CALIFORNIA

FALL 2023

visit  
California





# Table of Contents

## ■ What's New | 3

Accommodations | 3

Culinary | 6

Arts & Entertainment | 9

Family | 11

Technology & Tours | 12

Transportation | 14

Outdoor | 16

Anniversaries & Milestones | 17

## ■ Contact Us | 19

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

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Above:  
Osmosis Day Spa Sanctuary, Sebastopol, CA.

On the cover:  
Napa Valley Wine Train, Napa, CA.

# What's New

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

## Accommodations



### BUENA PARK

#### Knott's Hotel Completes Renovation

Done in time for the fall season, the **Knott's Hotel** reopened in September after major renovations as part of a thematic reimagining. The fully redesigned space includes renovation of all 322 guest rooms, a new guest registration and great rooms, transformed meeting spaces, outdoor courtyard, refurbished pool, expanded gift shop along with a new coffee stop and hotel restaurant and bar dining experience.

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### NORTH LAKE TAHOE

#### Olympic Valley at Squaw Creek Renamed Everline Resort & Spa

Located at the base of Olympic Village, and once the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics, Resort at Squaw Creek has been renamed **Everline Resort & Spa**. Given the resort is dedicated to fostering spaces where everyone feels welcome, the name change was a priority for the property and community, and ultimately a decision in collaboration with the Washoe Tribe, who have lived in the area for thousands of years. The name Everline embodies the resorts' evergreen mountain escape as a seasonal snowy winter getaway to the perfect sunny destination to explore the natural wonders of the area. On-site experiences take on a Lake Tahoe state of mind with activities and excursions that inspire adventure, exploration and togetherness.

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## SAN DIEGO

### **The Fairmont Spa at Fairmont Grand Del Mar Launches New Aesthetic Spa Treatments**

Discover **The Fairmont Spa** at Fairmont Grand Del Mar, a luxury resort and one of only 60 Forbes five-star spas in the world, located in the coastal canyons of San Diego. The premier holistic wellness spa launched three new medical-grade facial treatments designed to calm, balance, and naturally restore health and beauty from the inside and out. Surrounded by nature and nestled alongside Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, guests can enjoy a Diamond Glow facial, JetPeel™ facial or LED Light facial alongside a menu of aesthetic spa treatments and complementary wellness amenities to feel rested, refreshed and rejuvenated. Open to the public, spa treatments are available to guests aged 18 and over.

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## SAN FRANCISCO

### **Oxford Capital Group, LLC. Opens Four Rebranded Hotels in San Francisco**

Demonstrating post-pandemic revival and elevating the vibrancy of downtown San Francisco, Oxford Capital Group, LLC opened four rebranded and repositioned hotels—**Hotel Julian San Francisco** (formerly Hotel Vertigo), **SoMa House** (formerly Americana Hotel), **Hotel Garrett** (formerly Good Hotel), and **Hotel Fiona** (formerly Carriage Inn). As some of the first hotels in the city used as quarantine facilities, the development group is committed to rebuilding and enhancing the surrounding communities with properties that offer modern designs, guest-driven amenities, refreshed hospitality, and more for leisure and business travelers. Each hotel started taking reservations mid-September through October with introductory pricing.

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## SAN LUIS OBISPO

### **Petit Soleil Now Open in San Luis Obispo**

Good Lion Hospitality, the Santa Barbara-based bar-centric group, has opened its first hotel, the boutique bed and breakfast **Petit Soleil** in San Luis Obispo. With its purchase and full revamp, the bed and breakfast features 21 remodeled rooms with colors reminiscent of Provence with touches of whimsy. Known for its craft cocktails, Good Lion Hospitality is leaning into its expertise with several elevated mini-bar options for guests to experience in the privacy of their rooms. The hotel also features an updated Salon Bar and dining options for guests to enjoy the beautiful ambiance of the updated space. Founded in 2014 by Misty Orman and Brandon Ristaino, Good Lion Hospitality has five craft cocktail bars in California's Central Coast centered around travel-inspired, world-class, and thoughtful drinks and food, highlighting local ingredients and partnerships along with a wide depth of spirits.

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## SANTA BARBARA

### **The Steward Now Open in Santa Barbara**

**The Steward**, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel, is now open in Santa Barbara offering guests a secret hideaway, tucked between the ocean and mountains in California's idyllic Central Coast. Sitting on nearly five verdant acres of lavish gardens, the 87 all-suite boutique hotel is rooted in the land's rich history with a focus on sustainability. The property promises to embrace its future and anchor all its efforts into being good stewards—of the land and to its guests. Offering the best of both worlds with nearby beaches and mountain terrain, The Steward is also located a short drive away from downtown Santa Barbara. The hotel features a lobby library and intimate market, a nature inspired cozy bar with signature garden-cocktails, custom local artwork, a tasting room featuring local wine and high-end spirits, and a plethora of hidden moments scattered throughout the grounds.

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## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

### Trout Farm Inn Reopens with New Look

After laying dormant for several years and undergoing a thorough renovation, the historic **Trout Farm Inn** is now open. Now, the redwood-rich San Lorenzo Valley is the hottest spot in the region to splash and nosh anew. Debuting in 1903, guests of the original Trout Farm Inn would fish for rainbow trout in the nearby ponds. The property began operating as a roadhouse in 1947, however following a 2016 kitchen fire that demolished most of the main building, new ownership decided to lovingly restore the resort, starting with the generously sized saltwater pool. An expansive new deck surrounding the pool overlooks Zayante Creek adorned with 12 custom cabanas. A smaller saltwater soaking pool is designed to cool off visitors who want to lounge in shallower depths. Menus feature casual comfort food and independent craft beers served alongside kombucha, wine and hard seltzer. Poolside yoga, live music and after-hours events are also offered. Day passes are \$25 for adults.

### Best Western All Suites Inn Completes Renovations

After more than a year, a full-property renovation is complete at **Santa Cruz's Best Western Plus All Suites Inn**. The family-friendly property features 80 large guest rooms and suites, public laundry facilities, complimentary breakfast, and sundry shop. A 24-hour beverage station has specialty coffee, brewed coffee, juices, and a water-filling station for guests to use. The fitness center was doubled in size to accommodate a Peloton bike, free weights, a recumbent bike, treadmill, and Universal machine alongside other equipment.

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### Hotel Paradox Now Open—Welcomes Back Redesigned Solaire Restaurant + Bar

Striking the perfect balance between nature and urban design, **Hotel Paradox**, Autograph Collection is now open after undergoing an extensive renovation. Upon arrival, guests will see these enhancements include a brand-new lobby, expanded restaurant and bar, an enhanced poolside lounge, updated meetings and events space, custom artwork, and elevated lifestyle programming – all of which were energized by the spirit of Santa Cruz and its unfiltered natural beauty. Influenced by its duality of location in the urban built environment and surrounding mountainous forest, the hotel's design reflects a composed convergence of reality and anomaly. The redesigned Solaire Restaurant + Bar offers guests an elevated experience with menus honoring the region's land, waters and traditions, and emphasizes the beautiful quality of local agriculture, which combine with flairs of cultural fusion for a fresh take on contemporary California cuisine. Its beverage program raises a glass to homegrown craft and celebrates the flavors and botanicals of Santa Cruz County's terroir.

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## Culinary



### HEALDSBURG

#### **Goodnight's Prime Steak + Spirits Now Open in Healdsburg**

**Goodnight's Prime Steak + Spirits** in Healdsburg aims to redefine what can be expected from a "Western-style dining experience." Inspired by Charles Goodnight, a celebrated Texas ranger, the restaurant offers exquisite, aromatic foods with a signature wood-fire scent that is synonymous with a quality steakhouse, as well as handcrafted cocktails, premium bourbons and rare whiskeys. At the head of its culinary program is Executive Chef David Lawrence who draws on his extensive experience and passion for locality – presenting guests with a menu that highlights decadent entrees, such as Brandt Barrel-Cut Filet Mignon, Wild White Sea Bass, and more. The restaurant's mixologist Devon Espinosa has curated a menu of libations that pair seamlessly with the cuisine. Showstoppers include the "Loving This Goodnight" cocktail, as well as any of the plethora of local Napa and Sonoma County wines available to try.

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### LIVERMORE

#### **Dust Bowl Brewing Co. Opens Latest Taproom in Livermore**

**Dust Bowl Brewing Company's** latest taproom is located steps away from the world-famous San Francisco Premium Outlets, making it an ideal stop for thirsty shoppers. Guests are treated to both indoor and outdoor spaces adorned with couches,

table seating, rail bars, covered patio vignettes, and communal seating. The outdoor area also offers fire pits and cornhole on a turf area. The bar boasts a back-to-back 30 tap tower ensuring a huge line-up of Dust Bowl's beers and seltzers. To-go packaged beer, growlers, crowlers and retail items, such as tees, hats and glassware, are also available. Food is offered by resident food truck, Hazy Barbecue Livermore Pit Stop who specialize in Texas-style barbeque and healthy bites to meet anyone's dietary lifestyle. The taproom is family friendly as well as a craft beer fan's dream.

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### OCEANSIDE

#### **The Brine Box Now Open At Oceanside Pier**

Dining has returned to Oceanside Pier for the first time since the pandemic closures with the opening of **The Brine Box**. Offering a culinary experience steeped in innovation, sustainability, and the flavors of Oceanside, this exciting new venue makes its home in a kiosk adjacent to shuttered Ruby's diner and is the latest venture of Oceanside locals Davin and Jessica Waite. Anchored by their unwavering dedication to community, environment and culinary creativity, The Brine Box focuses on sustainable fish and chips-inspired dishes, presenting a menu that evolves with the seasons, highlighting the freshest ingredients available.

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## REDDING

### **New Clairvaux Vineyards Opens First Tasting Room**

This October, Redding will be home to **New Clairvaux Vineyards** first-ever downtown tasting room. The vineyard's new locale offers award-winning pours by the glass, with small bites pairing sustainably grown vintages. With over 500 awards, including Best of Show—White Wine for its 2022 St. James Block Assyrtiko at the California State Fair, New Clairvaux's organic and sustainable practices like dry farming and recycled irrigation produce exceptional wines. Winemaker Aimée Sunseri was named International Woman Winemaker of the Year for the second time by the International Women's Wine Competition. The new tasting room lets oenophiles swirl, sniff, and savor on-site, while learning the stories behind New Clairvaux's eco-minded winemaking. Anchoring downtown's Market Center, it expands Redding's growing food and wine culture.

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## SAN DIEGO

### **Pali Wine Co. Set to Open New Restaurant**

Cellar Hand is the latest culinary venture by the esteemed creators of **Pali Wine Co.** opening this November in San Diego. The family-owned Central Coast based winery has dabbled in the culinary scene, offering fresh and flavorful bites from their Little Italy Pali Wine Co. location, but Cellar Hand will be the team's first full-service restaurant. Nestled in the vibrant heart of Hillcrest, Cellar Hand aims to bring the rustic allure of Central Coast wine country, amplified alongside farm-to-table dining with a Mediterranean twist. With the Hillcrest Farmers Market just beyond the doors, each vibrant dish, from freshly baked pita to ocean-fresh seafood and robust entrées, speaks to the wealth of California agriculture. Wine offerings will include varieties from Pali Wine Co. in addition to a thoughtfully curated selection of other wine producers, each sharing Pali's respect for tradition, terroir and sustainable practices.

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## SAN FRANCISCO

### **PLS on Post Opens at Hotel Zeppelin**

**Hotel Zeppelin**, the vibrant boutique hotel located just steps away from San Francisco's Union Square, opened its new on-site restaurant, PLS on Post, on Sept. 6. Helmed by Chef Thomas Weibull of Dirty Habit, the casual restaurant serves made-to-order gourmet smash burgers with inventive twists, groovy and classic milkshakes, highball cocktails, beer, wine and more. Short for Peace Love Soul on Post, the restaurant pays homage to San Francisco's 1960s counterculture tradition, offering a welcoming and laid-back vibe. Formerly the site of celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck's iconic Postrio restaurant, PLS on Post stays true to the philosophy of California cuisine using seasonal, local and responsibly sourced ingredients. California cheeses are highlighted throughout the menu, including the Mission Smash with pepper jack cheese, guacamole, and spicy poblano aioli and the Korean Smash featuring sharp cheddar, Korean cucumbers and gochujang barbecue glaze. The menu also includes vegetarian options.

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## SAN RAFAEL

### **AC Hotel San Rafael Now Open: Unveils City's First Rooftop Bar & Lounge**

**AC Hotel San Rafael**, situated in the heart of downtown San Rafael, is a gateway for locals and visitors alike between San Francisco, West Marin and Point Reyes National Seashore, and wine country. The property offers the brand's signature AC Kitchen featuring a Spanish inspired breakfast, AC Lounge serving Spanish-style tapas alongside wine, craft beer, and cocktails, and the city's first rooftop bar and lounge, Above Fifth. With an "it's always happy hour" vibe, Above Fifth features a menu of small bites and delicious craft cocktails, all highlighting local purveyors. In addition to the 140 guest rooms across five floors, AC Hotel San Rafael offers 1,053 square feet of indoor meeting space with 1,560 square feet of furnished outdoor patio space. A semi-private library creates space for smaller team

building and activations while Above Fifth offers space for private events with views of Mt. Tamalpais and Marin County.

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## SANTA CRUZ

### Firefly Tavern Opens in Downtown Santa Cruz

The stylish new **Firefly Tavern** serving comfort-forward dishes paired with elevated, wine-based cocktails and brew has opened in downtown Santa Cruz. Exposed brick, wood-paneled booths and Asian-inspired wallpaper add to the public house feel of the tavern, with a welcoming, laid-back vibe. The menu reflects the surroundings, featuring southern staples like red beans and rice, chicken and waffles, cheese grits, Andouille sausage and collard greens which are all regularly featured brunch items on weekends. Creative cocktails employing agave wine, egg whites, bitters, fresh local apricots, house made sangria and other beverages show the unlimited range of options created by the in-house mixologist. Upstairs, a lounge evoking a private library is decorated with leather and velvet lounge chairs and gallery walls featuring mirrors and paintings. The cozy space is inviting and relaxed, providing a peaceful space for dinner, drinks and conversation.

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## SANTA MARIA

### Miller Family Wine Company Launches Non-Alcoholic Wines

Miller Family Wine Company has released its newest wine venture, **Hand on Heart**, a collection of premium non-alcoholic wines developed in collaboration with world-renowned chef, tastemaker, and health and wellness enthusiast, Cat Cora. The partnership embodies Cora's personal mission to find a non-alcoholic wine for people who are seekers of superb flavors while also embracing a balance of health, wellness and great food. The line of wines involves cutting-edge technology to gently remove

the alcohol while preserving the delicate aromas, flavors, and mouthfeel. Varieties include Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Rosé and Sauvignon Blanc.

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## SOLVANG

### Four Little Gummies and Drover's Doughnuts Set to Open Late 2023 - Early 2024

Solvang, the Danish-settled village located in the greater Santa Ynez Valley wine country region, will soon welcome two new sweet spots. The base of Solvang's famous blue windmill at the corner of Copenhagen Drive and Second Street will house a new candy store, Four Little Gummies, from the dad duo behind ONEderChild, the fanciful children's shop which shares the photo-perfect space. The store will have candy by the pound, candy boxes to go, sweets from around the globe, and more. Adjacent to luxe lodging property, The Winston, in the old clock tower building across from Solvang Park, will sit a second location for Buellton-based **Drover's Doughnuts**. The Solvang storefront and eatery, expected to open early 2024, will feature an expanded food menu of doughnut breakfast sandwiches, doughnut shakes and doughnut sundaes, plus a full coffee and espresso bar.

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## Arts & Entertainment



### LONG BEACH

#### Aquarium of the Pacific Reimagines Southern California Gallery

Towering kelp forests, colorful hydrocorals, swaying seagrass, and artificial and rocky reefs...Southern California is home to these vibrant ocean habitats and an abundance of sea life from octopus to fish the size of a mountain lion. The ocean wonders found off the coast of this region rival those found around the world. You don't need a boat to set sail for this aquatic adventure. The **Aquarium of the Pacific** welcomes visitors to connect with these local treasures by exploring its newly reimagined Southern California Gallery. Featuring more than three dozen species, animals include the California two-spot octopus, leopard and horn sharks, California scorpionfish, a moray eel, California spiny lobsters, Catalina goby, and California's state marine fish—the Garibaldi. Visitors will be able to get up close to these animals as they explore a variety of new exhibits.

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### OCEANSIDE

#### New Oceanside Concerts at Mission San Luis Rey and Star Theatre

Visitors can immerse themselves in the enchanting ambiance of Oceanside's historic and iconic venues during mesmerizing live, multi-sensory experiences illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight. As **Mission San Luis Rey** commemorates its 225th anniversary, its magnificent church becomes the

stage for captivating concerts. In October, the spotlight shines on Vivaldi's timeless masterpiece, *Four Seasons*, adding a touch of classical elegance to the evening. For a more contemporary twist, **Star Theatre**, an architectural gem on Historic Highway 101 that reflects the iconic Googie style of the 1950s, presents upcoming concerts featuring the music of Queen and Taylor Swift. Concerts are featured throughout the year with dates and reservation information available at [Fever San Diego](http://FeverSanDiego.com).

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### PALM SPRINGS

#### Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza and Museum Opening November 2023

Owned and operated by the **Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians**, the 5.8-acre Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza is opening on Nov. 3, 2023 in the heart of downtown Palm Springs, celebrating the history, culture and traditions of the Agua Caliente people. The Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza features the new Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, The Spa at Séc-he that celebrates the Tribe's ancient Agua Caliente Hot Mineral Spring, a Gathering Plaza, and an Oasis Trail. Inspiration for the Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza design is rooted in Agua Caliente traditions such as basket weaving, pottery (ollas) and bird songs, and elements native to the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation including desert landscapes, rock formations found in the Indian Canyons, the Tahquitz Canyon waterfall, and the *Washingtonia filifera*

palm trees. The Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza comprises outdoor spaces, including the Gathering Plaza adjacent to the Agua Caliente Hot Mineral Spring, originally known as Séc-he (the Cahuilla term for “the sound of boiling water”). The Oasis Trail provides an interactive, cultural learning environment. This trail mimics, on a smaller scale, the distinctive character, geology, flora, and beauty of the nearby Tahquitz Canyon and Indian Canyons, ancestral homes of the Agua Caliente people.

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## PASADENA

### The Huntington’s Japanese Heritage Shōya House Opens October 21

The **Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens** will offer visitors a unique opportunity to see a restored residential compound from 18th-century rural Japan. Opening Oct. 21, the Japanese Heritage Shōya House, a 3,000-square-foot residence built around 1700, served as the center of village life in Marugame, Japan. The compound has been reconstructed on a 2-acre site, which includes a newly constructed gatehouse and courtyard based on the original structures, as well as a small garden with a pond, an irrigation canal, agricultural plots, and other landscape elements that closely resemble the compound’s original setting. Visitors will be able to walk through the house and see how the 18th-century Japanese village maintained sustainable living by way of the thoughtfully designed and meticulously crafted 320-year-old structure.

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## SAN DIEGO

### Maritime Museum San Diego Debuts New Steamboat Era Collection

The **Maritime Museum San Diego** has opened its new exhibit, *Steam and Splendor: Treasures from the Ocean Liner and Cruise Ship Ephemera Collection*. Staged within the Compass and Gould Eddy galleries aboard the Museum’s elegant 1898

Victorian-era steam ferryboat *Berkeley*, *Steam and Splendor* transports visitors to a time when ocean travel was sedate, luxurious, and exclusive. The displays draw upon more than 100 years of ocean-going recreational and destination travel featuring some of the Museum’s hidden treasures, never shown to the public. Its collection of ocean liner and cruise ship ephemera, numbering thousands of individual items, is one of the largest in California. Coupled with vintage brochures, passenger lists, menus, cabin plans, and images of dining rooms and recreational areas, the curators of the exhibit have gathered rare ocean liner-related artifacts from both the Museum’s collection as well as those generously loaned by local private collectors.

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## SANTA CRUZ

### Tannery Arts Center’s New Exhibits

A series of public art displays are now featured at the **Tannery Arts Center** in Santa Cruz. Two of the featured projects in the series are *Stellar Motion* and *exTANT*. *Stellar Motion* is a kinetic steel sculpture inspired by elements of nature on a macro and micro level, from galactic bodies to delicate patterns of crystalline structures. *exTANT* is a locative sound installation accessible via a smartphone app, similar to an audio tour. As guests move through the Tannery campus, their GPS coordinates trigger sound pieces associated with specific locations. This audio tour traces historical links between communities who lived and worked at the Tannery Arts Center, from Indigenous peoples and former Salz Tannery workers to Tannery Art Center live/work artists. The Tannery Arts Center was formerly home to Salz Leathers, the oldest working tannery west of the Mississippi River when it closed in 2001. Today, the eight-acre center houses working artists and provides them with studio space.

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## Family



### MODESTO

#### Modesto Children's Museum Now Open

With its recent opening on Sept. 28, the 12,000-square-foot **Modesto Children's Museum** is a hub for family-friendly creativity, learning and adventure in downtown Modesto. The first of its kind in Stanislaus County, the Museum offers interactive exhibits and innovative programming by partnering with local school districts and community organizations to implement school curricula, ensuring that families of all means and backgrounds have access to high quality learning experiences. It promises to give the community's children the chance to foster creativity, create excitement for new ideas, a love for learning and confidence to try new things, and grow in Modesto. Admission is \$15 per person ages 1 and up (under 1 free with adult ticket). Advance ticket purchases are \$3 thanks to Museums for All which ensures affordable museum access for CalFresh recipients.

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### MONTEREY

#### Treasure Hunt: The Ride Now Open

Pirates, treasure hunters, and thrill seekers wanted for the new dark ride adventure, **Treasure Hunt: The Ride**, on Cannery Row in Monterey. After years in the making, the first-of-its-kind stand-alone attraction invites families and friends to take part in a journey that's part adventure, part competition, and all fun. Treasure Hunt: The Ride is a pirate-themed, interactive ride that transports guests through "newly discovered caverns" beneath Cannery Row. Using "Treasure Collector" devices, guests take part in interactive gameplay as they become active participants seeking lost treasure and avoiding skeleton pirates, and a mighty kraken.

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## Technology & Tours



### CATALINA

#### New Guests Experiences at Catalina Casino

**Catalina Casino** now offers its guests two experiences when visiting—General Admission and Casino VIP Backstage Tour. Visitors soak in a unique perspective of the Art Deco masterpiece, from the original 1928 pipe organ to the Avalon Theatre, the first theatre built specifically for “talkies” on the lower level. Head upstairs to the world-famous Casino Ballroom, the world’s largest circular ballroom where thousands once danced the night away to the sounds of Big Band music. For an elevated experience, the Casino VIP Backstage Tour includes general admission plus access to backstage areas closed to the public for the past 70 years, an inside look at the green rooms used by famous actors of that era, walk the stage where they performed and view the editing room where Cecil B. DeMille viewed movies.

#### Tour El Rancho Escondido’s “Hidden Ranch” on Catalina Island

Venture into Catalina’s picturesque interior to tour the recently renovated “hidden ranch” known as **El Rancho Escondido**. Experience the Arabian horse ranch built by Philip Wrigley in 1930, which today serves as a home for the family’s horses and is used to grow grapes for Rusack Vineyards. The cool-climate and clay soil has made the vineyard a world-class site for Chardonnay, Pinot-Noir and Zinfandel varieties. Visitors will enjoy a horse demonstration, view a selection of ribbons, trophies, and Western memorabilia, and see The Bishop’s Chapel with its

awe-inspiring views. Learn the history of JORY’s Bell, the Baptismal Font, and the original stained-glass windows of the chapel. Before returning to Avalon, enjoy a casual al fresco lunch at Catalina’s famous, mountain-top Airport-in-the-Sky.

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### SIERRA COUNTY

#### Visit Sierra County Launches New App

The Sierra County Chamber of Commerce took an initiative this year to venture into a digital transformation of their annual printed Sierra County Visitor’s Guide. The app, “**Visit Sierra County CA,**” is a streamlined digital guide that provides much of the information as the traditional print guide but is interactive and uses location-based services not only for the businesses within the county, but also lists of trails and events with links for more details. The app makes it easy to find recreational lakes for fishing, swimming, boating and more as well as hiking and mountain biking trails. It also includes guidance to find lodging in towns like Downieville and Sierra City, and events for everyone to enjoy. The app is available in the app store for both iOS and Android.

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## TUOLUMNE COUNTY

### **Visit Tuolumne County Launches New Meaningful Travel Guide**

Visit Tuolumne County recently launched its new online **Meaningful Travel** section filled with opportunities for visitors to give back as part of their experience in the country. Whether participating in trail work, tree plantings, river clean-ups, or getting immersed in local Native American cultures, there is something to do that gives back to the community. Learn about Certified B Corporations™, businesses that prioritize people and the planet in everything they do. In Tuolumne County, they are leaders in outdoor adventure and local hospitality such as Echo Adventure Coop Guide Service and Lodging, Evergreen Lodge at Yosemite and Rich Creek Lodge and Spa at Yosemite.

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## Transportation



### LOS ANGELES

#### **New Brompton Bikes Partnership with The Hoxton**

Brompton, the London-based manufacturer of the world's most compact and portable folding bike, recently announced a new partnership with downtown Los Angeles hotel, **The Hoxton**. With traffic often frustrating and eco-conscious travelers prioritizing their health and wellness regimens, guests staying at The Hoxton will now have access to Brompton bikes free of charge, making it now more convenient and enjoyable than ever to navigate Los Angeles without the worry of parking, theft, or portability. Hotel guests also will receive a pocket-sized neighborhood bike map highlighting local hot spots to visit on a 35-minute cycling route. Both Brompton and The Hoxton are proponents of accessible travel, and this partnership aims to make a healthy, happy lifestyle more achievable for travelers.

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### SACRAMENTO

#### **Sacramento International Airports Adds Two New Flights**

**Sacramento International Airport** (SMF) is the gateway to Northern California and now there are two new nonstop options from the Golden State. American Airlines recently announced a nonstop flight between Miami and SMF starting this December, while Southwest Airlines is bringing back nonstops to Orlando in March 2024. The new flights open up additional access into Northern California from the state. As the California capital, Sacramento offers a vibrant downtown, incredible culinary offerings (it is America's Farm to Fork Capital), tasting rooms, craft breweries, great museums and more. The airport is also the easiest way to access California's wine country in Napa and Sonoma as well as the Sierra Foothills—no tolls, no bridges and no traffic.

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## SANTA CRUZ

### **Santa Cruz County Launches Electric “Bike Shares” Program**

A new electric **Bike Share** system in Santa Cruz County now provides a convenient, fun, and affordable way for visitors and locals to travel countywide. Launched in June, Bike Share’s initial phase includes 400 e-bikes and 800 docks throughout the City of Santa Cruz and the U.C. Santa Cruz campus. The countywide rollout will grow to up to 660 e-bikes and 1320 docks in 2024 as it expands to Capitola, Watsonville, Cabrillo College, and other regions of unincorporated Santa Cruz County. Vendor BCycle and its parent company, Trek, own and operate the Bike Share system. The e-bikes will be accessed and unlocked through a downloadable BCycle app on smart phones, showing where the bikes are located. The bikes must be picked up and dropped off at dedicated BCycle docks, reducing the possibility of bikes being left in areas such as pedestrian walkways or roadways. Monthly, annual and walk-up pricing is available.

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## Outdoor



### REDDING

#### **New Downhill Mountain Bike Trail Opens in Redding**

The **Shasta Cascade's** newest downhill thrill is Sweepstakes, an epic 5-mile mountain bike trail near Weaverville, only a short drive away from Redding. The gravity-fed single-track winds through ancient forest and stunning vistas, delivering over an hour of adrenaline-pumping action. Riders can self-shuttle the trail via Weaver Bally Road in 25 minutes, then let gravity take over on the flowy track loaded with berms, jumps, and technical features. Combined with existing trails, Sweepstakes allows adventure seekers to create a 10+ mile downhill run back to Weaverville. From lush ferns to rocky outcroppings, the trail surprises around every bend. Sweepstakes' old-growth trees and Northern California views cement it as one of the state's most scenic and exciting mountain bike trails.

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### SAN DIEGO

#### **Lightscape Returns to San Diego Botanic Garden**

The internationally acclaimed light experience, **Lightscape** returns to the San Diego Botanic Garden for its second year. On select nights from Nov. 17, 2023 through Jan. 1, 2024, the immersive experience will guide visitors through a festive world of wonder with over one million twinkling lights featuring light installations designed by international artists. Following its inaugural year, this year's outdoor

illuminated trail will make spirits bright with new light-filled installations along with favorite and reimagined pieces. Custom-designed for San Diego, Lightscape ticket holders will walk a one-mile-long path with suspended strands and tunnels of light, a fire garden, lantern trees and artistic installations, while toasting marshmallows over a fire and drinking hot chocolate and other seasonal drinks along the trail. Tickets are on sale now.

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### SAN MARCOS

#### **Lakehouse Resort Launches Sail Club at Lakehouse**

Located on the sunny shores of Lake San Marcos, Lakehouse Resort is reminiscent of an inviting lake house with luxe amenities, signature services, multiple dining options and more. The resort launched **Sail Club at Lakehouse** (formerly Lake San Marcos Marina), a full-service marina, beckoning water—and nature lovers of all kinds. Guests can rent pontoon boats, paddle boats, stand up paddle boards, kayaks, fishing gear and other equipment for a unique home away from home experience.

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## Anniversaries & Milestones



### CHICO

#### Travel Chico Launches as California's Newest Destination

Travel enthusiasts now have more reasons to visit the vibrant and welcoming city of Chico with the launch of its new travel brand, **Travel Chico**. After 18 months of planning and funding through one-time American Rescue Plan Funds, the city worked closely with **Explore Butte County**, the local Tourism and Business Improvement District, to create the tourism brand along with a digital presence to further showcase the wonderful city. Travel Chico hopes that by promoting what the city has to offer it also elevates it as a great place to live, work and increase local business.

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### OJAI

#### Ojai Valley Inn Celebrates 100 Years with First-Ever Ojai Food + Wine Event

This year the award-winning **Ojai Valley Inn** turns 100, and as part of the celebration is continuing its legacy as a leading culinary destination with the debut of its first-ever **Ojai Food + Wine**, Oct. 26-29. The event will feature an all-star Michelin and James Beard awarded lineup of more than 50 top chefs and 100 wineries from around the world, from the legendary Chef Alice Waters and Chef Dominique Crenn to Chef Jon Yao and Chef Daisy Ryan. Over the course of four days, Ojai Food + Wine will hold over 40 world-class events including a Grand Tasting

at The Farmhouse on Oct. 28 and Oct. 29, featuring 15 chefs each day and more than 100 wineries throughout the weekend with a spotlight on regional California wineries. To attend, purchase one of three ticket packages available now until sold out.

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### PALM SPRINGS

#### Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Celebrates 60 Years with Reimagined Mountain Station Model

In September, the **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway** celebrated its 60th anniversary. A signature attraction for Greater Palm Springs, the Tram has attracted nearly 22 million adventure-seekers from around the globe to dine, hike, take-in the spectacular views from 8,516 feet, and enjoy the thrill of ascending nearly 6,000 feet along the rugged cliffs of Chino Canyon. In 2019, the Tramway's Mountain Station began its first-ever renovation, which was completed in early 2023. The goal of the renovation was to restore the original architectural vision of noted Mid-Century architect, E. Stewart Williams.

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## SANTA CRUZ

### **Martinelli's Celebrates 155 Years with Venus Spirits**

To celebrate 155 years of excellence,

**S. Martinelli & Company** launched a series of cocktails this summer to commemorate the occasion. Combining Santa Cruz-based Venus Spirits' gin, lemon juice, honey syrup, lavender bitters, Martinelli's Classic Sparkling Cider, lemon peel, and a lavender sprig, the American 75 was born. This twist on the popular French 75 is described as fruity, crisp, and aromatic. Founded in 1868 and still family-owned and operated, Martinelli's remains headquartered in agricultural-rich Watsonville, CA. Once producing champagne hard cider using apples from California's first commercial orchards, the company shifted gears during the Prohibition era, then grew exponentially, encouraging Americans to "drink their apple a day." Today, archival photos, vintage machinery, and an historical film are on tap in the tasting room where guests can enjoy free samples of juices, sparkling ciders, mulling spices, and limited-edition products.

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