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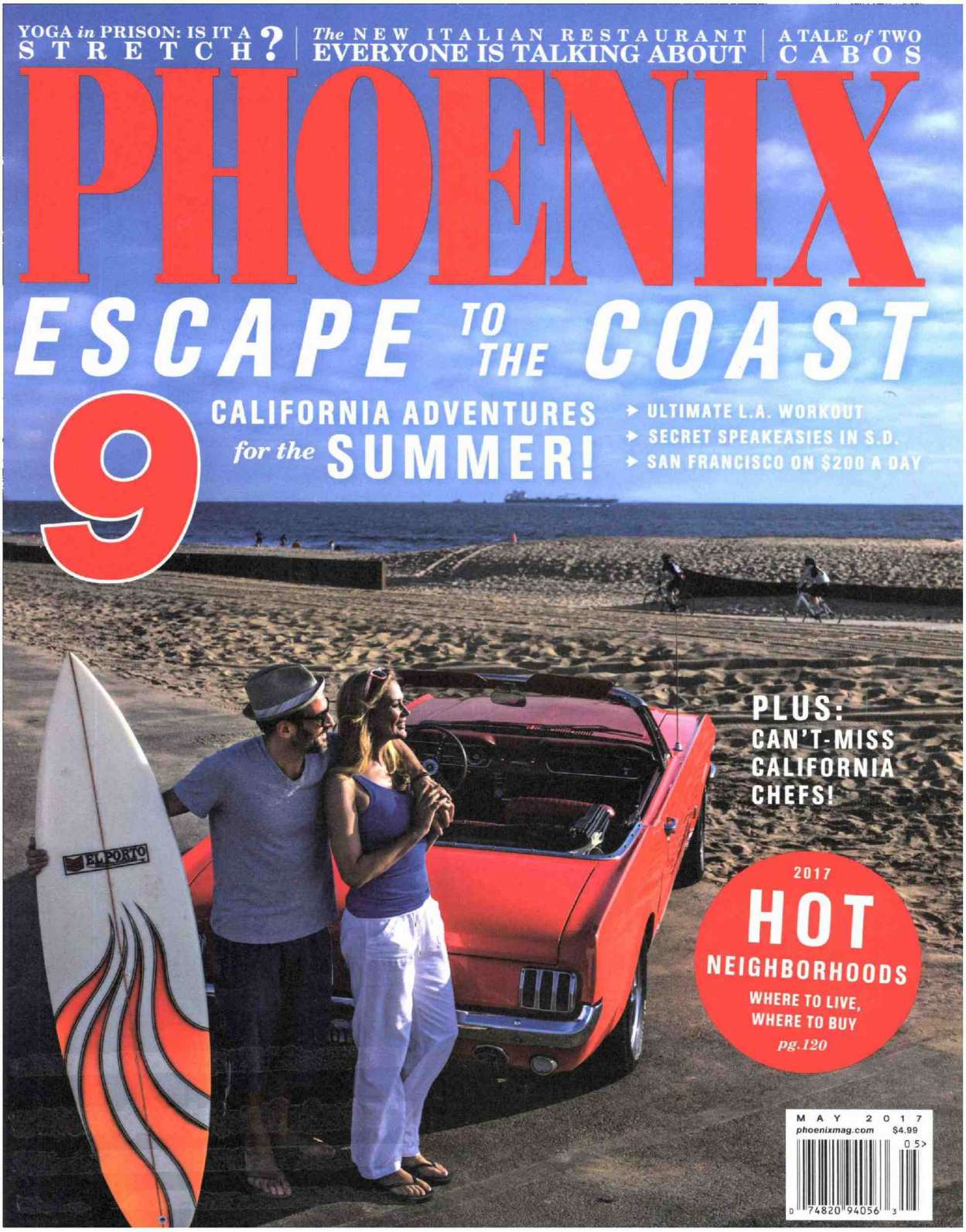

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Watching the sunset at Dockweiler State Beach in Los Angeles. '65 Ford Mustang provided by Legends Classic Rentals (*legendscarrentals.com*); surfboard provided by El Porto Surfboards: 310-545-9626

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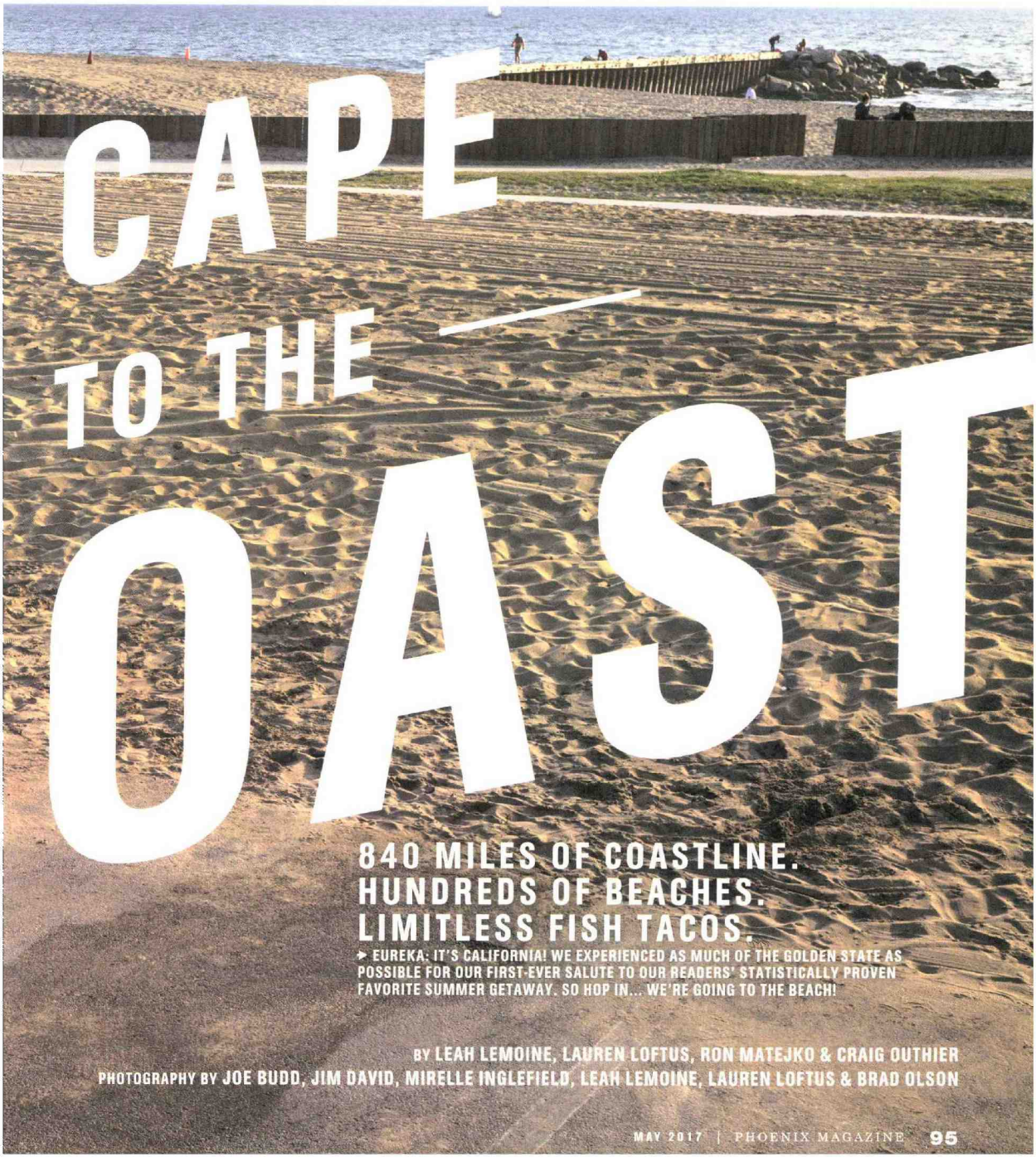

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ESCAPE TO THE COAST

MONTEREY COUNTY

The world's sustainable seafood capital gets you up close and personal with marine life – on the boat and on your plate.

SOMETHING'S FISHY ABOUT MONTEREY. Most recently, it made headlines as the idyllic seaside setting for the Stepford-y community in *Big Little Lies*, HBO's juicy new murder mystery/melodrama. In reality, the cute little beach town on California's craggy central coast is a lot more down to earth. This is the former "Sardine Capital of the World," after all, the place that inspired John Steinbeck's 1945 novel *Cannery Row*, written about the area's hardscrabble inhabitants. Nowadays, finding fun things to do in Monterey is like shooting fish in a barrel.

UNDER THE SEA

It's all about ocean dwellers in Monterey, from jellies and otters at the famed Monterey Bay Aquarium to whale-watching (and dolphin-spotting) with marine biologists. Experience the Pacific by land and sea with this trio of aquatic adventures.

1 *MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM*

The world looks to **Monterey Bay Aquarium**, and not just for its spectacular water habitats for sharks, cephalopods, rays and countless schools of fish. Since it opened in 1984, the aquarium has been at the forefront of ocean conservation and education, spawning the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in 1987, the Tuna Research and Conservation Center in 1994 and the Seafood Watch online program and consumer guide (now available in a user-friendly app for smart phones and tablets) to help diners make sustainable seafood choices. Any chef worth his sea salt uses Seafood Watch to ensure responsible sourcing. A groovy kelp forest, interactive displays, live feedings, an oceanic art gallery and a surprisingly good onsite café net the rest of us. 886 Cannery Row, Monterey, 831-648-4800, *montereybayaquarium.org*

Clockwise from this photo: Cannery Row fireside; shark tank at Monterey Bay Aquarium; view from California Market at Pacific's Edge at Hyatt Carmel Highlands

2 *CANNERY ROW*

Immerse yourself in Monterey's sardine boomtown beginnings with a trip through the old canning district, now a buzzing beachside "downtown." Originally settled in the 1800s by Chinese salmon fishermen and Portuguese shore-whalers, the area hit its stride as the epicenter of sardine canning during World War I, when the demand for preserved food spiked among soldiers on the frontlines in Europe. By the time Steinbeck immortalized it in 1945, Cannery Row was in decline. Thanks to the efforts of restaurant managers Ted Balestreri and Bert Cutino, who founded the **Cannery Row Company** in 1976, the strip was rejuvenated and transformed into the picturesque waterfront esplanade it is today. *canneryrow.com*

3 *MONTEREY BAY WHALE WATCH*

Marine biologist and activist Nancy Black has been studying killer whales for more than 25 years. She brings that lifelong dedication and passion for marine life to her whale-watching tours, the only of their kind in the bay led by a crew of marine biologists with an emphasis on education. "There's no place like it in the world," Black says of Monterey Bay's unique temperature and underwater canyon that draws gray and blue whales during their annual migrations. Captain Black and her guide Isaiah Foulks brim with Monterey tips, from the best hiking and diving spots (**Point Lobos State Park** and the **Breakwater**, respectively) to the best spot for seafood ravioli (**Paluca Trattoria**). 84 Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, 831-375-4658, *montereybaywhalewatch.com*

PHOTOS COURTESY CANNERY ROW COMPANY; MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

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3 CHEFS TO KNOW

JOHNNY DEVIVO
PORTER'S IN THE FOREST

After stints as NBA legend Julius "Dr. J" Erving's personal chef and as executive chef at Casanova in Carmel, DeVivo was brought on as executive chef at Porter's, a fine dining-caliber restaurant set on the prestigious Poppy Hills Golf Course. The Korean Philly cheesesteak, pot pie and lemon *semifreddo* are crave-worthy. 3200 Lopez Rd., Pebble Beach, 831-250-1828, *poppyhillsgolf.com/pebble-beach-restaurants-porters*

CHAD MINTON & ALVARO DALMAU
CALIFORNIA MARKET AT PACIFIC'S EDGE

Minton's California cuisine – fresh Monterey Bay catches with local produce – is the perfect accompaniment to the views of the Big Sur coast from CMPE's clifftop perch at the Hyatt Carmel Highlands hotel. Executive sous chef Dalmau ups the freshness with a plant-based tasting menu at dinner. 120 Highlands Dr., Carmel, 831-622-5450

TED & CINDY WALTER
PASSIONFISH

When the daughter of a fisherman marries a classically trained chef, an award-winning seafood restaurant is a delicious inevitability. Cindy was a driving force behind the sustainable seafood movement in Monterey and she and Ted have embraced MBA's Seafood Watch program since they opened their intimate, romantic restaurant in 1997. You can't go wrong with anything on the seasonally changing menu. 701 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove, 831-655-3311, *passionfish.net*

GETTING THERE
American Airlines offers daily direct flights to Monterey starting at $203. Alternately, fly to Oakland and drive. aa.com

SOAR WITH THE SEAGULLS

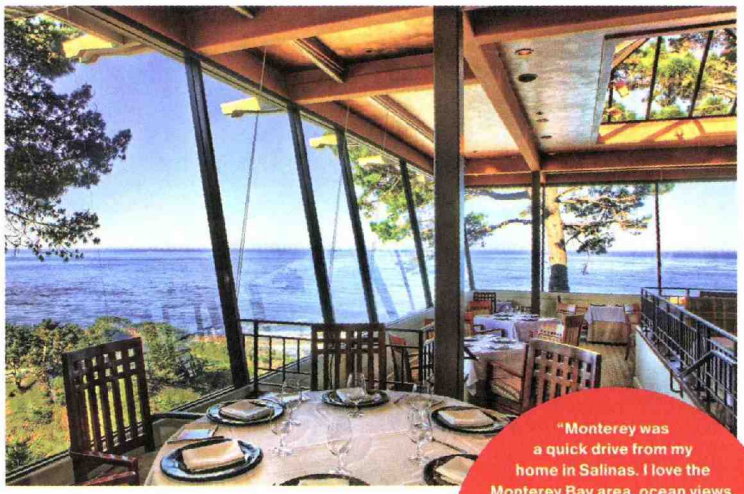
The best accommodations in Monterey County are at the **Hyatt Carmel Highlands** (120 Highlands Dr., Carmel, 831-620-1234, *highlandsinn.hyatt.com*), a gorgeous property in Carmel-by-the-Sea that was founded as an artists' colony 100 years ago (see Last Look, page 184) before being converted into a cluster of cliff-overlooking casitas and suites. The hotel offers a stunning aerial tour of the Monterey/Big Sur coastline at sunset in a state-of-the art Cessna, customizable with Champagne, roses and a video of your flight. Inquire for pricing.

HIDDEN GEM: GOLFERS' PARADISE

Pebble Beach Golf Links gets all the press, but Monterey County is also home to **Poppy Hills Golf Course** (3200 Lopez Rd., Pebble Beach, 831-250-1819, *poppyhillsgolf.com*), a Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course that meanders through the storybook Del Monte Forest and is home to the Northern California Golf Association. It's also home to one of the best restaurants in the county (see "3 Chefs to Know").

— Leah LeMoine

PHOTOS COURTESY PORTER'S IN THE FOREST/POPPY HILLS GOLF COURSE; HYATT CARMEL HIGHLANDS HOTEL; PASSIONFISH



CA CONNOISSEUR
→ DANIELLE WILLIAMS
CO-HOST, AZTV 7'S ARIZONA DAILY MIX

"Monterey was a quick drive from my home in Salinas. I love the Monterey Bay area, ocean views, fresh smell of salt water and seafood along the bay from gourmet, oceanfront restaurants. One of my favorite places to visit and stroll through is Fisherman's Wharf... My personal favorite is the Old Fisherman's Grotto – best clam chowder by the sea."

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ESCAPE TO THE COAST

SANTA CRUZ

SoCal surfer vibes meet NorCal sensibilities in this gem of a beach town.

SANTA CRUZ IS DANG HAPPY. A 2016 Gallup poll on well-being ranked the small surf town on the northern tip of Monterey Bay the happiest city in California and the third happiest in the country. Foremost on the smile meter: These beach bums scored first overall on the biggest predictor of well-being, saying they "learn or do something interesting every day." Whether they're surfing, riding coasters at one of the last remaining seaside amusement parks on the West Coast, hiking the redwood forest just seven miles inland, or making the freshest farm-to-table cuisine you'll ever have (without a hint of irony), Santa Cruzans know they've got something good.

3 WAYS TO FIND YOUR HAPPY IN SC

Local lore claims Santa Cruz as the birthplace of mainland surfing: Legend has it three vacationing Hawaiian princes brought their plank boards here in 1885. But while this may be surf nirvana, if you're more klutz than Slater, there are plenty of ways to live the beach life without getting on a board.

1 *BEACH BUMMING*

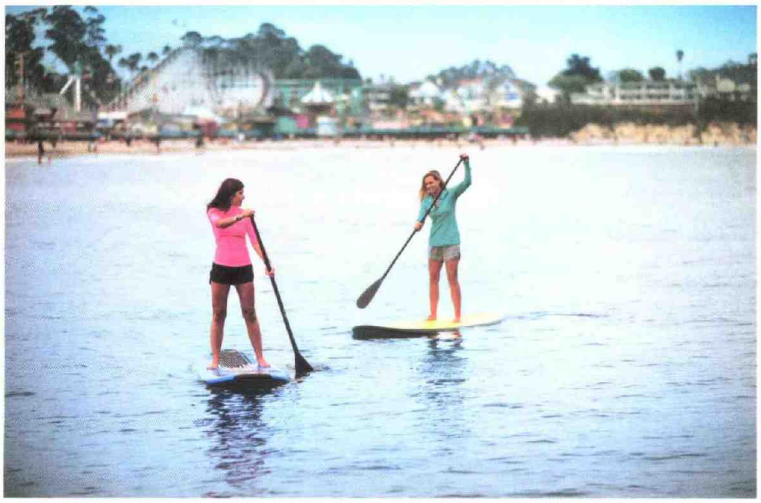
So-named for its totally Instagram-able, wave-carved, arched sea cliff, **Natural Bridges State Beach** (2531 W. Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz) is the quieter, more picturesque option for beach lounging compared to the main beach framing the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. After a day spent building sandcastles and exploring tide pools, check into the **Beach Street Inn and Suites** (125 Beach St., Santa Cruz, 831-423-3031, *beachstreetinn.com*), a friendly hotel done in cheerful blues with killer views of the ocean and wharf.

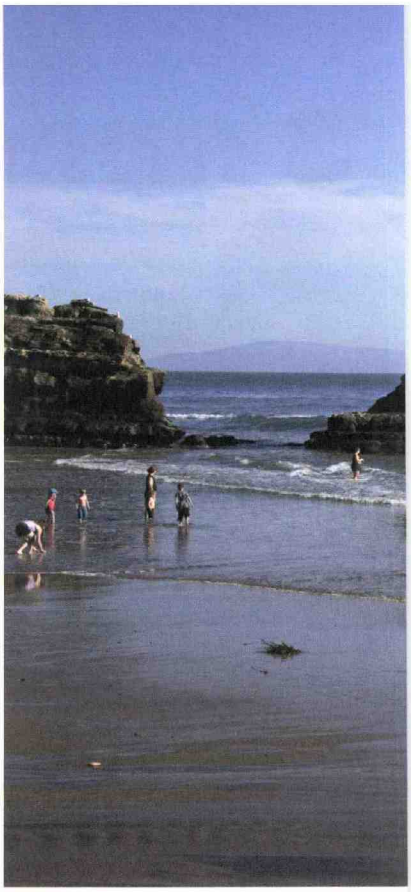
2 *PADDLEBOARDING*

If the waves and the wetness are keeping you from getting out on the water, try stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) instead. **Kayak Connection** (413 Lake Ave., Santa Cruz, 831-479-1121, *kayakconnection.com*) offers a slew of kayak tours and SUP classes in addition to hourly rentals. An early morning solo paddle is surprisingly serene. Cruise up the sheltered Santa Cruz Harbor, get a stellar arm workout and ogle the huge yachts parked next to humble sailboats, all while staying blessedly dry.

3 *REDWOOD RAILS*

From beach life to mountain life in 20 minutes flat, **Roaring Camp Railroads** (5401 Graham Hill Rd., Felton, 831-335-4484, *roaringcamp.com*) is a fun diversion for sunburned families. Once a gold-panning settlement in the 1830s, Roaring Camp became a mountain resort with a narrow-gauge steam engine railroad that takes tourists chugging through colossal redwood trees.





FARMERS' MARKET

"IT WAS JUST A REAL KIND TOWN," says Oregon native Nesh Dhillon, director of Santa Cruz Community Farmers' Markets, of why he decided to stay in Santa Cruz instead of pursuing an M.D. Dhillon grew up hunting and gardening, and maintains a deep appreciation for where his food comes from. It's a feeling he's translated into expanding the 27-year-old market, which boasts a huge selection of regional, certified-organic growers at five venues throughout the county.

At the downtown market, which runs year-round on Wednesdays adjacent to Santa Cruz's teeny-yet-charming main drag, Nesh says he has a "soft requirement" that vendors source from the market's growers. That means the decadent fair trade raspberry chocolate truffles from the **Ashby Confections** booth are made with fruit grown by a farmer a few stalls over, as are ingredients for crusty sourdough loaves and rosemary shortbread at the **Companion Bakeshop** tent. It gives farm-to-table a whole new meaning. *santacruzfarmersmarket.org*

— Lauren Loftus

PHOTOS BY LAUREN LOFTUS. TOP: COURTESY SANTA CRUZ CVB. BOTTOM

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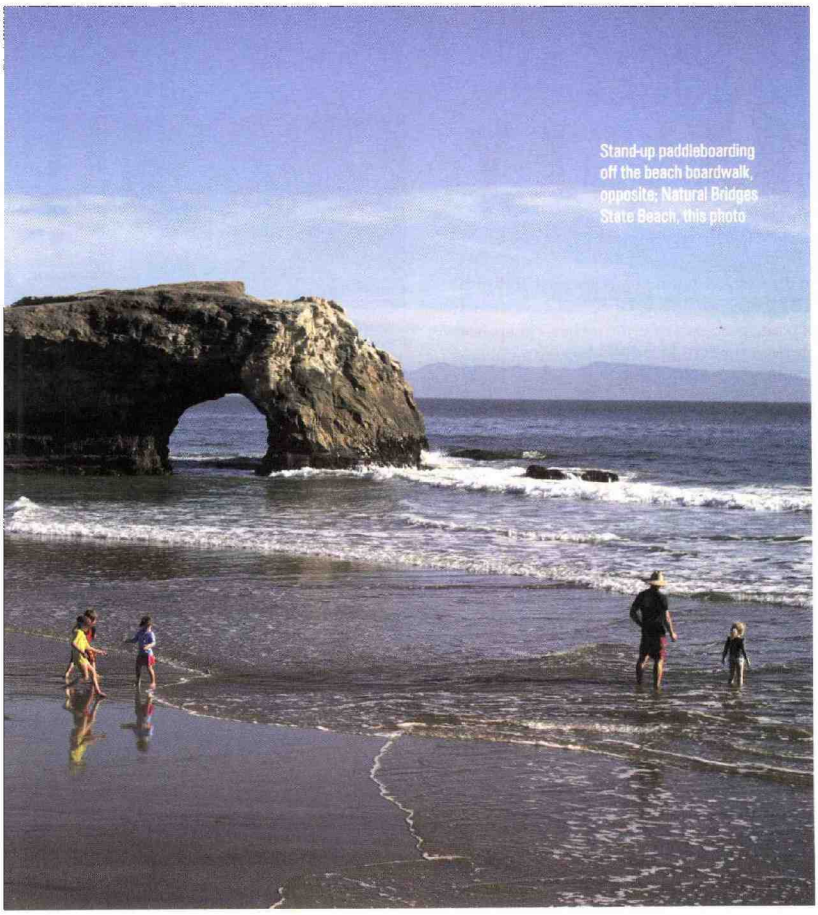

Stand-up paddleboarding off the beach boardwalk, opposite; Natural Bridges State Beach, this photo

CA CONNOISSEUR

MICHAEL SCHENNUM *SOFTWARE DEVELOPER*

The former Arizona Republic *photojournalist was a proud Banana Slug at UC Santa Cruz.*

PHOTOS COURTESY SOIF; PENNY ICE CREAMERY; GAYLE'S BAKERY

3 CHEFS TO KNOW

PATRICE BOYLE
SOIF

The former owner of a winery in Central California, Boyle cares about good, hard-to-find wines. That's why the restaurateur opened Soif, a wine bar and restaurant as well as a shop with bottles from around the world. She's a devotee of using the freshest produce possible, incorporating farmers' market finds in rotating dishes like creamy, foraged mushroom risotto. 105 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, 831-423-2020, *soifwine.com*

KENDRA BAKER & ZACH DAVIS
PENNY ICE CREAMERY

Baker and Davis head the hyper-local food empire The Glass Jar. Their first venture was Penny Ice Creamery, which uses sustainable ingredients and local produce in its creative, scratch-made batches of organic ice cream. Think: strawberry pink peppercorn and mascarpone kumquat. 913 Cedar St., Santa Cruz, 831-204-2523, *thepennyicecreamery.com*

GAYLE ORTIZ
GAYLE'S BAKERY

Pastry pro Ortiz has been slinging baked goods and grab-and-go picnic staples – including some of the best gluten-free chocolate cookies we've ever had and silly-good deviled eggs – since 1978. 504 Bay Ave., Capitola, 831-462-1200, *gaylesbakery.com*

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SILICON VALLEY

High tech meets idyllic orchards in California's South Bay. Because where else would Apple come from?

THE AREA WE NOW THINK OF as the birthplace of many of humanity's greatest technical achievements was once called the Valley of Heart's Delight. How fitting. Until halfway through the 20th century, the Santa Clara Valley was thick with spectacular flowering bows of apricot, cherry and plum trees in orchards spreading south from the San Francisco Bay. After World War II, the fruit trees were scrapped for multi-billion-dollar tech companies making silicon semiconductors and staffed by nerdy young engineers with the next great idea in their back pockets. The region's nickname may have changed, but it's still a verdant valley ripe for the picking for laissez-faire vacationers and tech geniuses alike.

LIVE LIKE A ZUCKERBERG... IN OLD SAN JOSE!

Not everything in Silicon Valley is tech-oriented. There are still remembrances of things past dotted throughout the valley and the hills that surround it. Take a break from the tech rat race and explore the eclectic culture of this diverse community. Even tech titans need balance.

1 *HORSEBACK RIDING AT COOPER-GARROD ESTATE VINEYARDS*

Dating back to 1893, this family-owned 28-acre organic vineyard is also home to a few dozen horses and ponies with access to 23 miles of riding and hiking trails among the rolling hills of the **Fremont Older Preserve** overlooking Silicon Valley. Follow up a one-hour guided trail ride with a round of wine tasting on the winery's quaint patio. The Viognier is particularly tangy and refreshing. (22647 Garrod Rd., Saratoga, 408-867-9527, *garrodfarms.com*)

2 *STAY IN DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE*

The cultural and political hub of Silicon Valley, San Jose boasts a charmingly small downtown despite being the third most populous city in all of California. To truly indulge in the new money/app-creator fantasy, stay at the **Fairmont San Jose** (170 S. Market St., San Jose, 408-998-1900, *fairmont.com/san-jose*), a grandiose hotel with stately quarters and a luxe sunken lobby bar that hosts live music on weekends.

3 *TOUR JAPANTOWN*

San Jose's Japantown is one of only three remaining in the U.S., and it's teeming with fascinating, and heartbreaking, history. A docent-led walking tour from the **Japanese American Museum of San Jose** (535 N. Fifth St., San Jose, 408-294-3138, *jamsj.org*) will guide you through the town's curiously large number of ukulele shops and landmarks, including memorials dedicated to the Japanese-Americans forced into internment camps during WWII, leaving the area a ghost town for years. Make sure to cap off the tour with some *manju* (a Japanese term for confection) at **Shuei-Do Manju Shop** (217 Jackson St., San Jose, 408-294-4148). The peanut butter mochi is outrageous.

Clockwise from this photo: Horseback riding at Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards; interior of Fairmont San Jose; android sculpture at Googleplex

PHOTOS BY KRISTIAN MELOM/COOPER-GARROD ESTATE VINEYARDS; FAIRMONT SAN JOSE

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3 CHEFS TO KNOW

JAMIS MACNIVEN
BUCK'S OF WOODSIDE

Some major tech deals have gone down at owner MacNiven's pancake joint, packed to the gills with oddities from around the world like a flea circus and Shaquille O'Neal's shoe. Hotmail and Tesla were purportedly founded here, while PayPal secured funding over lunch. The fries aren't bad, either. 3062 Woodside Rd., Woodside, 650-851-8010, *buckswoodside.com*

OCEAN ORSSTEN
OVEJA NEGRA

Native Northern Californian and one-time pig farmer Orssten helms the kitchen at Oveja Negra – "black sheep" in Spanish – serving up imaginative, "worldly" tapas like Jiffy Pop-coated fried chicken and *daal*-tamarind shrimp and grits. Massive glasses of housemade Sangria, too. 355 Santana Row, San Jose, 408-423-5400, *ovejanegrasj.com*

MAURICE CARRUBBA
MT. HAMILTON GRANDVIEW

Soaring 1,500 feet above San Jose, the Mount Hamilton GrandView restaurant boasts the most spectacular views of the valley. Best of all, new owner Carrubba (pictured with wife Melissa) revived the 1884 property and bought the farm across the street, which supplies the freshest produce possible for hearty pasta dishes and steak sides. 15005 Mt. Hamilton Rd., Mt. Hamilton, 408-251-8909, *grandviewsanjose.com*

GAGA FOR GOOGLE?

Tour the titans of the New Economy on a Silicon Valley tech tour.

"Silicon Valley is one big expanse of nondescript buildings," says Sharon Traeger, who runs private tours of the region and San Francisco (visit *traegertours.com* for pricing). But behind the sprawl, she says, are really interesting stories – of virtuosos like Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Page and William Shockley, whose creations turned the world on its head.

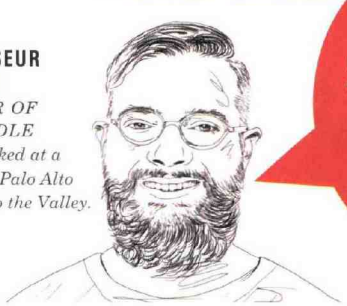
Traeger's **Silicon Valley tour** is open to both techies and novices, and is fully customizable. Get your photo taken in front of the thumbs-up sign outside **Facebook** headquarters in Menlo Park. Hop on one of the beach cruisers parked throughout the sprawling **Googleplex** campus in Mountain View for a quick ride around their Android sculpture garden. Drive by **Apple Park**, the massive, eerie, circular "spaceship campus" due to open later this year before exploring the expanded Apple Store on the current campus.

Tech pilgrims can go even more in-depth, driving by the homes and, more importantly, garages where innovative companies like Hewlett-Packard were formed and the first Apple computer was built. Traeger will also deposit tourists at the **Tech Museum of Innovation** (*thetech.org*), a neon-colored interactive science and technology center in downtown San Jose. Exhibits for kids and kids-at-heart include a robotics studio and a space exploration wing in which you can try your hand at navigating a jet pack.

— Lauren Loftus

CA CONNOISSEUR
→ JT MARINO
CO-FOUNDER OF TUFT & NEEDLE

Marino worked at a tech start-up in Palo Alto before moving to the Valley.



"Living in Palo Alto was a time of growth for me, and places like the Stanford Theatre and Palo Alto Creamery, that I went to a few times a month, make me very nostalgic for that time. I'm a creature of habit, and you could consistently find me at Coupa Café (where we made our first T&N sale) or The Rose & Crown, where Pliny the Elder was always on draft."

PHOTOS BY LAUREN LOFTUS; COURTESY BUCK'S OF WOODSIDE, OVEJA NEGRA, MAURICE CARRUBBA

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SAN FRANCISCO

Right on: 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO IS ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES in the country – in 2016, in fact, it was ranked No. 1 by *GOBankingRates*. It can be easy, then, to forget that San Fran was once the capital of free. Beat writers, anti-war protestors, artists and immigrants have always called the place home, managing to eke out rich lives despite having zero riches. Much of that free-love philosophy remains today in the face of skyrocketing rents. In fact, this summer marks the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love, when hordes of flower children converged on the city, rejecting materialism in favor of sharing and community. Seize that spirit for yourself and experience this land of plenty without spending a fortune.

GETTING STARTED: *THE ART OF THE PASS*

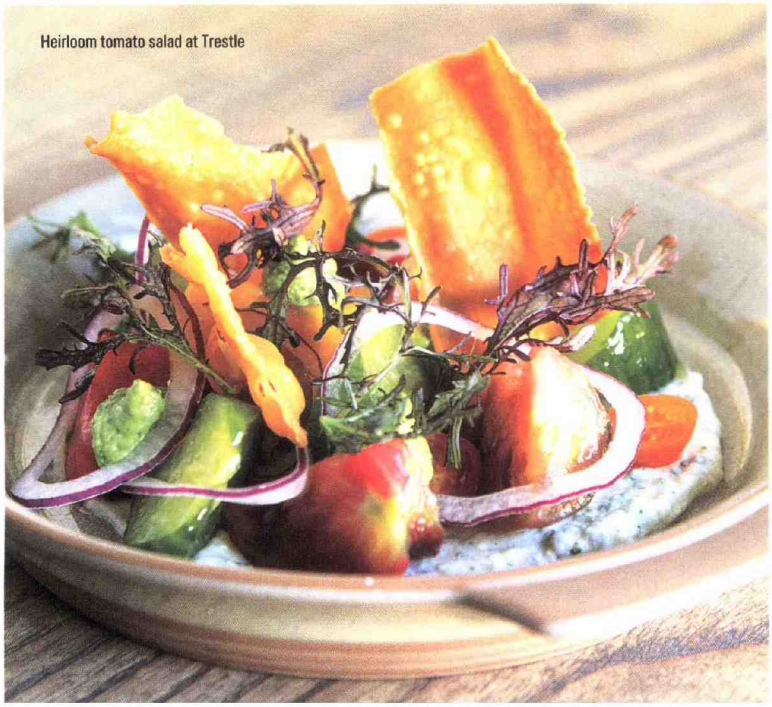
While the hippies of 50 years ago would likely have scoffed at visiting San Francisco's touristy attractions, this is 2017 and savvy nouveau hippies have evolved to appreciate a good deal. Stick it to the man by taking advantage of one of these multi-attraction passes that get you into many of the city's museums, exhibits and activities for a whole lot less.

1 *SAN FRANCISCO CITYPASS*

Valid for nine days, this $89 booklet gives you four admission tickets plus – perhaps most valuable – a seven-day passport on Muni (Municipal Transportation Agency) buses, trains and cable cars. Booklets contain passes to the **California Academy of Sciences** (55 Music Concourse Dr., San Francisco, 415-379-8000, *calacademy.org*), a superlative science museum with working ecosystems including a glass globe rainforest in the middle of the lobby. *citypass.com/sanfrancisco*

2 *GO SAN FRANCISCO CARD*

Save up to 55 percent on more than 30 Bay Area attractions. The catch? You must cram everything into one day. For $65, use your card to get into as many places as possible, such as the infinitely interesting **Exploratorium** (Pier 15, The Embarcadero, San Francisco, 415-528-4444, *exploratorium.edu*). Seriously, kids and adults alike will love testing out the museum's many experiments that challenge the limits of the human mind. *smartdestinations.com/guide/sfo*



Heirloom tomato salad at Trestle

3 CHEFS TO KNOW

JASON HALVERSON
TRESTLE

The term "prix fixe" may conjure visions of overpriced, overrated meals of measly servings in a stuffy atmosphere, but at Trestle, Chef Halverson whips up three courses of modern yet homey cooking for the extremely reasonable price of $35. Everyone picks from two options for each course; everyone wins. 531 Jackson St., 415-772-0922, *trestlesf.com*

TOMMY HALVORSON
SERPENTINE

Serpentine was one of the first restaurants to set up shop in the city's historically industrial Dogpatch neighborhood. Chef Halvorson recently took over the nine-year farm-to-table staple and has started updating the menu with spicy Southern influences. Make an affordable meal out of happy hour deals, like house-made chips and French onion dip, chicken livers and hush puppies. 2495 Third St., San Francisco, 415-252-2000, *serpentinesf.com*

DAVID WILLIAMS
HOOKER'S SWEET TREATS

Though aptly named for its Tenderloin 'hood, Hooker's is actually a nod to its owner's nickname. Williams hails from Louisiana and his down-home baking is reflected in this steamy little café that looks like a Southern grandma's kitchen, and in his out-of-this-world, smoky, dark chocolate-covered salted caramels (see "$200/Day").

PHOTOS BY NADER KHOURI COURTESY TRESTLE (2); SERPENTINE; HOOKER'S SWEET TREATS

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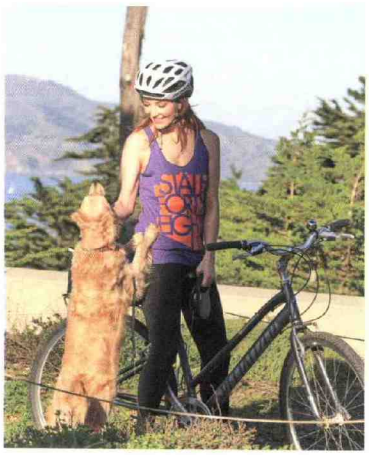

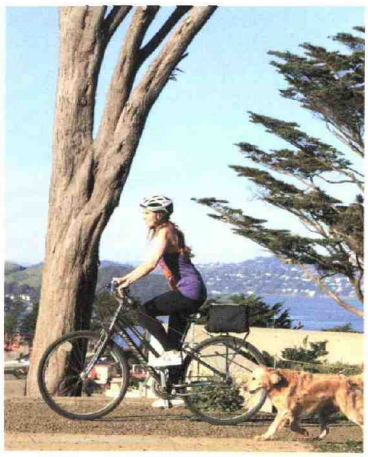

SF HACK:

FLY ON THE CHEAP

The least expensive way to get to SF? Probably the $57-$74 one-way tickets to Oakland from Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport offered by Allegiant Air. Or hitchhiking. *allegiantair.com*

Biking around and across the Golden Gate Bridge on a rental from San Francisco Bicycle Rentals (*bikerentalsanfrancisco.com*) and repping the Grand Canyon State in a State Forty Eight tank (*statefortyeight.com*)

PHOTOS BY JOE BUDD. MODEL: BRITTANY BRANNON/FORD ROBERT BLACK AGENCY

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HOW TO DO SF ON $200/DAY

Not every trip to San Francisco needs to include $15 Ghirardelli chocolate sundaes and expensive tchotchke shopping trips to Fisherman's Wharf. Escape the price traps and tourist crowds by exploring the grittier sides of the city.

MORNING

ROOM: *THE TILDEN HOTEL*

345 Taylor St., San Francisco,
415-673-2332, *tildenhotel.com*

Affordable and utterly cool, the Tilden was re-designed to be an oasis in the middle of the Tenderloin – AKA the last frontier in the face of San Francisco's ever-expanding gentrification – with a hummingbird garden and a new craft cocktail bar and eatery called The Douglas Room.

COST: Rooms start around $135.

BREAKFAST: *HOOKER'S SWEET TREATS*

442 Hyde St., San Francisco,
415-441-4628, *hookerssweettreats.com*

Get your mind out of the gutter and start your day the way your doctor never intended, with coffee and salted caramels at Hooker's (see "3 Chefs"). Their scones and bread pudding are sinful, too.

COST: Caramels $2 each; coffee $3

Clockwise from this photo: Cocktail in progress at The Tilden Hotel; a sampling of Hooker's Sweet Treats caramels; San Francisco City Hall; Mission District pupuseria Panchita's Restaurant No. 2; Clarion Alley Mural Project

PHOTOS COURTESY THE TILDEN HOTEL; HOOKER'S SWEET TREATS

MORNING ACTIVITY: *THE TENDERLOIN MUSEUM*

398 Eddy St., San Francisco,
415-351-1912, *tenderloinmuseum.org*

The Tenderloin neighborhood embraces its dodgy reputation as the city's epicenter of vice thanks to a history mired in gambling halls, brothels, speakeasies and gay nightclubs. Explore the museum's collection or splurge on a walking tour of notable nearby sites, including spots where the Grateful Dead and Miles Davis recorded.

COST: $10 for entry; tour additional $5

AFTERNOON

LUNCH: *FERRY BUILDING MARKETPLACE*

One Ferry Building, San Francisco,
ferrybuildingmarketplace.com

The mammoth blue-gray Ferry Building opened in 1898 as San Francisco's main transportation hub. A century-plus later, and the ferryboat operator stalls have been swapped out for booths showcasing local farmers, artists and food producers hawking everything from pottery thrown in Sausalito to couture honey made by Bay Area beekeepers. Pack yourself a hodgepodge picnic lunch. The cheese sandwiches at Cowgirl Creamery Sidekick are particularly portable and tasty.

COST: Sandwich $8.25

AFTERNOON ACTIVITY: *PRESIDIO*

presidio.gov

For the best views of the Golden Gate Bridge, head to the Presidio. Formerly a U.S. military fort, the Presidio offers hikes to satisfy forest and beach lovers alike with plenty of scenic vistas overlooking the bridge, bay and ocean. Baker Beach on the far southeastern side of the park is the perfect picnic spot, with wide sandy beaches and unparalleled views of Golden Gate and the green hills of Marin beyond. Free PresidioGo shuttles will haul you across the park to Downtown.

COST: Free

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EVENING

DINNER: *PANCHITA'S RESTAURANT NO. 2*

3091 16th St., San Francisco, 415-431-4232

The Mission District is home to the city's highest concentration of Chicano and Latino populations, and your best bet for a Latin meal. At Panchita's, *pupusas* – traditional Salvadoran masa patties stuffed with meat or veggies and gooey cheese – are topped with complimentary cabbage slaw and hot sauce found by the bucketful at each table.

COST: Pupusas $3 each

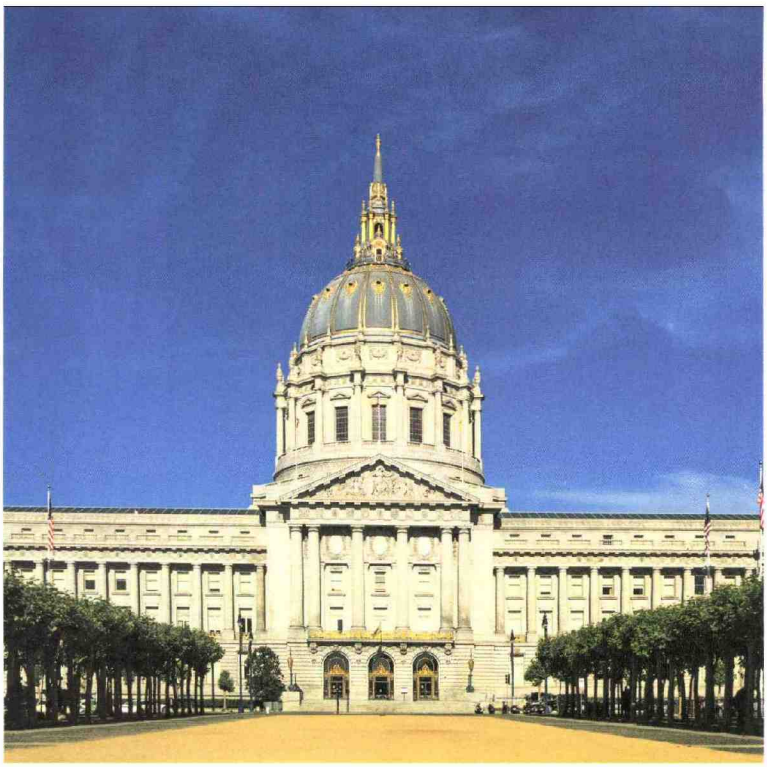
EVENING ACTIVITY: *CLARION ALLEY*

Between 17th and 18th streets and Valencia and Mission streets, *clarionalleymuralproject.org*

Imagine if the murals of Downtown Phoenix were more political and clumped together in one long strip: That's the Clarion Alley Mural Project. Since 1992, the grassroots project has paved the way for more than 700 murals to grace the fences and garages of this Mission District alley. It's a (free) free speech zone... and a dynamite place to take photos at Golden Hour.

COST: Free

PHOTOS BY LAUREN LOFTUS (2); BOTTOM, COURTESY ADOBE STOCK IMAGES; TOP



BONUS ACTIVITY

CITY HALL

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., San Francisco, 415-554-4000, *sfgov.org/cityhall*

If the prospect of willingly spending time at a city hall sans jury summons seems odd, you've never been to the ornate spectacle of granite known as San Francisco City Hall. Spend an evening (it's open until 8 p.m. on weekdays) wandering the marble steps of the grand domed hall – a full 42 feet taller than the dome of the nation's Capitol – where you'll likely spot a wedding or three. In addition to the permanent ground floor display showcasing the city's history at the forefront of marriage equality, check out "Jim Marshall's 1967" exhibit (*sfartscommission.org/gallery*), on display through July 31. Featuring 80 photographs from the iconic photographer, this free show chronicles the local hippie movement and rock 'n' roll scene with photos of legends like Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. **COST:** Free

— *Lauren Loftus*

CA CONNOISSEUR

▸ JUDE JOFFE-BLOCK

REPORTER AT KJZZ 91.5 FM

The investigative journalist grew up in Berkeley, where she earned her master's degree in journalism.

"I love wandering down alleyways in the Mission and checking out the dozens of murals you can see in an area spanning just a few blocks. Some were painted decades ago and reflect the neighborhood's Latin American roots. The organization Precita Eyes offers walking tours every weekend, plus they restore murals and teach kids how to paint new ones."

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