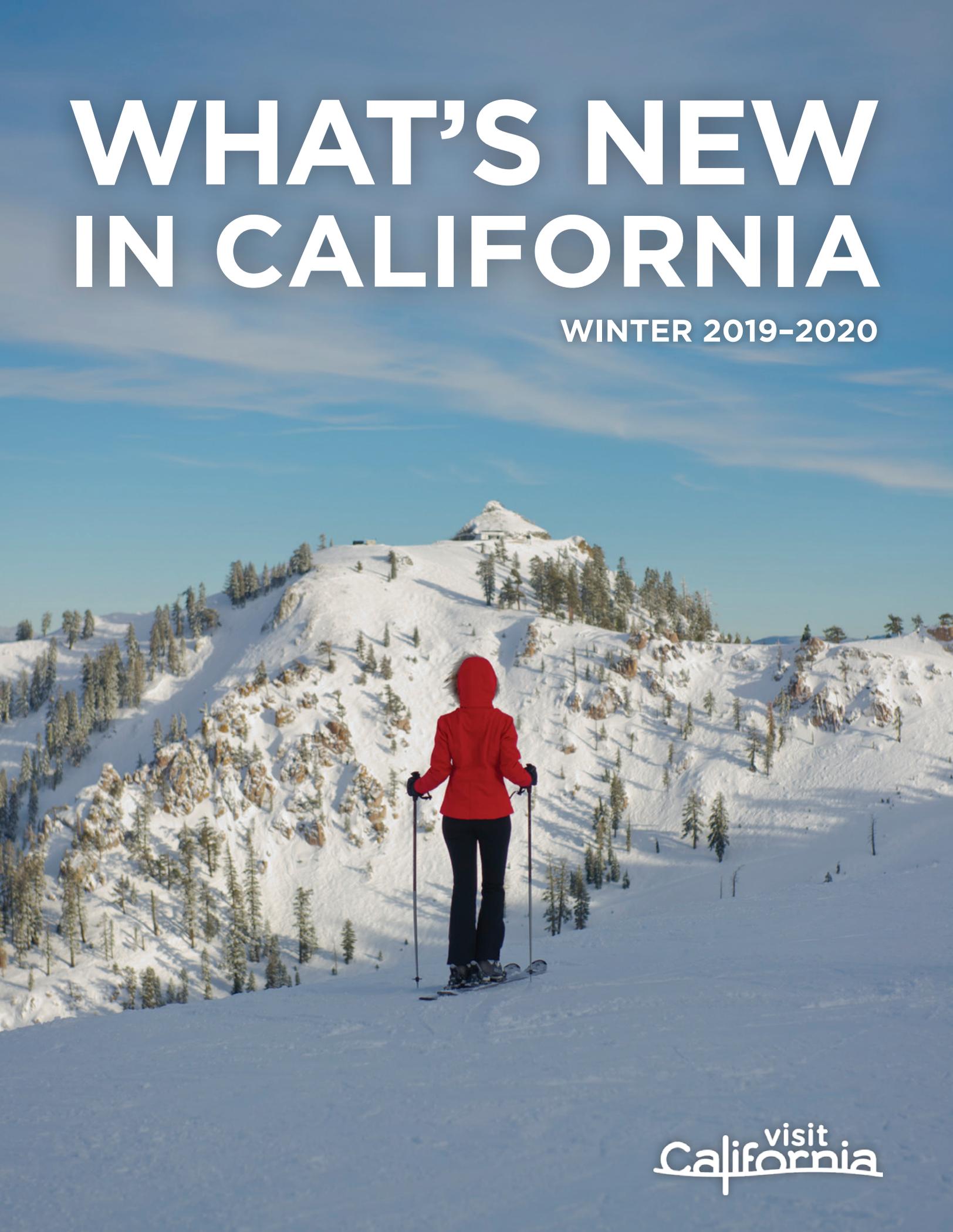


# WHAT'S NEW IN CALIFORNIA

WINTER 2019-2020



visit  
California

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Visit California is pleased to present this newsletter describing new developments taking place throughout the Golden State. Please note that dates listed are subject to change. Confirm with appropriate media contacts listed after each entry.

The information in this publication is also available online on our media site listed below. Simply look for What's New on the home page. There you can dynamically search the most up to date information by category and region.

Media Website:  
[media.visitcalifornia.com](http://media.visitcalifornia.com)

Consumer Website:  
[www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com)

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### STATEWIDE

## California Celebrates 170 Years in 2020

Looking ahead to 2020, California will celebrate its 170th birthday with a plethora of new attractions, hotels and restaurants sure to entice locals and visitors alike to come join the party.

Discover sports in Los Angeles when the SoFi Stadium opens in Los Angeles in 2020. The stadium is the future home of the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers and will host the 2022 Super Bowl, College National Football Championship Game in 2023 and be the site of the 2028 opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympics.

Open-air markets and plazas continue to multiply and expand in the Golden State, providing public spaces for both travelers and locals to enjoy. In early 2020, the SLO Public Market opens, blending historical buildings from Bonetti Ranch with new construction to create eight buildings featuring shops, restaurants, boutiques, a brewery and a market hall. Opening in Palm Springs in fall 2020, the Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza will celebrate the history, culture and traditions of the Cahuilla Indians. Highlights include a 48,000 sq. ft. museum and a 40,000 sq. ft. spa featuring the hot springs that made Palm Springs famous.

The largest beachfront development on the San Diego coastline in more than 20 years is slated to open at the end of 2020 in Oceanside with two new resorts. The Joie de Vivre hotel will feature 160 rooms and suites, most with ocean-facing balconies, and the upscale beach house design Destination Hotel resort will offer 226 rooms and suites most with full or partial ocean views. The Graves House from “Top Gun” is incorporated into the project as a new foodie destination.

California remains at the forefront of culinary experiences, and with spirits-driven programs on the rise, the state will see new distilleries pop up in 2020. The first distillery in Truckee

in over 100 years, Old Trestle plans to pair its locally made gin, whiskey and vodka with a modern menu designed to complement the spirits. In Santa Cruz, Venus Spirits will launch a new distillery, tasting room and restaurant in May 2020 in a renovated warehouse space in the city’s west side.

Exciting openings such as these, and many more, make the new year a great time to visit the Golden State. For the most up-to-date news, plus fresh trip ideas and destination tips throughout the year, check out Visit California’s blog, ‘California Now’ at [visitcalifornia.com/now](http://visitcalifornia.com/now).



### ACCOMMODATIONS

#### AUBURN

## SpringHill Suites by Marriott Arrives in Auburn

The eagerly awaited SpringHill Suites Auburn, which opened in November, features 128 suites and sits at the highest point in Auburn, providing stunning views. Separate living, working and sleeping spaces in the suite gives guests flexibility and functionality, with highlights including a custom, three-in-one, West Elm sofa which converts from a sofa to a daybed to a trundle bed, along with a stylish West Elm Swivel Chair. The hotel’s Grand Room opens to an outdoor area that allows guests to enjoy evening socials by the fire pit, outdoor lunches enjoying the scenery, or small weddings in front of the gazebo with captivating views. The property offers guests convenient access to Old Town Auburn, Auburn State Recreation Area, Lake Clementine, golf courses, and many local breweries and wineries.

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## CONEJO VALLEY

## Conejo Valley Welcomes Two New Hotels

Two new hotels will debut under one roof in early 2020 in Southern California's Conejo Valley—Courtyard and TownePlace Suites by Marriott. Set against the Santa Monica Mountains with direct canyon access to Malibu beaches, the 96-suite TownePlace Suites will include one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites, while the Courtyard features 129 standard rooms with either a king bed with sofa bed or two queen beds. Guests of both hotels can access all amenities, including the salt-water pool, barbecues and fire pits, expansive state-of-the-art 24-hour Fitness Center, on-site laundry facilities, restaurant and bar. The hotel building—wired for superfast (1 Gbps) internet connectivity—will offer free Wi-Fi for all guests and meeting attendees, as well as free parking and onsite electric car charging. The hotels will boast two ballrooms ideal for events for up to 175 people, with convenient access to Highway 101.

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## DOWNEY

## Embassy Suites Completes Multi-Million Renovation

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Los Angeles-Downey recently completed a multi-million renovation of its 220 two-room suites, which includes new furniture in the parlor living area and bedroom, neutral-toned wall coverings and state-of-the-art connectivity. The new suite design features contemporary styled lighting and earth tones with pops of vibrant color. The inviting theme carries through to the lobby and atrium, including the hotel's accent chandeliers, constellation-inspired wall décor behind the front desk and new fountain.

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## FISH CAMP

## Explorer Clubhouse Opens at Tenaya Lodge

This fall Tenaya Lodge officially opened the Explorer Clubhouse, an 1,800 square foot communal retreat in the heart of its new Explorer Cabin development. As the final piece of the \$25 million, 50-cabin project which opened this summer, the clubhouse serves as a relaxed gathering area where guests can check-in, grab daily breakfast, enjoy evening wine receptions or just relax on the expansive deck while soaking up picturesque views of the creek and surrounding forest. A mountain-modern retreat, the new Explorer Cabins at Tenaya Lodge offer visitors spacious, relaxed and well-appointed accommodations connected to the natural beauty of the Yosemite-Sierra region. Cabins are nestled within a forest of sugar pines and incense cedars and surrounded by nature trails. Communal fire pits surrounded by welcoming Adirondack chairs located throughout the site invite cabin guests to gather for s'mores and stargazing.

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## GEYSERVILLE

## Geyserville Inn Introduces Onsite Wine Tasting

To heighten the wine country experience for guests, Geyserville Inn added onsite tastings in their new Duo Tasting Room in October. Guests can now sample limited production wines from Etrusca and Tonti Family Wines, crafted from Russian River Valley old-vine Zinfandel grapes that are organically dry-farmed and aged in American oak. Owned and operated by two generations of Christensen family, the Geyserville Inn, surrounded by vineyards with views of the Mayacamas Mountains, features 38 rooms and three king suites, an outdoor pool as well as on-site dining and catering. Guests can dine under the oak trees on the fountain patio, on the live jasmine deck, or at the bar.

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## HOLLYWOOD

## Godfrey Hotel Makes its Hollywood Debut

The 60,000-square-foot Godfrey hotel, scheduled to debut in January 2020, will feature high-end boutique accommodations designed for the contemporary jet-setting professional. The 220-room hotel features amenities that will allow travelers to conduct business both locally and remotely, while enjoying the unique room and food experiences that the Godfrey brand is known for. The property will offer a rooftop pool and casual steakhouse About Last Knife.

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## LA JOLLA

## Grande Colonial Unveils Major Renovation

The landmark Grande Colonial just finished a \$4 million renovation of all 97 rooms. Artfully recapturing the hotel's storied past, the design infuses a classic European ambiance and a refined, contemporary look. The hotel still boasts its classic blue and yellow color scheme, with rooms featuring new drapery treatments, carpet, linen-wrapped down duvets with accent pillow, refrigerators and mobile device charging outlets. Most bathrooms got a refresh, with new vanities, marble floors, designer mirrors and new fixtures.

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## MARINA DEL REY

## New Hotels Debut in Marina del Rey

Courtyard by Marriott and a Residence Inn by Marriott will enter the Marina del Rey hotel scene in early 2020, together offering 288 total guest rooms, 1500 square feet of meeting space, a shared lobby, waterfront restaurant, outdoor bars, second-level outdoor terrace with marina views, fitness center, 28-foot wide-pedestrian waterfront promenade and a new public dock service. The 159-room Courtyard by Marriott will cater to business

travelers with offerings such as free, in-room desks and a variety of spaces for meetings and individual use. Next door at the six-story 129-room Residence Inn by Marriott, larger suites and penthouses designed for extended-stay guests will feature personal kitchens, separate living room areas, in-suite workspaces and wraparound decks overlooking the marina.

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#### PASO ROBLES

### Martin Resorts Launches The Piccolo Luxury Hotel

The Piccolo—Paso Robles' latest luxury hotel—debuted downtown on Oct. 16, 2019, elevating the wine country boutique experience. While the charming brick exterior nods playfully to its adjacent historic sister property, the Paso Robles Inn, the resemblance stops there. Inside, The Piccolo looks optimistically at the future, reflecting the vision of a Paso Perfected. The property offers a variety of communal spaces—like The Piper Wine Lounge with personal wine storage lockers—and sexy, urban loft style rooms with modern conveniences such as fiberoptic, mobile check-in, keyless entry, streaming services, and more. The Piccolo boasts 23 Luxury King Rooms and an exclusive two-room suite, The Somm Suite, with floor-to-ceiling windows. Guestrooms feature high tray ceilings, wide-planked dark wooden floors, brick accent walls and custom touches by local artisans, such as made-to-order chandeliers by Hans Duus, nightstands and dressers by Janine Stone of If You Give a Girl a Saw and air plants by Lauren Dunn of Dunn Gardens. The hotel also features the Central Coast's only Moët & Chandon Champagne vending machine and Paso Robles' only rooftop lounge, Tetto.

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#### PASO ROBLES

### Oxford Corporate Announces Opening of Oxford Suites Paso Robles

The brand-new, five-story Oxford Suites Paso Robles recently opened, featuring 101 suites, including extended stay and pet-friendly rooms. This property features an on-site bistro, a fitness center, electric vehicle chargers, pool, hot tub, sauna, steam room and meeting rooms with on-site catering services. Complimentary amenities include a full hot breakfast buffet, evening reception, high-speed wireless internet and free parking. Once home to the California Almond Orchards, Inc. processing plant, which was fully operational when Paso Robles was known as "Almond Capital of the World," the hotel pays homage to this storied history in its design.

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#### SAN DIEGO

### New TownePlace Suites Debuts Near Liberty Station

The new TownePlace Suites by Marriott, San Diego Airport | Liberty Station opened in August, offering 222 rooms—all with kitchen units and Weber grills on the patio. The Navy-inspired, custom-built hotel provides complimentary hotel amenities, including a daily hot breakfast and shuttle service that stops in Downtown, Liberty Station, San Diego International Airport and Old Town, San Diego. The property also includes a 24-hour fitness center and guest laundry facilities.

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#### SAN DIEGO

### InterContinental San Diego Unveils New Rooftop Lounge

In September the InterContinental San Diego hotel debuted its newest food and beverage concept, Layover, located on the hotel's fourth floor rooftop. This outdoor lounge offers sweeping views of the sea and the downtown skyline, allowing guests an inspiring place to dine—either at the bar or lounge with Adirondack chairs surrounding several fire pits. The venue name nods to the four visible airfields, past and present—the USS Midway flight deck, the US Coast Guard air station, US North Island Naval station and San Diego airport.

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#### SAN DIEGO

### Hilton San Diego Airport/Harbor Island Gets Multi-Million-Dollar Makeover

The Hilton San Diego Airport/Harbor Island, located on scenic San Diego Bay, launched 211 upgraded guestrooms after a multi-million-dollar renovation in April. Along with interior updates, the modern guestrooms and suites all feature waterfront views, offering a balcony or patio with comfortable outdoor seating. The hotel's location offers easy access to watersports and marina activities.

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## SAN FRANCISCO

## Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf Completes \$30 Million Overhaul

Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf recently debuted a \$30 million property redesign which includes a reconfigured lobby and bar and upgrades to all 531 guest rooms and suites. The hotel now boasts the area's first and only Marriott Club Lounge experience with combined lobby and bar concept. The renovation included the new Northpoint Bar & Restaurant in the lobby, where guests can sip craft cocktails and local wines and beers while noshing on local seafood.

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## SAN FRANCISCO

## The Clift Royal Sonesta Hotel Gets Major Facelift

The Clift Royal Sonesta Hotel, a century-old gem located blocks from San Francisco's Union Square, recently launched a massive reimagination project set for completion in January 2020. The design will embrace the hotel's storied past while creating modern touches, including a noticeably brighter look, new furniture and upper-level cutouts that will suffuse the space with light. All guest rooms and suites will feature a refined neutral palette to promote a handcrafted look, while the Redwood Room will sport a refreshed décor that preserves its ambiance. Other updates include a new general session space with two-story, floor-to-ceiling windows, a new restaurant and revamped façade and Spanish Suite events space.

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## SAN FRANCISCO

## The InterContinental San Francisco Debuts New Updates

Following an extensive renovation, the luxurious InterContinental San Francisco recently unveiled its redone Michelin-starred Luce restaurant, lobby level Bar 888 and Presidential Suite. Chef Daniel Corey remains at the helm of Luce, serving a menu of seasonal flavors. Bar 888 offers a variety of specialty cocktails, culinary action station and a communal dining table with gold and brass cladding adorning the space. The expansive, two-story Presidential Suite now features private terraces with sweeping cityscapes, elegant dining room and living room, powder room, and master suite.

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## SAN FRANCISCO

## New Mantel Bar Takes the Stage at Hotel Zeppelin

The Hotel Zeppelin's new Mantel Bar, an intimate lounge with seating nestled by the lobby's gothic fireplace, offers live music performances, from progressive acoustic sounds to rock 'n' roll. The lounge evokes a historic San Francisco speakeasy and amplifies the hotel's counter-culture spirit. Hotel Zeppelin also regularly partners with Sofar Sounds, a global community which curates secret, invite-only gigs in unique spaces, from living rooms and churches to hoodie shops and fancy furniture showrooms.

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## SARATOGA

## Inn at Saratoga Boutique Hotel Joins Tapestry by Hilton Collection

The Inn at Saratoga will become the first Tapestry by Hilton in California this January. The inn, which underwent a full refurbishment in fall 2019, now boasts a new bar, The Heid. Named after local Saratoga architect legend Warren Heid, the bar serves seasonal social bites, classic cocktails, and local wine and beer in a charming creekside setting. The Silicon Valley property overlooks Wildwood Park and Saratoga Creek, and offers easy access to local wineries, Hakone Estate and Gardens and downtown Saratoga.

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## TRUCKEE

## Marriott SpringHill Suites Coming to Truckee

Located within walking distance of historic downtown Truckee, the new 114-room Marriott SpringHill Suites Hotel aims to open by the end of December 2019. The Marriott—Truckee's first new hotel property since the early 2000s, is located at the Coburn Crossing development. The hotel will feature an exercise room, pool room, small market, prep kitchen with breakfast center and a meeting room. A paved pedestrian/bike path will connect the hotel to 26 miles of paths in and around Truckee.

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## TRUCKEE

## Village at Northstar Brews Up Bourbon Pub Tahoe

Award-winning MINA Group and partner Vail Resorts will soon unveil Bourbon Pub at Lake Tahoe's premier Northstar California Resort. Set to debut by December 2019 for the forthcoming ski season, Bourbon Pub will bring reinvented pub fare in an exciting and approachable environment at the base of the Big Springs Gondola. The eatery will serve lunch and dinner daily—providing post-ski drinks, bites, and entertainment in the winter months, and a dining venue to enjoy in spring, summer, and fall. To pair with the elevated pub menu, the beverage program will encompass MINA interpretations of classic cocktails, locally inspired craft beer, and domestic wine served by the glass.

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## VACAVILLE

## Hyatt Place Hotel Opens in Vacaville

The new pet-friendly Hyatt Place Vacaville—the first Hyatt built in Solano County—features 136 rooms, including seven suites. Each room offers a work desk and ergonomic chair, along with a cozy corner sofa bed. Guests can enjoy amenities such as a 24/7 fitness center, 525-square foot meeting room, pool, coffee and cocktail bars, and a 24/7 marketplace with meals freshly prepared at any time of day. The spacious rooms, ranging from 336 to 713 square feet, also feature an energy efficient design, including a keycard slot that turns the lights on or off when guests insert or remove their room keys.

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## YOUNTVILLE

## Bardessono Introduces New Luxury Villas

The new Maple Grove Villas at Bardessono offer a grand respite for guests seeking more space with elite experiences. Guests can rent the villas—Flint, Jasper and Quartole—individually or as a three-bedroom retreat. Each villa boasts a stately living room, king bedroom, spa bathrooms and courtyard, while the center villas offer a spacious dining room for entertaining. The accommodations feature natural, earth-infused décor and refined Napa Valley experiences, such as personalized docent services. From making reservations and arranging exclusive tastings, to booking on-property experiences, Docents open the door to an insider's interaction with Napa Valley's renowned culture. Guests who reserve all three villas get access to a Bardessono Lexus to explore wine country in style.

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## CARLSBAD

## Windmill Food Hall Heats Up Carlsbad's Culinary Scene

Carlsbad's first food hall opened in September 2019, featuring over a dozen vendors serving dishes from poke and street tacos to lobster, fries, grilled cheese and rolled ice cream. The new Windmill Food Hall, located in an iconic roadside windmill landmark off Interstate 5 near LEGOLAND Resort, provides an eclectic and bustling concept with a full-service indoor-outdoor bar surrounded by upholstered chair stools and ample outdoor seating.

Guests can enjoy their meal at picnic tables, couches with coffee tables, high top tables and traditional dining tables, and play games from large-format checkers and pinball to Skee Ball. The décor mixes materials and elements from different eras, including Craftsman toolboxes, antique newspaper prints, old closet doors repurposed into tables and a shipping container converted into an indoor pizzeria.

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## CONCORD

## Concord's Food Scene Sizzles with New Offerings

The food scene in Concord, located in east San Francisco Bay and already serving 25 different global cuisines, will soon offer a wave of new eateries. Slated to open in winter 2019, the Yum Squared restaurant in downtown will offer Thai food, and this spring Doppio Zero in the Veranda Shopping Center promises top-notch Neapolitan pizza and Southern Italian cuisine. Brazilian steakhouse Texas de Brazil will serve grilled meats at the center this summer. The Kick N' Mule, expected to debut by summer 2020 at the Clayton Valley Shopping Center, will serve today's sports fan with more than 25 Moscow Mules, HD TV's throughout and anticipated favorites such as a Jalapeno Burger and San Francisco Crab Melt. Also coming mid-year MOC Crawfish in downtown will offer Cajun-style seafood and Vietnamese cuisine.

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## HEALDSBURG

## Baca Wines Opens Healdsburg Tasting Room

Wine lovers can pair great wines with panoramic vineyard views and top-notch artwork in Baca Wines' new tasting room in Healdsburg. The winery, whose name means "berry" in Latin, sources Zinfandel grapes from some of California's most noted growing regions, crafting wines that reflect the unique places in which they are grown. Its new tasting room offers flights of Baca wines, as well as wines from its winery partners, Walt and Hall.

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## HEALDSBURG

## Dry Creek Vineyard Launches New Farm Tour

Dry Creek Vineyards visitors can now journey beyond the walls of the tasting room and experience the biodiversity of the historic property on their new Farm Tour. Guests ride in style through the estate vineyards while delving into sustainable farming practices, relishing the vineyard views, and getting a firsthand look at the Dry Creek Habitat Restoration Project. The approximately two-hour tour for two to four people includes a tasting of wines from the very vineyards they explored.

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## KENWOOD

## MacLaren Wine Debuts New Tasting Cottage

MacLaren Wine recently unveiled their new tasting room in Kenwood, located on the north end of Sonoma Valley. Guests at MacLaren Cottage can savor wine at the indoor farmhouse table or on the outdoor wrap-around deck, taking in beautiful vineyard

and mountain views. Winemaker Steve Law guides guests through a flight of limited-production Syrah, Pinot Noir, and Sauvignon Blanc, made with grapes from vineyards in the cooler, fog-blanketed areas of Sonoma County.

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## MORRO BAY

## Popular Morro Bay Brewery Opens Bigger Location

The popular Three Stacks and a Rock Brewing Company recently remodeled and moved into the former Morro Bay Aquarium site on the Embarcadero. The owner of the brewery, which originally operated on Main Street in North Morro Bay, plans to operate at least three to five years at the 595 Embarcadero space, and possibly beyond, as the Central Coast Aquarium continues to raise money for a new multi-million dollar aquarium facility at the same site.

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## MORRO BAY

## Port House Restaurant Opens on Embarcadero

Port House Restaurant, Morro Bay's latest eatery to debut on the embarcadero, serves California coastal cuisine with an Italian flair—and signature steaks—as well as hand-crafted cocktails such as the Calm Seas, Anchor Management and the Blackberry Schooner. Located on the former site of Otter Rock Café, the restaurant features a nautical theme throughout, with waterfront seating, overstuffed couches and a beautiful bar.

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## NAPA

## Bouchaine Vineyards Rolls Out New Visitor Center

In October Bouchaine Vineyards opened its new 5,000-square-foot visitor center, designed in a semi-circle to maximize views of the vineyards, surrounding hills, San Francisco Bay and the 2,100-square-foot terrace. Cut from one tree, the tasting room bar features reclaimed solid cypress slabs and provides an inviting view of the large terrace and Carneros region. The Copeland Room features a massive see-through fireplace built with stone from a nearby Napa Valley quarry, with a large mantle made from reclaimed timbers. The room seats up to 80 people, featuring a stunning 750-square-foot contemporary open-design kitchen for food and wine education programs. Tours now begin at the visitor center, including the Falconry Experience, Happy Tails & Trails Dog Walks and more.

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## NAPA

## Downtown Napa Welcomes New Tasting Room

Downtown Napa recently opened its latest tasting room across from the iconic Oxbow Public Market. The new WALT Napa Oxbow boasts wines that span the West Coast's premier vineyard sites, offering guests the chance to experience its 1,000 Miles of Pinot in a new location. New WALT programs at the venue include Root 101, where experts deconstruct the dishes—curated for the tasting room and prepared by legendary Napa restaurant Carpe Diem—and delve into how each individual element interacts with their Pinot Noir. In the new Chocolate Pairings experience, guests taste Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from six different appellations, paired with customized, locally sourced artisan chocolates from chocolatier Chris Kollar.

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## OLYMPIC VALLEY

## Restored '70s Tram Car Bar Warms Visitors at Squaw Valley

The Tram Car Bar, a restored 1970's Squaw Valley tram cabin, debuted in November on the Olympic House deck, serving drinks as the Aerial Tram soars overhead. Skiers and riders can duck into the cabin for beer, wine and a signature retro cocktail in the 7,000-pound silver tram cabin, which nods to Squaw Valley's storied past with its original logos and unique shape of the cabin. The quirky bar serves as an ideal après-ski photo opportunity with the iconic Tram Face in the background.

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## OXNARD

## Oxnard Serves Up New Culinary Options

Oxnard's culinary options recently expanded with the opening of Vineyard Café near the financial district. The new restaurant offers a hearty breakfast menu, complete with breakfast burritos, pastries, omelets and cereals, and a smoothie bar for custom drinks. Vineyard Cafe also offers lunch options such as hot and cold sandwiches, "grab-and-go" salads and low carb dishes. Texas de Brazil Steakhouse also debuted at Riverpark, serving a variety of churrasco-style barbecue meats carved tableside on demand.

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## PALM SPRINGS

## New Roly China Fusion Debuts in Palm Springs

Restaurateur Chad Gardner just opened Roly China Fusion, a bar and restaurant that brings highly anticipated Chinese cuisine to Palm Springs. Inspired by Gardner's husband Roly, an artist who created all the art inside, Roly China Fusion offers a vibrant, whimsical and refined dining experience. The space holds 150 guests and includes a pet-friendly patio with a street-facing buddy bar, a main dining room, a lounge that occasionally features a live DJ and a private dining room featuring a Chef's Table, where up to 12 guests can taste Chef DJ's most exquisite offerings. Executive Chef DJ Cheek, formerly of TAO Los Angeles and TAO Las Vegas, creates traditional Chinese cuisine with a modern twist. Chef Yolanda Cheek, an experienced dim sum chef and Chef DJ's wife, prepares a Dim Sum Happy Hour as well as a Weekend Dim Sum Brunch.

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## PETALUMA

## The Bagel Mill Debuts in Petaluma

Artisan bakery and eatery Bagel Mill recently opened in Petaluma, serving a full breakfast and lunch menu. The company's bagel-making process takes more than 36 hours, resulting in a bagel that is more nutritious, complex, and easier to digest. Bagel flavors include plain, poppy seed, sesame, onion, garlic, everything, cinnamon raisin, marble rye, whole wheat, pizza, and pesto. Breakfast dishes include bagels with egg and cheese or classic lox, a seasonal frittata sandwich, while lunch items range from egg salad, Vegan Dream, BLAT (a BLT with avocado) and pastrami Reuben, to spicy turkey club, and smoked trout salad—all served on a bagel. Other menu items include a side salad, fruit salad, potato salad, and bread and butter pickles.

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## SAN DIEGO

## Upscale Pan Asian American Eatery Debuts Downtown

San Diego's downtown waterfront recently welcomed its latest upscale restaurant, Anima. This Pan Asian American eatery—the latest culinary venue from Top Chef Brian Malarkey's collective—serves cuisine created by Executive Chef Joe Magnanelli, formerly of San Diego's celebrated Urban Kitchen Group. The coal-fired menu utilizes a Jospier oven and Japanese robata grill to prepare large format proteins like West Coast Wagyu, with the finest raw seafoods presented as crudos. Three menu standouts include: steelhead trout poke with sea bean, daikon, shiso and plum vinegar; tom yum mushrooms with burrata and leek; and black garlic udon noodles with lobster, chili, choy sum, bisque and espelette.

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## SANTA MONICA

## Santa Monica's Newest Rooftop Restaurant Opens at Hotel Shangri-La

Santa Monica's Hotel Shangri-La recently unveiled Terrace at Onyx, a new rooftop restaurant offering stunning ocean views. Guests enjoy an elevated al fresco dining experience featuring internationally inspired, California cuisine prepared in the custom wood-fired oven. The menu—created by Executive Chef Jessica Bedolla—sources seasonal ingredients from the Santa Monica Farmers Market. The menu's main attraction—handcrafted pizzas—delight gluten-free, vegan and paleo diners with three crust options, including traditional, cauliflower and chicken.

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## SANTA ROSA

## Belden Barns Winery Introduces Kids' Scavenger Hunt

While Mom and Dad taste wines at Belden Barns Farmstead & Winery, the kids can borrow the winery's scavenger-hunt-style "adventure" backpacks and wander the 55-acre property in search of flora, fauna, and random or whimsical items. Equipped with the backpacks, filled with field guides to local birds or insects, magnifying glasses, sketchpads, crayons, and a checklist of things to find, kids can search for things like an acorn, an owl pellet, a feather, something heart-shaped, and more. Perched at 1,000 feet on Sonoma Mountain, the Belden Barns site boasts a long history of farming and hospitality dating back to the late 1800s.

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## SONOMA

## Palooza Restaurant Opens Cornerstone Beer Garden

The folks who own the popular neighborhood eatery Palooza Brewery & Gastropub in Kenwood just opened the Palooza Beer Garden & Eatery in Cornerstone Sonoma—home of Sunset magazine's outdoor kitchen and test gardens, tasting rooms, and unique shops and galleries. The new family- and dog-friendly eatery features hyper-local foods and wine. The menu includes small plates with local cheeses, salami, and black sesame hummus, as well as delicious sandwiches and burgers, hearty salads, and assorted beverages including milkshakes.

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## TORRANCE

## Multi-Concept Brewery and Food Hall Debuts in Torrance

Torrance recently welcomed its first multi-concept brewery and food hall. The Brews Hall @ Del Amo features two breweries, four restaurants and a full bar—all under one roof. Breweries include: BUZZROCK Brewing Co., featuring craft-style beers with a rock and roll vibe; and George Lopez Brewing Co.: Ta Loco Cerveza, created in partnership with comedian George Lopez and featuring authentic Mexican-style beers. The new restaurant roster includes: Lopez's Chingon Kitchen, featuring Mexican cuisine; Colin Cowherd Herd's Burger, launched with sports personality Colin Cowherd; Rock'N Fish Grill, known for its fresh seafood; and Chicken T'WILI (The Way I Like It), serving classic fried-chicken dishes.

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## TORRANCE

## New Taproom Brews Up in Torrance

Smog City Brewing Company recently unveiled its second Torrance taproom, Smog City West. Specializing in sour and classic beers, the new venue offers 17 taps with up to seven experimental and sour brews not available at other locations. Smog City West features cozy pine wall art, a SoCal-meets-Japanese design concept and a long bar and lounge area for savoring brews and dishes guests can bring in from the nearby mall.

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## TRUCKEE

## New Restaurants Open in Truckee

Openings: ROCO and Truckee Food Shop open in Truckee, CA. Truckee's dining options recently expanded with the opening of ROCO, which serves traditional Mexican cuisine and Japanese ramen in two unique dining rooms and bars. On the eatery's right side, one dining room and bar features Mission Trail influences in its design, while Japan's artistic history and vibrant street life transform the left dining room and bar. The new Truckee Food Stop offers an eclectic, ever-changing selection of on-the-go sandwiches, seasonal entrees and sides, housemade jams and assorted desserts. truckeefoodshop.com

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## TUOLUMNE COUNTY

## Tuolumne Debuts Two Trendy Restaurants

Known for its outdoor Yosemite mountain adventures, Tuolumne County also offers on-trend dining options with its latest new restaurants. Historic downtown Sonora's new Independent Wine Co., a wine bar and bottle shop owned by the local chef legend Eric Davis and wine expert son Gardner, features rotating small plate selections paired with the wines. Drawing on his degree from Cal Poly in wine and viticulture, Gardner curates wines that speak to the duo's unique experiences and interests. The Hotel Charlotte's new restaurant, Charlotte's Tavern, boasts California fusion, garden-to-table comfort dishes and a full bar overseen by an expert mixologist.

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### LOS ANGELES

## L.A. Cooks Up First Mexican Culinary Museum

L.A. Plaza Cocina—the first museum and teaching kitchen dedicated to Mexican food—will soon debut in downtown L.A.’s Olvera Street at LA Plaza Village. The multi-disciplinary venue—set to open winter 2020—will celebrate and educate visitors on Mexico’s culinary heritage, from its indigenous roots to its contemporary interpretations, through an array of exhibitions, cooking classes, lectures, workshops, and culinary festivals.

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### LOS ANGELES

## New Stadium Premieres in Hollywood

The 70,000-seat SoFi Stadium at Hollywood Park, scheduled to open summer 2020, will house L.A.’s two NFL teams—the Los Angeles Chargers and the 2019 NFC Conference Champion, Los Angeles Rams. The state-of-the-art, open-air stadium will host Super Bowl LVI in 2022, the College Football National Championship game in 2023, and the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2028 Olympics. The Taylor Swift concerts on July 25-26 will usher in the venue, billed as the future of sports and entertainment.

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### OAKLAND

## Burning Man Exhibit Fires Up Oakland Museum of California

The Oakland Museum of California’s (OMCA) recently unveiled “No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man” exhibit featuring spectacular artwork and large-scale installations from one of the most widely celebrated cultural events in the world. The immersive and multisensory extends beyond the gallery walls into the Museum’s public spaces—including an OMCA-commissioned 40-foot-tall outdoor temple by internationally-acclaimed sculptor David Best. The exhibit—running through February 16, 2020—also shows commissioned works, jewelry, gifts, costumes, “mutant” vehicles, sculptures, photography, ephemera, paintings, artifacts and special programming.

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### SAN DIEGO

## Natural History Museum Launches 80 Free Guided Hikes

Now through June 2020, the San Diego Natural History Museum hosts over 80 free hikes led by citizen scientists and volunteers known as the Canyoners. Guides lead mid-week hikes throughout San Diego County, to destinations often crowded on weekends due to limited access, such as the Equestrian Trail in Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve or Luelf Pond Preserve in Ramona. Some trails offer shorter hikes with little elevation change—good for younger hikers—and some very flat and paved hikes perfect for strollers and anyone with a disability. Depending on the weather, hikers can see waterfalls on the Cibbets Flat to Kitchen Creek Falls hike and the Green Valley Falls Loop. Hikes include some of the most interesting geological areas in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, including Fish Creek/Split Mountain and Canyon Sin Nombre—perfect for slot canyon fans.

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### SAN DIEGO

## Maritime Museum Unveils Vintage Postcard and Photography Exhibit

Maritime Museum of San Diego recently opened its latest exhibit, “Wish You Were Here,” featuring vintage postcards and photography from around the globe that commemorate the seafaring experience and preserve the region’s rich maritime heritage and historic connections with the Pacific world. The show debuted Nov. 16 in the Compass and Gould Eddy Galleries aboard the national historic landmark, the 1898 steam ferryboat Berkeley. The exhibit I, which runs through May 2020, includes a brilliant collection of black-and-white international Ports of Call photography and the chance for guests to design their own vintage postcard to snail mail to friends.

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### SAN JOSE

## Winchester Mystery House Introduces Axe-Throwing and Escape Experiences

Winchester Mystery House recently unveiled two exciting new experiences at its historic property. The world-famous attraction literally gives guests the axe with its axe-throwing experience next to the stables. After signing a waiver and getting coaching, guests 18 and older can step back in time into the shoes of Sarah Winchester’s workers, who occasionally entertained themselves by throwing axes at targets. The attraction also revealed its new escape experience, the Houdini Themed Challenge Room, featuring puzzles inspired by Houdini, who visited Sarah Winchester’s home in October 1924 with his wife, Bess, during his nationwide spiritualism lecture tour. Although he had intended to debunk

the house's haunted theories, he left with more questions than answers. The experience, designed by Paradox Escape Rooms, is in the mansion's former Firearms Museum.

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#### SIMI VALLEY

### Discover Egypt's Lost Cities in Conejo Valley

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, perched on a mountaintop with sweeping views of Conejo Valley, recently unveiled its Egypt's Lost Cities exhibit, which runs through April 12, 2020. The exhibit, included with admission, showcases more than 250 of authentic artifacts, including three colossal 16-foot sculptures of an Egyptian pharaoh, a queen, and a god. The show also features the Stele de Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II, an 18-ton monolith on display the first time in the United States. To help tell the story of these ancient lost cities, the exhibit also includes ancient Egyptian artifacts from museums in Cairo and Alexandria.

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#### FAMILY FUN

#### FRESNO

### Fresno Zoo Launches New Behind-the-Scenes Encounter

The Fresno Chaffee Zoo invites guests five years of age and older to get a little wild with the attraction's latest behind-the-scenes encounter. The new Gills and Thrills program lets visitors join zookeepers to get up close and personal with white-spotted bamboo sharks. During the experience, guests can nurse sharks in the Stingray Bay pool and learn what it takes to care for the sharks and rays. The intimate experience, limited to two guests in the pool, lasts an hour and costs \$75 per person for members and \$90 for non-members.

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#### SAN DIEGO

### San Diego Zoo Safari Park Introduces New Rhino Calf

San Diego Zoo Safari Park guests can now meet its latest resident, Edward the baby southern white rhinoceros. Born in July, the calf weighed 148 pounds at birth and tipped the scales at 243 pounds within a month. This calf, created by artificial insemination, represents a critical step in the organization's ongoing work to help genetically recover the northern white rhino, a distant subspecies with only two remaining on Earth—both female. All the rhinos at the park's Nikita Kahn Rhino Rescue Center live off-exhibit, so guests can only see them on a behind-the-scenes tour, or when they hang in the exhibit yard. Visitors can also see the greater one-horned rhino

calf named Anusha, born August 29, 2019, with her mom on a Cart Tour or Caravan Safari. The public can view Edward and other animals on the park's Instagram account.

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#### SAN DIEGO

### Children's Museum Unveils New Tot Studio

The New Children's Museum recently partnered with internationally acclaimed artist, designer and craftsperson Tanya Aguiñiga to create a reimaged Tot Studio. The new studio space, tikitiko, allows toddlers and caregivers to make meaningful experiential connections around abstract, animal-shaped forms covered in colorful, soft and furry textiles. The sensory-based experiences aim to stimulate brain development, motor skills and social interaction for the museum's youngest visitors, who can explore, touch, hug, and engage with the elements in the studio, as well as learn social skills while they engage with each other. The space also features rotating hands-on learning experiences to nurture lifelong developmental skills and family bonding.

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**PUBLIC CONTACT:** THE NEW CHILDRENS MUSEUM, (619) 233-8792, INFO@THINKPLAYCREATE.ORG WWW.THINKPLAYCREATE.ORG

#### SAN FRANCISCO

### The Escape Game San Francisco Debuts

The Escape Game San Francisco recently opened in the Financial District, offering a unique, non-franchised escape room experience, featuring games and themes that go beyond the typical lock and key designs. The family friendly escape rooms, designed to engage all five senses—such as smelling spices to decipher a clue, or knocking on scenery to reveal the next step, features a variety of games. The Prison Break game lets guests, wrongfully sentenced to life without parole, attempt an escape, while the Gold Rush invites

participants to find a greedy gold prospector's hidden stash. In another intriguing game, The Heist, guests try to recover a masterpiece recently stolen inside a prestigious art museum. All games encourage teamwork to escape.

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## OUTDOOR RECREATION

### HOMEWOOD

## Homewood Mountain Resort Expands Snowmaking & Grooming Capabilities

New access to water resources will double Homewood Mountain Resort's snowmaking capabilities this season, making it possible to open more terrain earlier and ensure a high quality snow surface all season long. Homewood's PistenBully winch cat offers high performance snow grooming with lower fuel consumption, efficiently maintaining the resort's most well-trafficked trails with low emissions that comply with EPA Tier 4 standards. The resort also launched a new "Easy as 1-2-3" program where skiers and boarders ages 13 and up get rewarded with a 2019/20 Season Pass after completing the lessons.

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**PUBLIC CONTACT:** JESS WEAVER, JVP COMMUNICATIONS, (530) 448-6981, JESSICA@JVPCOMMUNICATIONS.COM, WWW.JVPCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

### OLYMPIC VALLEY

## Alpenglow Expeditions to Launch New Backcountry Adventures

Alpenglow Expeditions will soon introduce two new winter adventure activities for the 2019-20 season. Based in The Village at Squaw Valley, the local mountain-guide service will lead half-day snowshoe tours through the beautiful Shirley Canyon starting Dec. 2019. Also new this winter, skiers and riders looking for a quick trip to the next secret stash can explore the backcountry in a single run, using the chairlifts at Squaw Valley to check out unexplored terrain and untracked powder.

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### OLYMPIC VALLEY

## New Treeline Cirque Chairlift Takes Flight at Alpine Meadows

The new \$10 million Treeline Cirque chairlift will debut at Alpine Meadows this winter season. This detachable, high-speed quad chair transports skiers and riders from base area to the Sherwood ridge in five minutes. The lift will feature a mid-station for quick access to some of Alpine's best low-to-intermediate terrain. From the top terminal, skiers and riders can drop into expert terrain on the frontside or venture into the back bowls of Sherwood, which boast the resort's best views of Lake Tahoe. The protected alignment of Treeline Cirque makes it favorable in high winds and inclement weather, and the rapid access from the base area will dramatically improve the skier experience.

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### SAN FRANCISCO

## Salesforce Transit Center Reopens

San Francisco's Salesforce Transit Center and Salesforce Park reopened in late 2019. The rooftop of the public transit center features a 1,400-foot long, 5.4-acre public park stretching four city blocks and featuring a wide range of activities and amenities, including an outdoor amphitheater, gardens, trails, open grass areas, and a children's play space. The park, with 600 trees and 16,000 plants, offers free, year-round events and activities—from dance parties, concerts and fitness classes to free yoga, crafts and games. Visitors can also find a wine and beer garden in the park and food trucks below. A privately-operated gondola, free and open to the public, carries visitors directly to the park from Mission and Fremont streets.

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### TRUCKEE

## Tahoe Pyramid Trail Now Complete

The Tahoe-Pyramid Trail just launched, allowing hikers and bikers to walk and ride with spectacular views from Tahoe City through Truckee, down to Reno and all the way to Pyramid Lake. Following the entire length of the Truckee River, the 114-mile trail descends more than 2,000 feet, using a combination of existing dirt and paved roads, bike paths, historic roads and new sections of trail and bridges. One of the million-dollar views comes from the difficult-to-construct 600-foot boardwalk—attached to a rock known as "Hogback"—which overlooks the river's "Jaws" section, a notable rafting obstacle.

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## TOURS & TRANSPORTATION

### MONTEREY

## Two Wheel Tours Rolls into Monterey

Visitors to Monterey can now explore the famous seaside town in an engaging, environmentally friendly way with the new Two Wheel Tours. This new tour company allows guests to rent electric scooters and take self-guided GPS tours of Monterey and Pacific Grove. Riders need only provide their driver's licenses and basic bicycle skills—and then they're ready to roll. Renters can enjoy the wind in their hair as they take in the quaint shops and ocean views, comfortable in the knowledge their vehicles don't release any emissions.

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### OAKLAND

## Oakland International Airport Announces New Concessions

Oakland International Airport announced 17 new food and drink vendors opening soon between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. Scheduled to open in stages—mostly within the first half of 2020—the new vendors will include: Brown Sugar Kitchen, featuring southern comfort food; Drake's Brewing, a modern tap brewery; Red Bay Coffee, boasting locally roasted java; Oakland A's Club House; Tay Ho Oakland, offering Vietnamese cuisine; Luka's Taproom and Lounge, featuring French-

inspired California food; Calavera Oaxacan restaurant; Southie New American eatery; A16 Italian bistro; Peet's Coffee, Farley's Italian food; and Oaklandish Coffee Collective.

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### OAKLAND

## New Ferry Route and Shuttle from Oakland to SFO Launches

Visitors to Oakland can now skip Bay Bridge traffic and enjoy scenic views with a new ferry and shuttle service to San Francisco International Airport. The San Francisco Bay Ferry service, which launched in September, allows guests to board at Oakland's popular Jack London Square or the Alameda Main Street Ferry Terminal, and disembark at the South San Francisco Ferry Terminal. A free shuttle bus picks them up and transports them to the airport. The total trip takes just over an hour. The shuttle bus will also take passengers on inbound flights from the International Terminal to meet afternoon and evening ferry departures back to Alameda and Oakland.

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## SHOPPING

### MARINA DEL REY

## New Waterfront Shopping Center Debuts this Winter

The Boardwalk at Marina del Rey debuts winter 2020, offering 80,000 square feet of retail, patio dining, boater amenities, outdoor plazas and more. Encompassing more than 10 acres of waterfront along Mindanao Way, Admiralty Way and Bali Way, the center's boating amenities include 100 boat slips, new dry dock storage, a dinghy dock, a boaters' lounge with restrooms and showers, a boat repair shop and boat sales offices. The restaurants will offer abundant outdoor dining options, all which boast floor-to-ceiling glass showcasing stunning views of the water. Cyclists can enjoy great views as they pedal along the main bike path which tuns across the front of the center.

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### VENTURA

## Ventura Harbor Village Welcomes New Artisan Retailers

Waterfront shopping destination Ventura Harbor Village recently welcomed two artisan retailers. Top This Chocolate made shopping even sweeter when it opened in October, allowing chocolate lovers the rare opportunity to make their own treats. They can choose from delicious premium milk, white or dark liquid chocolate from California, and top it with a selection of more than 40 toppings, including nuts, dried fruit, candy, cookies, salty snacks and seasonal options. Then, chocologists pour

the chocolate to create sumptuous chocolate bars, squares or hearts. Artisan bath and body boutique Lemon & Lei also opened in October, offering natural products ranging from handmade lavender and lemongrass bath bombs and sugar body scrubs to cupcake soaps and coconut wax candles. Originally only available at regional farmers markets, and made from locally sourced ingredients such as honey, goat milk and avocados, shoppers can now access these popular products at the brand's first brick and mortar store.

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## WELLNESS

### SANTA ROSA

## Soulstice Mind + Body Spa Expands Offerings

Soulstice Mind +Body Spa in Santa Rosa added a variety of new healing treatments and wellness classes at its new studio in October. New offerings include meditation, sound healing, classical Pilates, and more. Originally focused on massage therapy and bodywork, the spa's professional massage therapists and world-class teachers now offer more than 25 weekly classes, expert bodywork, and workshops.

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## MILESTONES & LOOKING AHEAD

### CONEJO VALLEY

## Conejo Valley Hotel to Revamp

The Hyatt Regency Westlake aims to redefine Modern Mediterranean with its \$12 million renovation of all its 263 guest rooms, baths, meeting spaces, lobby and restaurant. When completed by April 2020, the hotel will boast 65-inch HDTVs, a massive upgrade and a completely redone 7,800-square-foot ballroom and additional 18,000 square feet of unique event spaces.

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### ESCONDIDO

## California Center for the Arts Celebrates 25th Anniversary Season

The California Center for the Arts, Escondido recently announced its 25th anniversary season. Continuing through 2020, the season boasts an exceptional line-up of acclaimed performers, ranging from Buddy Guy, Jimmie Vaughan, Charlie Musselwhite and Renee Flemming, to David Foster, Natalia Lafourcade, Patton Oswalt and Chris Botti. The lineup also features shows such as: An Evening with Sophia Loren, Napoleon Dynamite: A Conversation with Jon Heder and Whose Live Anyway? Events take place in the 1,523-seat Concert Hall and 404-seat Center Theater. To celebrate the milestone, the center will offer outdoor events in the 3,500-seat Great Green and 388-seat Lyric Court.

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### MARINA DEL REY

## New Hotels Debut in Marina del Rey

Courtyard by Marriott and a Residence Inn by Marriott will enter the Marina del Rey hotel scene in summer or fall 2020, together offering 288 total guest rooms, 1500 square feet of meeting space, a shared lobby, waterfront restaurant, outdoor bars, second-level outdoor terrace with marina views, fitness center, 28-foot wide-pedestrian waterfront promenade and a new public dock service. The 159-room Courtyard by Marriott will cater to business travelers with offerings such as free, in-room desks and a variety of spaces for meetings and individual use. Next door at the six-story 129-room Residence Inn by Marriott, larger suites and penthouses designed for extended-stay guests will feature personal kitchens, separate living room areas, in-suite workspaces and wraparound decks overlooking the marina.

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### OAKLAND

## Oakland Museum of California Gets a Makeover Next Summer

In summer 2020, the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) will get a major facelift, literally breaking down walls to create a more open "front porch" facing Lake Merritt including, a public café and a more inviting space for their famous Friday Nights at OMCA. The museum remains open during the renovations, which include other campus improvements such as a new entrance into the gardens, and garden patio and terrace upgrades featuring new ADA access and native plantings from four California ecosystems. A permanent garden stage will provide the opportunity for a wide range of summer programming, from movies to music.

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## OAKLAND

## New District Coming to Oakland

On track to becoming the largest revitalization project in Oakland since World War II, the Brooklyn Basin will bring a new district along the city's waterfront, featuring parks, restaurants, retail, residences, and more. Phase one, planned for completion by spring 2021, will include the opening of diverse dining, retail, a 10-acre park along the waterfront and 465 units of housing.

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## SANTA CRUZ

## Venus Spirits Reveals New Restaurant and Distillery Expansion

Venus Spirits recently announced it will open a new tasting room, distillery and restaurant this spring on the west side of Santa Cruz in May 2020. The new dining experience will feature seating for up to 100, and an

11,500-square-foot distillery, all housed in an industrial section of town, reusing an expansive warehouse space. Wood and coated steel add to the urban-chic feel at the venue, which will boast a full kitchen, bar, tasting room and indoor-outdoor space including patio seating. Menu items will include bar snacks, small plates, fresh salads and sharable entrees. The distillery will offer tours every half hour, serving spirits from other small-batch craft distilleries. Venus will also pour a new rum, which has been aging in barrels since the inception of the project.

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## SANTA ROSA

## Hotel E Announces Spring Expansion

The Hotel E, a Greystone Hotel which opened in the historic Empire Building on Santa Rosa's central Courthouse Square in July, recently revealed details of an expansion coming this spring. The hotel, which currently offers an Eonology Lounge wine bar, will soon feature a rooftop café, Starbucks, full-service restaurant, and two impressive suites—bringing the property-wide total

to 70 guestrooms. Perry's Restaurant—the San Francisco brand's first wine country location—will serve classic American comfort food, with signature dishes including steaks, Cobb Salad, French Onion Soup, and the Perry's Hamburger, plus an extensive wine, beer and cocktail menu. The new suites, located on the top floor, and the rooftop café, will offer great views of the square.

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