

THIS IS SAN FRANCISCO

SF PEOPLE+STORIES+STYLE

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SAN FRANCISCO

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*Alive
and Kicking*

The 7 bands you've
got to see—and hear

The
Graham Legacy

Ben Fong-Torres on
the one-and-only
Bill Graham

*Playa to
the People*
Is Burning Man art
here to stay?

*Summer
Hot List*

Our top 20
reasons to get
out and play

the
Entertainment
issue

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7x7SF.COM WHERE YOU NEED TO BE.

Rykarda Parasol in
Kerouac Alley, outside
Vesuvio Café, p. 80

NEWS FROM THE ROAD

It's not too early to begin planning that fall tour of Ireland. The trip just became a lot easier with **Aer Lingus' new nonstop service from SFO to Dublin**, which launches Oct. 28. As of press time, round trips were starting as low as \$600—leaving you lots of dough with which to sample pub life. aerlingus.com

San Diego's **Hotel del Coronado** has been quietly undergoing big changes. First came the new restaurant 1500 Ocean last year, headed by Jason Shaeffer, formerly sous chef at NYC's Per Se. In January, the Spa at the Del premiered, with its private terrace and vanishing-edge pool. And this month, the new Beach Village offers 78 ocean-view rooms set apart from the hotel proper, with fireplaces, balconies and patios. hoteldel.com

June marked the Wine Country debut of **Solage Calistoga**, a "barn-house meets loft" resort whose 89 rooms all offer patios, concrete floors and



flat-screen TVs. At the on-site spa's Mud Bar, you can partake of Calistoga's famed mineral-rich muck. Solage also lends you two cruiser bikes to explore the area during your stay. solagecalistoga.com
-RR

Take 7: Laguna Beach

ORANGE COUNTY'S BOHEMIAN ENCLAVE EPITOMIZES THE CALIFORNIA GOOD LIFE.
BY ROBIN RINALDI



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): SURF'S UP IN THE OC; THE TUSCAN-INSPIRED ST. REGIS MONARCH BEACH AND ITS LAP POOL; POACHED EGGS ON TOAST AT ZINC CAFE.

1 SLEEP LIKE A QUEEN

It's a few miles south of town, but the **St. Regis Monarch Beach** (stregismb.com) is the area's only five-star hotel, and the difference is obvious. With its private beach, "surf butlers," meticulously decorated rooms, 30,000-square-foot spa and St. Regis level of service, consider yourself hopeless if you can't manage to relax here. Even if you stay elsewhere, have dinner at the hotel's **Stonehill Tavern**—Michael Mina's only SoCal outpost, it features such signature dishes as salt-baked lobster and whole fried chicken.

2 STROLL FOR ART

Though its hip factor may be up for debate, you won't see anything quite like LB's **Festival of the Arts** (*through Aug. 31; foapom.com*). The country's longest-running

outdoor exhibition features original works by local artists (many of them affordable), as well as the strange cultural phenom known as the **Pageant of the Masters**, wherein classic paintings are re-created using sets and live models. Running concurrently right across the street is the **Sawdust Art Festival** (sawdustartfestival.org), another popular art fest that includes workshops, auctions and live music.

3 CATCH A FREE RIDE

The popularity of the festivals means crowds, so if you don't want to spend your time stuck in traffic, use the **free shuttle service** (949-497-0766) the city operates until Labor Day. Every 20–30 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., the shuttles run from points north and south into downtown, and from downtown to the festivals and back.

4 EAT OUTSIDE

The prime choice for breakfast is the leafy patio at **Zinc Cafe & Market** (zinccafe.com), where homemade granola, huevos rancheros with mango-papaya salsa and fresh-baked muffins and tarts all shine with a healthy glow but still taste sinful. Dinner or happy hour is well-spent on the seaside terrace of **Las Brisas** (lasbrisaslagunabeach.com), where Mexican food and killer margaritas make for a nice south-of-the-border buzz.

5 BROWSE AWAY

The funky fashions at **Muse** (300 Forest Ave., 949-497-7026) include several designs you won't find just anywhere, such as Dolce Vita shoes and flirty print dresses by Alice & Trixie. If the glorious weather and white sand have you fantasizing about buying a beach house, dream away at **Tuvalu Home** (295 Forest Ave., 949-497-3202), where rattan dining sets and candleholders made of driftwood and shells make you feel as if you've walked into a *Cottage Living* photo shoot.

6 GET ALL WET

This is the place to give surfing a go. At **Soul Surfing School** (soulsurfingschool.com), a two-hour lesson runs \$125. The school provides wetsuits and all the equipment; you just show up ready to pounce from a lying-down position to an upright one—kind of like jumping straight from Cobra to Warrior 1 in yoga class—about 50 times in a row, on moving water. Hey, when in Rome, right?

7 ACCOMPLISH A MISSION

Just 14 miles down the coast, **Mission San Juan Capistrano** (mission.sjc.com) makes a lovely outing. Walk under the arches of its central courtyard, see the moody ruins of the Great Stone Church and sit in the hushed candlelight of Serra Chapel, California's oldest building, meditating on the Spanish Baroque altarpiece. You'll emerge refreshed and ready to take on more of the OC. x