

THIS IS SAN FRANCISCO

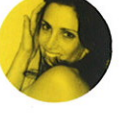
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JUNE '08 7X7.COM



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NEWS FROM THE ROAD

Ever try to get a last-minute hotel room in Monterey for the weekend? Impossible!

InterContinental Monterey The Clement should help. Opening this month on Cannery Row, it's got 208 rooms (many with fireplaces and soaking tubs), a spa, an indoor lap pool and the C Restaurant and Bar. intercontinental.com

Beer lovers have a new option in Wine Country: Sebastopol's **Hopmonk Tavern** takes craft beers as seriously as its vintner neighbors take their *terroir*. High-end pub fare (charcuterie, mussels) is paired with Hopmonk's own brew, plus local favorites from Moonlight, Lagunitas and Russian River brewing companies. hopmonk.com

WEEKEND SHERPA

VIVE L'ORANGE

The best bike ride in SF is something tourists do all the time: **Ride over the Golden Gate to brunch in Sausalito**. Follow the bike path from Marina Green through Crissy Field and onto the bridge. After you've pedaled across, refreshed and salty-lunged, roll on down to Sausalito's smooth bikeways. Break for brunch at **Caffe Trieste** (caffetrieste.com), an engaging slice of North Beach in Sausalito; you'll know the place by the pack of bikes parked out front. If you're tired at



this point, simply hop a ferry back home (blueandgoldfleet.com). Bike to bridge to brunch to Bay: perfect! —Brad Day

For more ideas from Weekend Sherpa, go to 7x7.com and click on "People."



(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT): ALTHOUGH THE WEALTHY COASTAL COMMUNITY OF LA JOLLA FEELS MILES AND MILES AWAY FROM SAN DIEGO, IT ACTUALLY LIES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS; THE FOUR-LEVEL ENVY NIGHTCLUB IN THE GASLAMP QUARTER'S IVY HOTEL HOSTS DJs THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY NIGHT; ORGANIC BEET AND CITRUS SALAD WITH POMMERY-MUSTARD VINAIGRETTE IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF CHEF CARL SCHROEDER'S FRESH FARE AT MARKET DEL MAR RESTAURANT.



Take 7: San Diego

THE FOG'S DUE ANY DAY NOW. TIME TO HEAD SOUTH—WHERE SUMMER MEANS SUN. BY CHRISTINE RYAN

1 FLYING HIGH

The easiest way to get down to San Diego used to be Southwest—especially after the discount airline came back to SFO last year—but Virgin America's \$39 one-way fares have totally turned our head (virginamerica.com). Yes, Southwest's website sometimes matches those deals, but until its homey planes start offering Dish TV, Amy Winehouse MP3s and a way to order snacks through seat-back touch screens, our heart belongs to Virgin. Plus, flying out of the International Terminal (with restaurants such as Ebisu) beats Terminal 1 any day of the week.

2 BEACH CLASSIC REBORN

Like a grand ocean liner inexplicably moored on dry land, the exquisitely renovated **Hotel del Coronado** (hoteldel.com) offers it all: spotless beach, pools, spa, wine bar, four restaurants (including the very ambitious 1500 Grand) and now a separate beachfront development of 78 "cottage" and "villa" suites with its own pool. Think Restoration Hardware gone Stinson. But the Del, as it's fondly known, doesn't stand aloof from its neighbors on sleepy Coronado Island (just across the bay from downtown San Diego): On Father's Day, for instance, you'll find the family-friendly Crown Room brunch filled with locals.

3 FARM TO TABLE

Even though San Diego County boasts Chino Farm—maybe the state's most famous produce stand—"locally grown" hasn't yet become a mantra here, which may be why 18-month-old restaurant **Market Del Mar** (marketdelmar.com) stands out. Not surprisingly, chef-owner Carl Schroeder has SF credentials, having worked with both Michael Mina and Bradley Ogden. He plans his menu each morning while shopping at, yes, Chino Farm, coming up with combos such as an Indian-spiced Waldorf salad or a short-rib "Wellington" with pea-shoot salad. The restaurant itself seems more SoCal slick than NorCal earnest, but what's on the plate will make you feel at home.

4 COMING ATTRACTIONS

SF will welcome its own Maya Lin sculpture next April, when the first installment of her memorial to extinct species opens at the new Cal Academy of Sciences. In the meantime, you can get a Lin fix at the downtown branch of San Diego's **Museum of Contemporary Art** (mcasd.org), where her exhibit "Systematic Landscapes" is up till the end of this month: rolling

"hills" of wood blocks, river-like cracks in a concrete floor and suspended mountain ranges made of twisted wire. The museum is housed in part of the city's Santa Fe Depot—don't miss the gorgeous tile work in the Amtrak waiting room next door.

5 DEEP BLUE SEA

We go to Southern California for the beach life—and nothing epitomizes it more than La Jolla. Walk along the town's absurdly picturesque cornice; stop at the Children's Pool to watch the seals and sea lions (and, therefore, no children) basking on the sand; or have French toast at **Brockton Villa** restaurant (brocktonvilla.com), which occupies a historic bungalow overlooking the Pacific—a relic of La Jolla's past as a summer getaway for wealthy San Diegans.

6 NEWEST NICHE

Over the past decade, San Diego has been rediscovering its downtown: first the Gaslamp Quarter and now **Little Italy**. Originally a stretch of India Street lined with tuna canneries, the district now encompasses about 46 square blocks of hip retail and mid-rise lofts. The cutest shops are those in the teeny workers' cottages on Fir between India and Columbia, including **Niche** (nicheboutique.com) and the florist **Che Bella Fiori** (chebellafiori.com). A few blocks south, on West Beech, you'll find **Subtext** (subtextstore.com), a bookstore-gallery à la Park Life—on show right now: the edgy work of Tijuana artist Sandra Equihua.

7 DEADLY SIN NO. 6

The fun thing about SoCal nightlife is that you can finally wear those sexy slip dresses you can't break out in the SF chill. **Envy**, the four-tiered nightclub in the Gaslamp Quarter's super-swanky Ivy Hotel (envysandiego.com), is just the backdrop for your recently sun-kissed shoulders. Lounge on leather couches on the main floor, gaze at the crowd from the mezzanine or head down the spiral staircase to the huge dance floor, where DJs spin seriously danceable hip-hop and funk. x