

Drought-friendly garden plans

Sunset

**THROW
A SUMMER
WINE
PARTY**

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SAVOR the COAST

**35 new reasons
to hit the beach, from
Laguna to Seattle**

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recipes**
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resorts**
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hikes**
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shops**
& more

Middle Man
Cove, Laguna
Beach, CA

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BEST of the BEACH



You think you know the Pacific Coast? Take it from us: There are still lots of surprises. Here are 35 of the best *new* places to eat, drink, hike, and make the most of summer, from San Diego up to Seattle.

ALISO BEACH PARK, LAGUNA BEACH

THOMAS J. STORY

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

and his buddies. Now Nick's has added a 2-acre kitchen farm, The Croft, whose lettuces, strawberries, eggs, and herbs put a locavore spin to the restaurant menu. Standouts here are the seafood, including oysters and a spectacular crab mac and cheese, and the amazing water buffalo's-milk gelato from nearby Double 8 Dairy. *Restaurant \$\$\$, cottages from \$349; 23240 U.S. 1; nickscove.com.*

14 TERRIFIC TERROIR Fort Ross Vineyard

This winery in Jenner is one of the most spectacularly situated in California. Views from the hilltop tasting room extend south along the Sonoma Coast to take in, on a clear day, the Farallon Islands and Point Reyes. As for the wines produced up here, they're good too—especially the 2011 Pinot Noir Symposium Pinot, blended with 3 percent Pinotage grapes, honoring the owner's South African birthplace. *\$15 tasting; fortrossvineyard.com.*



15 BLUFFTOP BEAUTY California Coastal N.M.

Added last year, the 1,665-acre Point Arena-Stornetta unit is the only on-land portion of the

national monument, which extends 1,100 miles along the coast. Best access is from the pullouts on Lighthouse Road; signage is still iffy, but the bluff-top trails are easy to follow and stunning. Worthy detours include Point Arena Lighthouse, tallest on the Pacific Coast; in town, Franny's Cup and Saucer, whose post-hike cakes, cupcakes, and puddings are beyond delicious. *Monument: on.doi.gov/lud4UTR. Lighthouse: \$7.50; pointarenalighthouse.com. Franny's: Closed Aug 23–Sep 1; 213 Main St.; frannyscupandsaucer.com.*



16 SWEET SEQUEL Heritage House Resort

The piano still sits in the corner of the bar. The ocean views are still cinematically romantic. A generation fell in love with this resort in Mendocino County's Little River after it costarred in 1978's *Same Time Next Year*, starring Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn. And when it suffered financial reverses and closed for much of a decade, fans felt as battered as if they'd gone through their own nasty divorces. Now Heritage House is back, with tastefully renovated guest rooms, a good restaurant, and, soon, a small spa. Construction continues, but what's done will bring back happy old memories or make happy new ones. *From \$209; heritagehousesort.com.*



HUMBOLDT
BAY TOURISM
CENTER



17 BEACH AND BREAKFAST Oyster Beach, Samoa

On 14 acres of the sandy peninsula that forms the west boundary of Humboldt Bay stand three once-ramshackle cottages now very stylishly redone. They're probably not for everyone—a few neighboring buildings have fallen from ramshackle to ruined. But they're elegant and comfortable, and the beach is good for long, moody walking. And you're only minutes away from a true

Western landmark: the Samoa Cookhouse, which has served hearty lumber-camp meals (breakfast is our favorite) in the same rambling red building since 1893. *Cottages: From \$190; oysterbeach.squarespace.com. Samoa Cookhouse: \$\$; 908 Vance Ave.; samoacookhouse.net.*

18 LOCAL LUNCH Humboldt Bay Tourism Center

Housed in a gorgeously ornate late-1800s building in Eureka's pretty downtown, this has what you'd expect from a good visitor center: souvenir T-shirts and caps and brochures on local attractions. But it also has something you don't expect—Taste, an inviting oyster bar where you can lunch on Humboldt Bay bivalves along with local breads, cheeses, wines, and microbrews. *humboldtbaytourismcenter.com.*