

# SANTA BARBARA

THE AMERICAN RIVIERA®



GOLETA :: SANTA BARBARA :: MONTECITO :: SUMMERLAND



Photo by Blake Bronstad

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE MANY NEIGHBORHOODS  
OF THE SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST.

# LOCAL ALLURE

BY HANA-LEE SEDGWICK

This idyllic, seaside destination, also known as The American Riviera®, captivates with its historic charm, luxury accommodations, outdoor activities, and thriving wine and food scene. With diverse neighborhoods offering a different slice of life in Santa Barbara, you'll never tire of exploring this coastal paradise. →

*Stearns Wharf is the hub of Santa Barbara's waterfront.*

# DOWNTOWN SANTA BARBARA

## ABOUT

Blending historic Spanish Colonial architecture with modern day conveniences, Downtown Santa Barbara encompasses a mix of cultural sights and museums, classic and new eateries, unique shops and well-known favorites, plus plenty of lively bars and breweries scattered in between. Lately, State Street has received a vibrant new energy that reminds us that it truly is downtown Santa Barbara's main attraction.



## DON'T MISS

- **A 360-degree view of Santa Barbara.** Climb to the top of the iconic **Santa Barbara County Courthouse Clocktower**, constructed in 1929, to take in panoramic views of the city's red-roofed buildings and surrounding mountains.
- **Imbibing at a local watering hole.** At **Joe's Cafe**, strong cocktails have been served alongside classic American fare since 1928, making it a Santa Barbara institution for dining and drinking. Savor local and international wines at **Satellite**, a restaurant and wine shop.
- **Picking up local produce.** Every Tuesday evening, lower State Street transforms into a pedestrian-only area for the **Santa Barbara Certified Farmers' Market**, where you'll find a variety of vendors selling fruit, vegetables, local honey and nuts. For even more of Santa Barbara's bounty, visit the larger Saturday farmers' market—located in a parking lot off Cota and Anacapa Streets—where you can join the community as they gather to support eating local.
- **Visiting a historic theater.** Located in the **Historic Theatre District**, the **Granada Theatre**, first opened in 1924, the **Lobero Theatre**, California's oldest continuously operating theater, and **The Arlington Theatre**, built in 1931, welcome a variety of performing arts and musical acts to their stages. The Arlington Theatre also shows regular box office hits.

## STAY

For a serene place to rest your head just steps from the buzz of downtown, head to the Spanish-style **Kimpton Canary Hotel**, where a rooftop pool, popular restaurant and evening wine hour sweeten the deal. →

Photos by Blake Bronstad



*Clockwise from opposite left: Santa Barbara Farmers' Market, The Valley Project, Rosé at Margerum Tasting Room, Santa Barbara County Courthouse*



## THE FUNK ZONE

### ABOUT

This once abandoned warehouse district off of State Street near Cabrillo Boulevard is now one of Santa Barbara's most visited neighborhoods, welcoming thirsty locals and tourists looking to take advantage of its plentiful wine tasting rooms and breweries. While the Funk Zone is home to over half of the tasting rooms on the Santa Barbara **Urban Wine Trail**, even those passing on wine will enjoy stopping by for the destination-worthy eateries, eclectic art and youthful spirit that this neighborhood encompasses.

### DON'T MISS

• **Drinking wine and beer.** Sip wine in front of a floor-to-ceiling chalk art mural depicting Santa Barbara County's winegrowing areas at **The Valley Project**, compare the nuances of pinot noir at **Pali Winery** or head over to the expansive **Margerum Tasting Room** for a chilled bottle of rosé.

- **Eating.** There may not be as many eateries here as there are tasting rooms, but you won't be disappointed. Check out **Shalhoob's Funk Zone Patio**, where the family-owned meat and poultry business has been in operation since 1973 and recently expanded to offer an open-air restaurant.
- **Photo ops.** Snap a photo outside of **Lucky Penny**, a restaurant with an exterior covered in thousands of pennies, then stay for one of their wood-fired pizzas on the patio.

### STAY

**The Wayfarer**, a boutique property offers 27 private hotel rooms and four shared, hostel-style rooms, as well as many shared spaces to encourage socializing. Also nearby, the **Hotel Indigo** features contemporary décor throughout its 41 guest rooms, some of which have private patios. →

# WATERFRONT

## ABOUT

Pristine views, expansive beaches and plenty of ways to make the most of Santa Barbara's coastal location, the Waterfront neighborhood is the place to be if you like sun, sand and ocean breezes. It's also home to a working Harbor and Santa Barbara's iconic landmark, **Stearns Wharf**. This historic wharf dates to 1872 and is the oldest working wood wharf in California.

## DON'T MISS

- **The seafood.** Visit the Harbor on Saturday mornings to buy fresh catch directly from local fishermen, or for a sit-down restaurant experience, you can't beat the surfer vibe of the **Endless Summer Bar Café**. Dine on a Rincon burger or halibut tacos while watching sports—or surf competitions—on one of the big screen TVs. Over at Stearns Wharf, **Santa Barbara Shellfish Co.** draws seafood-lovers for its fresh from the sea offerings and casual ambiance.
- **Exploring the outdoors.** Hop aboard **Sunset Kidd**, a 41-foot sailing yacht, to experience Santa Barbara from the sea, or rent an electric bike from **Wheel Fun Rentals** to venture out on your own.



## STAY

If waking up to an ocean view is what you're after, the family-friendly **Harbor View Inn** or the sprawling **Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort** will meet your needs, while amenities like fitness centers, pools and private patios or balconies further enhance a getaway. Coastal-chic décor meets classic Spanish Colonial architecture at the **Hotel Milo**, which is located in between Stearns Wharf and the Harbor and pier. →

Top photo by Blake Bronstad

# HALEY CORRIDOR

## ABOUT

The newly coined "Haley Corridor"—a strip along Haley Street between Laguna and Nopal—is loaded with worthy coffee shops, bars and eateries.

## DON'T MISS

- **The Mill.** There's a brewery (**Third Window Brewing**), a winery (**Potek Winery**) and a home design shop (**Millworks**), all surrounding a courtyard.
- **Wine.** Stop into **Carr Vineyards & Winery**, which produces all of its wines from Santa Barbara grapes. The venue hosts art shows, live music, special dinners and private parties. →



Top photo by Blake Bronstad; center photo by JessLynn Perkins; bottom photo courtesy of Twenty-Four Blackbirds

# PRESIDIO

## ABOUT

Situated in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara, the historic Presidio neighborhood gets its name from the last of the Spanish fortresses (called presidios) it surrounds. This attractive area offers an authentic taste of Santa Barbara.

## DON'T MISS

- **Eating at some of Santa Barbara's oldest restaurants.** Established in 1983, **Paradise Cafe** has been a locals' favorite for its oak wood-grilled Paradise Burger. **Wine Cask**—founded in 1985—offers an elegant dining experience inside the El Paseo complex. Next door, strong margaritas beckon at the longstanding Mexican restaurant, **El Paseo**.
- **Drinking Santa Barbara wine.** Experience some of the area's pioneering winemakers at **Au Bon Climat**, grab a spot on the courtyard patio at nearby **Grassini Family Vineyards** and **Jamie Slone Wines**, or pop into **Happy Canyon Vineyard's** tasting room. Book a tour through **Eat This, Shoot That!** Their El Paseo Wine Tour will give you a lay of the land.
- **Rejuvenate.** Get a spa service at the hidden oasis that is **Float Luxury Spa**. Or, take a yoga class while experiencing the benefits of Himalayan pink salt at **Salt**, home to the largest underground salt cave in North America.

## STAY

The boutique **Spanish Garden Inn**, a tranquil escape in the heart of downtown, allows you to start each day with complimentary breakfast in the courtyard and end it by relaxing beside your in-room fireplace. →

◦ **Sample artisan chocolate.** At **Twenty-Four Blackbirds**, single-origin, hand-crafted chocolates are available daily in their retail shop and chocolate factory.

◦ **Shopping** for effortlessly elegant slip dresses, blouses and coats at the **Catherine Gee** boutique and showroom.

◦ **Coffee & Cocktails.** The eco-friendly **CAJÉ** boasts elaborate coffee creations. At night, the space transforms into **Lab Social**, where the cocktails are equally as impressive.





*Left to right:*  
Ganna Walska Lotusland,  
Coast Village Road



## DON'T MISS

- **Flora and fauna.** A manicured estate-turned-public garden of tropical and subtropical plants galore fill **Ganna Walska Lotusland**.
- **Exploring the Miramar.** Take a selfie in the pink-hued lobby powder room at the new **Rosewood Miramar Beach**, then pick up a few items from the on-site Goop store before hitting the resort's Beach Bar for an Aperol Spritz as the sun goes down.
- **Shopping.** Meander through Coast Village Road, a mecca for chic fashion and one-of-a-kind goods for the home.
- **Sweets.** Head over to **Merci Montecito** for a delectable slice of cake, or opt for an artisanal ice cream cone at **Rori's** around the corner.

# MONTECITO

## ABOUT

The posh coastal community of Montecito offers a taste of the sweet life just minutes from Santa Barbara. Though filled with lavish estates, high-end stores and luxury hotels, Montecito still manages to have a laid-back approachability that is easy to fall in love with.

## STAY

The **Montecito Inn** was originally built by Charlie Chaplin in 1928 as a tucked-away getaway. Recently renovated, the property still carries a Hollywood Regency aesthetic with modern amenities. Steps from the sand, the **Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore Santa Barbara** charms with private bungalows, lush landscaping and a chic, oceanfront pool at the adjacent Coral Casino. If a room above the sand is what you're after, the luxe **Rosewood Miramar Beach** has stunning guest rooms directly overlooking the beach. →





*Top to bottom:  
Summerland Beach,  
Santa Barbara Polo  
& Racquet Club*

## SUMMERLAND

### ABOUT

South of Montecito, the quaint seaside village of Summerland charms with an eclectic mix of vintage shops, casual diners, unique boutiques and stunning views.

### DON'T MISS

- **Treasure hunting.** Hunt for vintage treasures throughout Summerland's numerous antique shops and be sure to stop into **Botanik** or **The Sacred Space** for the perfect garden accent. Browse for lifestyle pieces at **Field+Fort** and refuel at the on-site **Feast cafe**.
- **Picnic at the park.** Situated on the cliffs above the ocean is **Lookout Park**, a small park with picnic areas, horseshoes, a playground and beach access. Pack a picnic and stay a while.
- **Sunday polo.** The private **Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club**, founded in 1911, attracts spectators from around the world over, but during seasonal "Polo Sundays" anyone can pay a visit.
- **Book a sunset horseback ride** on the beach with **Los Padres Outfitters**.



### STAY

At the **Inn on Summer Hill**, you'll get to enjoy an afternoon wine reception, pristine views of the Pacific from your private balcony and, in true B&B style, complimentary breakfast each morning. →

# GOLETA

## ABOUT

A short drive north of Santa Barbara is the neighboring city of Goleta, lovingly referred to as “The Good Land.” The home of the University of California, Santa Barbara, this growing community has come into its own thanks to lively urban breweries, vast outdoor spaces and miles and miles of coastline.



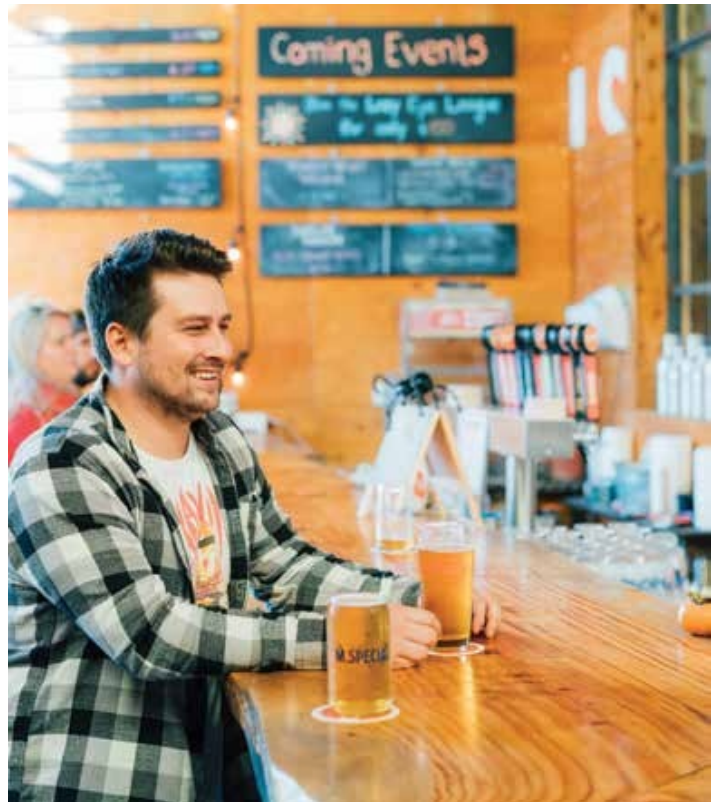
## DON'T MISS

- **Beach it.** Head to **Ellwood Beach**. Access to the uncrowded beach includes a brief hike. Once there, look for migrating Pacific gray whales.
- **Drinking craft beer.** You'll find microbrews and specialty ales, not to mention a regular lineup of food trucks, trivia nights and live music, between the local taprooms of **Draughtsmen Aleworks**, **M. Special** and **Captain Fatty's**.
- **Golf with a view.** A round of golf at **Sandpiper Golf Course** includes rolling fairways and challenging greens along the cliffs overlooking the sea. Or, the **Glen Annie** course features lush greenery and quaint water features with bridges and waterfalls.

## WHERE TO STAY

For a boutique hotel with a hip, West Coast vibe, stay at **The Kimpton Goodland**, where evening social hours and a happening pool scene create an inviting ambiance. Or, relax from the balcony of your ocean-view room at **The Ritz-Carlton Bacara, Santa Barbara**, an expansive resort offering secluded luxury away from the hustle and bustle of the city. ■

*This page top to bottom: Ellwood Beach, M. Special  
See p.128 for more on Goleta*



Top photo by Valerie Kushnerov, Bottom photo by Blake Bronstad