

BACKYARD MAKEOVER IDEAS p. 72

Sunset

GET UP
+ GO!

Summer Vacation Planner

BEST OF

**Alaska
Hawaii
Yosemite
Tahoe
& more**

**A FANATIC'S
GUIDE TO
DISNEYLAND**

**IN THE KITCHEN
WITH MARTIN YAN**

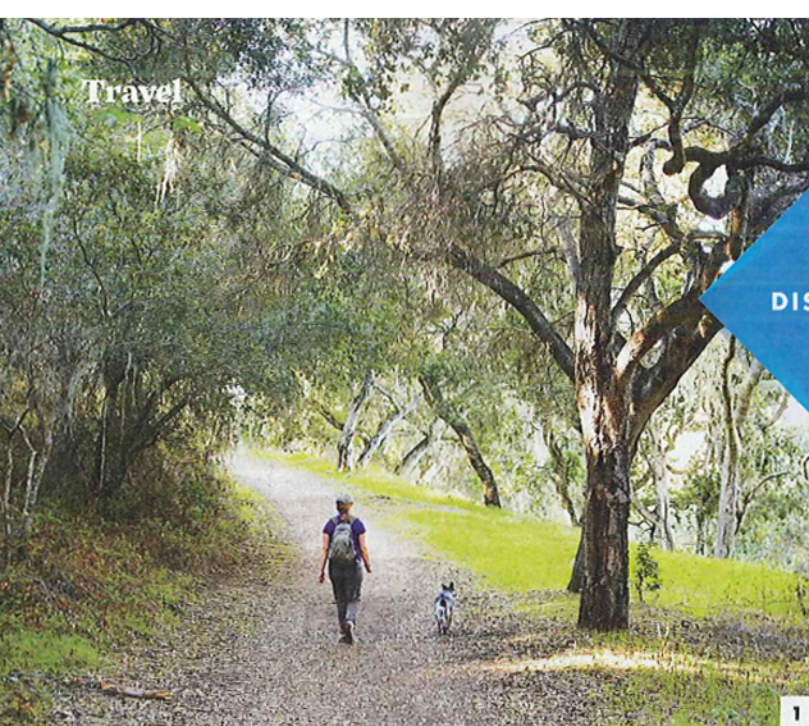
**EASY WAYS
TO SAVE WATER**

JUNE 2014



Murphy O'Brien
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

DISCOVER



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1. Garland Ranch Regional Park.
2. Plunge pools at Refuge.
3. Local legend Cowboy Pete Azevedo and his tractor.
4. Hilltop views from the Carmel Valley Ranch.
5. Beet salad with Lokal flavor.



3



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A PERFECT DAY IN

CARMEL VALLEY, CA

With better weather and just as much charm as its namesake neighbor, this ranch town is now home to new, top-notch tasting rooms. *By Rachel Levin*

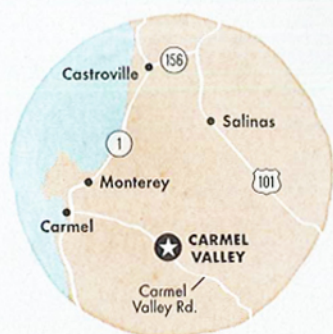
Drink wine on the wagon

Locals love to tell you how 30 years ago there were only two or three tasting rooms in these parts. But today you can turn your teeth purple at 20 locations. What was once an

accountant's office is now a mini plaza serving some of the region's best juice: Look for the brightly acidic Chardonnay at **Joyce Vineyards** and jammy Merlot at **Parsonage**. The estate-grown Pinot Noir at **Holman Ranch** is rich and

intense, and so is its cold-pressed olive oil. If you just want to hang out with chickens and eat wood-fired pizza, the new **Cowgirl Winery** is your spot. All these tasting rooms are within strolling distance of one another, but it's hard to

resist a ride in Cowboy Pete Azevedo's tractor-pulled Wine Wagon, which he usually parks outside the plaza. It's technically free, but the 74-year-old grandpa appreciates tips. *Joyce, Parsonage, Holman: Tasting fees vary; 19 E. Carmel Valley Rd.;*



GETTING HERE

Carmel Valley is 16 miles southeast of Monterey. Take State 1 to Carmel Valley Rd.

joycevineyards.com; parsonage wine.com; holmanranch.com. Cowgirl: \$13 tasting; 25 Pilot Rd.; cowgirlwinery.com.

A whole new ball game

For those who get bored sipping wine and eating, Carmel Valley has found a playful complement: bocce. Courts are popping up everywhere, including outside **Talbott Vineyards'** new in-town tasting room. Along with the velvety Diamond T Pinot Noir, you'll find a patio and two well-manicured courts. Play in between bites of Monterey Bay abalone at **Marinus** at **Bernardus Lodge**, where alfresco tables border the bright green bowling lawn. More fun awaits at the recently renovated **Quail Lodge & Golf Club**, home to a serious mini-golf course, which you can follow with cocktails on the pondside deck. *Talbott: \$10 tasting; 25 Pilot Rd.; talbottvineyards.com.*

Marinus: \$\$\$\$; 415 W. Carmel Valley Rd.; bernardus.com. Quail: 8205 Valley Greens Dr.; quail lodge.com.

A hike and a soak

Carmel Valley's retirees like to walk their yellow Labs along the Lupine Trail in **Garland Ranch Regional Park**, but two-legged trekkers should climb to the meadow at the top of the waterless Waterfall Trail. If you need more incentive than the sweeping valley views, how about a trip to **Refuge**? The European-style day spa is Disneyland for adults, with hot pools, cold plunges, cedar saunas, and Adirondack-encircled firepits that look out to the hillside. *Garland: Free; 700 W. Carmel Valley Rd.; mprpd.org. Refuge: \$39 day pass; 27300 Rancho San Carlos Rd.; refuge.com.*

The best lunch spot in town

Its cement-mod courtyard may lack the Provençal atmosphere and gardens of the longtime Corkscrew Cafe, but **Lokal** merits a stop. It's also as close to city-chic as Carmel Valley gets. Chef Brendan Jones has lured in the town's growing under-60 set with a 28-foot bar made of salvaged redwood, microbrews on tap, and juicy skirt-steak sandwiches and duck-fat fries for lunch. Breakfast here is raveworthy too—especially the poached eggs with seasonal



6. Pony up a \$13 tasting fee at Cowgirl Winery. 7. There is no shortage of greens at Carmel Valley Ranch. 8. Talbott Vineyards' new in-town tasting room. 9. Olive oil tasting at Holman Ranch.

veggies. (Jones does weekend dinners as well, but on a recent visit, the "Veggies-Sea-Land" menu was a little more ambitious than delicious.) \$\$; 13762 Center St.; lokalcarmel.com.

Summer camp as you've never known it

A lot of hotels are explicitly for adults, or cater to kids only because they kind of have to, but **Carmel Valley Ranch** is intentionally a summer camp for all

ages. Instead of creaky cabins and mess-hall fare, it has luxe suites with soaring ceilings and a sommelier-led supper series. There's no bug juice either, so you'll have to settle for its first estate Pinot Noir. The 500-acre spread bustles with tree swings, tennis lessons, Pilates, outdoor yoga, beekeeping classes, and a new Hen House with fresh eggs from 18 chickens. There's the requisite swimming/spa/golf trio too. *From \$425; carmelvalleyranch.com.*

THE LOCAL LOWDOWN

"Even with all the new wineries, little has changed. You still see carpenters and farmers and Cowboy Pete riding his tractor around town."

—BRENDAN JONES, CHEF AT LOKAL