

Drought-friendly garden plans

# Sunset

**THROW  
A SUMMER  
WINE  
PARTY**

P. 94

# SAVOR the COAST

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

**7 picnic  
recipes**  
**10 relaxing  
resorts**  
**6 seaside  
hikes**  
**14 beach  
shops**  
**& more**

Middle Man  
Cove, Laguna  
Beach, CA

VISIT US AT [SUNSET.COM](http://SUNSET.COM) | AUGUST 2015

0AKLAND CA 94612-2706  
405 14TH ST STE 900  
PO1522  
#92312  
0740  
ELLIPSES PR  
VALUED READER SINCE 2014  
#2860 5544 640#SU 7182C404 A MAY16  
#BXNCG00 \*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*C-035  
|||

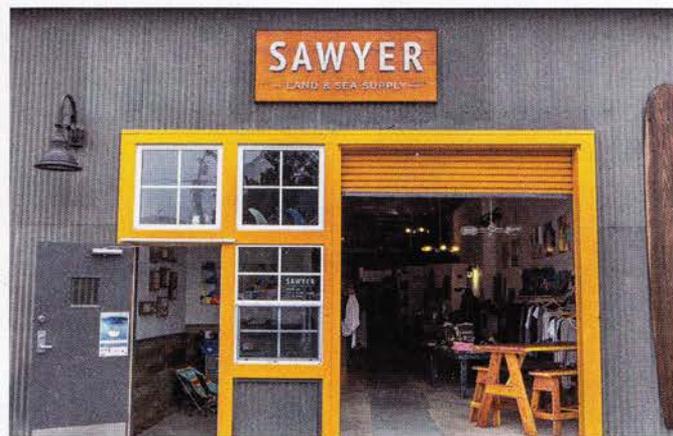
# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

THE SPLENDID COAST

Eat fresh oysters, drink great wine, stay luxuriously.

## 9 SUR SPLURGE Post House, Big Sur

When Billy Post and his partners developed 98 coastal acres of his Big Sur cattle ranch in the '80s, the land included the family home he'd built for his parents on a knolltop 1,200 feet above the Pacific. Last year, Post Ranch Inn embarked on a complete refresh of the 2,200-square-foot, one-bedroom Post House, where natural redwood interiors and walls of glass blur the boundaries between indoors and out. Adjacent to the large patio area is a private soaking tub that looks out over the rocky coastline and Santa Lucia Mountains to the south. Guests also have access to the resort's two infinity pools overlooking the ocean, as well as a complimentary Lexus if you want to leave the property for



a while ... and why would you do that, exactly? *From \$3,950; postranchinn.com.*

## 10 SURF STYLE Sawyer Land & Sea Supply

Nowhere does Santa Cruz's ocean-meets-redwoods spirit converge as joyfully as it does at Sawyer Land & Sea Supply, where owner Stacy Forrester curates smart sportswear, camping gadgets, and surfboards that reflect the town's active lifestyle. Forrester is determinedly Cruz-centric: Artwork from area artists is on display, and the hand planes

(for bodysurfing) and wooden bellyboards—themselves worthy of hanging on a wall—are crafted locally. The store, tucked into a corner of what was once cold storage for Brussels sprouts, has also become somewhat of a community gathering spot, where, on a given Friday or Saturday evening, locals hang out after hours to catch a surf film or local band. *402 Ingalls St.; sawyersupply.com.*

## 11 COAST ROAST Downtown Local, Pescadero

Not long after Nicole Sillapere and husband John Betteo moved from San Francisco to tiny Pescadero, they had their first aha moment: There wasn't a coffee bar for miles. So they set about creating Downtown Local on the main (and only) drag, serving drinks made from San Francisco-based Sightglass coffee beans. Browse the living room-like cafe/shop, where bins of record albums and shelves of vintage kitsch compete for space with Etta + Billie soaps and lotions, and trendy Deus Ex Machina clothing. Or if you prefer, slip into a chair in the back corner to sip your cappuccino while a projection TV plays silent movies. *213 Stage Rd.; (650) 879-9155.*

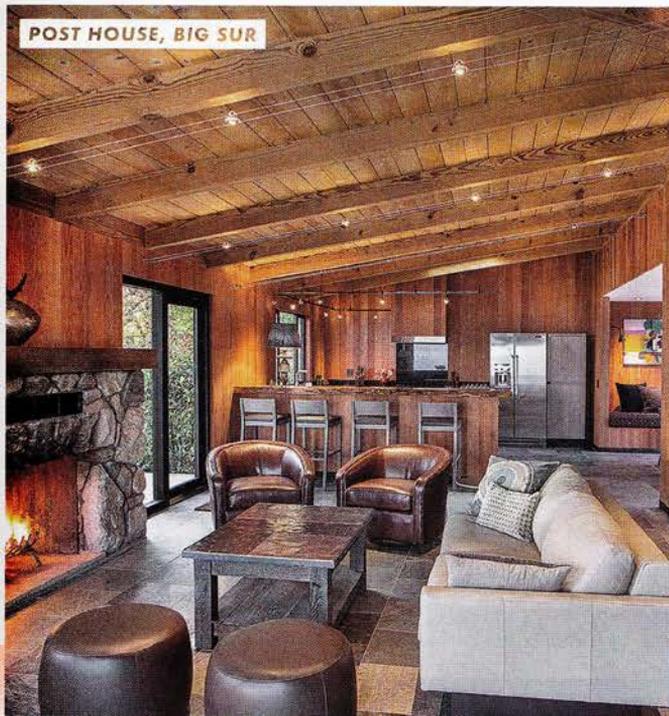
## 12 CREAMY RETREAT Straus Home Ranch, Marshall

The Straus family is a kind of West Marin County aristocracy. In the early 1940s, German- and Dutch-born parents Bill and Ellen Straus established a dairy farm in these rolling hills above Tomales Bay, and Ellen helped save the region from urban development. Decades later, son Albert made Straus Family Creamery famous for its organic dairy products. Now three more siblings—Michael, Vivien, and Miriam—have restored the original family farmhouse (which dates back to 1864) and opened it to groups of up to eight guests. The rooms are elegant, the setting bucolic, and, yes, the freezer is stocked with Straus Family Creamery ice cream. *\$750; straushome ranch.com.*



## 13 THE CROFT AT THE COVE Nick's Cove, Marshall

With its restaurant and knotty-pine cottages perched on pilings over Tomales Bay, Nick's Cove opened as an upgraded version of a joint your fisherman uncle—let's call him Nick—might build for himself



POST HOUSE, BIG SUR

## 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](http://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](http://fortrossvineyard.com).

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](http://on.doi.gov/lud4UtR). *Lighthouse*: \$7.50; [pointarenalighthouse.com](http://pointarenalighthouse.com). *Franny's*: Closed Aug 23–Sep 1; 213 Main St.; [frannyscupandsaucer.com](http://frannyscupandsaucer.com).

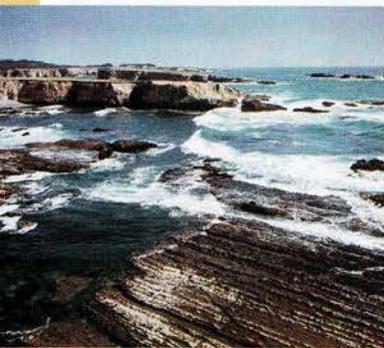


### 16 SWEET SEQUEL Heritage House Resort

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](http://heritagehousesort.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



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](http://oysterbeach.squarespace.com). *Samoa Cookhouse*: \$\$; 908 Vance Ave.; [samoacookhouse.net](http://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](http://humboldtbaytourismcenter.com).