

Auburn Journal

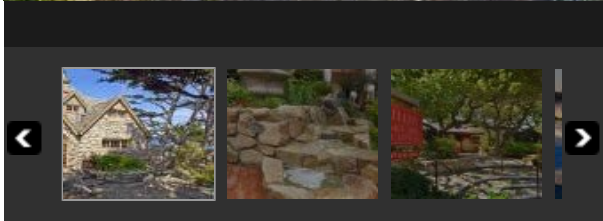
Monday Jun 01 2015 | 0 comments



Carmel-by-the-Sea continues to weave that magic spell

Pooches welcomed in shops and on the white sand beach

By: [Anne Papineau](#),



Who’s up for sharing s’mores on a moonlit, white sand beach? Ever meet a winemaker in a tasting room just steps from the one previously visited? Does a round of serious shopping speak to you?

No need to jet to Portofino or run up mileage fighting traffic between Napa Valley wineries. The community of Carmel is putting out a welcome mat that is surprisingly accessible to visitors from the foothills. First off, there’s no denying that posh, upscale beach town veneer. Maybe it’s all those unflinching-sea-spray-in-the-face homes fronting Scenic Road. These cottages and manses have no street numbers, just names. Sea Urchin. Periwinkle. Even, “3 SW of Seventh.” Maybe it’s the woman walking two great Danes who all look ready to star in something. Carmel itself has starred in a wealth of movies since early silent cinema days. Sometimes it stood in for Italy or England or the South of France. A few times it played itself. Maybe the filmmakers just wanted an excuse to work somewhere gorgeous.

With a little insider knowledge, today’s visitor can park once, ditch the car, and simply let the enchantment

Papineau’s picks:
Center of your Carmel world
Hofsas House
Where: San Carlos between 3rd and 4th
Info: (831) 624-2745,
hofsashouse.com

Must-see artists' collective

The Carmel Art Association

Where: Dolores between 5th and 6th

Info: (831) 624-6176,
carmelart.org

Splurge-worthy

The Grill on Ocean Avenue

Where: Ocean Avenue between Dolores and Lincoln.

Info: (831) 624 2569,
thegrillcarmel.com

Dining on a dime

Fifth Avenue Deli & Catering Company

Where: 5th between San Carlos and Dolores

Info: (831) 625-2688,
5thavedeli.com

Much wine, less cash

The Carmel Wine Walk by-the-Sea Wine Tasting Passport is available at the Carmel Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center

Where: San Carlos between 5th and 6th

Info: carmelcalifornia.org

sweep over like a kelpy wave.

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea itself occupies a mere square-mile. But decades of artisans and tradespeople have embellished that mile with art studios, courtyards and semi-hidden walk-throughs that make the place worthy of exploring in-depth, and returning to check out again.

Retailers make an effort to stock finds for those in search of quality and quirky. There are the marquee names, like Tiffany, as in "breakfast at," and shops run by lesser-known folks who have a way with batik, clay or silver.

While we're at it, it might be smart to borrow a dog — if you don't have one — to bring on that next trip to Carmel. Dogs are not just tolerated here, they're celebrated. Expect to see poodles and retrievers dining alongside their owners in many eateries. If they respond to voice commands, dogs are permitted to run, leash-free, on that iconic beach.

The Carmel Pine Cone newspaper, celebrating its first 100 years in print, runs a weekly homage to some hometown pooch, in its popular "Sandy Claws" feature. Actress and recording star Doris Day, herself an animal welfare activist, welcomes "four-leggers" to the Carmel hotel she co-owns, the Cypress Inn. This act appears to have had a domino effect on Carmel businesses, in that it's rare to find a restaurant or courtyard that doesn't reserve a water bowl and rest spot for dogs. The spacious Carmel Plaza Shopping Center is punctuated at center with its own "Fountain of Woof" watering hole. Most of the hotels and motels have set aside some dog-friendly rooms.

Lovers of wine will discover that Carmel has made it simple to meet Monterey County winemakers and taste their produce right in town. A Wine Tasting Passport, priced at \$65, provides tasters with a Wine Walk flight at their choice of any nine of the 14 tasting rooms. The Carmel Wine Walk by-the-Sea Wine Tasting Passport does not expire. Don't be surprised if the wine is poured and any questions answered by the



very winemaker who produced it.

Carmel gained a name in the early part of the 20th century as a center for art, both its making and marketing.

Dozens of galleries dot the streets. An exceptional source for art is the Carmel Art Association, established in 1927. It’s a non–profit cooperative where member artists show and sell their work. Expect to see a swath of styles, mediums and visions within its Carmel stone walls.

Dining–wise, Carmel restaurants are worldly and world–class. The same courtyards, not to mention main thoroughfare Ocean Avenue, house restaurants that crisscross cuisines and preferences.

Truly splurge–worthy is The Grill on Ocean Avenue, where a cheery fire beckons from the Carmel stone fireplace and the menu tempts at both lunch and dinner. Outstanding wines accompany such entrée choices as Oven–Roasted Duck Breast with Raspberry–Chambord Demi Glace or Cowboy Steak....

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