



# *Alaska* Beyond

Horizon Edition

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## Bellingham Beauty

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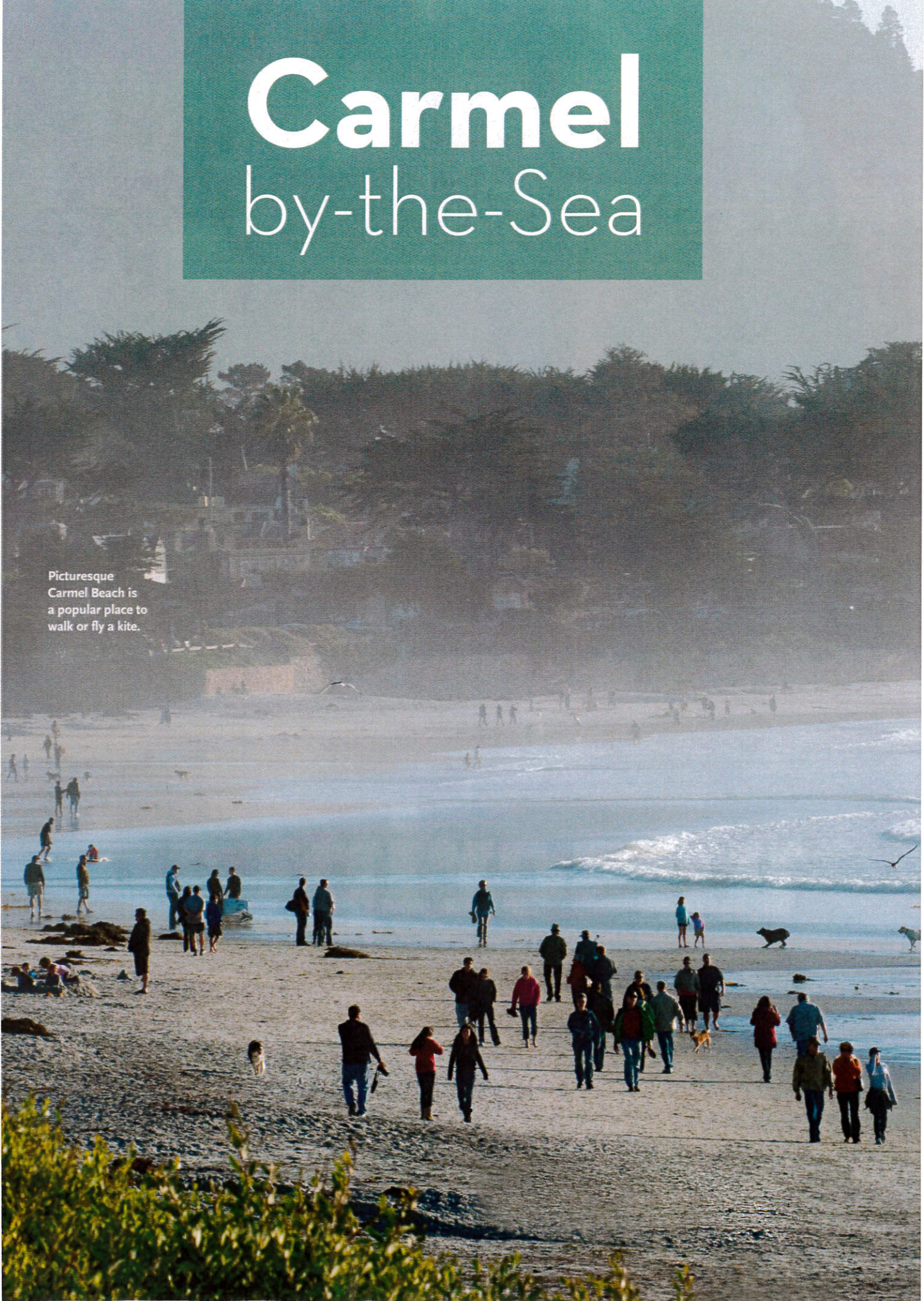
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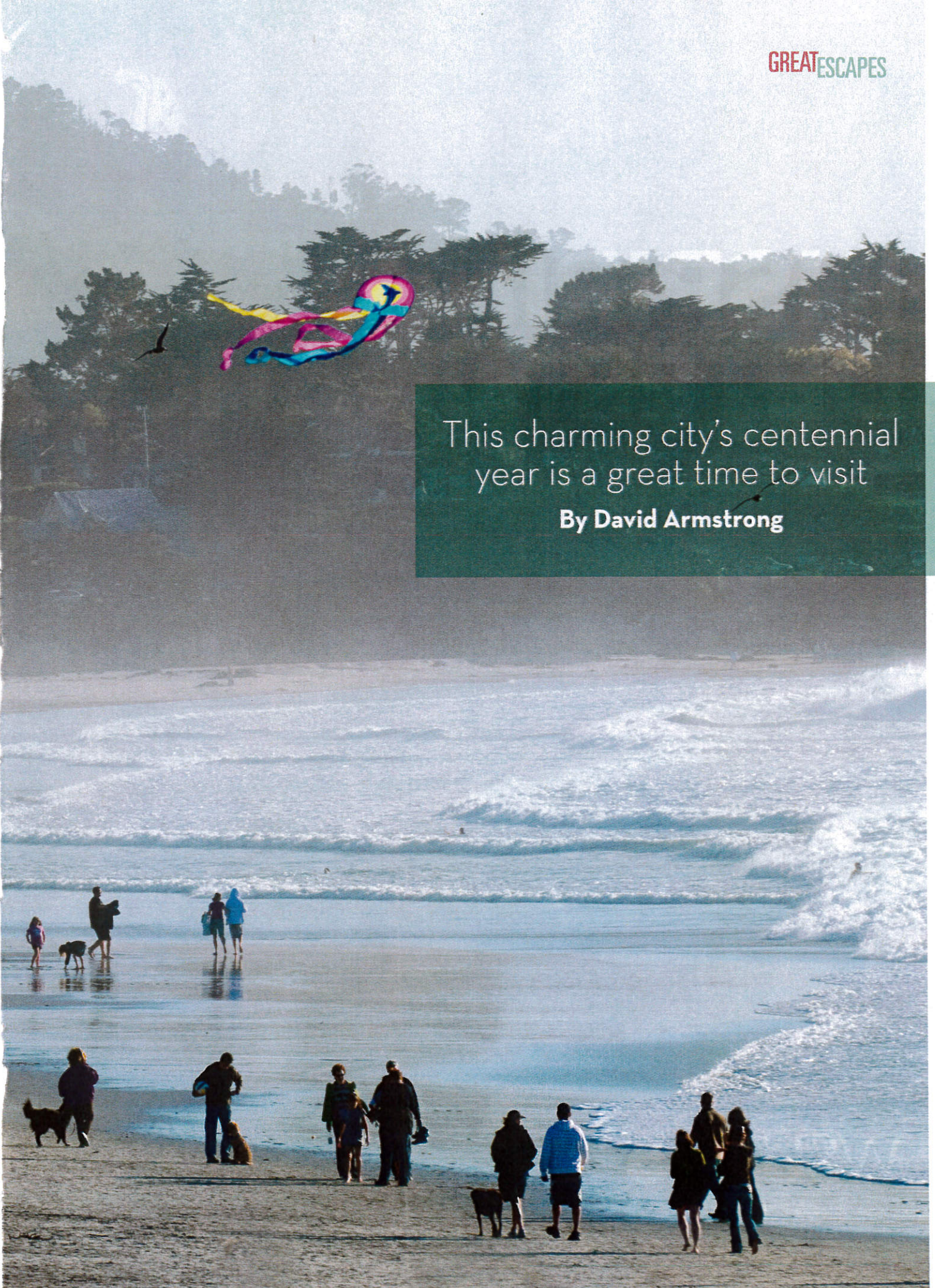
# Carmel by-the-Sea

Picturesque  
Carmel Beach is  
a popular place to  
walk or fly a kite.



This charming city's centennial  
year is a great time to visit

**By David Armstrong**





ERIC B. ANDREWS

**Salt air** refreshes and invigorates me as I stroll the white sands of **Carmel Beach** with my wife, Georgina. We greet a dozen other walkers and joggers, and are entertained by a half-dozen dogs frolicking in the foaming surf. Massive waves roll into Carmel Bay from the Pacific and break on black rocks. The sun peeks through morning clouds, revealing swatches of blue sky.

This gently curving mile-long beach has been a favorite of locals and visitors for generations in Carmel-by-the-Sea, one of the many inviting areas in Monterey County, California. In winter, the city-owned strand attracts hearty souls who love its storm-tossed beauty. In spring, summer and early autumn, the beach is populated by picnickers, hand-holding couples, energetic kids and multitasking parents, with sightseers driving under century-old cypresses along Scenic Road above the beach.

I began visiting Carmel years ago, and have always found it charming. Last year, Georgina and I fulfilled a longstanding dream and moved here, into a smartly renovated cozy home nestled amid Monterey pines on

an ocean-facing slope above the beach. The reality is even better than the dream.

We live in Carmel-by-the-Sea, a 1-square-mile minicity of 3,800 year-round residents. A few thousand more people live in contiguous neighborhoods just over the city line. Together, the city and surrounds are referred to as Carmel.

Although it's a small place, the community offers metro-area sophistication that will be showcased this year during the city's centennial. Carmel-by-the-Sea, which incorporated on October 31, 1916, will be celebrating its birthday with a yearlong series of 100 events (please see the sidebar on page 35).

**N**ative peoples lived in this beautiful area for centuries before Europeans arrived. Spanish explorer Sebastián Vizcaíno sailed the California coast in 1602 but didn't stay. Then, in 1771, Franciscan friar Junípero Serra moved his Monterey-area mission here to establish the **Carmel Mission**—Misión San Carlos Borroméo del Río Carmelo. By the 1880s, Carmel was starting to develop into a tiny resort and artists' colony. Celebrities who have lived in the Greater Carmel area over the years include Nobel Prize-winning novelist Sinclair Lewis, journalist Lincoln Steffens, poets Robinson Jeffers and George Sterling, and photographers Edward Weston and Ansel Adams. Nobel Prize-winning novelist John Steinbeck likely visited from his home in Pacific Grove, less than 10 miles north of Carmel. Hollywood stars Joan Fon-

Ocean Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea's main street, is lined with shops and restaurants.



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taine and Jean Arthur had Carmel-area homes, as Betty White does now. And prominent residents such as singer-actress Doris Day and actor-director Clint Eastwood—Carmel-by-the-Sea's mayor, 1986–88—have helped to shape this distinctive destination. Today, Carmel is a prime place to discover unique shops, savor fine dining, explore a gorgeous natural setting, and enjoy high-caliber arts and performances.

One of the first things Georgina and I did after unpacking boxes in our new home was attend the opening night of the **Carmel Bach Festival**, which was founded in 1935. Staged annually in venues around town, including the Carmel Mission Basilica, the Bach Festival (July 16–30 this year) is a critical success and popular favorite that brings accomplished musicians from around the world to Carmel stages.

So it was that we found ourselves on a summer evening strolling into the Sunset Center, a spacious former elementary school built in 1926 on an entire downtown block. It was opening night, with many in the audience dressed to the nines, sipping wine, chatting convivially before the concert and generating excited first-night buzz.

The Sunset Center's auditorium—a handsome hall with superb acoustics and

### Permit Required to Wear High Heels

Though often mistakenly thought of as an urban myth, the municipal code of Carmel bans wearing shoes having heels more than 2 inches in height or with a base of less than one square inch unless the wearer has obtained a permit for them.

While the local police do not cite those in violation of the ordinance, this seemingly peculiar law was authored by the city attorney in the 1920s to defend the city from lawsuits resulting from wearers of high-heeled shoes tripping over irregular pavement distorted by tree roots. Permits are available without charge at City Hall.

—Source: [carmelcalifornia.com](http://carmelcalifornia.com)

718 comfortable seats—hosts more than 150 performances throughout the year. But Johann Sebastian Bach is my favorite classical composer, so I was particularly pleased to be there for the festival—thrilled to hear Artistic Director Paul Goodwin's glistening rendition of Bach's *Sleepers Awake*, and happy to listen to Handel's rousing *Music for the Royal Fireworks* on that first festival night.

Greater Carmel attractions also include nearly 100 art galleries. The oldest, dating to 1927, is run by the **Carmel Art Association**, a nonprofit artists' cooperative. I often check out the exhibitions, which change monthly. Showcasing styles from plein air painting to delicate miniatures to bold sculptures, the CAA gallery is located on Dolores Street, one of the many downtown streets that intersect with Ocean Avenue, which is Carmel-by-the-Sea's main street.

The avenue—running east to west from pretty California Highway 1 down to the bottom of the hill at Carmel Beach—is lined with shops, restaurants and eye-catching landmarks. My favorite is the tiled and stuccoed **Harrison Memorial Library**. Designed in Spanish Colonial Revival style by renowned California architect Bernard Maybeck, the city's main public library opened in 1928, and includes elements featuring Carmel stone, a local shale much favored by Monterey County developers.

Other intriguing buildings include the "fairytale cottages" from the 1920s and '30s. Many are the work of Carmel resident Hugh Comstock, who patterned them after cottages in English villages. Several cottages are located in the blocks bordered by Fifth Avenue, Ocean Avenue, Santa Rita Street and Torres Street.

I love walking along Ocean Avenue—a great place to shop, sip, sup and people-watch. Just 10 minutes on foot from our home, I putter around the picturesque **Court of the Golden Bough**. A warren of shops built in the early 1920s, which also often resemble English-village cottages, it includes charming stores such as The White Rabbit gift shop and The Cottage of Sweets, which has British candies such as



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Left: The Harrison Memorial Library, designed in Spanish Colonial Revival style, opened in 1928.

Below: Now iconic "fairytale cottages" such as this one were designed by local resident Hugh Comstock in the 1920s and 1930s.

Fry's Chocolate Cream bars (dark chocolate with a fondant center), buttery Walkers Shortbread Chocolate Scottie Dogs and scrumptious English toffees.

About a block east of the Golden Bough, I pop into **Carmel Bay Company**, a purveyor of attractive furnishings and clothing on two floors of a 1927 heritage building. Just a few blocks uphill from there is the **Carmel Coffee House**. This popular java connection, which roasts beans onsite, sells organic coffee, some of which is grown on the company's own 1-acre mountain estate on Maui. I relax over a cup of robust joe accompanied by a creamy, thin-layered napoleon pastry. Delicious.

Ocean Avenue and nearby streets have an abundance of good places to eat and drink. I frequently end

downtown walks at the Dametra Cafe, on the corner of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Street. It's an ebullient eatery, very popular, friendly and efficient. The restaurant features cuisine from around the Mediterranean, including hummus and kebabs.

I order tender, slow-cooked, Greek-style lamb shank over rice pilaf, with a good bottle of red Spanish Rioja Tempranillo wine. Dametra Cafe also offers a variety of fine Monterey County vintages, including

Chardonnay and Syrah.

The county boasts more than 30 wineries, and purchasing a **Wine Walk by-the-Sea** passport from the Carmel Visitor Center or online at [carmel-california.org](http://carmel-california.org) (for pickup at the visitor center) lets you sample wine at your choice of nine of the 14 winery-owned tasting rooms in Carmel-by-the-Sea. One of the wineries, Galante Vineyards, is owned by the great-grandson of Carmel-by-



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\*photo - RiverTop Bar & Grill, Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel

## Events

(For more events, see [carmelcentennial.com](http://carmelcentennial.com).)

Monterey Symphony concerts, including March 19–20 with mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano, and April 23–24 with award-winning pianist Vadym Kholodenko, at the Sunset Center.

Sunshine Freestyle Surfabout, Carmel Beach, May (specific dates to be announced for the 2016 event).

*The Borrowers—The Musical*, June 23–26, and July 1–3, 8–10 and 14–17, at the Outdoor Forest Theater.

Robinson Jeffers Tor House Fall Festival, Sept. 30–Oct. 2 (in addition, docent-led tours of the 1919 house—built by Jeffers and his wife with granite boulders gathered from the shore of Carmel Bay—are offered most Fridays and Saturdays; reservations required).

Sandcastle Contest, Carmel Beach, Oct. 22, open to all ages.

Carmel Music Society, celebrating its 90th season, performs with England's visiting Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Music Ensemble, at the Sunset Center, Oct. 29.

Centennial Celebration Parade (Ocean Avenue), with floats and bands, Oct. 29.

ERIC B. ANDREWS X3

The Robinson Jeffers Tor House, named for the famous poet, is open for public tours.

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The Carmel Mission, dating to the late 1700s, has historical exhibits and lovely gardens.

the-Sea co-founder James Frank Devendorf, who in 1902, with funding from co-founder Frank Powers, an attorney, began developing the current downtown core from which a city grew to be incorporated in 1916.

**W**hen I want food for the soul, I visit the most venerable place in town: the Carmel Mission. The mission's current stone church was dedicated in 1797. Parish church services

are still held here. Visitors are welcome to attend, or can tour historical exhibits and walk the mission grounds, which have lovely gardens.

I often linger by the small, spare room indicative of the one in which Junípero Serra wrote and prayed in the late 1700s. I end my mission visit by sitting quietly in the church basilica, with its vaulted roof and ceiling-high altar; Serra is buried at the foot of the altar.

The historic mission is a memorable site to explore as part of a centennial visit to Carmel—a community that values and celebrates its past, appreciates its present, and looks forward to a bright future. ■

*Nature and culture enthusiast David Armstrong loves living in Carmel.*

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; [alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com)) provides regular service via Los Angeles and San Diego to Monterey, gateway to Carmel and other Monterey County communities and attractions. For more information on Carmel, go to [carmelcalifornia.com](http://carmelcalifornia.com) and [carmelcalifornia.org](http://carmelcalifornia.org); for more information on Monterey County, visit [seemonterey.com](http://seemonterey.com).



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### Also in Monterey County

**17-Mile Drive:** This pleasant, winding toll road rolls past lush golf courses, eye-pleasing houses, and famous sights such as Lone Cypress (shown above) on a seaside promontory ([seemonterey.com](http://seemonterey.com)).

**Cannery Row, Monterey:** Smartly repurposed early-20th century fish canneries are now filled with notable restaurants and delightful shops ([canneryrow.com](http://canneryrow.com)).

**Carmel Valley:** Take a drive along Carmel Valley Road, off California Highway 1, southeast of Carmel, where inland golf, dining, lodging and winery tastings abound year-round ([carmelvalleycalifornia.com](http://carmelvalleycalifornia.com)).

**Golf, various locations:** Tee it up at courses such as the renowned Pebble Beach Golf Links ([pebblebeach.com](http://pebblebeach.com)) and other area golf courses.

**Highway 1/Big Sur:** A spectacular coastal drive, it offers gorgeous views of the Pacific Ocean on the 29-mile stretch from Monterey south to rugged, dramatic Big Sur and its outdoor-recreation opportunities ([bigsurcalifornia.org](http://bigsurcalifornia.org)).

**Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey:** Explore one of the world's great aquariums and learn about the wonders of the ocean at this star attraction in the Cannery Row area ([montereybayaquarium.org](http://montereybayaquarium.org)).

**Monterey Jazz Festival:** See world-renowned headliners such as Quincy Jones and Terri Lyne Carrington on stage at the Monterey County Fairgrounds, Sept. 16–18 ([montereyjazzfestival.org](http://montereyjazzfestival.org)).

**National Steinbeck Center, Salinas:** Monterey County's most famous writer, John Steinbeck, is commemorated in this handsome museum in the town where he was born ([steinbeck.org](http://steinbeck.org)).

**Pacific Grove:** This colorful Monterey Peninsula city features quaint Victorian B&Bs, the Point Pinos Lighthouse, Asilomar State Beach, and shopping and dining along Lighthouse Avenue; monarch butterflies overwinter at the Monarch Grove Sanctuary ([pacificgrove.org](http://pacificgrove.org)).

**Point Lobos:** Ocean waves, walking trails, towering Monterey cypresses and pines, and a profusion of bird life are hallmarks of this State Natural Reserve ([pointlobos.org](http://pointlobos.org)). —D.A.

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## When You Go Lodging

**Bernardus Lodge & Spa**, 831-658-3400, [bernarduslodge.com](http://bernarduslodge.com): The extensively renovated resort reopened last year with a re-envisioned 5,300-square-foot spa and a remodeled Lucia Restaurant & Bar featuring a heated alfresco dining terrace. The lodge sits on 28 Carmel Valley acres amid vineyards and lavender.

**Cypress Inn**, 831-624-3871, [cypress-inn.com](http://cypress-inn.com): Chic Spanish-style downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea hotel, circa 1929, with lovely rooms and a lively bar. Co-owned by Doris Day.

**Hotel Carmel**, 855-622-7635, [thehotelcarmel.com](http://thehotelcarmel.com): "Casual rustic" boutique hotel scheduled to reopen this spring after significant renovation that includes an expanded courtyard garden, and a tavern-style restaurant with a refurbished jukebox.

**L'Auberge Carmel**, 831-624-8578, [laubergecarmel.com](http://laubergecarmel.com): French-influenced downtown charmer in a 1929 building; excellent in-house restaurant.

**Mission Ranch**, 831-624-6436, [missionranchcarmel.com](http://missionranchcarmel.com): Comfortably repurposed former farm buildings on a lush site near the Carmel River. Owned by Clint Eastwood.

**Vendange Carmel**, 831-624-6400, [vendangecarmel.com](http://vendangecarmel.com): Numerous Monterey County wineries have each "sponsored" a room or suite with that winery's own creative decor touches.

## Dining

**Carmel Belle**, in Doud Craft Studios, 831-624-1600, [carmelbelle.com](http://carmelbelle.com): Flavorful, casual meals with mostly organic local produce; and grass-fed, free-range meats.

**Dametra Cafe**, 831-622-7766, [dametra-cafe.com](http://dametra-cafe.com): Upbeat, engaging atmosphere; delicious pan-Mediterranean food.

**Katy's Place**, 831-624-0199, [katysplace-carmel.com](http://katysplace-carmel.com): Breakfast/lunch spot with outstanding classic American food, and indoor and outdoor seating. Cash only.

—D.A.