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## Carmel's top events and venues

By Mark C. Anderson **and Jeanne Cooper** Updated 7:14 pm, Thursday, September 8, 2016



Photo: Elite Event Photography

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Sunset Center, the performance home of the Carmel Bach Festival

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Food festivals, sand castle contests, poodle parades — Carmel loves to put on a show. Here are some of the city's best venues and marquee events.

**90Carmel Centennial:** There are already 50 events lined up in association with Carmel's 100th. Oct. 29 marks the height of the months-long celebration, with a Centennial Celebration Parade followed by a celebratory luncheon and a "Dancing Through the Decades" show featuring the Money Band.

**[www.carmelcentennial.com/carmel-centennial-events.htm](http://www.carmelcentennial.com/carmel-centennial-events.htm)**

**91Pacific Repertory Theater:** Founded in 1982, the professional, year-round dramatic company boasts nearly 500 productions to date. The real star of its shows, though, may be its three vintage stages: the **Golden Bough Playhouse and Circle Theatre**, built in 1952 on the site of Carmel's first theater (1906), and the outdoor **Forest**

**Theater**, where "The Wizard of Oz" runs through Sept. 25. The sylvan amphitheater, from 1910, also hosts summer movie nights. (831) 622-0100. [www.pacrep.org](http://www.pacrep.org)

**92 Carmel International Film Festival:** The festival formerly known as the Carmel Art and Film Festival rolls out 50 feature films each year, with a roster of documentaries, dramas and short films among them, flanked by a village's worth of live music, art, lectures and panels. Several Oscar contenders have made their debut here. Oct. 19-23. Ticket prices and locations vary. (831) 625-3700. [www.carmelfilmfest.com](http://www.carmelfilmfest.com)

### Carmel at 100



California has no shortage of unusual small towns, but it's hard to imagine one as charmingly idiosyncratic as Carmel-by-the-Sea, which celebrates its centennial this year. Here are the best reasons to visit.

**93 Sandcastle Contest:** As this event approaches 60 years, the creations continue to amaze. Elaborate dragons, intricate mermaids and Mount Rushmore-esque installations materialize every year as part of the collaboration between the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea and the Monterey Bay Chapter of the **American Institute of Architects**. Check it out for free.

Oct. 23. Carmel Beach south of 10th Avenue. [www.carmelcalifornia.com](http://www.carmelcalifornia.com)

**94 Carmel by the Glass:** Restaurateur Rich Pepe and veteran winemaker **Jack**

**Galante** have brought their vino-centric party indoors to La Playa Hotel. A fundraiser for the **Carmel Mission Foundation**, the Dec. 9 tasting event features local vintners and chefs, pairing their wares to the tune of holiday jazz. \$65. La Playa Hotel, Camino Real and Eighth, (831) 402-7373. [www.carmelbytheglass.com](http://www.carmelbytheglass.com)

**95 Relais & Chateaux Gourmet Festival:** On the Gourmetfest website, a countdown clock whittles down the time remaining until the annual event by the second. The anticipation is understandable; that's how lofty the dinners, demos and tastings — hosted by around 20 internationally renowned Michelin-starred chefs like **Justin Cogley**, Christopher Kostow, Joachim Splichal and **Jean Michel Lorain** — can be. The lavish, small-scale events run from \$160 to a \$5,000 Rarities Dinner. March 16-19. Ticket prices and locations vary. (831) 622-5909. [www.gourmetfestcarmel.com](http://www.gourmetfestcarmel.com)

**96 Pebble Beach Food & Wine:** World-class celebrity chefs like **Daniel Boulud**, **Michelle Bernstein**, **Dean Fearing**, **Masaharu Morimoto** and **Michael Symon** arrive by the dozens for huge grand tastings in a 60,000-square-foot luxury tent that involve

no fewer than 30 chefs and 200 very worthy wines. That's just the biggest of some 60 events, which include exclusive wine tastings, cooking demos, seminars, intimate chef dinners, vertical wine tastings, tributes, pairings and parties, with some edging into neighboring Carmel. *April 20-23. Ticket prices vary. (866) 907-3663. [www.pbfbw.com](http://www.pbfbw.com)*

97 **Tor House Garden Party:** Legendary nature-driven poet **Robinson Jeffers** built the Tor House by hand from huge river stones. Today his place still enjoys views of the ocean, and plays home to the poetry society that allows photography once a year for its annual Garden Party, which allows guests to see its beds in full spring bloom and enjoy music, art and poetry all at once. *May (to be announced). 26304 Ocean View Ave., (831) 624-1813. [www.torhouse.org](http://www.torhouse.org)*

98 **Run in the Name of Love:** Registration for this annual Father's Day 5K run and 2K (dogs welcome) opens on Valentine's Day, in keeping with the theme of remembering a loved one. A benefit for local school fitness programs, the event also honors the memory of **Brian J. Love**, a Carmel native who died in an accident at age 22. *June 18. [www.run4love.org](http://www.run4love.org)*

99 **Carmel Bach Festival:** **Johann Sebastian Bach** and his peers provide the foundation of some 40 concerts each over the course of a month, ranging from epic symphonies to intimate behind-the-curtain-style panels to modern piano duets like the Anderson & Roe riot-of-ivories that happened this summer. *July (to be announced). (831) 624-1521. [www.bachfestival.org](http://www.bachfestival.org)*

100 **Concours d'Elegance and Car Week:** Two of the most popular events of the week differ dramatically in price: a few days before Tour d'Elegance vehicles park on Ocean in Carmel post-cruise, Concours on the Avenue takes over downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea at no cost to spectators, followed by Quail: A Motorsports Gathering down Carmel Valley Road, an event that sells out faster than prototypes go zero to 60 despite a \$500-plus price tag, thanks to an luxurious spread of caviar, oysters, motorcycles, art, fashion, wine, cocktails and vintage vehicles. *Aug. 15-21, locations and ticket prices vary. [www.pebblebeachconcours.net](http://www.pebblebeachconcours.net), [www.montereycarweek.com/Events.html](http://www.montereycarweek.com/Events.html)*

101 **Sunset Arts Center:** The B-52's, **Twyla Tharp Dance Company** and Vienna Boys Choir all perform this season in the region's premier venue, which began life as a school in 1926. Its pristine acoustics and impressive Gothic architecture make it a stately home for the Monterey Symphony and Carmel Bach Festival, among other regulars. Bravo for the free visitor parking, too. *San Carlos at Ninth. (831) 620-2048. [www.sunsetcenter.org](http://www.sunsetcenter.org)*

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