



**‘TIS THE SEASON FOR THE HOLIDAYS
ALONG CALIFORNIA’S HALF MOON BAY COASTSIDE**
Celebrate the Holidays with Lights, Gingerbread Houses, Santa and so much more!

HALF MOON BAY, CA – NOVEMBER 7, 2013 – The Half Moon Bay Coastside offers an enchanting and festive setting that is perfect for celebrating the holiday season. Located approximately 35 minutes south of San Francisco, this vibrant coastal region is an ideal area for a relaxing escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. Get those cheeks nice and rosy on a crisp winter day while taking in a view of the Pacific Ocean from scenic seaside bluffs. Snuggle up together at a cozy inn with hot cider and all the comforts of the holidays at your fingertips. Fields of Christmas trees abound and get everyone in the spirit for festive events including a tree lighting ceremony, a gingerbread house decorating competition and a visit from Santa Claus. Visitors to Half Moon Bay this holiday season are sure to find themselves filled with cheer and happy tidings!

Below is a summary of holiday events and specials taking place along the Half Moon Bay Coastside. For more information on how to make the most of your stay in Half Moon Bay, visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org, download Half Moon Bay’s app [iCoastside](#) or call (650) 726-8380 for everything needed to plan a trip – from information on cozy inns and luxury coastal resorts, renowned restaurants, farm visits, golfing, wine tasting, fishing, whale watching, surfing and much more.

Special Note: All locations are in Half Moon Bay unless otherwise noted.

- EVENTS -

Holiday Movies

November 30, December 21 and 23, 5:30 p.m.

In celebration of the season, three holiday movies will be screened alfresco on The Ocean Terrace at The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay. Open to the public, this complimentary event features the movies “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” on Saturday, November 30, “Miracle on 34th Street” on Saturday, December 21 and “White Christmas” on Monday, December 23. Holiday libations and appetizers will be available for purchase during the showings, which begin at 5:30 p.m. One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7000, www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb. Media Contact: Deanne French, (949) 240-5088, Deanne.French@ritzcarlton.com.

10th Annual Gingerbread House Competition

December 2 – 8

Enjoy candy-covered castles and edible cathedrals at the 10th Annual Gingerbread House Competition held at The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay. Entries for the competition are accepted

from children, home cooks and culinary professionals alike. Winners of the competition will be announced on Sunday, December 8 at the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration. Many of the houses on display will also be up for a silent auction, with proceeds going to Coastside Children's programs. *For additional information or to enter the contest, call (650) 712-7007. One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7000; www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb. Media contact; Deanne French, (949) 240-5088, Deanne.French@ritzcarlton.com.*

Night of Lights

December 6, 6 - 9 p.m.

Stroll along Half Moon Bay's charming Main Street for some old-fashioned holiday spirit filled with carols, roasted chestnuts and eggnog. A special tree lighting ceremony in Mac Dutra Park will kick off the festivities at 6 p.m., followed by hundreds of children adorned in twinkling lights marching down Main Street in the Parade of Lights at 7 p.m. *Main Street. Media Contact: Charise McHugh, (650) 726-8380, charise@hmbchamber.com.*

Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration

December 8

Guests gather on the Gazebo Lawn at The Ritz-Carlton for a festive holiday celebration that begins with the lighting of the outdoor tree and includes holiday carolers, a visit by Santa Claus and complimentary hot chocolate, apple cider, eggnog and cookies. *This event is free and open to the public. One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7000, www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb. Media Contact: Deanne French, (949) 240-5088, Deanne.French@ritzcarlton.com.*

Boat Decorating Contest

December 14

Get into the holiday spirit by heading over to Pillar Point Harbor to stroll along the boats festively adorned with holiday lights and other trimmings throughout the month of December. The Annual Boat Decorating Contest will be held on Saturday, December 14, where the best-decorated boat will be chosen. Harbor restaurants and shops will be open later into the evening for holiday shopping. There will be a live band and singers, plus treats and hot cider compliments of Princeton Seafood Company, The Ketch Restaurant, Half Moon Bay Sportfishing and Mavericks Surf Shop. And of course, Santa will be there for photos with the kids and families. *Pillar Point Harbor, #9 Johnson Pier, Princeton-By-The-Sea.*

Harley Farms Christmas Faire

December 14-15, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Harley Farms' Christmas Faire celebrating local artists is bigger and better than ever! Bring the entire family for live music, hot farm-cooked food, arts and crafts, mulled cider, chocolate truffles and locally made tamales. Create your own gorgeous front-door wreath of greens, a felted goat ornament and garland, or block print with the farm artist. Discover lovely hand-made items for presents such as quilts and pewter dishes, beeswax candles and woolly llamas, horseradish mustard and lavender jams, sea glass and vintage jewelry, and jumpy goat mugs from potter Catherine Henry. Most of all, hang out at the picnic tables and relax your way into the holiday season. *205 North Street, Pescadero, (650) 879-0480, www.harleyfarms.com.*

Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus

December 22, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Join Santa and Mrs. Claus for breakfast in The Ritz-Carlton Ballroom. Guests young and old will enjoy a traditional breakfast buffet and decorating their own pancakes with an assortment of fresh fruit, a selection of flavored syrups, nuts and other topping, and of course, fluffy whipped cream. Younger guests will delight in the sweetness of creating their own party favor from the Christmas candy table. While Mrs. Claus entertains guests with her favorite stories, children can secretly whisper their Christmas wish to in Santa's ear. *Breakfast with Santa is \$54 per person. One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7000, www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb. Media Contact: Deanne French, (949) 240-5088, Deanne.French@ritzcarlton.com.*

- LOCAL RICHES -

Oh Christmas Tree!

A winter visit to the Christmas tree lots around Half Moon Bay is a cheerful and fun-filled tradition for many families. With lots spread out along Highway 92 and Cabrillo Highway (Rt. 1), visitors can get into the holiday spirit while picking out their own Christmas tree of any variety or size. Below is a selection of local tree farms open to visitors:

- A. Repetto Nursery- starting the day after Thanksgiving, visitors can choose from a plethora of Christmas Trees. This farm also has some of the best deals on fresh flowers, ideal for a holiday centerpiece. *12331 San Mateo Road, (650) 726-6414.*
- Creekside Christmas Tree Farm – visitors can pick out their own magnificent White Fir here. With saws and twine available, trees will be available for purchase every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. *12000 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA (650) 747-0560.*
- Lemos Family Farm – get in the holiday spirit at Lemos Family Farm where there are enough seasonal decorations to make Scrooge smile. Pick out a Douglas Fir, Incense Cedar or a variety of other pines, while the kids enjoy a holiday hay ride, train ride or even a pony ride. *Begins the day after Thanksgiving. 12320 San Mateo Road, (650) 726-2342, www.lemosfarm.com.*
- Rancho Siempre Verde Christmas Tree Farm – spend the day with the family at this winter wonderland where visitors can choose and cut down their own tree including Douglas Firs, Monterey Pines, Arizona Cypress, Sequoia and Incense Cedar. Guests can also enjoy the picnic area, tractor rides, marshmallow roasting and even make their own wreath. *2250 Cabrillo Highway, Pescadero, CA (650) 326-9103, www.rsvtrees.com.*
- Santa's Tree Farm - head to Santa's Tree Farm to get into the holiday spirit. On Friday, November 23, Santa's Tree Farm will open for the holidays, inviting customers to pick out their own Christmas tree. To add to the excitement, this will also be Santa's first day in town and he will be around for visits from good girls and boys from November 23 through December 18. Be sure to stop by the Sleigh Bells Gift Shop, open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, to pick up festive Christmas decorations. *78 Pilarcitos Creek Road, (650) 342-3772, www.santastreefarm.com.*

-ACCOMMODATIONS-

Celebrate the Holidays with the Beach House Hotel

This luxuriously appointed New England-style boutique hotel overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Pillar Point features 54 ocean lofts, all with a patio or balcony and a fireplace. This holiday season, take advantage of two fabulous packages being offered:

- **Winter Romance in Half Moon Bay**

Romance is in the air and further heightened by the dramatic sunsets that the coastal town of Half Moon Bay is known for during the winter months. To celebrate this magical season, Beach House is offering a “Coastal Romance Package” which includes a Junior Suite overlooking Pillar Point Harbor with a complimentary bottle of champagne, as well as a late check out at 2 p.m. on departure day. The “Coastal Romance Package” is available through December 15, 2013, Sunday – Thursday nights (only) and price is based on room type.

- **Stay and Save During the Holidays**

Beach House Hotel offers a traditional holiday atmosphere from the moment guests step into the Lobby. Enjoy cookies and cider throughout December and the gorgeous beach-theme Christmas décor. The festive atmosphere of the property makes for a great holiday destination with many local shops and restaurants offering seasonal specials. Through December 30, take advantage of the “Stay & Save” promotion: stay three nights (or longer) and receive 15% off the room rate, any day of the week. This is the perfect winter vacation for those looking to enjoy the beach sans the crowds or for an unforgettable family holiday. *Rates start at \$ 215.00 per night.*

Specials are based on room availability, and can be found at <http://www.beach-house.com/half-moon-bay/accommodations>. 4100 N. Cabrillo Highway, (800) 315-9366, www.beach-house.com. Media Contact: Marje Bennetts, (310) 574-7870, marje@mbennettspr.net.

Get into the Holiday Spirit at Half Moon Bay Lodge

This holiday season, the newly renovated Half Moon Bay Lodge is offering 20% off when guests bring in a toy valued at \$10 or more during their stay. This newly renovated Spanish-style lodge features 80 comfortable guestrooms and offers gorgeous holiday décor throughout the property. The ample complimentary continental breakfast, complete with make-your-own-waffles, is not to be missed. *Guest must book the “TOYS” rate prior to arrival. Rate is open now through December 23. Cannot be combined with any other rates. 2400 S. Cabrillo Highway, (650) 726-9000, www.halfmoonbaylodge.com. Media Contact: Jennifer Barry, (310) 396-7851, jbarry@thebarrygroup.net.*

Breakfast in Bed

Start your day with breakfast in bed, followed by a warm cup of hot apple cider while sitting on a private porch overlooking the California coast when staying at the Ocean View Inn. Guests can choose to explore the area or cozy up inside while watching a holiday movie. The Ocean View Inn is perfect for guests to enjoy a comforting holiday vacation while getting some much needed R & R. *Fall/winter rates start at \$159 per couple with a one night stay. Breakfast in bed is available for each night stay. Not applicable with any discounts or offers. Packages valid from November 15-December 31, 2013 and excludes Christmas Day. 8425 Cabrillo Highway, Montara, CA, 94037, (650) 728-8200, www.oceanviewinnhmb.com.*

12 Days of Christmas at Goose & Turrets

The Goose & Turrets B&B, a historic 100-year old building, celebrates the traditional 12 Days of Christmas (December 25 through January 5). Each day will feature one of the specialties that owners, Raymond and Emily Hoche-Mong grew up with in England, France, and the American South. The treats might include real plum pudding (aged a year), chess pie, cheese dreams, pecan pie, syllabub, French macarons, madeleines, financiers, and numerous delicacies. At tea time, there will be short readings of Christmas themed poems and stories accompanied plenty of Christmas music. 835 George Street, Montara, (650) 728-5451, www.gooseandturretsbandb.com.

- SPA -

The Gift of Spa Relaxation

Pamper your loved ones this holiday season with two great holiday specials from Oceano Coastal Spa. Take advantage of these deals for yourself, or give the gift of relaxation to someone special.

- **Pamper Me Pumpkin Bliss**

Enjoy 20 minutes in a pumpkin sweet therapeutic bath with glass of champagne. This is a perfect beginning to a blissful sweet pumpkin spice-infused shea butter scrub, revealing fresh, beautiful skin. Next is a warm shea butter body Swedish massage. Relax and let your body follow your mind into the new season.

90 Minutes: \$150 (\$225 value)

- **Pamper-Mint Twist**

Celebrate the season and begin the holidays with perfectly polished and hydrated skin. Start by being greeted with a warm mug of hot chocolate. This body renewal starts with an infused peppermint scrub revealing fresh beautiful skin, followed by a sweet peppermint or warm cocoa shea butter massage. The finale is a warm whipped peppermint scrub of the feet. Now that's holiday bliss!

90 Minutes: \$150 (\$225 value)

Packages valid through January 15, 2014. 270 Capistrano Road, (650) 263-2008, www.oceanocoastalspa.com.

- SHOPPING -

Shopping Tour Guides

This December, take a behind the scenes shopping tour with Half Moon Bay Coastsides Tours. Visit establishments not open to the general public and get insider tips on finding unique shops. This tour is perfect for the shopper who is tired of buying online and fighting crowded malls. Half Moon Bay Coastsides Tours will personally guide shoppers to help them find truly special presents this gift-giving season. *\$50 per person or \$75 per couple. 225 Cabrillo Hwy South, (650) 720-050, www.hmbcoastsidetours.com.*

Holiday Spirit at Harbor Village

Harbor Village is getting into the holiday spirit this Christmas. Bring the kids to meet Santa Clause every Saturday and Sunday in December and take your own free pictures. Harbor Village will also be showing free children's' Christmas movies from 5-7 p.m. every Friday in December through Christmas. Shoppers can look forward to entertainment for the whole family every weekend in December including live music, face painting and other fun activities to make your holiday shopping a fun experience. Don't forget to check out the Harbor Village Christmas Tree Farm. 270 Capistrano Road, (888) 606-4862, www.shopharborvillage.com.

Gifts a GoGo Expansion

Known for handcrafted gifts from artists both local and afar plus gift baskets to suit every occasion, Gifts A GoGo has dozens of holiday baskets available for order now and more than 800 baskets to choose from on www.giftsagogo.com. Shoppers will delight in a unique collection of handcrafted, American-made gifts online and in their new store on Main Street in Half Moon Bay. Gift baskets, hand-blown glass, recycled jewelry and all natural soaps and candles make Gifts A GoGo the one stop shop for the holidays. So whether it's stuffing stockings or shopping for that hard-to-buy-for person, Gifts A GoGo makes holiday shopping easy! 353 Main Street, (650) 468-3851, www.giftsagogo.com.

- WINERIES -

Holiday Wines

Join Barterra Winery during Night of Lights on December 7 to enjoy great wine, live music and holiday specials. Forget the eggnog; spend the holidays sipping on award-winning wines this holiday season. Barterra Winery is offering a 15% discount on any orders of six or more bottles, including their two-time double gold medal winning 2009 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. 643 Main Street, (650) 712-1635, www.barterrawines.com.

Vintner's Series at The Ritz-Carlton

The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay continues its acclaimed Vintner Series through the end of the year featuring Beauregard Vineyards in November and Duckhorn Vineyards in December. Every Friday through Sunday from 4 - 6 p.m., the ENO Tasting Room will host a wine educator from one of the featured wineries to present and educate guests about the latest wines in its portfolio. The tasting fee ranges from \$25 to \$40 per person, based upon the vintner. Visitors can also choose to heighten their tasting experience with hand-selected cheeses and chocolates from ENO for an additional fee. One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7000, www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb.
Media Contact: Deanne French, (949) 240-5088, Deanne.French@ritzcarlton.com.

Bottle & Cork Red Wine

On December 14th, red wine lovers can take part in a tradition known as "Bottle and Cork" at La Nebbia Winery by bringing in their empty wine bottles and getting them filled with La Nebbia's red wine. Guests can even bring in their own custom labels and La Nebbia will apply them to the bottle during the event, making for a fun conversation starter or a great gift. *Bottle and cork pricing starts at just \$4.95 per bottle.* 12341 San Mateo Road, (650) 726-9463, www.lanebbiawinery.com.

- CULINARY NEWS -

Festive Hayloft Dinners

Harley Farms is opening their charming Victorian hayloft for private holiday farm dinners. This unique and very popular venue boasts locally-sourced candlelit dinners that are a rustic and relaxing alternative to traditional company or family holiday parties. Dinners include five courses of farm-cooked local food and an interactive tour of the farm for up to 22 guests. 205 North Street, Pescadero, (650) 879-0480, www.harleyfarms.com.

Holiday Feast-ivals

There are plenty of reasons to celebrate this season, and The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay is packed with holiday festivities:

- **Christmas Eve Dinner**
Enjoy an unforgettable feast as Chef Sean Eastwood presents a holiday-themed four-course dinner in Navio. Christmas Eve dinner is served from 5 to 9:30 p.m. and is \$132 per person.
- **Christmas Day Brunch**
Perfect for a family celebration or a get-together with friends, a lavish holiday brunch is presented on Christmas Day in The Ritz-Carlton Ballroom. Served from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Christmas Brunch features live entertainment and a special visit by Santa Claus. Brunch is \$118 per adult, \$59 for children ages five to 12, and complimentary for children four and under. A more intimate Champagne Brunch is served in Navio on Christmas Day with seating at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The Navio Champagne Brunch is \$132 per person and includes flowing champagne. Santa will also make an appearance during each seating in Navio.
- **Christmas Day Dinner**
For Christmas Dinner, Chef Eastwood presents a five-course prix fixe menu in Navio. Christmas Dinner is served from 5 to 9:30 p.m. and is \$128 per person.

Reservations are required for all holiday dining events and can be made by calling 650-712-7000. One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7000, www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb. Media Contact: Deanne French, (949) 240-5088, Deanne.French@ritzcarlton.com.

Cure Your Holiday Ale-ments

A beloved destination known for its award-winning, handcrafted beer and sustainable coastal cuisine, Half Moon Bay Brewing Company knows how to celebrate the holidays in style.

- **Thanksgiving Day**
The regular menu will be available all day and will include Thanksgiving specials such as a house-roasted turkey with all the trimmings, Dungeness crab pumpkin bisque and an array of homemade desserts such as pumpkin pie, pumpkin cheesecake with gingersnap crust and pumpkin ice cream. *Open at 10 a.m. with full menu available all day with the last seating at 5 p.m. Reservations strongly encouraged (650) 728-BREW.*
- **Mavericks Old Man Winter Ale & Funky Sweater Party, December 6, 6 – 7:30 p.m.**
In honor of the crisp holiday season, the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company has created a big, malty winter warmer called Mavericks Old Man Winter Ale. The guest who shows up with the funkiest sweater (as voted by the servers at the Brewing Company), will win a very special prize, and everyone who dons a holiday sweater will also get a little thank you gift from the Brewing Company.
- **Family-Friendly New Year's Eve at HMB Brewing Co., 5 – 9 p.m.**
For all those early-birds out there, the Brewing Company will have Tia Carroll Live playing fun R&B hits. There will also be menu and drink specials all night long, and guests can watch the ball drop on the East Coast (9 p.m. west coast time) from the TVs in the bar. The Brewing Company will close at 10 p.m.

390 Capistrano Rd. (650) 728-2739, www.hmbbrewingco.com. Media Contact: Caitlin Sandberg, (530) 400-9207, caitlin@ellipsespr.com.

- THE ARTS -

The Nutcracker

Local Half Moon Bay dance studio, The Shely Pack Dancers, boast some of the best performers in the Bay Area. On December 14, they will be performing their production of “The Nutcracker,” starring JP Viernes of “Billy Elliot” fame. With months of preparation coming to an end, this production is sure to delight audiences of all ages. To purchase tickets call (650) 726-7811 or visit www.shelypackdancers.com. Performances are held at Skyline College, 3300 College Drive, San Bruno, CA, 94066

Winter Wonderettes

They’re baaaack! Missy, Suzy, Betty Jean and Cindy Lou return to Coastal Rep in Roger Bean’s zany “Winter Wonderettes.” Set during Harper’s Hardware holiday party in 1968, these marvelous girls must summon their finest talent and creativity to save the party when Santa goes missing. This energetic show rocks out with festive holiday songs like “Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town,” “Jingle Bell Rock,” “Santa Baby,” “Winter Wonderland” and many other seasonal favorites. Bring the entire family and you’ll be sure to find the return of the Wonderettes the highlight of your holiday season! 1167 Main Street, (650) 726-0998, www.coastalrep.com.

About the Half Moon Bay Coastside

The Half Moon Bay Coastside is a charming seaside respite located approximately 35 minutes south of San Francisco. Nestled between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, this breathtaking region consists of four distinct areas - the North Coast, Half Moon Bay, the South Coast and the Redwood Region. Featuring the best of Northern California all in one place, visitors will enjoy miles of white sandy beaches, redwood forests, a historic downtown filled with local artisan shops, beautiful state parks, fields of wild flowers, and trails along ocean bluffs and mountain ridges as far as the eye can see. A sampling of activities includes horseback riding on the beach, farm fresh dining, shopping, biking, hiking and world-class golfing and surfing.

For more information on Half Moon Bay, download Half Moon Bay’s free app [iCoastside](#), visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org or call (650) 726-8380. For the latest news on the area, visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org/blog, join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/visithalfmoonbay and follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/visithmb and check us out on YouTube www.youtube.com/visithmb.

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