Half Moon Bay, California, a vibrant coastal town located approximately 40 minutes south of San Francisco, is the perfect place for a relaxing spa retreat with girlfriends, a whale watching trip with the family, surfing the waves or a romantic Valentine’s Day getaway. While most of the country is currently in a cold winter slumber, Half Moon Bay is alive and in full swing with outdoor adventures and interesting activities. From hot glass classes to a tour of an award-winning cheese farm, a visit to Half Moon Bay will be filled with unique and memorable experiences that will make visitors want to return and explore it all again.

Below is a sample of exciting winter and early spring options for families, couples and solo travelers to enjoy during a relaxing escape along the Coastside. Please also visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org for everything visitors need to plan their trip - from information on luxury coastal resorts and cozy inns, to renowned restaurants, farm visits, wine tasting, fishing, whale watching, surfing and much more.

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

HALF MOON BAY GOES HOLLYWOOD

“Of Men and Mavericks”
Half Moon Bay is getting a taste of Hollywood with the making of the new film “Of Men and Mavericks.” This new movie is based on the life of beloved surfing legend Jay Moriarity and his friendship with his mentor and local legend Rick “Frosty” Hesson. “Of Men and Mavericks” is not only set in Half Moon Bay and the world famous Mavericks surfing spot, but was filmed there as well. The filming began in October and included over 150 cast and crew roaming the beaches of Half Moon Bay, including stars such as Gerard Butler, Jonny Weston and Elisabeth Shue. Watch out for this movie, which also features famed Mavericks surfers such as Greg Long, Peter Mel and Jeff Clark, and is scheduled to be released in October 2012.

TIS THE SEASON FOR...

Surfing
Half Moon Bay is home to the world-famous surfing spot Mavericks, located one-half mile off the coast by Pillar Point Harbor. Mavericks is considered to be one of the most challenging
surfing areas in the world, attracting the most elite surfers to brave the waves for the annual contest. Now organized by the Half Moon Bay Surf Group, the contest has been renamed “The Maverick’s Big Wave Invitational,” with Mavericks pioneer Jeff Clarke returning as contest director this year. The official contest window is open now through March 31. During this time, the contest organizers monitor weather conditions and swell size in order to give competitors 48 hours notice to make their way to Half Moon Bay for the contest. Swells at Mavericks typically have to reach 30-40 feet in order for the contest to take place. The official contestant line-up was announced in November and includes big wave surfers from all over the globe including Brazil, Australia and South Africa, as well as many local surfers from Pacifica, Santa Cruz and San Francisco. For more information, visit www.mavericksinvitational.com, or call (650) 560-8088.

Whale Watching
The annual migration of the gray whale is currently underway, and Half Moon Bay is the perfect spot for witnessing the journey of these spectacular creatures. Beginning in early December through the end of March, approximately 15,000 gray whales swim south from the icy waters of the Arctic to mate and nurse their young in the warm, shallow lagoons along Magdalena Bay in Baja, California. The full round-trip migration from the Bering Sea to the Baja calving lagoons is approximately 10,000 miles, the longest known migration for any mammal. Gray whales move at a steady speed of about five miles per hour, and most can be spotted in an area that extends from the kelp beds (about 3/4 miles from the shoreline) out to the horizon. For those who like to plan ahead, March through early April is a great time to spot humpback whales as they begin moving closer to shore.

Several local companies offer whale watching excursions:
- Huli Cat Sportfishing, (650) 726-2926, www.hulicat.com
- Half Moon Bay Sportfishing & Tackle, (650) 728-3377, www.hmbfishing.com
- Princeton Pantry, (650) 726-7133

- EVENTS -

Cool Harbor Nights Car Show
Held the first Thursday of every month - 3 p.m. to sunset (starting at 4 p.m. during spring/summer months)
Pillar Point Harbor on Johnson Pier, Princeton-By-The-Sea
Each first Thursday of every month, car aficionados far and wide descend upon Pillar Point Harbor for Cool Harbor Nights, a coastal car and motorcycle show. Owners of classic cars, trucks, fancy motorcycles and hot rods have the opportunity to show off their pride and joy while providing a glimpse of early automotive and motorcycle technology. Many of the machines have taken years to create or restore. Families will enjoy the cruise down memory lane as they show their kids the vintage Mustang or hot muscle car just like they drove. Registered machines will be entered into a drawing for some fantastic prizes. The event is free and open to both exhibitors and spectators. For more information and/or to register as a participant, contact Mary Botham, (650) 726-2722, mary@coastalcarshow.com.

Seal Adventure Saturday
January 28
Año Nuevo State Park
Each winter from December through March, a large colony of northern elephant seals assembles on the beaches at Año Nuevo State Reserve. Bull seals engage in battles for breeding access to the females. Pregnant females come ashore to pup from late December to early February, and
mothers nurse their pups for about a month before mating and returning to the sea. By early March, most of the adults have returned to the sea. Pups remain behind through March basking in the sun and learning to swim. For one day only on January 28, visitors will have extraordinary access to view hundreds of northern elephant seals at the peak of their mating season at the beaches at Año Nuevo State Park. Naturalists and state park staff will be available to answer questions about this phenomenal activity. Don’t miss out on this incredibly rare opportunity for individuals, families and photographers. Seal Adventure Saturday is sponsored by the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association to raise money to support interpretive and educational programs at Año Nuevo and other state parks on the San Mateo coast. To purchase tickets for $50, visit www.smcnha.org. Media contact: Joyce Pennell jpennell@smcnha.org, (650) 345-2001.

A Valentine’s HeART
February 12, 2-5 p.m.
Main Street
Take a pre-Valentine’s Day stroll down Main Street at “A Valentine’s HeART Walk,” presented by HMB SOMA ARTS. Enjoy an afternoon filled with local art, music, refreshments and special exhibits. Stop by the Barterra Wine Bar to see amazing contemporary sculptures by artists D.E McDermott and Loet Vanderveen. Personal FX will have decorations for the home created by over a dozen artists. Beautiful paintings by Kathryn Ellis will be hung in the charming Victorian Old Thyme Inn, while the stunning nature photography of Beau Gill will be sold at the Coastside Land Trust Gallery where 100% of the proceeds will go towards the open spaces on the coast. (650) 728-7518, www.HMBSOMAARTS.org.

2012 California Senior Games Championships
March 9 - April 7
Half Moon Bay Horseshoe Club, 400 Wavecrest Road
Over the course of two weeks, more than 2,500 male and female athletes who are 50 years and older are expected to take part in the California Senior Games Championship. Athletes compete in 26 sports including archery, badminton, basketball, bocce, bowling, cycling, fencing, feats of strength, golf, horseshoes, lawn bowling, pickleball, race walk, racquetball, road race, rugby, shuffleboard, soccer, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track & field, triathlon, volleyball, and water polo. Half Moon Bay’s horseshoe pits have been designated as the venue for the horseshoe competition held on April 7. For more information and/or to register, call (650) 323-9400 or visit www.bayareaseniorgames.org. Media Contact: Anne Warner Cribbs, (650) 323-9400.

43rd Annual Farm Day
March 30, 11:30 a.m.
IDES Hall, 735 Main Street
Agriculture is Half Moon Bay’s premier industry, and each year residents gather to celebrate the hardworking farmers that contribute so much bounty to the area at Farm Day, started by the late Coastside farmer Mel Mello. Local farm families come together to create a delicious lunch utilizing local produce. Among the many awards, a Coastside farmer will be chosen as “Farmer of the Year.” Tickets are $25 in advance, or $30 at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the Half Moon Bay Chamber, (650) 726-8380. Media Contact: Charise McHugh, (650) 727-8380, charise@hmbchamber.com.
22nd Annual Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show  
April 28-29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Half Moon Bay Airport, 9850 N. Cabrillo Highway (Hwy. 1)

This massive, awe-inspiring event showcases more than 2,000 motorized mechanical marvels from throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Headline attractions include: the show’s first ever super-gnarly Demolition Derby; the titanic, hard-to-fathom, gasp-inducing world’s largest monster-cycle named “Dream Big,” a custom built motorcycle weighing in at 6,500 pounds. Hot rods, dragsters, low riders and street machines will mix with fanciful touring and luxury sports cars, as well as vintage warbirds, homebuilt aircraft, tricked out trucks and motorcycles, Model T fire engines, military vehicles and so much more, plus a show of advanced “green” technology vehicles. Rounding out the activities will be kids’ amusements, food and live music. The show benefits the Coastside Adult Day Health Center. Admission is $20 ($30 for 2-day passes) for adults, $10 ($15 for 2-day passes) for ages 11-17 and 65+, and free for kids 10 and younger. For more information, call (650) 726-2328 or visit www.miramarevents.com. Media Contact: Tim Beeman, (650) 726-3491, tim@miramarevents.com.

- ACCOMMODATIONS –

Traveling Deals
Half Moon Bay Lodge, a Spanish-style lodge with comfortable guestrooms complete with a deck or terrace overlooking the acclaimed Half Moon Bay Golf Links, is starting off the New Year by offering three great deals:

- **Family Days** – Now through January 31, 2012, families traveling with toddlers receive a 50% discount off of the best available rate. *Valid Tuesdays through Thursdays only.*

- **Stay and Play Golf Package** - For golfers on the move, book the “Stay and Play Golf” package, with a one night stay in deluxe accommodations and where two golfers can play golf for one day on one of two courses through March 31, 2012. *Rates start at $740, excluding tax.*

- **Spa Package** - Relax at the Half Moon Bay Lodge with their special “Spa Package.” Complete with a one night stay, a one-hour in-room couple’s massage, a complimentary bottle of champagne, complimentary chocolate truffles and a breakfast buffet, guests can get close and cuddle by the fireplace. *This package is ongoing. Rates start at $289, excluding tax.*

For reservations, call (650) 726-9000 or visit www.halfmoonbaylodge.com. 2400 S. Cabrillo Highway.

Bon Appetit
Dine and doze with Seal Cove Inn’s “Bon Appetit Dinner” package that includes a one night stay, a $50 dining certificate at Moss Beach Distillery or Cafe Gibraltar, a signature Four Sisters Inns breakfast, afternoon tea and hors d’oeuvres. Guests who wish to stay an additional night will receive a special discounted rate. *Valid Sunday through Thursday and select weekends nights through May 24, 2012. Rates start at $215, tax excluded.* The Bon Appetite package is based on availability and excludes holidays and special event periods. For reservations, call (800) 995-9987 or visit www.sealcoveinn.com. 221 Cypress Ave, Moss Beach. Media Contact: Sharon Rooney, (707) 838-1637, Sharon@foursisters.com.

Getaway at Half Moon Bay Inn
Mediterranean-style Half Moon Bay Inn invites guests to cozy up this winter season with their new “Winter Getaway” package that includes overnight accommodations for two nights, 20% off a warm signature cotton robe to take home, a bottle of Thomas Fogarty wine along with a free
tasting at their nearby winery, plus a gift certificate for 15% off dinner at Peruvian restaurant La Costanera. The package starts at $302.40 for two nights; excluding tax and based on availability. For reservations, call (650) 726-1177 or visit www.halfmoonbayinn.com, 401 Main Street. Media Contact: Tami von Isakovics, (415) – 834-5492, tami@ellipsespr.com.

**Bring a Bike**
For those seeking to work off those extra holiday pounds, book a night at Beach House Hotel and take advantage of the seven-mile Coastal Trail, ideal for walkers, bikers and joggers. Guests who book a Friday night stay will receive a weekday rate, complimentary bike storage, as well as complimentary Friday Night Wine Hour from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the lobby. Local maps and tips on the trail will also be provided with things to see and experience along the way. Valid from January 2-April 12, 2012; rates start at $185, excluding tax. All reservations are subject to availability. For reservations, call (800) 315-9366 or visit www.beach-house.com/half-moon-bay-hotels, 4100 North Cabrillo Hwy. Media Contact: Marje Bennetts, (310) 574-7870, marje@mbennettspr.net.

**Pampered Pooches**
The uber-luxurious Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay, a grand seaside resort and spa situated on dramatic bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, has a fun new “Pampered Pooch Program.” Guests can stay in one of the resorts newly designated guesthouses that are specifically pet-friendly and located along the Coastal Trail. These guesthouses are larger to comfortably accommodate an extra four-legged friend, and have easy access to the green lawns right outside. When checking in to the resort, pets will receive their own amenities, including bowls for food and water, a dog bed, a chew toy and a “woof” or “meow” door-hanger sign to alert the housekeepers, along with recommendations on nearby walking areas. In addition, the hotel offers an activity program for dogs, including dog walking along the Coastal Trial, playing fetch with a tennis ball and a walk along the beach, all activities a pampered pooch is sure to enjoy. Body brushing and grooming services are also available. A one-time cleaning fee of $95 is required. For reservations, call (650) 712-7040 or visit www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb, One Miramontes Point Road. Media Contact: Steven Holt, (415) 364-3479, steven.holt@ritzcarlton.com.

**Oceano’s Offerings**
Kick off the New Year with a great getaway to seaside resort Oceano Hotel & Spa and take advantage of one of their great spring packages:

- **Romantic Valentine’s Day Retreat** - enjoy overnight accommodations luxurious Deluxe King Suite, champagne and chocolate dipped strawberries by a warm in-room fireplace or on a private balcony overlooking Pillar Point Harbor. For dates and rates, call (650) 726-5400.

- **“Three for Two Spa Getaway”** - Guests that book this getaway can stay at Oceano Hotel for two nights and receive a complimentary third night to keep the magic alive. Enjoy luxurious accommodations, romantic couples’ spa treatments, chocolate dipped strawberries with sparkling wine and a gourmet breakfast. Valid through April 30; Package starts at $803.70, tax included.

To getaway from the cold winter weather, enjoy Half Moon Bay’s temperate weather with one of Oceano Hotel’s great outdoor packages.

- **Beaches and Bluffs** - Book the “Beaches and Bluffs Lighthouse Bike” package and enjoy the stunning coastside while biking from the seaside bluffs to Montara’s lighthouse. Valid through May 31; package rates start at $452.95, tax included.
• **Sea Kayaking Eco Adventure** – Check out the Sea Kayaking Eco Adventure for two, where guests are invited to kayak among seals, birds, and other marine life. *This package is ongoing. Package rates start at $385.96, tax included.*

• **Unique Reef and Tidepool Package** – This unique package offers guests the opportunity to witness the hidden marine life of the California Coast, with a tour of low inter-tidal zone below the ocean surface. Guests can take advantage of this great opportunity and catch a glimpse of seals, shorebirds, crab, anemones, and sea stars. *Valid through March 31. For rates, call (650) 726-5400.*

• **Stay and Play** - The “Golf Stay & Play Special” offers guests the opportunity to play unlimited rounds of golf at one of the top Half Moon Bay golf courses. *Valid through March 31; package starts at $329, tax excluded.*

280 Capistrano Road ;(650) 726-5400; [www.oceanohalfmoonbay.com](http://www.oceanohalfmoonbay.com).

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**CULINARY NEWS** –

**ChowderMobile #2**
Uber popular seafood restaurant Sam’s Chowder House has launched a second ChowderMobile. This new mobile gourmet seafood truck will deliver lunch and dinner, as well as cater events and Lobster Clambakes directly to customers throughout the Bay Area. This mobile seafood shack will help its sister truck cover counties ranging from Napa down to Monterey. Customers can expect the same eco-friendly menu, including Sam’s famous lobster roll, popular fish and chips, clam chowder, fish tacos and key lime pie for dessert.

Sam’s Chowder House is also offering new specials through the end of April that simply can’t be missed! Join them for Taco Mondays and delve into two delicious fish tacos with chips and coleslaw for just $9.95. Oyster Tuesdays features fresh oysters to slurp down during happy hour for $1 each. Watch out for Ladies Night every Thursday from 4-9 p.m., where ladies will receive 50% off specialty cocktails, select glasses of wine and beer, plus 50% off one of Sam’s mouthwatering appetizers. Don’t forget to partake in their delicious fresh Dungeness crab sourced from the waters directly facing the restaurant. One of the must-have crab specials at Sam’s is their savory Cioppino, loaded with cracked crab, prawns, mussels, clams and rockfish. Or feast on a whole chili garlic roasted Dungeness crab served with a choice of sides and drawn butter. 4210 Cabrillo Hwy North, (650) 712-0245 [www.samschowderhouse.com](http://www.samschowderhouse.com) Media contact: Krystal Conover, krystal@samschowderhouse.com.

**Over the Moon**
Pasta Moon is featuring great dining deals to start off the New Year. From January 15-31, guests are invited to explore the versatility of risotto with several variations to choose, accompanied by a glass of wine specially selected to complement each dish. Meals will be completed with luscious housemade gelato prepared by Chef Carmine D’Agostino.

Vegetarians will be over the moon come April, when a special and very affordable three-course vegetarian menu will offer tasty selections such as housemade gnocchi with roasted red pepper and imported gorgonzola, and tagliatelle with golden cauliflower. *Prefix vegetarian menu $25 per person.* 315 Main Street, (650) 726-5125 [www.pastamoon.com](http://www.pastamoon.com).

**Caps off to Café Capistrano**
Café Capistrano has moved to a new location. Originally located in Princeton-by-the-Sea, this small café has settled into its new home in Half Moon Bay. Featuring Mayan and American cuisine, the newly expanded menu offers even more specialties such as slow roasted pork meat
and prawn fajitas. In addition to these new menu items, guests at Café Capistrano will still be able to find their favorite dishes, including the fish taco plate, garlic prawns, and chorizo with eggs and huevos rancheros. 523 Church Street, (650) 726-7699.

**Bottoms up!**
Half Moon Bay Brewing Company, the ideal spot for delicious seasonal ales and tasty bites, has new brews on tap - Barleywine ale, which conveys a sweet beer that is malty and fruity with a touch of orange marmalade. Or go two-for-two with the Double Overhead Double IPA, which features almost double the amount of Golden Promise Scottish malts, and twice the amount of American hops found in a traditional double IPA. For those who want a lighter ale, the Golden-Belgian style Sweetwood Saison is just the right choice. In addition to these specialty suds, Half Moon Bay Brewing Company will be honoring “Strong Beer Month” in February with its Wipe Out Imperial Stout. This dark, full-bodied beer features a pronounced, roasted malt flavor and boasts approximately 9% abv. 390 Capistrano Ave., (650) 263-2018, www.hmbbrewingco.com. Media contact: Diana Gil-Osorio, diana@ellipsespr.com

**The Return of Crab Landing**
After closing its doors in early spring 2011, Crab Landing Seafood & Steakhouse has reopened under new ownership. Now the sister restaurant of Ketch, located just across the street, Crab Landing looks as good as ever, but offers a new vibe, focusing on a more casual ambiance. The 250-seat restaurant has two full bars, a raw bar, an innovative sushi bar and a pet-friendly patio outdoors with three cozy fire pits. Guests can expect to enjoy fabulous American cuisine made from local and sustainable ingredients while enjoying the exquisite harbor views out of magnificent floor-to-ceiling windows. 260 Capistrano Road, Princeton by the Sea, (650) 712-1288, www.crablanding.com.

**Get a Gherkin**
For a delicious sandwich, head to Gherkins Sandwich Shop, which has opened to rave reviews. Guests are greeted by warm, friendly service when they walk into this beach-themed restaurant. These high quality sandwiches come in large portions with a hefty serving of tasty ingredients. With a great selection of specialty sandwiches including the option to build your own, customers are bound to find a tasty meal that suits their taste buds. Gherkins Sandwich Shop also offers burgers and salads, and even hearty breakfast options served any time of the day for those who simply can’t pass up an egg and cheese sandwich. Take it to go or enjoy it at the outdoor patio. 171 7th Street, Montara, (650) 728-2211.

**Princely Seafood**
Just in time for the highly anticipated crab season, Princeton Seafood Company is offering a bountiful selection of mouthwatering crab dishes. Some of the tempting dishes that can be found on this menu include crab cakes and crab cocktail appetizers, Crab Louie salad, plus the traditional crab platter and cioppino entrees. As always, guests can bring their own crabs into the Fresh Seafood Market, and they’ll cook them for $2 per crab (for $2.50 they’ll clean and cook them). Nine Johnson Pier, (650) 726-CRAB (2722), www.princetonseafood.com.

- WINE NEWS –

**ENO-versity**
The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon bay will be continuing its nationally acclaimed wine education experience, “ENO-versity” held at ENO, a custom built, upscale wine tasting room that boasts breathtaking ocean views. Held on the first Saturday of each month, ENO-versity is an interactive wine tasting featuring access to a variety of wines, appetizers, and interactive wine instruction. For some of the best wines from Northern California, take part in the Santa Cruz
Mountains “Food and Wine Experience” on February 4. Enjoy delicious Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Cabernet, and other great varietals that were produced just miles away from Half Moon Bay, paired with more local farm-to-table fare to enrich the experience. **One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7040, [www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/hmb).** Media Contact: Steven Holt, (415) 364-3479, [steven.holt@ritzcarlton.com](mailto:steven.holt@ritzcarlton.com).

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**SHOPPING –**

**A Piece of Golden History**

Based out of Pacifica, Golden Gate Bridge Furniture Company creates limited edition artisan furniture made from historic steel that was removed from San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge. Pieces are crafted from sections of pedestrian handrail, which were removed from the bridge in 1993. Each of the designs that are constructed at Golden Gate Bridge Furniture Co. has a limited production run and each piece comes with a Letter of Authenticity. **Golden Gate Furniture Co.: [www.ggbfurniture.com](http://www.ggbfurniture.com).**

**Princeton Pantry**

With every ending comes a new beginning. While the Huck Finn Center has closed at Pillar Point Harbor, Princeton Pantry has opened in its place. Visitors can book fishing trips, charter boat rides and whale watching tours. In addition Princeton Pantry now has a market that will partner with local farmers, providing fresh goods for easy purchase. Pick up every day items plus specialty goods such as champagne, foie gras, and caviar. **15 Johnson Pier, (650) 726-0110.**

**Coastside Art**

The Coastside Land Trust has recently opened Coastside Art, a new art gallery to promote public appreciation of the natural environment, as well as to raise funds for the Coastside Land Trust’s ongoing work. The Coastside Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that is “dedicated to the preservation, protection and enhancement of the open space environment, including the natural, scenic, recreational, cultural, historical, and agricultural resources of Half Moon Bay and the San Mateo County coast.” The artwork on display will depict coastside images that are consistent with the Land Trust’s mission. The gallery will feature an exhibit of photographs by professional photographer and founding member Beau Gill, featuring landscapes, flowers, and wildlife along the Coastside. **Coastside Land Trust Gallery; 788 Main Street, [www.coastsidelandtrust.org](http://www.coastsidelandtrust.org) (650) 726-5056.**

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