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TOP CALIFORNIA
PICKS FOR
THE SEASON

SECRET HIKES

CHARTER YACHTS

WINE COUNTRY INNS

TENNIS INSTEAD OF

FARM STAYS

BURGER

TOURISTS

JEANS

CONCERT

SUMMER ROSÉ

SHOPPING

TOURS

GELATO

DOG PARKS

VINTAGE FASHION

OCEANFRONT SUITE

SUNGLASS SHOPS

FRESH COCKTAILS

BRIILLIANT BIKINIS

COZY COTTAGES

BEACH BOOKS

PERMET PICNICS

CALIFORNIA STYLE

THE BEST OF SUMMER

PLUS
**CAROLYN
MURPHY**
THE ULTIMATE
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what's hot

BEST OF

California SUMMER

NORTH

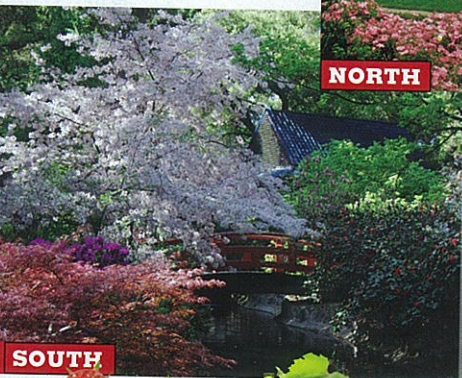


BOTANIC GARDEN TOURS

The state's top troves of exotic plant life.

NORTH In Woodside, the **Filoli Estate** features a 16-acre English garden, which is perhaps most revered for the late summer lavender blooms in the Knot Garden. 86 Cañada Rd., Woodside, 650-364-8300. **SOUTH** A natural "bowl" in the San Rafael hills provides a 160-acre sanctuary for the **Descanso Gardens**, home to Japanese, California and two world-renowned rose gardens. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Cañada Flintridge, 818-949-4200.

SOUTH



FRUIT CALENDAR

Here's a cheat sheet for finding the best bounty throughout the season

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Strawberries	Peaches	Nectarines
Blackberries	Apricots	Raspberries
Blueberries	Ollalibberries	Grapes
Boysenberries	Plums	Apples
Cherries	Figs	Tomatoes

WINE COUNTRY INNS



Three intimate Napa Valley boutique inns charm reservation seekers. With just five rooms, winemaker Cliff Lede's **Poetry Inn** may be the most intimate of Napa's B&Bs. 6380 Silverado Trail, Napa, 707-944-0646; poetryinn.com. For low-key romantic luxury, **Milliken Creek Inn & Spa** sits riverside among a lush garden setting. 1815 Silverado Trail, Napa, 707-255-1197; millikencreekinn.com. The Zen-inspired **Gaige House** offers granite soaking tubs and private Japanese gardens. 13540 Arnold Dr., Glen Ellen, 800-935-0237; gaige.com.

EYE CA FLIGHTS

In-state "jumpers" make long weekends easy. Three nonstop favorites:

S.D. <> **Monterey, Allegiant Air.**

3 times weekly, allegiantair.com.

L.A. <> **Sonoma County, Horizon Air.**

2 times daily, horizonair.com.

S.F. <> **Orange County, Southwest.**

5 times daily, southwest.com.

Good Luck!

Sunbathing in San Francisco. Often referred to as the "fog-belt," S.F.'s summer fog cycles are rated some of the thickest. Save your bikini; summer weather hits in the fall.



DANIELLE STEEL
Author of 108 books
(next is *Matters of the Heart*), philanthropist,
S.F. resident



DINING at Rose's Cafe for lunch with all my kids. **POPPING** into galleries. I'm curating a show called "Word" for the Andrea Schwartz Gallery (opens August). **SHOPPING** for fall at Cielo and Susan in S.F., and Maxfield and Balenciaga in L.A. **STOCKING** the house with pretty things from Sue Fisher King after a big summer house cleaning. **CELEBRATING** my birthday with the kids over a fancy dinner at Quince.



BRUNCH + SHOPPING BLOCKS

In majestic Montecito, Coast Village Road is a standout among the state's most charming walking blocks. The routine: Sit among the sidewalk tables at **Tre Lune**, then stroll in and out of the locally-owned boutiques, including Susan and Dressed, Angel, Maison K and Kate. 1151 Coast Village Rd., 805-969-2646. **HONORABLE MENTIONS** **3 Square Café + Bakery** on Venice's Abbot Kinney; **SPQR** on San Francisco's Fillmore Street; **Brockton Villa Restaurant** on La Jolla's Coast Boulevard.