

STAYCATION SPECIALS

Dream deal at Dream Inn

Here's the perfect chance to sneak a peek inside the spruced-up Santa Cruz Dream Inn. The renovated oceanfront hotel with a new restaurant is offering the "I Love It When We're 'Cruzing' Together" package through Sept. 30.

The package includes five or seven nights in a beachfront room with private balcony or patio; \$150 food and beverage credit per day to spend at the hotel's new Aquarius restaurant, poolside bar or in-room dining; and \$50 gas card.

Five-night stays are \$1,675 and seven nights are \$2,200. Up to two additional guests may be added for \$125 per person, with each additional guest receiving a \$150 food and beverage credit per day.

On the heels of a multimillion renovation of the hotel's 165 guest rooms and suites, Dream Inn debuted its new beachfront hotel on June 26. Aquarius focuses on sustainable seafood, regional wines and local, organic produce. The 2,900-square-foot restaurant features wraparound windows that look out over the Monterey Bay, municipal wharf and Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

Details: 866-774-7735; www.dreaminnsantacruz.com.

Upgrade at new Napa hotel

AVIA Napa marks the opening of its boutique hotel in downtown Napa with complimentary upgrades on stays through Sept. 1.

Upon check-in, guests will be upgraded to a higher-tier room, if one is available. The hotel features 141 rooms and suites, with 14 different options, including 58 tub suites

that contain soaking tubs built for two.

Also on-site, the AVIA Kitchen + Wine Bar serves California cuisine with local ingredients from its community culinary garden. The hotel also offers "Tastemakers," Napa insiders who provide guests with recommendations for things to do and see while visiting.

Rates start at \$209 weekdays and \$279 weekends. Details: 866-644-2842; www.aviahotels.com/hotels/napa/.

Ride the rails, raft the river

For less than \$50, you can combine a leisurely train ride with the excitement of river rafting on one of seven Rail & Raft trips this summer.

Sierra Railroad and Sunshine Rafting Adventures are teaming up for an ultimate day trip in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Passengers shuttle from Orange Blossom Park

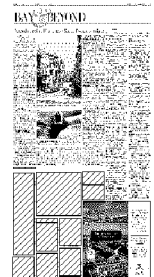
to board the Sierra Railroad Daylight Train in Oakdale for a two-hour ride. Then they take an easy guide-assisted raft trip down the Stanislaus River from Knights Ferry to Orange Blossom Park.

Tickets cost \$49. For an additional \$10, receive priority boarding, sodas on the train and a box lunch. The trips run on July 21; Aug. 1, 15, 18, 23 and 25; and Sept. 8. Details: 800-866-1690; www.sierrarailroad.com.

Check out new Monterey hotel

Hotel Abrego is celebrating its opening in Monterey with introductory rates through Sept. 3. Rates for Sundays-Thursdays start at \$159 and Fridays and Saturdays at \$179 a night. Black-out dates are Aug. 13-17.

Formerly the Sand Dollar Inn, the refurbished 93-room hotel has Craftsmen-style inspired guest rooms, most



of which include fireplaces. The boutique hotel is located in downtown Monterey, only two miles from the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row.

Details: 800-982-1986;
www.hotelabrego.com/

— Ann Tatko-Peterson

Deals are subject to availability, and unless otherwise noted, exclude taxes, fees and gratuities. Hotel stays are based on double occupancy.



MATTHEW MILLMAN

GUESTS CAN CHECK OUT the renovated suites and guest rooms at Santa Cruz Dream Inn this summer with the hotel's "I Love It When We're 'Cruzing' Together" package.