Sunset

BEST OF THE COAST

50+ MUST-SEE DESTINATIONS

From Puget Sound to Big Sur to San Diego

HOTELS

Waterfront inns, resorts & B&Bs

DAY TRIPS

Scenic harbors, secret beaches

DINING

Freshest local seafood

Display until February 13, 2015
SUNSET.COM
$11.99US $14.99CAN
47>
0 70992 10139 9

Sunset pockets

Santa Cruz

Along the Santa Cruz waterfront live the endless summer pursuits of roller-coaster rides at the **beachfront boardwalk** *(beachboardwalk.com)*. Take a scream-stirring ride on the Giant Dipper (which reaches speeeds of up to 46 mph), or test your courage on the new Undertow, a roller coaster with spinning cars. Need a place to recover from the Dipper's curves? Spend the night at retro-chic **Santa Cruz Dream Inn** *(dreaminnsantacruz.com)*, where you can grab a candy sucker from the lobby before heading out for a sunset stroll along cypress-lined West Cliff Drive. Keep your eye peeled for otters among the surfers and sea lions you're sure to see.

THOMAS J. STORY; RIGHT: DAVID FENTON

CRUISE IN

EAT For exceptional sandwiches and salads made with local ingredients, head to **The Picnic Basket** *(thepicnicbasketsc.com)*. Follow it up with a killer float (pictured) from **Baker's Penny Ice Creamery** *(thepennyicecreamery.com)*: basil ice cream—made with fresh herbs from Route 1 Farms—in a tall glass of blackberry soda.
DO When you're wiped out from the beach, take a self-guided tour among yellow and red pincushions, banksias, grevilleas, proteas, and other plants at the **UC Santa Cruz Arboretum** *(arboretum.ucsc.edu)*. Or play farmer for the day at **UCSC's Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems** *(casfs.ucsc.edu)*. It only sounds intimidating—you can wander at will in the field and gardens of this edible paradise.