

CRUZ NEWS

**Santa Cruz County's Latest Wave of
Information for Travel Media**



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**SANTA
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COUNTY** CALIFORNIA

CRUZ NEWS

Cruz News features Santa Cruz County travel-related news, information, and story ideas specific to the travel, tourism, and hospitality sector and is distributed quarterly to qualified travel, lifestyle, and consumer media outlets and representatives. Visit Santa Cruz County works with media on a year-around basis to offer story ideas, photography, b-roll footage, and itinerary suggestions to assist journalists with their assignments.

PRESS VISITS:

Visit Santa Cruz County hosts qualified journalists on assignment for individual media visits year-around. Our press policies are posted on www.santacruz.org/press/press-policies/

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Capitola Venetians Celebrate 100 Years

Capitola Village's signature landmark, the colorful Venetian Court is celebrating 100 years in 2024. Constructed in 1924, the plans included a three-tiered, five-structure complex with 46 individually owned bungalows designed in the popular Spanish Colonial Revival/ Mediterranean style, featuring textured stucco siding, decorative relief work, and a flat red tile roof with a parapet and small pyramidal caps. The original plan also included eight small gardens, with a central garden at the front of the complex. Situated along Capitola Lagoon, the development was originally named "Venetian Villa."

Today, the Venetian Court boasts 24 townhouses and a 17-unit hotel. Some research suggests that the Venetian Court Motel may be the oldest continuously operating motel of its kind in California. The Venetian cost approximately \$150,000 to build (2.7 million in today's money) and prices for individual units started at \$2,000 and the parcels they sat upon ranged from \$500 to \$750. The Venetian's proximity to the beach, lagoon and Soquel Creek was a major selling point.

The Venetian Court's signature, multi-colored pastel exteriors were not part of the original architectural design. According to local lore, one venetian owner painted her unit pink following a trip to Europe where she admired colorfully painted houses and her neighbors soon followed suit.

Interestingly, the blue cottage at the end of the Venetian Court hit the real estate market in July 2024 for the first time in 50 years at \$5,485,800.



Downtown Santa Cruz Restaurant News

The long-awaited arrival of Downtown Santa Cruz's [Hook & Line](#), a new seafood restaurant on historic Walnut Avenue has now occurred. Featuring Chef Santos Majano, the eatery focuses on sustainable, thoughtfully procured seafood and locally sourced ingredients. With Hook & Line now firmly in place, more restaurant news is ready to be announced!

A block away from Hook & Line, Executive Chef Mikey Adams has returned to his hometown following notable experiences in kitchens in Scotland, India, and with Michelin chefs throughout Northern California. His aim in taking the helm at [Alderwood Santa Cruz](#) is to create a positive, collaborative, and solution-oriented kitchen environment where the energy of the kitchen and the dining room is evident on the plate. Inspired by sustainable fishing practices and the abundance of the Monterey Bay, the seasonal, seafood-forward menu features oysters, ceviche, pan-fried halibut and farmer's market produce finds with breads sourced from Manresa Bread on Santa Cruz's westside.



Antonelli Pond Unveils ADA-Accessible Trails

A hidden gem within Santa Cruz County is now more accessible to visitors with disabilities, thanks to a \$1.4 million renovation of the area's trails, picnic benches, terraced banking, pond overlook, interpretative signs, and pollinator gardens. A popular spot for birders, dog walkers, recreational fishermen and outdoor aficionados, picturesque Antonelli Pond, a 100-year-old man-made lake fed by Moore Creek on Santa Cruz's westside.

The trails on each side of the pond are .25 miles long and are now wheelchair accessible. One of the trails connects to ADA trails at Natural Bridges State Park and to the nearby Seymour Marine Discovery Center. Keeping conservation in mind, the new design elements were implemented above the mean high-water line while limiting disturbance to the existing riparian community adjacent to the pond. The pollinator gardens feature California native plants, many of which attract birds, so wildlife enthusiasts have yet another venue at which to spot migratory and year-around species. Specifically, the Dusky Warbler is a mega-rarity in the U.S. but calls Antonelli Pond home. The project was funded by the California Coastal Conservancy's Central Coast Program and California State Parks' Regional Park's Program (Prop 68).



Hotel Paradox, Autograph Collection Gets Creative with Exterior Mural

Santa Cruz's Hotel Paradox, Autograph Collection is embracing the creative community that surrounds it by commissioning a local artist to create a mural for the front of the building. Now complete, the larger-than-life piece was created by local artist Jeremiah Kille. Jeremiah combines abstract and realism to deploy a stylistic approach to the themes of nature and coexistence. His background as a custom surfboard builder with deep ties to the Santa Cruz surf and skate culture are evident in the movement expressed in his work; a colorful homage to the vibrancy of youth. Jeremiah's murals are both inspired by and investigative of finality.

Hotel Paradox is working to install two additional murals by local artist Taylor Reinhold that will be gracing the building as well, enshrouding nearly the entire property.

Opened in 2012 with a recent renovation completed in October 2023, the Hotel Paradox is capitalizing on its presence as the only Autograph Collection property in Santa Cruz County, featuring 1,500 square feet of deck space adjacent to a redwood-tree adjacent pool. Designers maximized the footprint of its onsite restaurant by expanding the seating area, employing glass where possible and extending the ceiling, designing a seamless transition from indoors to outside. Santa Cruz's culture of community that is intrinsic to the region is apparent in the menu offerings at Solaire, the onsite eatery. Forest-themed touches and modern furnishings enhance the lobby-meets-lounge common area, bringing nature-inspired touches to the indoor

space. The property features 170 guest rooms and nearly 5,000 square feet of special event space.



Two Bakeries Debut in Mid-County

Popular with locals and visitors driving iconic Highway 1 from San Francisco, Whale City Bakery now has a second location in mid-county, approximately 30 minutes south of its original location in Davenport, on Santa Cruz County's north coast. Continuing on the sweet side, authentic Italian bakery [Emozioni Pasticceria](#) is now open in Soquel Village, approximately 5 miles south of Santa Cruz.

Following renovations including new flooring in the kitchen and dining room, new paint and furnishings and an upgrade of the large outdoor patio overlooking Aptos Creek behind the restaurant, the 79-seat bakery is staying true to its original roots. With local favorites like buttery apricot, raspberry and olallieberry croissants, artichoke bread and corned beef hash, the bakery also features benedicts, homemade granola and sweet and savory bakery items in addition to ample breakfasts and lunches served with local wines and beers.

Emozioni combines sweet and savory, serving up slices of Neopolitan pizza alongside high-end bakery treats like rum-soaked babà, crisp mille-feuille filled with layers of pastry cream, glossy chocolate-glazed éclairs and shining, domed chocolate bombs. Head baker Crescenzo hails from Naples, Italy and lovingly creates all menu items with fresh, quality ingredients, maintaining loyalty to his hometown.