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LUXURY IN
BALANCE™

Bridal Bliss

*Tips to Help Tailor
Your Wedding*

Gallant Globe Trotting

YOUR CHANCE
TO JOURNEY
ALL AROUND
THE GLOBE

Table Talk

PLACES
EVERY
FOODIE
SHOULD
KNOW

UNDER THE TREE:
A CREATIVE
GUIDE TO GIFTING

Regal High

WINTER 2012

bask CONTRIBUTORS



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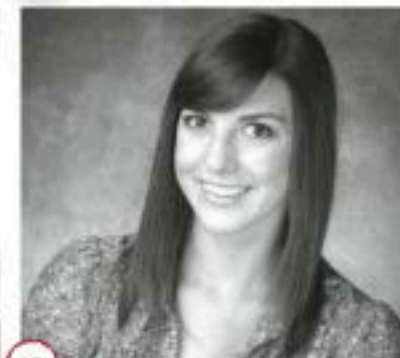
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8 Larry Weinstein

Winter Wanderings: "I'm getting ready to leave for three weeks, first to Istanbul and then on to Israel for some tech conferences, a fantastic time, and some great memories to warm me throughout this winter." *Warm Thoughts:* "I've never considered winter as a long drudge, especially here in Southern California. With great holidays gathering all of our family and friends, there's not a better place to be. It could be worse, we could be back in International Falls, Minnesota also known as Icebox of the Nation."

9 Jenny Peters

Stocking Stuffer: "Being a travel writer who circles the globe annually, my favorite gift is always a new pair of SmartWool compression socks, which my family gives me every year. Those long-haul flights are a snap when I wear them!" *Holiday Habits:* "My birthday is December 15, so each year, everyone gathers at my place for a party to celebrate all the joys of the season, which includes..."

11 Debbie Lavdas

Out with the Old, In with the New: "I plan to embrace the thought of 'out with quantity and in with quality.' I want to focus my time on things that are more worthwhile." *Winter Wanderings:* "We always try to go to the mountains at least once during the season. It's a charmed time to bundle up and our family loves a good, surprise snowball fight." *Garlands and Garb:* "Cozy sweaters and stylish scarves are a thrill to wear in winter. I'm also on the lookout for a great pair of boots."

12 Ariana Espiritu Reyes

Out with the Old and in With the New: "I would like to say goodbye to coffee but I would also like to remain a functioning human being, so I'm keeping the coffee and re-embracing old loves, such as theater, writing, and culinary experimentation." *Warm Thoughts:* "However mild the weather winter season is in California, there definitely is a seasonal stagnancy that comes with the change of the season, which is why..."

14 Tony Florez

International Spotlight: As a photographer, Tony's work has allowed him to travel around the globe to places such as Europe, The South Pacific, and the Americas. *Gift of Giving:* With a clear talent for photography, Tony doesn't keep his art to himself. The photographer gives back to the community through workshops and classes given out of his studio in Corona del Mar. His teachings are then broadcasted on Zuga TV, where it can inspire students interested in photography around the world. *Artistic Eye:* Tony's artistic style is a hybrid of his experience in fashion, photojournalism, and fine art, resulting in an innovative and unconventional aesthetic that brings his work to the foreground of fashion and wedding photography.

15 Virginia Foy

Garlands and Garb: "I always dream of being able to layer this time of year. Although it seldom happens, I'd love to have a winter with a little snow..."

Holiday Your Way



We invite you to celebrate the season in fine culinary fashion with fabulous restaurants selected to match a variety of Southern California lifestyles. These eateries we've spotlighted will suit the tastes of foodies who are gluten-free, have a penchant for catered cuisine on the high seas, are vegan or farm-to-table enthusiasts, or decadent epicurean dining experts. Savor the season, and live it up just the way you like.

LOCALLY SOURCED AT NINE-TEN

If locally sourced is your way of life, NINE-TEN may be a perfect 10. The restaurant, located along La Jolla's historic Prospect Street, was highlighted in this year's "Top 10 Restaurants in San Diego" by Zagat. During the holidays, experience what's in season—perhaps a new slant on butternut squash or black-eyed peas. You can most likely count on cranberries, pecans, pumpkin, and other traditional holiday staples to be infused into gourmet recipes. But you really never know what Chef Jason Knibb will bring back from the local farms each day, as he prepares his nightly menus. Nine-Ten.com

VEGANS REJOICE: 118 DEGREES

Chef Jenny Ross invites vegans to stay healthy and enjoy all the scrumptious delights of the holiday season at her artful restaurant of raw living cuisine in Costa Mesa. Her specialties include pomegranate cheesecake and even savory foods like apple walnut stuffing. “Vegan foods can help you to balance your other holiday indulgences or help you maintain your healthy lifestyle,” says Jenny. “We can be a great resource of new solutions that people can embrace this special time of year.” **[118Degrees.com](#)**

WINE AFICIONADOS TOAST @ TOAST

TOAST Enoteca & Cucina is irresistibly delicious during the holidays for those with a wine aficionado lifestyle. The intimate wine lounge brings the world’s premier wines to the East Village neighborhood of downtown San Diego. You’ll find an exceptional selection of up to 400 wines served by the glass, by the bottle, or from their state-of-the-art Enomatic wine-dispensing machine. **[ToastEnoteca.com](#)**

DECADENT DINERS LOVE WHISKNLADLE

If you have an epicurean palate and a preference for the private-party lifestyle, peruse Whisknadle's exclusive supper club menus this holiday. The highly anticipated Black & White Truffle dinners will be held a few special nights in December at the progressive La Jolla restaurant. The multiple-course menu will feature black and white truffles in each dish and include dessert and wine pairings. The chef will host the posh dinners in the private dining room. **[Whisknadle.com](#)**

CATERED CUISINE WITH ISLAND HOTEL & CRC

What better way to celebrate the season than with friends and family on a cruise catered by Palm Terrace Catering of the Island Hotel? Bayside Marina invites you to captain your excursion around Newport Harbor in their elegant, brand-new 18' *Snug Harbor* Electric Boats. You may rent the boats for an hour or more and take in all the charming holiday harbor décor. For dining, choose from wine and cheese pairings, grilled vegetables, paninis, mini desserts, and more. Palm Terrace Catering can customize anything you'd like, and California Recreation Company will ensure your time on the water is exquisite. **[GreatSlips.com](#)**

GO GLUTEN-FREE @ ANDREA

Andrea at The Resort at Pelican Hill is a wonderful, and possibly surprising, option for those who are gluten-free. While celebratory meals often involve Italian food, pasta can be an immediate red flag for diners with gluten-free dietary restrictions. Andrea's selections of gluten-free pastas, however, are made from flour alternatives, such as corn, chickpeas, rice, soy, and flaxseed bases. Andrea is renowned for its hand-made pastas, which are created inside the one-of-kind, temperature-controlled *Cucina della Pasta*. ‘La dolce vita,’ gluten-free friends. **[PelicanHill.com](#)**

SHOPISTAS CRAVE CUCINA ENOTECA

If shopping is your cup of tea, Cucina Enoteca at Irvine Spectrum may be just your fix. Acclaimed Southern California restaurateur and designer Tracy Borkum launched her Urban Kitchen Shop at Cucina Enoteca, which takes restaurant retail to an all-new level. While dining, you are invited to purchase the eclectic array of sought-after furniture and unique accessories in the restaurant, by ordering items directly “off the menu.” This goes for the chair you're sitting on to the lighting above. **[CucinaEnoteca.com](#)**

SMALL PLATE ZEALOTS CHOOSE K'YA

If calories consume your many foodie thoughts, consider K'ya this holiday season, and indulge without going off your diet. Located inside the coastal La Casa del Camino hotel in Laguna Beach, the restaurant's small plates include gourmet dishes such as Baked Tilapia with organic spinach, heirloom tomato, red onion, and mustard vinaigrette. There's also the Hawaiian Ahi Poke with seaweed, onion, and avocado, plus the Organic Gold Beet Salad, as well as Herb Risotto. **[KyaBistro.com](#)**