

California Dreamin' – San Diego!

By Mira Temkin

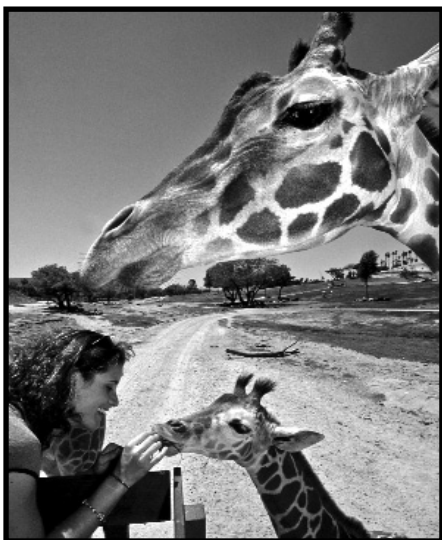


They say San Diego has the country's best weather. With an average temperature of 72, no humidity and little rain, I have to agree. But San Diego's popularity also comes from its

endless array of activities and attractions. From the world's most famous Zoo to fascinating museums to 70 miles of pristine beaches, San Diego is non-stop fun. And Mexico is just minutes away.

See the Sights on the Old Town Trolley

The perfect way to see "America's Finest City" is the Old Town Trolley Tour, providing a 32-mile, narrated tour of San Diego. Our guide wove colorful anecdotes into historical information that served to educate and entertain. The best part is passengers can hop off/on at nine different locations, stay as long as they want and hop back on until they've made one continuous loop. Highlights include the San Diego Zoo, Gaslamp Quarter, Old Town, Seaport Village and more. I was in awe of Balboa Park, the country's largest urban cultural park, with its magnificent campus of 15 museums and theaters. But my favorite part was driving over the bridge to Coronado Island where I could look back on spectacular views of the entire city. For more information, visit www.oldtowntrolley.com.



Dining California Style --Two Elegant Choices

Vivace, The Four Seasons, Carlsbad

The AAA Four-Diamond Vivace, which means "alive" in Italian, is the Four Season's signature restaurant. Rated San Diego's #1 Italian restaurant by Zagat, Vivace features innovative, Italian cuisine in an elegant, yet contemporary setting. The menu showcases fresh handmade pasta and local seafood as well as an eclectic wine list. Chef Bruce Logue recently took the helm, coming from New York's acclaimed, Babbo. We started with pasta e fagioli, a soup with fall beans and parmesan broth. I enjoyed the dry-rubbed New



York Steak with autumn vegetables, while my father dined on "Hen of the Woods" with mushroom Roman squash. Would I have room for dessert? The four layer chocolate cake with warm chocolate custard beckoned, while my dad opted for the chocolate espresso cake with Bailey's gelato. Truly, Vivace more than lived up to its reputation as the best! For reservations, call (760) 603-6800 or visit www.fourseasons.com.

Arterra, Marriott Hotel, San Diego

Contemporary California cuisine takes center stage at Arterra. Depending on the fresh ingredients available from Chino Farms, Chef Brian Pekarck creates a new

menu every day. Fabulous tasting menus are paired with fine wines or "Wine Flights" let you sample three delightful varieties. Dinner starters like crab and goat cheese fritter are matched with a persimmon and apple salad. My main course, trio of lamb, tasted as wonderful as its presentation. The atmosphere is elegant, yet informal with breathtaking views of scenic canyons...a perfect dining experience! For reservations, call 858.369.6032 or visit www.arterrarestaurant.com.



LEGOLAND -- Built for Fun!

A world of interactive adventure awaits you in LEGOLAND, where everything is either built from those famous bricks or showcases the action figure characters. With more than 50 rides and attractions, there's something for everyone. Yes, the park appeals to the younger set, but personally, I had a ball. The "Spellbreaker 4D" show was great fun as was the Technic Test Track coaster. Don't miss Miniland USA, with miniature versions of great American landmarks like Mt. Rushmore, New York City skyline and New England fishing village, all made of LEGOS! Visit www.legoland.com.

Whether you're cruising from San Diego or looking for a great vacation spot, San Diego is a one vibrant city that will exceed your expectations! For more information, visit www.sandiego.org.

Mira Temkin is a North Shore freelance writer specializing in advertising, promotional marketing and public relations. As a travel journalist, her skills have taken her across Europe and the Caribbean. In addition, she is Editorial Consultant for Suburban Woman Publications. She can be reached at 847.433.2109 or mtemkin967@aol.com.