

Santa Barbara





A Santa Barbara Serenade

The violent wind whipped. The wicked sea tossed. And off the coast of then-"Alta" California, aboard the leaky frigate of explorer Sebastian Vizcaino, a seasick Spanish monk prayed to the patron saint of sailors: *Spare me Saint Barbara!* The year was 1602.

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Astride a fat happy mule, Father Junipero Serra surveyed the land christened in honor of the saint who after all proved merciful to the monk, who survived, and pronounced it very, very fine. The year was 1782.

Today, Santa Barbara, sunny and flowered, is the pride of discoverer and founding father alike. Lolling luxuriantly between mountains and sea, the military garrison-turned-mission city of Serra's time is a Spanish-Mediterranean

splendor. Beneath a blaze of blue sky, handsome adobes, dignified date palms and a voluptuous abundance of flora in passionate hues - scarlet and fuchsia, magenta and gold - declare in terms more vivid than words that life is *muy bello* here.

From aloof, exclusive Montecito, where lavish landscaping, ocean views and protective gates preserve a lifestyle of privileged privacy, to the million-dollar retreats nestled high in the 7,000-foot Santa Ynez mountains, where ancient Chumash Indian trails share a sacred wilderness serenity, Santa Barbara is a town where days - no, *decades*

— pass in languid, lazy luxury. It's all very summer-afternoon-in-St.-Tropez.

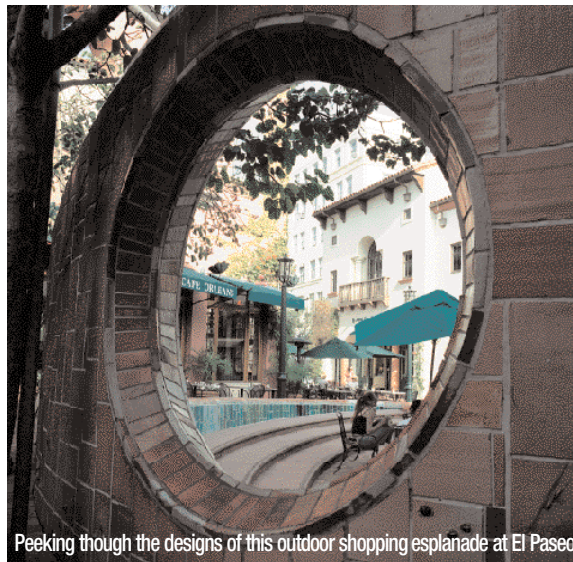
I'm sorry? Well, apparently Pilot Michael would like to pipe-in here. Yes, Pilot Michael, go ahead.

How snooty!

How sleepy!

How slow!

Whoa, pull back on your yoke there, fun-loving flyer: not so fast. As a college locale made young 'n fun by UC Santa Barbara students, and a California coastal hub of



Peeking through the designs of this outdoor shopping esplanade at El Paseo

both outdoor sport and cultural/historic cool, Santa Barbara is not your grandma's snooze-town. The city's sex appeal goes far beyond its comely architectural facade and is more than equal to the challenge of inspiring adventure, exploration, discovery and more. Granted, its red tile-roofed adobes, like those concentrated around lovely El Paseo ("the street in Spain"), are thrilling visual evocations of California's colorful Spanish-Mexican period, but Santa Barbara's inner beauty is an equally radiant

thing - forged by people, pleasures and pursuits devoted to the art of living well.

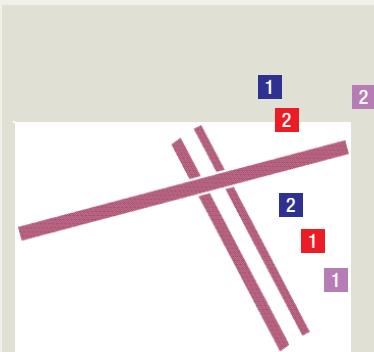
Father Serra likely foresaw as much when in 1786 he founded here what is considered the "Queen of the Missions," California's tenth. The Roman / Moorish / Spanish stunner that rests regally on its knoll overlooking the ocean has for

... by some quirk of geography you can watch the sun both rise and set over the Pacific ...

centuries defined the spirit of Santa Barbara as a peaceful, productive spot where the buzz is about prosperity. For the native Chumash this meant an abundance of fertile lands and phenomenal fishing. For the mission religious it was the hugely prospering community they were able to sustain, complete with 5,200 head of cattle, 11,221 head of sheep, and all manner of arts and industry. And for the wealthy East Coast vacationers who at the end of the 19th century dubbed it the new "it" resort, it was

SANTA BARBARA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (SBA)

AIRPORT DATA	
Elevation:	10'
Runways:	15L/33R 4,179' • 15R/33L 4,183' 7-25 6,052'
Approaches:	GPS RNAV, ILS, VOR
ATIS	805.967.0283
ASOS:	805.681.0583
AIRPORT RESTAURANTS	
Elephant Bar (Next to Signature)	805.964.0779
Silver Wings (Upstairs Terminal)	805.964.7793
FIXED BASE OPERATIONS / FUEL / SERVICES	
Mercury Air Center	805.964.6733
Signature Flight Support	805.967.5608



TRANSPORTATION	
Santa Barbara Limousine	877.711.5466
Avis	805.964.4848
Budget	805.964.0779
Hertz	805.967.0411
National	805.967.1202
Orange Cab	805.964.2800
AIRPORT LODGING	
Pilot House Motel	805.967.2336
Super 8 Motel	805.967.5591
Inn of the Spanish Garden (13 miles)	866.564.4700

Where east isn't east – exactly – and west isn't west, there you will meet Santa Barbara (SBA), the field that confuses the coast best! Luckily, it is also the airport for instant – and excellent – clarity.

Here, the quirky California coast, which you'd expect would run north to south, actually rolls east to west, so approaching pilots reporting, "I'm heading northbound along the shoreline" will be asked their heading. The reply – "2-7-0" – will give the

tower the chuckle it gets day in, day out: the chance to say yet again, "You're west-bound!" Such directional fun in this airspace of rapidly rising terrain is all part of the Santa Barbara fly-in experience, like the nifty Elephant Bar and Silver Wings restaurants; like the two pro FBOs, Mercury Air Center and Signature Flight Support.

Heavy metal has 6,052 feet of prime runway, while everyone including birds of a lighter feather

have base-leg entries on- or off-shore, both with one of life's most stunning views:

Santa Barbara, 7 miles east. All major rental cars and cabs can get you there lickety-split. And a special P.S. from the tower's Vince Bianco:

Your Mode C transponder? Make sure it works. "It's not enough that it's installed," he says. "It's nice if it actually reports a valid Mode C altitude (within 300 feet). Thanks for the tip, Vince. We'll come equipped.

the boundless natural beauty, brisk sea air and invigorating thermal springs that meant only one thing: Santa Barbara was synonymous with well-being. Earthquakes (1812, 1925), floods and mudslides (1990s) and urban sprawl (ongoing), haven't dashed its draw in the least.

And nearly everyone, it seems, has wanted in on it. Eighteenth century sheep ranchers, for one. For years their flourishing flocks made Santa Barbara a farm town. That is, until early Hollywood got word, movie action moved in, and celebs like Charlie Chaplin called it home. In fact, interesting people have always been a city specialty. Take Polish opera diva Madame Walska, on her sixth husband, who transformed her Montecito estate into what today is one of the most celebrated public gardens in the country. Her "Lotusland," a horticultural extravaganza born from Madame's failed attempt at a Tibetan monastery, is such a must-see that tours must be reserved a year in advance. (Call 805-969-9990 to see if they'll squeeze you in.) And then, what about those 3,000 blue whales who have chosen to live just

off the coast, are even they convinced that between its sunny mountains majesty and endless sandy beaches that Santa Barbara is truly *la dolce vita*? Evidently. (Condor Express 888-77Whale (779-4253), can get you up close.)

From pretty, palm-lined boulevards to marvelous Stearn's Wharf, where by some quirk of geography you can watch the sun both rise and set over the Pacific, this is a walker's valhalla. Trip through the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, where miles of

foot-trail wind through desert, arroyo, canyon, Channel Island and redwood plantings. Or trek along the city's celebrated "Red Tile Tour," a 45-minute, self-guided amble through Santa Barbara's historic center. (www.TotalSantaBarbara.com has a map.) For aviators adverse to burning rubber of the Nike kind there is the 21-mile circular "Scenic Drive," which can be done comfortably seated behind the wheel the 'Benz. (www.onroute.com can provide initial coordinates.) This starts at the Santa



. . . saw seven U.S. navy destroyers, disoriented in fog, pile onto the rocks, one after the other.

Barbara Museum of Art (a hottie for any aficionado), takes in the Museum of Natural History, the botanic gardens, backtracks along Alameda Padre Serra (aka the road of million dollar homes with million dollar views), and pokes through Montecito. Continuing, it skirts the beach and bluff wonders of Channel Drive, includes the astonishing Andree Clark Bird Refuge and the

Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens (with lions and monkeys and giraffes, oh my!), zips to the wharf's Sea Center marine museum and aquarium, catches the country's most gargantuan Moreton Bay Fig Tree (south of downtown at Chapala St. and Hwy. 101), so giant that 10,000 people can fit in its shade, and finally offers a gawk at Hope Ranch, the posh community of forested Pacific headlands estates. Flyers not yet pooped can then swoop down on the famed Brinkerhoff Avenue Landmark District, Santa Barbara's ode to upscale galleries and tony antique shops where this and that for the little villa back home are surely among the heirlooms-to-be that await. And then in the mood for romance? Snuggle-up with your honey in a suite at the stunning Inn of the Spanish Garden, a swoon-worthy retreat in the center of the historic El Presidio district ideal for wooing the one you love with its luxurious Frette-sheeted beds, in-room massage, special "romance" packages and more. (www.spanishgardeninn.com)

I'm sorry? Yes, Pilot Michael, Santa Barbara speaks not only to the sightseer's, shopper's - and lover's - soul, but to the adventurer's as well.

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INN OF THE
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www.SpanishGardenInn.com
Auhite Access Code: KH1*

Take Point Arguello, the rocky headland 20 miles southwest of Lompoc, site of the California's greatest shipwreck disasters, including the 1923 shocker that saw seven U.S. navy destroyers, disoriented in fog, pile onto the rocks, one after the other. Some wrecks still can be seen offshore. Future thrills are found in the Los Padres National Forest, where hiking/backpacking/mountain biking prevail. For ocean-goers the volcanic Channel Islands National Park is the E-ticket. This unique coastal ecosystem of more than 1,000 plant and animal species (dolphins! grey whales! cormorants!)

offers arguably the best kayaking, whale watching, snorkeling and scuba found anywhere along the Pacific coast.

Hey, Pilot Michael, look alive! Time to push down on that yoke, fun-loving flyer. Can't get going too fast to take advantage of all this, the sunny pleasures and awaiting adventures that are the sweet, the sublime, Santa Barbara.

Get out there!



Historic Adobes of State Street

Art & History

Santa Barbara Mission
805.682.4713
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
805.963.4364
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
805.682.4711

Horticulture & Zoology

Andree Clark Bird Refuge
805.564.5437
Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens
805.682.4726
Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
805.962.6310
Steams Wharf Sea Center
805.962.0885



Pilot Michael Recommends

Bouchon

9 West Victoria Street
TEL: 805-730-1160

Steps off State Street, quintessential California cuisine with Santa Barbara style. Seasonal menu emphasizes ingredients from local farms, gardens and sea, such as quail, oysters, duck, and calamari. Incredibly extensive wine list offers over 50 vintages by the glass. Dinner only.

Cafe Buenos Aires

1316 State Street
TEL: 805-963-0242

Argentinean cuisine in an open, casual setting around a central fountain. Traditional Argentinean dishes, with an interesting blend of Italian and Spanish influences. All beef exclusively imported from Argentina.

Chad's

625 Chapala Street, 93101
TEL: 805-568-1876

Established in 1992 in a restored Victorian residence downtown, Chad's is the home of regional American cuisine emphasizing steaks and seafood. Specialties include oysters Rockefeller, barbecue shrimp, filet mignon and Jack Daniels soufflé. Dinner only.

Citronelle at the Santa Barbara Inn

901 E. Cabrillo Boulevard
TEL: 805 963-0111

Created by famed restaurateur Michel Richard, award-winning California-French cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner served with lovely views of the Pacific from floor to ceiling windows.

Emilio's

324 West Cabrillo Boulevard
TEL: 805-966-4426

Across from the marina and boat harbor, this popular ristorante boasts an imaginative variety of the foods of Italy—from steaming bowls of pasta to wood-fired pizza, veal, chicken, beef and some of the best tiramisu dessert around. Generally busy but always-attentive friendly service. Dinner only.

Palace Grill

8 East Cota Street
TEL: 805-963-5000

Just off State Street downtown, consistently popular, constantly fun-loving atmosphere featuring team service by a high-energy staff. Emphasis on regional American, especially New Orleans' cuisine. Flown-in fresh daily catfish. Lunch and dinner daily.

Stonehouse Restaurant/Plow & Angel Bistro at San Ysidro Ranch

900 San Ysidro Lane
TEL: 805-969-4100

Nestled in the hills of Montecito, the rustically elegant yet unpretentious Stonehouse features seasonal regional American cuisine at its best. The Plow & Angel offers simpler fare featuring pastas, pizza and salads. Outstanding service.

INN OF THE SPANISH GARDEN

866.564.4700

915 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA
www.SpanishGardenInn.com

I will serenade my señorita by the fountain; I will sing that her smile is as lovely as the flowers in bloom all around...so voluptuously. I will woo *mi amor* by the fireplace of our suite; I will whisper her hair is as silken, her skin is as soft as...the luxury Frette linens on the bed. My eyes will make love to my *corazón* across the breakfast table in the morning, when the European feast - complimentary - fills my senses with such abundance! Gourmet breads, exotic fruits, Spanish frittatas - delights as delicious as...my darling. Sigh. Yes, I, Pilot Michael, am inspired to become the classic Latin lover. Why? Because here at the Inn at the Spanish



Garden, what is proposed is Grand Romance.

An intimate 23-room, Spanish-Mediterranean retreat in the heart of Santa Barbara's vital, historic Presidio district, this is

the smart lover's serenade to his sweetheart. Luxury amenities: in-room French pressed coffee and fresh cream; fathoms-deep tubs; a wine cellar of special finds; complementary cappuccino served on the veranda, day and night. Close

attention to personal service: in-room massage for two; high-speed Internet access. All this and more are mere steps from the city's most alluring seductions.

Si, I will kiss my *amorcito* under the moon in the courtyard - in public - so all of Santa Barbara can see that at the Inn at the Spanish Garden the mood of love is the music all around...olé!