



Just a little out there.

Marin's Convention & Visitors Bureau December 08

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The MCVB Monthly Newsletter

The goal of the Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau is to keep you informed of local events, green businesses, travel trends and membership.

The MCVB staff members are donating some of their time during the holidays to community volunteer programs. Some of us will be working in the kitchen with [Project Homeless Connect](#) and others will be assembling backpacks for Warm Wishes on behalf of [MarinLink](#).

Have a very merry holiday~
The MCVB staff:

Mark, Christine, Deborah, Gina and Anuschka

MCVB Member of the Month

The Melting Pot

Located in the historic Brick Kiln in Larkspur, CA, The Melting Pot offers an extraordinary dining experience that you won't find at any other restaurant. Here one discovers all the ingredients to a perfect evening, including a relaxed atmosphere, private tables, attentive service, fine wines & fabulous four-course fondue dinners. The Melting Pot offers the highest quality fresh ingredients, a variety of cooking styles, unique sauces and your favorite chocolate fondue. To highlight any meal they also offer a wide variety of wines. On Wednesday, December 17, there will be "A Girls



Night Out." Ladies can feast on fruits and cheeses, salads, petite feasts, desserts, paired with affordable wine and cocktail specials. Fifteen percent of all proceeds will be donated to The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Make reservations and come "dip into something different".

[The Melting Pot](#) has been a member of the MCVB since November 2005.

Holiday Dining in Marin

Where to Dine in Marin for the Holidays

[Point Reyes Seashore Lodge and Restaurant](#): A Christmas Eve dinner in Olema will include Prime Rib and King Salmon among various delectable items.

[IZZY'S Steaks and Chops](#): Special holiday menus for both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve dinners. Located in Corte Madera, they will also be open New Year's Day from 2:00 to 10:00PM.

[Il Fornaio](#): Try Cucina Italiana dining for a special Christmas Eve dinner in Corte Madera.

[Empress Events](#): During December take advantage of their holiday specials Monday through Thursday.

[Hornblower Cruises](#) and Events: Santa Claus is making a special stop aboard their weekend holiday brunch cruises all month. Indulge in a delicious brunch buffet and free flowing champagne. The day after Christmas on Friday December 26th, try their holiday lunch cruise leaving at noon.

[The Station House Cafe](#): Spend New Year's Eve in Point Reyes Station complete with dinner, dancing and champagne beginning at 8:30pm with a \$20.00 cover. For additional information and reservations, call 415-663-1515 or visit their [website](#).

Bring in the New Year with fondue at The Melting Pot! New Year's Eve will feature prix fix four-course fondue dinner. Menu options include a cheese fondue, salad, entrée, and chocolate fondue. For more information, visit their website at www.meltingpot.com.



Additional restaurants open on those hard to find dates of either December 25th or January First are:

[Grille 101](#) at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael will have a Christmas Day Buffet. Advanced reservations are advised.

The [Three Degrees Restaurant](#) in Tiburon will be open Christmas Day.

[Max's](#) will be open New Year's Day.

McInnis Golf Park's [Club Restaurant](#) will have a special New Year's Day Brunch.

[P.F. Chang's China Bistro](#), [Frantoio Ristorante](#), [The Cheesecake Factory](#) and the [WildFox](#) will all be open New Year's Day.

Holiday and New Year's Eve festivities abound and you can find more information on our event calendar at www.visitmarin.org.

Event Highlights for December

Victorian Holiday and Dickens Celebration Friday, December 5th from 6:30 to 9:00pm

The evening spotlights live holiday performances, hosted by Mr. Charles Dickens himself with characters in Victorian attire, old-fashioned caroling and an authentic Father Christmas. Storytelling will take place for kids of all ages. In addition to the entertainment, hot cider and cookies will warm cold tummies and hands, and a huge table of craft supplies will be available for families to make that special holiday decoration. The Queen Anne style mansion, decorated in her winter holiday finest, is the perfect setting to enjoy a nostalgic holiday dream of music, food, stories, and crafts. We invite you to step back in time and experience an authentic Christmas Carol in Victorian grandeur. [Falkirk Cultural Center](#) is located at 1408 Mission Avenue in San Rafael.



Novato Holiday Crafts Faire Saturday, December 6th

A holiday crafts faire to include fresh greens, gifts, jewelry, ornaments, toys, bath & body products, hand crafted items, wreaths, specialty foods, ceramics, entertainment, quilt raffle, luncheon and baked goods, face painting, photos with Santa, and much more! Admission is free. Call the Margaret Todd Senior Center at 415-899-8290 for more information.

Lighted Boat Parade Saturday, December 20th at 5:30pm

Each year, San Rafael celebrates the holiday season with its annual lighted boat parade in the San Rafael Canal. Boaters throughout Marin County devote many hours and days preparing their vessels for what has become one of the largest lighted boat parades in the Bay Area.



Parade viewing along San Rafael Canal, at Montecito Plaza, and at Seafood Peddler.

For more information, contact Community Action Marin at (415) 485-1489 or visit www.camarin.org

If you are a member of the MCVB, please continue to send us any event you would like to have listed on our [Event Calendar](#) web page. We will highlight a

few county events each month in this section.

Travel Trends

Did you know...

International Opportunites

Big things are happening right now for California, especially in the international arena. Overseas arrivals have been the shining star for the tourism industry in both California and nationwide. Through August 2008, overseas arrivals at California airports are up 8.6 percent. In August alone, overseas arrivals were up 10.2 percent from 2007. Most European markets as well as China have been especially strong, with increases of greater than 20 percent. Additionally, the California Travel and Toursim Commission (CTTC) recently saw an exciting announcement about South Korea joining the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). This is a huge opportunity for California, and the CTTC is perfectly poised to take advantage of it.

To our hotel partners: if you are offering a special, promotion or package that you would like to be included in our monthly newsletter please contact Christine Bohlke, Sales Director of the MCVB at 415.925.2060

Marin Members Honored

Headlands Institute Honored

[Headlands Institute](#) was recently honored by the Bay Area Chapter of the Sierra Club with the Hannah Creighton Environmental Justice Award. The award honored Headlands Institute's "fantastic environmental and social-responsibility programs serving young people from all walks of life and economic status."



Marin Economic Commission's 2008 Awards of Excellence Recipient: Bear Valley Inn

[The Bear Valley Inn](#), owned and operated by Amanda and Ken Eichstaedt, was a recent recipient on November 14th for their "Environmental Values and Resources" efforts. A Certified Green Business since 2007, the Bear Valley Inn recycles most everything from composting waste that is used in the gardens, to raising chickens that lay eggs for their guests' breakfasts.

Our Mission: *To develop a sustainable visitor base to Marin County, enhance the local economies, and protect the natural resources through responsible promotion.*

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