

THINGS WE LIKE



TEA FOR TWO

■ Lovers of all things cute will enjoy afternoon tea at the **Hello Kitty Grand Cafe**. The Sanrio brand’s first permanent cafe in the United States features two distinct areas. The first space is the main cafe, which offers a casual seating area for sipping flavored iced teas as well as coffee, blended drinks and seasonal beverages. Guests can also dine on small cakes, pocket pies, macarons or made-to-order mini doughnuts. For a more upscale tea experience, make a reservation at The Bow Room, a chic pink room featuring a glowing Hello Kitty bow on the wall and barstools with a matching design. Here, afternoon tea service is available with black, green, oolong and caffeine-free options gracing the menu. The cafe also offers an array of sweet and savory snacks from scones, miniature cakes and fresh fruit to paprika-smoked salmon or pretzel croissants. In the evenings, the tearoom transitions into a bar serving wine as well as a variety of Hello Kitty-inspired cocktails.

Jet set to the City of Lights without ever leaving Orange County with a visit to Parisian-themed **Paris in a Cup**. Located in Old Towne Orange, this elegant tea salon welcomes guests with a front-of-house market serving French treats like gourmet chocolates and macarons as well as boutique items like jewelry, perfume and Paris-inspired trinkets. Continue to the grand salon for an upscale, traditional service, with piping hot, ready-to-pour pots of signature tea served to each table. Choose from the Marie-Antoinette tea, a blend of rose petals and essence as well as apples from the Versailles palace garden, or the Flavors of France, a black tea with notes of vanilla, red berries, mallow flowers and sunflowers. Other signature tea options include Creamy Cacao, Jasmine Flower, Fruits of Summer, Red Toffee and the aptly named Paris in a Cup.



Top left: Paris in a Cup; top right: Hello Kitty Grand Cafe; middle row: loose-leaf tea (left) and drink selections (right) at Tranquil Tea Lounge; bottom: tea service at LSXO; opposite page: sandwiches at Hello Kitty Grand Cafe

TOP LEFT: JAKON LAYMAN; RIGHT: COURTESY OF MORRIS/WSL



The tearoom also offers an extensive menu of freshly baked bread, salads, sandwiches, quiche and desserts as well as special tea packages complete with scones, tea sandwiches, soups and more.

A secret tea rendezvous is best planned at **LSXO**, “a concept within a concept” hidden in the back of Bluegold in Huntington Beach’s Pacific City. With seating options for only about a dozen, LSXO (besides serving colorful Vietnamese food inspired by District 1 in Saigon, where Chef Tin Vuong’s family is from, and artisanal cocktails) offers a charming afternoon tea service from 2-4 p.m. that includes artfully arranged open-faced finger sandwiches, French pastries and specialty sweets, all accompanied by blended hot international teas like Hong Kong-style milk tea. This is a hidden gem worth sneaking away to on a leisurely afternoon.

Those seeking a modern option should stop by **Tranquil Tea Lounge** in Fullerton. The urban teahouse offers a modern aesthetic with an impressive array of drinks, housing more than 95 varieties of loose-leaf tea. All options can be served hot or iced, with specialty and organic options ranging from green tea blends like Cherry Blossom or Asian Pear and black teas like Darjeeling and lychee-flavored to oolongs, whites, rooibos, tisanes, herbal blends and more. Some of the premium choices include the Serenity blend, white peony, passion fruit oolong and tropical hibiscus. Tranquil Tea Lounge also offers maté drinks and blends that are said to increase energy levels, stimulate the mind plus other benefits. Additionally, enjoy everything from small plates of ceviche or sun-dried tomato hummus to fresh salads, sandwiches as well as tea mocktails. (Hello Kitty Grand Cafe: hellokittycafe.com) (Paris in a Cup: parisinacup.com) (LSXO: dinebluegold.com) (Tranquil Tea Lounge: tranquiltealounge.com) —Ashley Ryan

TOP LEFT: JAKON LAYMAN; RIGHT: COURTESY OF MORRIS/WSL

LOCAL SURF STARS

■ Hundreds of thousands of spectators are drawn to Huntington Beach each summer for a World Surf League Qualifier and one of the largest surf events in the world: the **Vans US Open of Surfing**. The event returns to Surf City this summer from July 27 through August 4.

It will be hard to top last year’s dramatic finish, which delivered two Huntington Beach local surfers to the podium. With a surge of power and a major rebound from an injury, Courtney Conlogue took the women’s title, while Kanoa Igarashi claimed the men’s, making him the first surfer to win back-to-back Men’s Opens since 2009 and 2010, when another Huntington Beach local, Brett Simpson, made headlines.

In addition to surfing, the event includes world-class skateboarding and BMX competitions, movie premieres, retail and art exhibitions, plus product demos and samples from your favorite action sport industry brands, including title sponsor Vans. (vansusopenofsurfing.com) —Justine Amodeo

Kanoa Igarashi and Courtney Conlogue take the champions’ podium at last year’s Vans US Open of Surfing in Huntington Beach.





Rendering of The Roost in Santa Ana, which will feature repurposed cargo containers amid prewar buildings

FOOD HALLS 2.0

■ Long Beach-based **Studio One Eleven** architects are taking the food hall concept into new terrain with a series of culinary outposts built out of cargo containers. Using recycled shopping containers, the architects have devised innovative food halls that significantly lower construction costs, making it easier for up-and-coming chefs, bakers and makers to enter the restaurant business. “Creating retail with re-used containers not only allows more cost-effective and sustainable development—especially for independent retailers—it also helps build social cohesion and a compelling sense of place to help strengthen community,” says Studio One

Eleven Senior Principal Michael Bohn, AIA. Cargo culinary centers are slated to open throughout 2019 in places like Garden Grove, where an on-site working farm will provide fresh produce for resident and visiting chefs. Other cargo culinary centers will open in Anaheim and Bellflower, meanwhile, at **The Roost** in Santa Ana, containers will complement a collection of prewar buildings including an abandoned filling station and barn, to serve as a bar and restaurant. (Studio One Eleven: studio-111.com) (The Roost: flocktotheroost.com)—*Alexandria Abramian*



ON THE STAGE

■ Local dance company **Backhausdance** will close out Irvine Barclay Theatre’s Contemporary Dance Series for the 2018-2019 season this spring with an artistic display led by artist director and the company’s founder Jennifer Backhaus. The performance, which will take place for one night only on May 22, will be a world premiere, featuring new choreography from the acclaimed Dwight Rhoden as well as repertoire pieces choreographed by Backhaus herself. The Orange County-based company just celebrated a milestone recently as well, marking its 15th season and its first European tour.



Previously this season, the series featured acts like Jessica Lang Dance, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and Martha Graham Dance Company. There will also be a performance by Cuba-based Malpaso Dance Company on March 20 that will include numbers like “Indomitable Waltz” by Aszure Barton and “Face the Torrent” by Sonya Tayeh. (backhausdance.org) —A.R.



DREAM MACHINES

■ While art and automobiles don’t typically go hand-in-hand, the same can’t be said at **Petersen Automotive Museum**. For the last 25 years, the institution, which is situated in Los Angeles, has been telling stories about the history of local vehicles through its impressive collection. Now, in the midst of celebrating a quarter century in the City of Angels, Petersen Automotive is hosting a series of new exhibitions. Kicking off the celebration and running through January 2020, “Winning Numbers: The First, The Fastest, The Famous,” features 10 groundbreaking race cars, each with a unique story of triumph and victory from the collection of Petersen Founding Chairman Bruce Meyer, including the iconic Cobra #1, the winningest Ferrari 250TR and Le Mans winning Kremer 935. “Bruce Meyer is perhaps one of the most influential car guys in the world, and there is no better collection than his to kick off our 25th anniversary,” says Petersen Automotive Museum Executive Director Terry L. Karges. Also just launched and running through June is “Auto-Didactic: The Juxtapoz School,”



which explores 50 artists who, for six decades, created work exploring themes considered out of the mainstream in fine art circles, such as hot rods, comic books, psychedelic posters, surfing, skateboarding and B-movie monsters. On May 5, in collaboration with Comic-Con Museum, “Hollywood Dream Machines: Vehicles of Science Fiction and Fantasy,” which, through props, film, design drawings and physical vehicle models (see photo above) “brings pop culture’s visions of dystopian, utopian and science fiction worlds to life,” opens to the public as another of 12 signature events throughout the year. (petersen.org) —A.R.

Clockwise from top left: Backhausdance performs “Breach, 2017”; a car from “Hollywood Dream Machines: Vehicles of Science Fiction and Fantasy”; a car from “Auto-Didactic: The Juxtapoz School”; Backhausdance performs “Empty House, 2018”

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