

WorldMark
BY Trendwest

Destinations

A Magazine Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

October 2005



What's New in California

Solvang

Indio

Palms Springs facelift

Win a Seven-day Ski Vacation for Four

in spectacular Mont Tremblant, Quebec



Enter the **Friends First Ski Vacation Sweepstakes** for your chance to win a week with three friends in Mont Tremblant, *Ski* magazine's #1-rated ski resort in eastern North America. With 94 downhill runs in the spectacular Laurentian Mountains, this European-inspired resort caters to skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels. Other activities include horse-drawn sleigh riding, ice climbing, tubing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and dogsled riding.

Get one entry for each qualified referral you submit by **December 31, 2005** (See official rules below; estimated odds of winning: 1:100,000, depending on number of eligible entries received.)

THE INCREDIBLE PRIZE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- **Roundtrip airfare** for four to Mont Tremblant, Quebec
- **Seven nights ski-in/ski-out accommodations** at Les Suites Tremblant
- **Car rental**
- **Lift tickets** for four for the entire length of your stay
- **\$1,500 USD** spending money
- **An \$8,200 USD retail value!**

FRIENDS *first*
— by WorldMark

**Enter today! Call 1-877-77-FRIEND (1-877-773-7436)
or e-mail friendsfirst@worldmarktheclub.com**

Official Ski Vacation Sweepstakes Rules. NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THIS SWEEPSTAKES.

CONSUMER DISCLOSURE:

Sweepstakes is open only to WorldMark, The Club owners who submit qualified referral names and are U.S. residents in the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Utah or Washington or the Canadian province of British Columbia. WorldMark® owners are eligible to one entry for each qualified referral submitted to Trendwest® between October 1, 2005 at midnight PST and December 31, 2005 at midnight PST. Qualified referrals must be between the ages of 25-75 with a combined annual income of \$35,000 or more. You may send in additional referrals and receive additional entries by writing to Attn: Friends First Sweepstakes, 9805 Willows Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052. If you wish to enter the sweepstakes but do not wish to provide referrals, you may do so by mailing a 3"x5" card with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Attn: Friends First Sweepstakes, 9805 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052. Owners' referrals must be received by December 31, 2005 at midnight PST to be entered into drawing. Prize is guaranteed to be given away by random drawing. Drawing to be conducted by the Major Prize Coordinator and will be held on January 20, 2006 at Trendwest Resorts' Redmond, WA, corporate headquarters. Grand Prize: One winner will receive coach airfare for four to Montreal, Canada; seven-nights accommodations for four at Les Suites Tremblant resorts in Tremblant, Quebec, Canada; four seven-day ski lift tickets; \$1,500 (U.S. funds) in spending money; and a rental car for the entire vacation period. Total estimated retail value \$8,200 (U.S. funds). Air travel and accommodations are subject to availability and must be booked through Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511. All ticketing is final. Transportation to and from airports of departure and arrival, applicable departure taxes and expenses not covered in this disclosure are the responsibility of the prize winner. Vacation must be taken within one year of prize acceptance. Winner may also choose \$5,000 (U.S. funds) in cash instead of the Mont Tremblant ski vacation prize. Prize is non-transferable. Estimated odds of winning are 1:100,000, depending on number of eligible entries received. Winner will be notified by certified mail. Prize must be claimed within 45 days of notification. Winner must agree to the use of pictures, name and/or statements for future promotional purposes without further payment or consideration. Sponsor(s) is not responsible for any loss, damage or injury of any kind resulting from acceptance of this prize or participation in this promotion. Trendwest Resorts and Cendant Corporation employees and/or associates are not eligible to claim prize. A list of prize winners may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Winners List, c/o TRI, PO Box 97054, Redmond, WA 98073-9754. Sponsor: Trendwest Resorts, Inc., 9805 Willows Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052. You may decline future sweepstakes mailings by writing to us at: Trendwest Resorts c/o Sweepstakes Opt-Out, 9805 Willows Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052.

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- Ten wine-tasting tips
 - Indio's 2006 festival calendar
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ON OUR COVER:
The Danish Village Dancers go flying every September during Danish Days in Solvang.
Photograph by Mark Dolyak.



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WINERY AT SOLVANG, PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS



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Here Comes the Sun

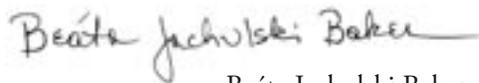
IT'S UNMISTAKABLY AUTUMN—leaves are turning and the air is developing a bit of a nip. But no matter the time of year, the world of WorldMark is filled with destinations—and dispositions—that are sunny and wonderfully warm.

If you're planning on attending the WorldMark Annual Owners' Meeting this month—Wednesday, October 26 in Bellevue, WA—you'll learn more about those sunny dispositions. This year's theme is service, and we'll be saluting the amazing people behind the scenes who continually give their all to make your vacation experience the best it can possibly be. Turn to pages 7 and 31 for the latest updates and meeting information.

There's certainly a bright sun on the product development horizon with the announcement of WorldMark West Yellowstone. Scheduled to open in spring 2007, this 112-unit resort will be situated within a quarter-mile of Yellowstone National Park. Go to page 15 to read about the exciting plans for WorldMark's first Montana resort.

Our own Romy Jacobson Lawyer takes her boundless energy and cheery outlook to the land of sunshine—California. Join her on page 16 as she explores the scenic splendor of the Coachella Valley desert, visits Joshua Tree National Park, and previews the elegant resort going up at Indio. Along the way, Romy stops by to see a glamorous old friend: WorldMark Palm Springs. Romy also explores the wine and wonders of Central California's Santa Ynez Valley and peeks in on the progress of WorldMark Solvang.

It's unmistakably autumn—and you might be feeling a little seasonal angst. The remedy is right at hand. Flip through your resort directory, or go online and browse the WorldMark Web site. Then book your next getaway online or call one of our award-winning vacation counselors at the Vacation Planning Center to make your reservation. It's a surefire way to let the sunshine in—wherever you are.



Beáta Jachulski Baker
Senior Editor

IMPACT OF HURRICANE KATRINA ON WORLDMARK NEW ORLEANS

At press time we were unable to get a damage assessment for WorldMark New Orleans due to restricted access to the area. The current reservation status for the resort is as follows:

- All reservations have been canceled indefinitely.
- No new reservations are being taken until we can better assess the situation.
- Updates will be posted on the WorldMark Web site at www.worldmarktheclub.com.

Destinations

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Sat. & Sun., 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PT
(Closed Tue., 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. PT)

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How WorldMark Became Our Second Home

“WOULDN’T YOU LIKE to take your wife on a trip to Europe and stay in a castle?” “NO!” “Wouldn’t it be fun to vacation a week on the beaches of Hawaii?” “NO!” So went the sales pitch in 1997 at the Running Y Resort in Klamath Falls, Oregon. As my husband and I went out the door, the salesperson figured he would never see us again.

After discussing our situation over lunch, we decided to buy a WorldMark membership after all. But we needed a home-away-from-home, not a vacation. We had a set of ailing parents in Klamath Falls, and an ailing parent in Lincoln City. There were WorldMark resorts convenient to both Oregon locations. We lived in San Diego, California, yet needed to make frequent trips north to see about our parents.

As time went on, we realized what a bonus it was to have a home-away-from-home. We could tend to our parents’ needs, and then as they rested we could go back to our “WorldMark home” where family and friends could come by for a meal or a visit. At the times of the funerals, we were able to open our WorldMark home for family members who had come for the memorial services.

We intended to sell our membership when we no longer needed to see to the needs of our parents. But with retirement and no longer spending time with parents, we started using our credits for special family vacation time. A week in the penthouse at Tahoe III in Stateline, skiing with our three sons. A week at Kapaa Shore in Kauai for a son’s wedding along with 33 family and friends. A cross-country trip with a son enjoying a penthouse stay in Branson, Missouri, to see the Christmas shows. Time with my sister in Rosarito Beach, Mexico. We now used our WorldMark homes to create new precious memories.

We slowly learned to use Bonus Time and Inventory Specials. Thus far, we have stayed at 26 different WorldMark resorts, some several times. Running Y, our home resort, is still a favorite spot where our grandchildren can come and stay with us for a few days. Thanks, WorldMark.

Nancy Ostrom
San Diego, CA



The Ostrom family at son Mark’s wedding during their stay at WorldMark Kapaa Shore in May, 2002.



R to L: Ostrom grandchildren Mason and Brittany with their friends Kristen and Chris at the family’s “home resort,” Running Y.

SPREAD THE WORD!

It’s a fact: WorldMark owners love hearing WorldMark stories. Tell yours in a letter (with pictures, if you have them) addressed to *Destinations* Editor, 9805 Willows Rd. NE, Redmond, WA 98052 or editor@trendwest.com.

A Quick Guide to the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM

Earning **1,000 permanent vacation credits** for your real estate transactions is simple! Here are a few answers to the most common questions about the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM:

- ❖ The WorldMark Vacation Credits awarded are regular **permanent premier vacation credits**—just like the credits you originally purchased.
- ❖ You can earn a block of 1,000 credits for the purchase of a home or a block of 1,000 credits for the sale of a home. If you are buying **and** selling, you could earn a total of 2,000 permanent credits!
- ❖ Credits are placed into your WorldMark account approximately two to three weeks after the close of escrow. These credits will be renewed annually on your original anniversary date.
- ❖ The credits are paid for by the real estate broker(s) to whom we refer you. This is their—and our—way of thanking you for your business.
- ❖ The process is simple: Fill out a real estate referral form online at <http://www.worldmarktheclub.com/specials/partners.shtml>, or call us toll free at **1-877-869-9672**. We'll pass your information to a participating local broker servicing the area you are selling from, or buying into. The broker will assign a pre-qualified agent to contact you directly, usually within 24 hours.
- ❖ If you proceed to the close of escrow with that agent, the broker will contact us; we, in turn, send final paperwork to you for your signature. Your credits are added to your account when your signed papers are received.

Call the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM toll free at **1-877-869-9672** today!



Transaction must be initiated through Trendwest's Real Estate Referral Office to qualify. Vacation credits will be available only to WorldMark members who register first with Trendwest and have been referred to the participating local broker by the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM. Owners going directly to the individual real estate brokers without referral will not be eligible to partake in this offer. Some transactions may not be eligible. Program may not be available in all areas.

WINNERS

Steven Buchheit of Mt. Angel, OR, won a three-night WorldMark stay when we selected his completed resort comment card in our drawing for August. In our online booking incentive drawing, our latest winner is **Steve Petersen of Mountain Center, CA**. Steve will receive a seven-night stay at the WorldMark resort of his choice. Want more vacation? Make your reservations online and fill out those resort comment cards—your name could be drawn next!



WORLDMARK CLEAR LAKE, CALIFORNIA

INVENTORY SPECIALS

In November, you can vacation at the following resorts for just four cents per credit. Call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103 to make your reservations.

MIDWEEK AND LIMITED WEEKENDS

- Angels Camp, CA
- Bison Ranch, AZ
- Galena, IL
- Grand Lake, OK
- Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- Pinetop, AZ
- Rancho Vistoso, AZ
- Sundance, BC
- Windsor, CA

MIDWEEK ONLY

- Arrow Point, ID
- Bass Lake, CA
- Bear Lake, UT
- Big Bear, CA
- Birch Bay, WA
- Branson, MO
- Cascade Lodge, BC
- Clear Lake, CA
- Eagle Crest, OR
- Lake Tahoe, NV
- Running Y, OR
- St. George, UT
- Victoria, BC
- Wolf Creek, UT

Midweek stays must take place Sunday through Thursday. There is a two-night minimum stay on weekends. Reservations for Inventory Specials can only be booked within 60 days of arrival but are not subject to the 14-day booking window. You may book multiple units. Holidays—Nov. 24–27—are excluded.



BY DAVE HERRICK
Senior Vice President,
Trendwest Resort Management &
WorldMark Operations

Amend the 60-day Rule?

Read the pro and con, and vote

IN YOUR ANNUAL voting materials this year you will find information regarding a proposed amendment to the WorldMark governing documents. The amendment relates to the timeframe in which WorldMark owners are allowed to book a less than seven-day reservation during Red Season.

General statement

Currently, the “Length of Stay” booking requirement for reservations within the WorldMark system states: “A less than seven-day reservation in Red Season cannot be booked greater than 60 days from the date of reservation arrival.” This restriction applies only to Red Season; if a reservation is made for White or Blue Season, a less than seven-day stay is allowed.

This rule was initially made to protect WorldMark inventory for owners desiring weeklong stays during traditionally prime vacation periods, such as Red Season. The concern was that, without this rule, highly desirable weekend inventory (Friday and Saturday nights) would be booked up as soon as they became available according to the standard 13-month advance-booking rule. Owners seeking to book a full week during Red Season would then find only Sunday through Thursday night inventory available.

Proposed change

The proposed change would move the timetable from 60 days to 90 days from the date of reservation arrival. The new guideline would read: “There is a seven-night minimum stay, which may be split between two or more resorts, required during Red Season for any reservation booked more than 90 days before reservation arrival.”

In order for this amendment to pass, the WorldMark Bylaws would require a vote by a majority (50 percent +1) of the entire WorldMark ownership in favor of this change.

A prepared statement

IN FAVOR of this amendment:

Based on the current booking patterns of owners today, we know that up to 75 percent of all reservations are booked 60 days or less in advance of the day of arrival. While stays vary from resort to resort, the overall average stay in a WorldMark resort is less than four days. This pattern of booking activity clearly indicates that the majority of WorldMark owners prefer to use the club in less than seven-day increments, but are forced to wait until 60 days (in Red Season) from date of arrival to confirm their plans due to the current restrictive booking policy.

The implications of this change would be that owners who prefer to book in less than seven-day increments in Red Season would now have an additional 30 days to plan and book their reservations. This proposed amendment is a response to how most owners use the club. The change would give them an expanded booking window—from 60 days to

90 days. At the same time, it would still give the owners who prefer weeklong stays a high level of protection by advancing the date by only 30 days.

In summary, this change would be an advantage to owners who prefer the ability to book shorter stays as compared to weeklong stays. If you tend to agree to this position, vote **YES** on this proposed amendment.

A prepared statement

AGAINST this amendment:

The implication of this change is that working families with school-age children would lose the protection of the weeklong-stay option 30 days sooner than the system currently provides. During Red Season, weekend availability would now get booked up 90 days from date of reservation arrival instead of 60 days, leaving an owner possibly wanting a weeklong stay at a particular location out of luck.

There is also a concern that owners who have been members of the club for 15+ years have become so accustomed to the current policy that a change now would cause upheaval and confusion.

In summary, this change would be a disadvantage to owners who prefer weeklong stays. If you tend to agree with this position, vote **NO** on this proposed amendment.

No matter what your opinion is, I urge you to vote on this amendment as well as for the board of director positions that are currently up for election. Your participation in the voting process is essential in ensuring that each owner's voice is heard, and that every owner plays a vital role in shaping the future of the club. Thank you.

ASK OWNER SERVICES



Five Great Reasons to Book Off-Season

BY TRISHA YORK

SAVVY WORLDMARK OWNERS know how to maximize their credit value. Following the lead of these power users, we offer five reasons for booking in White or Blue Season.

1. WEEKENDS GALORE

Off-season, you can book less than seven nights within the normal 13-month guideline. Weekend reservations still require a two-night minimum stay, but that's the sole stay requirement if you are not booking a vacation in Red Season.

2. YOUR CREDITS STRETCH

Simply put, your credits go further when spent in White or Blue Season—you get more vacation for fewer credits. This is a great opportunity to book for extended family reunions, retreats, or a much-needed long weekend.

3. IT'S QUIETER

Most owners travel during national holidays or when their children are out of school. If you're looking for a quieter resort stay, booking off-season may be the perfect choice. Make a note of your family's personal holidays—birthdays, anniversaries, etc.—that may fall in a less-traveled season and book that special occasion in advance.

4. YOU CAN STASH YOUR CREDITS AND USE CASH

Trendwest currently offers an alternative payment option to using credits when booking White and Blue Season vacations. FAX Time—FAX stands for Friends And eXtends—allows owners to pay eight cents (8¢) per credit when making reservations within normal booking guidelines.

Housekeeping fees are included in your final quoted price. Use of FAX Time in Red Season is limited to once every five years. Remember that FAX Time policies are subject to change.

5. YOU CAN STRADDLE THE SEASONS

Here's a bonus tip from some power users. Vacations that cover two different seasons can be reserved for less than seven nights as long as the confirmation includes the same number of off-season nights as Red Season nights.

Trisha York is a WorldMark owner services representative. Any of WorldMark's highly trained representatives can answer your questions about off-season booking at the Vacation Planning Center, 1-800-457-0103, or owner support@worldmarktheclub.com.



Closed for Thanksgiving

NEXT MONTH, in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Vacation Planning Center, Owner Services, the Adventure Club, and Trendwest Travel will be on the schedule at right:

| | Thursday Nov. 24 | Friday Nov. 25 | Saturday Nov. 26 | Sunday Nov. 27 |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Vacation Planning Center (Reservations) 1-800-457-0103 | Closed | 6 am–2 pm | 6 am–5 pm | 6 am–5 pm |
| Owner Services 1-888-648-7363 | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Adventure Club 1-800-457-0103 | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Trendwest Travel 1-800-953-5511 | Closed | Closed | 9 am–4 pm | Closed |



Your first year is only **\$89**
\$106 CAD* USD

\$1
and your second year is only

RCI Vacation News
October 2005

What do you look for in a vacation? Chances are, RCI can help you find it.

Everyone is unique – but when it comes to vacations, some things are on everyone’s list of “must-haves.” Great weather. Natural beauty. Friendly people. Comfort. Convenience.

Most people also want vacations that offer plenty of things to do – from amusement parks and water slides to a trip to the seashore. Maybe yours is the kind of family that likes to try new experiences. One year, you might decide to go sea kayaking. The next, to teach your kids a thing or two about fly fishing.

If you’re an avid golfer, the vacation you dream of is probably carpeted in rolling hills of green.

For others, vacations are a chance to go shopping and pick up items unlike anything available at home. Or to step back in history to another time and place.

Vacations are a chance to change your point of view. Maybe you’re an active person who’d like nothing better than climbing to a sub-alpine meadow of

wildflowers. Or diving to explore a shipwreck. Or maybe your idea of the perfect vacation is as simple as a beach chair, umbrella, and a person on hand to bring you cold beverages and savory appetizers on demand.

One thing goes without saying. Carefree vacation days call for resort luxuries and accommodations that pamper you and let you enjoy your leisure time to the fullest.

At RCI, we think every vacation should be a one-of-a-kind experience, topped off with the comfort and convenience of a great resort. As the world’s largest resort exchange network, our roster includes everything from exotic international destinations to places you can drive to in a few hours. So whatever experience you crave, you can be sure that RCI has it – and can help you get it.

**Let RCI guide you to the vacation
you’ve been wanting. Join now!
Call 1-800-585-4833.**



†Current RCI and Interval International, Inc. customers are not eligible.

*Prices may vary based on exchange rate.

This Month’s Featured Destinations:



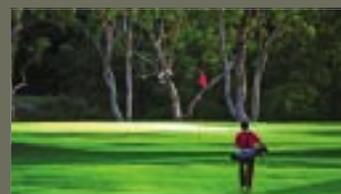
Atlantic City, New Jersey



Branson, Missouri



Nashville, Tennessee



Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Want some vacation ideas? Here's a start.

With thousands of RCI resorts available around the world, we can't begin to describe in these pages the vast range of vacation experiences open to you through RCI. But just to give you a hint – and to whet your appetite for more – here are four experiences we think you'd really enjoy.



1 Atlantic City, New Jersey

1 **Atlantic City, New Jersey**
It's a glamorous hot spot, with glitzy casinos and a Victorian-era pedigree. There are eateries of all kinds, upscale shops, and a brand-new multimillion-dollar entertainment complex. Best of all, there's a fabulous shoreline and the incomparable Boardwalk.

- > Head straight to the four-mile-long Victorian-era **Boardwalk**. People-watching is at its best here. Plus, there are amusement piers, museums, arcades, bars, restaurants, carnival games, and miniature golf. And you'll see a fair amount of oddities that defy description.
- > Don't go home without a bagful of **saltwater taffy**. This is where the sweet confection was invented.

- > Take a side trip to the **historic town of Smithville**, about 13 miles away. Founded in 1787, the town is known for its Early American antiques shops.
- > Head over to Cape May, just an hour's drive away, to see one of the last operating lighthouses in the country. Since 1859, the **Cape May Lighthouse** has been beaming its beacon out to sea. In the mood for a workout? Climb the 199-step winding staircase for a panoramic view of the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay.
- > While you're in Cape May, tour the **Emlen Physick Estate**, constructed in the 1870s. Take time for afternoon tea or a light lunch in the Victorian estate's carriage house.



2 Branson, Missouri

2 **Branson, Missouri**
In the mood for a swingin' good time everyone in your family can enjoy? Come to Branson, where the music never stops and the Great Outdoors is at its greatest. There's so much going on, one trip doesn't do Branson justice. Come discover all the area has to offer.

- > **See star performers** like Kenny Rogers, the Gatlin Brothers, Andy Williams, the Oak Ridge Boys, George Jones, Mickey Gilley, Moe Bandy, Petula Clark, and many others! Hear everything from gospel, to pop, to rock, to show tunes, to swing.
- > Catch **Presley's Country Jubilee**, running since the 1960s.
- > Head over to the **Dixie Stampede** for dinner and a show.
- > The Ozark Mountains area is gorgeous. Go **hiking or horseback riding** – or explore amazing **underground caves**.
- > Anglers, head to Lake Taneycomo for fantastic **trout fishing**. For **water enthusiasts**, Table Rock Lake is a premier destination.
- > Want to play a few rounds of golf? Branson is a great place to tee up!
- > At the end of each busy day, just relax and take in the splendor of an **Ozark Mountains** sunset.

3

Nashville, Tennessee

When you think of Nashville, you naturally think of music. This is the place where gospel, blues, rock and roll, and country music took root. Where such talents as B.B. King, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, the Rev. Al Green, and hundreds more found encouragement. But Nashville is also a sophisticated city with top-notch restaurants, art museums, and kid-friendly attractions. In other words, it's perfect for a vacation!



3 Nashville, Tennessee

- > Don't miss the **Grand Ole Opry**, the **Country Music Hall of Fame**, and the **Ryman Auditorium & Museum**.
- > Rent a paddleboat on **Percy Priest Lake**. Although the lake is near the city, it's surrounded by a natural setting. In the fall, the foliage is gorgeous.
- > Stroll through the numerous gardens at **Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art**. The mansion itself houses collections of 19th- and 20th-century American art and more.
- > Drive by the **homes of country music greats**. Pick up a "Homes of the Stars" map at the Ernest Tubbs Record Shop or various souvenir shops around town.
- > Let your kids explore ArtQuest on the second floor of the **Frist Center for the Visual Arts**. The Frist is free for all visitors 18 years of age and younger.

4

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

At the center of South Carolina's 60-mile-long "Grand Strand," Myrtle Beach is an awesome place to spend a vacation. With mild temperatures year round and dazzling white sand that seems to stretch on forever, life really is a beach.



4 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

- > Sunbathing, swimming, boating, and all the other water sports rank high on everyone's "to do" list. With the crowds gone, the **beach** is an entirely different experience. Take a peaceful stroll, look for shells, and listen to the surf.
- > Save time to visit nearby Beaufort to see its graceful **antebellum mansions**.
- > Other points of interest: **Murrells Inlet**, formerly a hideout for pirates; **Pawleys Island**; and **historic Georgetown**, founded in 1729.
- > Golf, anyone? There are more than 100 **championship golf courses** in the area.
- > Craving some **fresh seafood**? The restaurants in Myrtle Beach are renowned – but not pricey.



All credit cards are not alike. This one is **especially for you!**

We know you get truckloads of credit card offers. Most of them let you earn points or rewards of some sort. But there's one card that's different – and better. It's the new **RCI® Elite Rewards®** credit card. And it's designed just for timeshare owners.

With this card, you earn Rewards whenever you use it. But unlike the others, you earn **double Rewards*** every time you use it to transact with RCI or an RCI Bonus Rewards Partner – and there are hundreds! No other credit card does that. No wonder it's the card more than 200,000 RCI members carry.

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To apply, call MBNA toll-free at 1-800-437-0180.

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This is a partial description of the RCI® Elite Rewards® credit card program. Complete program rules are contained in the Rewards Guide and are subject to change. A copy of the Guide is provided with new account materials. Earn one (1) reward for every dollar in new net purchase transactions charged to the credit card by you and your authorized user(s), if any. Cash advances, finance charges, purchases of money orders and other cash equivalents, and unauthorized or fraudulent transactions do not earn rewards. Respond to this offer and qualify to receive Bonus Rewards and regular rewards for first qualifying purchase made with your new card. Bonus Rewards count toward the monthly point limit.

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Exchanging your WorldMark credits for an RCI Exchange Vacation is easy. It's only the choosing part that can be tough. After all, RCI offers thousands of terrific resort choices.** Call a helpful RCI Guide for help zeroing in on the perfect destination for your family. Then book it. Then and only then will we deduct the credits from your WorldMark account.

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2. Confirm. We may be able to confirm the Exchange Vacation you request on the spot. If it isn't available, you can request an ongoing search. We'll stay on top of your request and notify you if it does become available.

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Owner Education

SCHEDULED OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CLASSES

Owner Education—a fun and free way to learn all about your ownership! Classes are held at Trendwest sales offices unless otherwise indicated. **Reservations are required.** For reservations, please call **1-800-397-5968**, Mon–Fri, 6 am–9 pm; Sat–Sun, 6 am–5 pm. Class times and locations are also listed online at www.worldmarktheclub.com/education.

Refer a friend when you attend and enter to win an amazing ski vacation! See page 2 for details.

NORTHWEST

Birch Bay, WA

Wed, Oct 5, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 1, 6 pm

Bothell, WA

Tue, Oct 4, 6 pm
Wed, Oct 19, 6 pm
Wed, Nov 2, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 22, 6 pm

Coeur d'Alene, ID

At Coeur d'Alene Inn
414 W. Appleway
Thu, Oct 13, 7 pm
Tue, Nov 15, 7 pm

Depoe Bay, OR

At resort
Sat, Oct 29, noon

Discovery Bay, WA

Sat, Oct 22, noon
Wed, Nov 30, 6 pm

Federal Way, WA

Tue, Oct 11, 6 pm
Thu, Oct 20, 6 pm
Tue, Oct 25, 6 pm
Thu, Nov 3, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 19, noon
Tue, Nov 29, 6 pm

Leavenworth, WA

At Icicle Inn Best Western
Thu, Nov 17, 6 pm

Medford, OR

At Red Lion Hotel
200 N. Riverside Ave.
Thu, Nov 10, 6 pm

Salem, OR

At Red Lion Hotel
3301 Market St. NE
Wed, Nov 9, 6 pm

Seaside, OR

Fri, Oct 7, 6 pm
Fri, Nov 11, 6 pm

Seattle, WA

The Camlin
Sun, Oct 23, noon
Sun, Nov 20, noon
No free on-site parking

Tri-Cities, WA

At Clover Island, Kennewick
435 Clover Island Dr.
Wed, Oct 12, 6 pm
Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm

Vancouver, WA, USA

Thu, Oct 6, 6 pm
Thu, Oct 27, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 8, 6 pm

N. CALIFORNIA

Angels Camp, CA

Thu, Nov 17, 6 pm

Reno, NV

Sun, Oct 23, noon

Roseville, CA

Sat, Oct 8, 10 am, 2 pm
Tue, Oct 25, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 5, 10 am, 2 pm
Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm

San Francisco, CA

Call 1-888-805-5863 for parking info.
Sat, Oct 22, noon, 4 pm

Thu, Nov 10, 6 pm
Wed, Nov 30, 6 pm

San Jose, CA

(Near Santanna Row)
2880 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Mon, Oct 10, 6 pm
Sat, Oct 29, 10 am, 2 pm
Mon, Nov 7, 6 pm
Mon, Nov 21, 6 pm

Tracy, CA

Wed, Oct 19, 6 pm

Walnut Creek, CA

Sat, Oct 15, 10 am, 2 pm
Wed, Oct 26, 6 pm
Wed, Nov 9, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 19, 10 am, 2 pm

Windsor, CA

Thu, Oct 27, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 15, 6 pm

S. CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield, CA

Sun, Oct 9, 2 pm
Sun, Nov 6, 2 pm

Big Bear, CA

Tue, Oct 25, 6 pm
Mon, Nov 7, 6 pm

Las Vegas, NV

At resort on Las Vegas Blvd.
Sun, Oct 16, noon
Sun, Nov 13, noon

Oceanside, CA

Wed, Oct 12, 6 pm
Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm

Palm Springs, CA

Tue, Nov 29, 6 pm

San Diego, CA

Thu, Oct 6, 6 pm
Wed, Oct 19, 6 pm
Thu, Nov 3, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 22, 6 pm

San Dimas, CA

Wed, Oct 5, 6 pm
Sat, Oct 22, 10 am
Wed, Nov 2, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 19, 10 am

Torrance, CA

Mon, Oct 10, 6 pm
Mon, Oct 24, 6 pm
Mon, Nov 21, 6 pm

Westlake Village, CA

Sat, Oct 8, noon
Sat, Nov 5, noon

MOUNTAIN

Boise, ID

At 800 S. Industry Way in Meridian
Wed, Oct 5, 6 pm
Thu, Oct 6, 6 pm
Thu, Nov 3, 6 pm
Fri, Nov 4, 6 pm

Broomfield, CO

Thu, Oct 27, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 12, 2 pm

Englewood, CO

Wed, Oct 26, 6 pm
Fri, Nov 11, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 12, 10 am

Idaho Falls, ID

Sat, Oct 8, 10 am–X
Fri, Oct 21, 6 pm
Fri, Nov 18, 6 pm

Overland Park, KS

Sat, Oct 22, 10 am, 2 pm
Thu, Nov 17, 6 pm

Phoenix, AZ

Sat, Oct 1, noon

Rancho Vistoso, AZ

Tue, Nov 8, 6 pm

Salt Lake City, UT

Tue, Oct 4, 6 pm
Fri, Oct 28, 6 pm
Wed, Nov 2, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 15, 6 pm

St. George, UT

Tue, Nov 29, 6 pm

Tulsa, OK

Thu, Oct 20, 6 pm
Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm

Wolf Creek, UT

Wed, Oct 19, 6 pm
Tue, Oct 25, 6 pm
Thu, Nov 10, 6 pm

X—indicates canceled class

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED—MAKE YOURS TODAY AT 1-800-397-5968!

WHO YOU CALLING A PUNK?

by Beáta Jachulski Baker
With reporting by
John Lindblom,
Lake County Record-Bee



PHOTO BY AL HIPPE.

WHEN JAMES BEALL headed out to see “Van’s Warped Tour” on July 7, 2005, he had no idea that by the end of the evening he would be heralded as a hero. James—a member of the house-keeping team at WorldMark Clear Lake in Nice, California—had joined seven friends to attend the annual punk rock concert extravaganza. The eight, ranging in age from 15 to 18—and decked out in requisite black attire and spiky dyed hair—expected nothing more than a night of thunderous music and big fun.

The teens were driving along Highway 20 in Lake County and had just reached a section called “Dead Man’s Curve” when the road tried to earn its name right in front of them. A pickup truck carrying a 63-year-old man and his 94-year-old mother suddenly swerved, overcorrected, flipped off the road, and landed on the driver-side door. Now the truck literally teetered on the edge of a cliff. The driver was halfway out his door and lying on his neck; his mother was upside-down, hanging from her locked seatbelt. If the car turned over on its roof it would crush the driver. If it slid farther from the road it would crash into a ravine.

James and his friends pulled over, called 911, and sprang into action. Along with other witnesses to the accident, the teens braced the vehicle until the victims could be safely removed. James particularly distinguished himself by breaking the back window of the truck, crawling through the shards of broken glass to reach the elderly woman. He held her in his arms as a rescue worker cut the seatbelt suspending her. Miraculously, neither victim needed to be hospitalized—both were treated for abrasions and pain, and released.

“Fantastic!” exclaimed local firefighter Ryan Ira. “Here you have kids who don’t look like they’re going to jump in and lend a hand. But they went above and beyond what anyone would be expected to do in a volunteer situation. These kids helped more than anyone I’ve seen in the last couple of seasons.”

Back at WorldMark Clear Lake, James has resumed his house-keeping duties. “James has not changed in my eyes,” states resort manager Al Hippe. “He is still a quiet young man who does his job in a workman-like manner. He reminds me of Superman—his secret is out. He is quiet and reserved, but we now know that he is capable of great deeds.” Hippe continued: “Due to James’s heroism we made him the Employee of the Quarter. This was a no-brainer: He saved lives and helped when needed—as well as being an excellent employee.” 

WorldMark Comes to “The Last Best Place”



KEPER FALLS, YELLOWSTONE. PHOTO BY NECK FEDERICK.

MONTANA RESIDENTS proudly claim their state as “The Last Best Place” in the country to settle in, and many celebrities have recently built homes there. With Trendwest’s acquisition of property in West Yellowstone, WorldMark owners will be able to enjoy, year-round, the same breathtaking scenery and desirable quality of life that has lured such personalities as David Letterman, Ted Turner, and Tom Brokaw.

WorldMark at West Yellowstone is slated to have 112 units of virtually every configuration, from studios to four-bedroom presidential suites. The property is situated about a quarter-mile from the west entrance of Yellowstone National Park, with easy access to Norris Geyser Basin, Old Faithful, and Mammoth



RENDERING BY ANKROM MOISAN ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS.

Hot Springs. With a projected opening date of spring 2007, owners can start looking forward to their own golden moments in the “Treasure State.”

Ongoing Projects



PHOTO BY SCOTT BEVAN



PHOTO BY SCOTT BEVAN



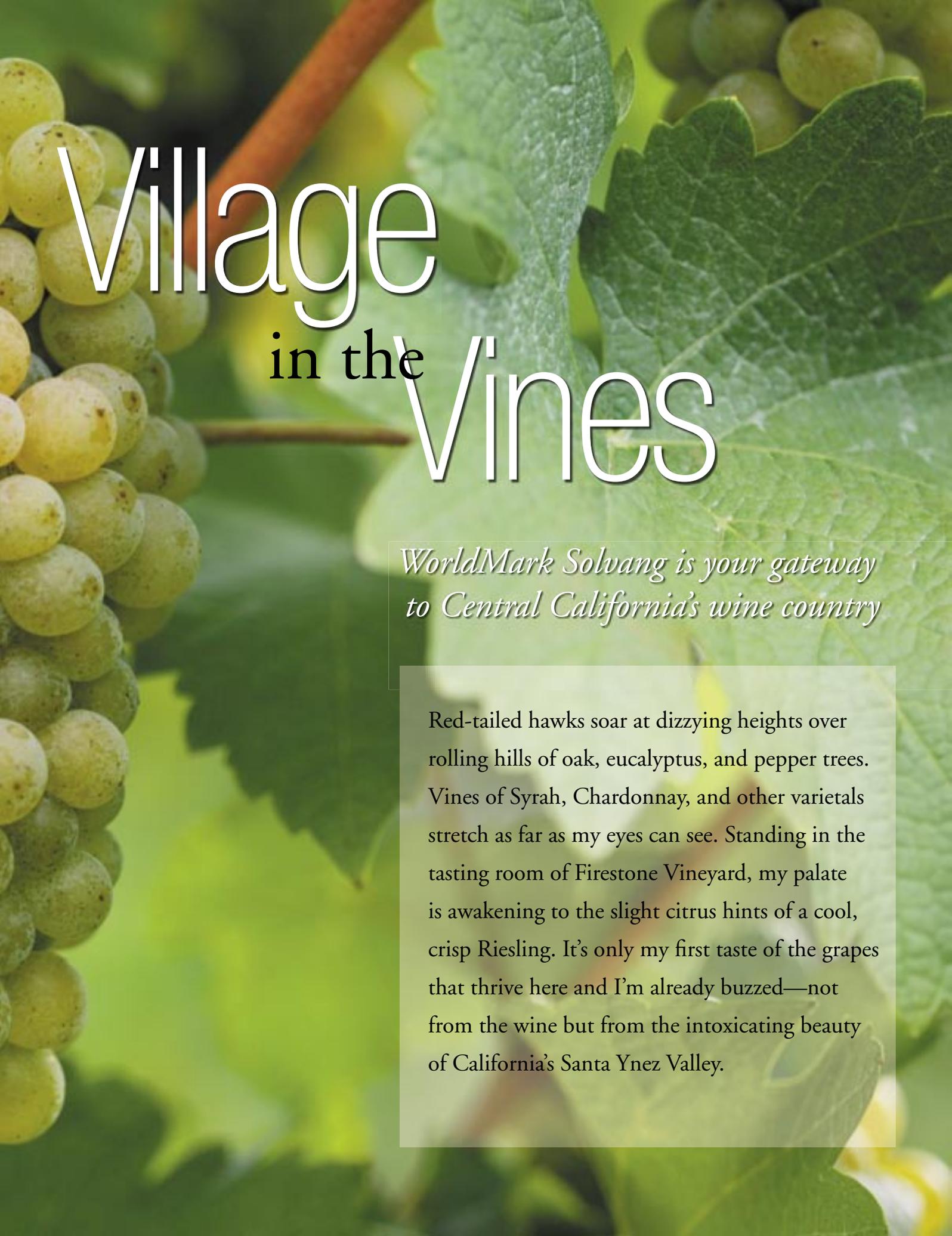
PHOTO BY SCOTT BEVAN

ST. GEORGE, UT PHASE II
 No. Units: 71
 Est. Completion: Summer 2006
 Status: Framing to roofing

BEAR LAKE, UT EXPANSION
 No. Units: 40
 Est. Completion: Fall 2006
 Status: Foundations poured

MIDWAY, UT
 No. Units: 36
 Est. Completion: Spring 2006
 Status: Foundation and framing

Information as of August 31, 2005



Village in the Vines

*WorldMark Solvang is your gateway
to Central California's wine country*

Red-tailed hawks soar at dizzying heights over rolling hills of oak, eucalyptus, and pepper trees. Vines of Syrah, Chardonnay, and other varietals stretch as far as my eyes can see. Standing in the tasting room of Firestone Vineyard, my palate is awakening to the slight citrus hints of a cool, crisp Riesling. It's only my first taste of the grapes that thrive here and I'm already buzzed—not from the wine but from the intoxicating beauty of California's Santa Ynez Valley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Home base for my three-day sojourn is Solvang—a quaint Danish town tucked deep within the valley, and the future site of **WorldMark Solvang**, scheduled to open later this year. The resort, sporting Danish-themed architecture, will offer a mix of spacious one-, two- and three-bedroom units complete with full kitchens, washers, and dryers. Amenities also include a swimming pool, children’s pool, spa, and exercise room. Located downtown on Alisal Road, the resort is within blocks of wine-tasting rooms, restaurants, bakeries, and shops. But charming Solvang will have to wait; the grapes of the Santa Ynez Valley are beckoning me today.

Joyride to the vines

The Santa Ynez Valley is part of Santa Barbara County wine country, home to more than 60 wineries and more than 18,000 acres of grapevines. Today I’ve embarked on a back-country wine tour with **Cloud Climbers Jeep Tours**. My chosen excursion includes a five-hour exploration of wine country in a canopy-covered Jeep, visits to four wineries, lunch, and a complimentary wine glass.

Our first stop is Firestone Vineyard in Los Olivos. Jane, my guide, gives me a crash course in wine-tasting etiquette that I simplify into the five “S’s”—stem, see, swirl, smell, and savor. Hold the glass from the stem so the warmth from the hand doesn’t affect the wine’s temperature. Lift the glass—from the stem, of course—and really see the wine’s color to learn more about its age and body. Swirl the wine in order to release its aroma. Smell the wine’s bouquet and “almost taste

it through your nose,” as Jane says. Then savor the wine—really appreciate and enjoy its taste. Established in 1972, Firestone is one of the valley’s oldest and largest wineries. Its sales manager, Andrew Firestone—great-grandson of tire mogul Harvey S. Firestone—was a handsome catch on ABC-TV’s hit “The Bachelor,” a reality-dating show where a single man romances a bevy of beautiful bachelorettes in the hope of finding a bride. Unfortunately there’s no Andrew sighting at Firestone today; according to the wine pourer, he’s still a bachelor. But I remember my “S’s” of wine etiquette and fall madly for that crisp, refreshing 2004 Riesling with lemony hints that just might be the perfect complement to some *medisterpölse* (pork sausage flavored with clove and allspice) when I return to Solvang.

A matter of tastes

As we continue on to our next winery, Jane tells me that the valley’s mountain ranges—the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria—run from east to west, which allows ocean breezes to flow in freely and breathe life into the varieties of grapes that thrive in this fertile region.

Weeping willows line the road to Los Olivos-based **Koehler** and its intimate tasting room where I fall in love with a tart, yet silky 2002 Pinot Noir. Later the air is thick with the heady scent of Spanish broom as we drive farther into the countryside of Solvang to **Foley Estates**. We find their tasting room tucked inside a farmhouse, where we sample a delicious 2003 Sauvignon Blanc that would go



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

well with fresh fish, shellfish, or salads.

Kalyra—our final stop—lives up to its Australian Aboriginal name, which means “a wild and pleasant place.” Its lively surfer-themed tasting room in Santa Ynez is highlighted by a delightfully drinkable Shiraz.

Finally we head back to Santa Barbara, our starting point, by way of secluded dirt roads and shaded canyon drives with amazing valley and ocean views that, for me, would’ve otherwise remained undiscovered. We wave to the **Circle Bar B Ranch**, which Jane says is a great spot for horseback riding—another way I could imbibe this glorious, oak-studded countryside. Tomorrow, though, is reserved for Solvang—and indulging in all the little town has to offer.

Playing in “sunny field”

Solvang—which means “sunny field”—was founded in 1911 by Danish settlers from the Midwest. Located about 130 miles north of Los Angeles, the village still embraces its strong heritage and stages **Danish Days** each September, a weekend-long celebration of Old World customs and pageantry that includes folk dancing, entertainment, parades, and food.

Carrying out the old-Europe theme year-round, most of Solvang’s buildings resemble life-sized gingerbread houses, adorned with copper, tile, and faux thatch roofs. Unique shops are plentiful, offering imported wares that include porcelain, antiques, collectibles, and handicrafts. Large decorative windmills—some attached to shops, some standing alone—are scattered throughout the village. And the **Honen Street Car**—an authentic Danish horse-drawn

carriage—conveys tourists about town. Not wanting to miss a thing, I rely on shoe leather to see the sights.

After the pancake ball

Food is first on my agenda and both traditional Danish and American dining options are available. Soon **The Solvang Restaurant** on Copenhagen Drive—known for its famous *aebleskiver*—pancake balls topped with raspberry jam and powdered sugar—catches my eye. For good old American-style flapjacks, there’s also **Paula’s Pancake House**, “Solvang’s original pancake house,” on Mission Drive.

A great choice for lunch or dinner is **Café Angelica** on First Street, which serves California cuisine complemented by an excellent wine list. For a traditional Danish smorgasbord, a popular place is **The New Danish Inn** on Mission Drive. For Far East fare, I find **Mandarin Touch** on First Street with authentic northern Chinese cuisine, and **Kabuki Japanese Restaurant** over on Second Street for traditional Japanese dishes, including sushi. And three miles out of Solvang on Highway 246 in Buellton, the **Hitching Post II** offers three-course dinners at reasonable prices and its very own Hitching Post Highliner Pinot Noir.

Cute kitsch and fairy tales

While browsing through Solvang’s shops after breakfast I find an assortment of possible keepsakes—miniature windmills, cuckoo clocks, hand-painted clogs. I’m tempted by the vast selection of authentic Danish pastries—apple strudels, almond custard kringsles, and tin canisters of butter



Opposite page: Solvang's Danish heritage dates back nearly 100 years. Visitors can learn more at the Elverhoj Museum at 1624 Elverhoj Way. Above: A 15-minute drive from Solvang, Cachuma's lake-bottom topography offers rocky drop-offs and aquatic plant beds—making it one of the region's finest fishing lakes. Below: A seven-mile drive from World-Mark Solvang, Nojoqui County Park is the site of Nojoqui Falls.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



PHOTO BY RONY JACOBSON LAWYER

Above: The Mission Santa Ines is one of 21 missions built by Spanish Franciscan priests between 1769 and 1836. From its grounds visitors enjoy sweeping views of the Santa Ynez Valley. Left: Downtown Solvang has about 10 tasting rooms representing vineyards throughout the valley, including Mandolina, which features Italian-style wines. Below left: Vacationers enjoy guided tours around town on the Honen Street Car.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



RENDERING BY T2 ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, LLC

Above: Located downtown, WorldMark Solvang sets its owners within blocks of fine shops, restaurants, and wine-tasting rooms. The three-story, 76-unit resort has Danish-themed architecture, with an interior color scheme in sand, chili, clay, and olive. The resort is slated to have a mix of studio, one-, two, and three-bedroom units as well as two- and three-bedroom penthouse suites.

cookies, my favorite, at **Olsen's Danish Village Bakery** on Mission Drive.

But self-control wins out over my sweet tooth and I continue along the streets of Solvang to the **Hans Christian Andersen Museum** on Mission Drive. Located on top of a coffee shop, the free museum features portraits and letters composed by the author who penned such fairy tale favorites as the "Princess and the Pea," "The Little Match Girl" and "The Snow Queen."

Later in the day, I take a drive through Solvang's radiant countryside, winding up at **Nojoqui Falls**. The 160-foot falls are located in **Nojoqui County Park** on Alisal Road, a seven-mile drive from town. The park is free, available for day use, and features ball fields, barbecue grills, picnic tables, restrooms, and a playground. The falls are beyond the facilities, about a 10-minute walk through a wooded canyon. During the winter rainy season, the water rushes freely over a mossy cliff, and slows to a trickle during the dryer summer months.

I head back through Solvang to **Mission Santa Ines**. Located on Mission Drive about a mile from town, it was

originally built in 1804 by Spanish Franciscan priests and was the valley's first European settlement. The mission is home to artwork, documents, and other artifacts that illustrate life in the early 19th century. A taped audio tour is available, but I decide to simply stroll around the mission's manicured grounds, which overlook the picturesque valley and mountain ranges.

Wine about town

On day three, the grapes beckon again. This time I venture into some of Solvang's own tasting rooms, numbering about 10. Their fees start at \$5 and sometimes include the wine glass. Tasting rooms also sell wines by the bottle or case. First on my list is the **Cabana Tasting Room** on Mission Drive—the local area's only tasting room/wine bar where you can sample and then purchase a whole glass of wine if you find one that piques your interest. The Cabana only showcases smaller, local boutique wineries and artisan wine makers who don't have tasting facilities of their own.

Continuing my walking tour of Solvang's tasting rooms, I find three along Copenhagen Drive, and the "S's" (stem, see, swirl, smell and savor) come in handy. **Stolpman Vineyards** offers a fine selection, including their irresistible Limestone Hill Cuvee. Steps away is **Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards**, whose best sellers are Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir. And farther down the block is **Mandolina**,

Toasting Miles and Jack in “Sideways” Country



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

which features the Italian-style wines of Lucas and Lewellen, including a 2003 Rosata—a rosé that’s the perfect complement for salmon.

My wish list

As I grudgingly pack my suitcase on my last night in Solvang, I think about all of the activities I still long to do. Solvang has so many enticing restaurants and fine bakeries I leave unexplored, and still more wine-tasting rooms to visit. I imagine the fantastic dinners I could create in my kitchen at WorldMark Solvang, accompanied by the incredible local vintages.

I would love to try my hand at bass or trout fishing, or take a two-hour narrated cruise on Lake Cachuma—a scant 15-minute drive from town. I also want to visit **Ostrich Land** in Buellton to see the world’s biggest birds. And I want to experience that horseback-riding trek through the beautiful countryside. But these activities will have to wait until I can return to charming Solvang, and the Santa Ynez Valley where the hawks soar and the grapes beckon. ♦

Here’s a list of landmarks made famous in “Sideways,” the 2004 hit movie about Miles (Paul Giamatti) and Jack (Thomas Haden Church), two friends who taste their way through Santa Barbara wine country to commemorate Jack’s final days as a bachelor.

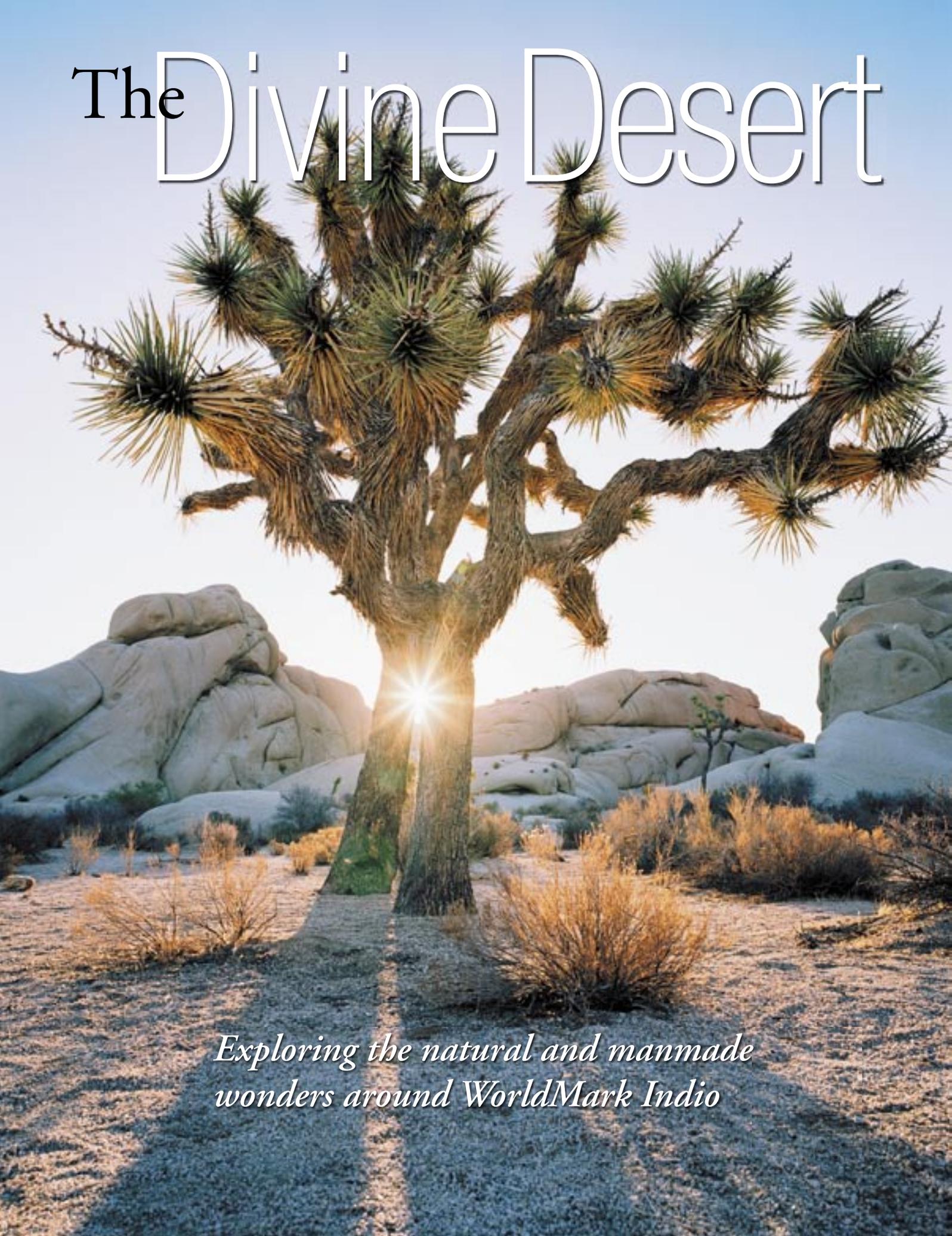
- **Days Inn Buellton and Clubhouse Sports Bar**—114 E. Highway 246, Buellton. (805) 688-8448. The motel where Miles and Jack stay while in Buellton. Miles and Jack also visit the bar.
- **Sanford Winery**—7250 Santa Rosa Rd., Buellton. (805) 688-3300. www.sanfordwinery.com. Miles teaches Jack the fundamentals of wine tasting.
- **Hitching Post II**—406 E. Highway 246, Buellton. (805) 688-0676. www.hitchingpostwines.com. Miles and Jack share a bottle of Highliner Pinot Noir at the bar. They talk to the beautiful Maya, who waits tables there.
- **River Course at the Alisal—Alisal Guest Ranch**, 150 Alisal Rd., Solvang. (805) 688-6042. www.rivercourse.com. Miles and Jack golf at this course.
- **Solvang Restaurant**—1672 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. (805) 688-4645. www.solvangrestaurant.com. Miles and Jack have breakfast at this Solvang landmark.
- **Foxen Winery**—7200 Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria. (805) 937-4251. www.santamaria.com. Miles and Jack help themselves to a full glass of wine when the pourer turns her back.
- **Kalyra Winery**—343 N. Refugio Rd., Santa Ynez. (805) 693-8864. www.kalyrawinery.com. While tasting, Miles and Jack meet a fiery wine pourer named Stephanie.
- **Los Olivos Café & Wine Merchant**—2879 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. (888) 946-3748. www.losolivoscafe.com. Miles, Jack, Maya, and Stephanie enjoy several bottles of fine wine with dinner.
- **Firestone Winery**—5000 Zaca Station Road, Los Olivos. (805) 688-3940. www.firestonewine.com. Miles, Jack, Maya, and Stephanie sneak out of a wine lecture and into the winery’s barrel room.
- **Ocean Lanes**—1420 E. Ocean Ave., Lompoc. (805) 736-4541. www.lompoc.com. Miles and Jack meet up with Stephanie, her daughter, and her mother at this bowling alley.
- **Fess Parker Winery (fictional Frass Canyon)**—6200 Foxen Canyon Rd., Los Olivos. (805) 688-1545. www.fessparker.com. At “Frass Canyon’s” wine tasting event, Miles gulps down the contents of the spit bucket after finding out his novel won’t be published.
- **AJ Spurs**—350 E. Highway 246, Buellton. (805) 686-1655. www.ajspurs.com. Miles and Jack meet a waitress named Cami. Jack—soon to be married—gets involved with her.

Maps to “Sideways” locations are available free at the Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau at 5th Street and Mission Drive, open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may also contact the center at 1-800-468-6765 or Info@solvangusa.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

The Divine Desert



*Exploring the natural and manmade
wonders around WorldMark Indio*

Opposite page: Joshua Tree National Park epitomizes the allure of California's high desert. Right: The Salton Sea—California's largest lake—hosts an abundance of wildlife, including hundreds of species of birds. The Salton Sea State Recreation Area has five campgrounds, picnic sites, hiking trails, playgrounds, boat ramps and a visitors center.



PHOTO BY ROMY JACOBSON LAWYER

My horse lumbers languidly along the trail leading to **Andreas Canyon**—a naturally occurring oasis standing in sharp contrast to the arid desert panorama of the Coachella Valley.

Tucked away in California's low desert, the Coachella Valley is home to this picturesque canyon as well as **Tahquitz Canyon**, and close to such unique wonders as **Joshua Tree National Park** and the **Salton Sea**. The valley also comprises the towns of Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, La Quinta, Indian Wells, Palm Springs, and Indio—the future site of one of our newest and largest resorts, **WorldMark Indio**.

Unreeling the desert

Decked out in leather chaps, riding boots and a cowboy hat, Mitch—my ruggedly handsome guide from **Smoke Tree Stables** in Palm Springs—looks as if he just rode off the celluloid reel of an old Western movie. This morning Mitch and I have set out on a two-hour ride to explore the valley's golden, dusty landscape. Along the trail, we make the acquaintance of several of the area's inhabitants—lizards, doves, quail, wren, black-tail jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, and antelope squirrels. Sweeping valley views greet us as we wind our way through an area known as Indian Canyons.

We finally arrive at Andreas Canyon, a natural oasis composed of California fan palms, mesquite, cottonwoods and willows. I delight in its inverse beauty to the stark surrounding scenery, and am soothed by the sounds of its trickling stream. Mitch and I then ride back through the desert wilderness—with my horse still complacently clomping along.

WorldMark's own oasis

I trade in my saddle for a different kind of horsepower for my trip to WorldMark Indio to see the progress of its construction. The resort is located three miles from Indio proper, and 20 miles from Palm Springs. Situated on the **Landmark Golf Course**—former home of the legendary Skins Game, a PGA masters tournament—WorldMark Indio truly is an oasis in the desert. The resort will boast four lakes, including a wading lake with a sand beach;

by Romy Jacobson Lawyer



Left: The Coachella Valley's aquifer and long, warm growing season make it an ideal place for growing dates. Below: There are more than 100 golf courses in the Coachella Valley, including Landmark Golf Course adjacent to WorldMark Indio.



PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS

three spas, including one surrounded by a lazy river; and various ponds, waterfalls, bridges, and misting systems. Other features will include two sport courts, tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, and a convenience store with food service. In addition to exercise equipment, the recreation center will offer an arcade, kitchen, patio with a misting system, and barbecue area, as well as a TV room and quiet room that can be combined into one space for a party.

WorldMark Indio will also be the first WorldMark property to offer four-bedroom presidential suites. Each 2,500-square-foot presidential suite is slated to feature a plasma TV, fireplace, tile floors and wrap-around balconies with hot tubs and panoramic views of the valley, courtyard, mountains or golf course. In addition, the resort will offer a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom units as well as three-bedroom penthouse suites.

An accidental sea

Back in the car, I take the 10-minute drive into the town of Indio, which offers shops, convenience stores, and restaurants. Indio was originally incorporated in 1930 as the Coachella Valley's first city. Since then, the town has earned the nickname "City of Festivals" due to its large number of annual celebrations, such as the **International Tamale Festival** and the **International Salsa Festival**, feting the condiment as well as the dance. The city also proclaims itself "The Date Capital of the United States" because 90 percent of the dates grown and harvested in the country come from here. In celebration, the city has hosted the **National Date Festival** for more than 50 years.

I pass through Indio's lush date farms on the outskirts of town as I drive 40 minutes farther to the Salton Sea, a recreational spot for boating, water-skiing, fishing, Jet Skiing, hiking, and bird watching. I'm taken by its sheer size.

About 35 miles long and 15 miles wide, the Salton Sea is California's largest lake and sits at a surface elevation of 227 feet below sea level. In fact, the lake's bed sits only five feet higher than the lowest spot in Death Valley.

The Salton Sea is an anomaly—an accidental body of water formed about 100 years ago due to massive flooding that caused the Colorado River to burst through irrigation controls. Its average depth is about 30 feet, 51 feet at its deepest. Since its fortuitous formation, the sea's existence has been maintained primarily by agricultural return flows from the Coachella, Imperial, and Mexicali Valleys.

Trees as prophets

After delving into the low desert I decide to experience the high desert—by way of a twilight tour of **Joshua Tree National Park**, located about an hour's drive from WorldMark Indio. The high desert is found between elevations of 2,000 to 7,000 feet and is graced by the presence of Joshua trees. The popular **Elite Land Tours** offers a wide selection of guided trips, including explorations of the Salton Sea, the San Andreas Fault, and Indian Canyons. Their guides pick up tourists at their lodgings in white, ultra-comfortable, air-conditioned Hummers.

Mark, my guide, is passionate about the California desert—both high and low—and eager to share his knowledge. He tells me that native California fan palms have been in the area since the last Ice Age which occurred two to three million years ago, and that the San Andreas Fault, which runs across the Coachella Valley, is the largest fault in the Western Hemisphere—750 miles long.

As we approach the entrance of Joshua Tree National Park, Mark describes its namesake trees that can live more than 100 years. First of all, they're not trees—they're actually classified as plants. I'm informed that their name



PHOTO BY STEVE BEHRENS

Top: The Indian Canyons area near Palm Springs is dotted with natural oases. Bottom: Slated to open in mid-2006, WorldMark Indio will feature Mediterranean-style architecture and lush landscaping. Typical units will be decorated in desert tones—beiges with burgundy accents—and bamboo-motif tabletops.

reputedly comes from Mormon pioneers who thought the trees resembled the Old Testament prophet Joshua waving them on toward the Promised Land. As I look out the window, I, too, am taken by their regal poses in the ragged landscape.

Cacti crusader

I learn that a socialite named Minerva Hamilton Hoyt—nicknamed “the apostle of the cacti”—launched the crusade to protect the deserts of Southern California. Her efforts led to the formation of the Joshua Tree National Monument on August 10, 1936. The newly protected land encompassed more than 825,000 acres. Then in 1994, the monument gained an additional 234,000 acres—making it nearly the size of Rhode Island—and was promoted to national park status when President Bill Clinton signed the Desert Protection Act.

As we drive along dirt roads through a remote area called Covington Flats, we savor views of some of the park’s largest Joshua trees as well as juniper trees and lush desert vegetation. A short 200-yard trail leads us on foot to the summit of Eureka Point where, at 5,516 feet, the air is thin—and a sole Joshua tree, the highest in the park, reaches for the sky.

Standing beside it, I look out over the vibrant Coachella Valley and behold the ubiquitous allure of the desert. The 360-degree view from here is amazing—I’d swear you could see forever. ◆



Going Hollywood in the Desert

The Golden Age of Hollywood—the 1930s through the late 1950s—was also the Golden Age of Palm Springs, a small desert outpost in the Coachella Valley about a two-hour drive from Hollywood. During this heyday, all actors were contracted directly by the studios and had to be available to work at a few hours' notice. Performers were required to stay within 200 miles of the Hollywood sound stages. Palm Springs—within 110 miles—proved to be the perfect playground for the era's glittering celebrities.

To memorialize this heady time, Palm Springs has its own “Walk of Stars,” similar to the one in Hollywood. The sidewalks of South Palm Canyon Drive—the town's main downtown thoroughfare—are lined with names of the city's famous residents. Luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Elizabeth Taylor, and Marlene Dietrich are celebrated in granite and marble, and these commemorative stars—249 and counting—help keep this desert town's golden past shining.

Legends lived here

Palm Springs tour company **Celebrity Tours** conducts bus excursions that go past the former—and current—abodes of the stars. Swing by Patencio Road and you can just imagine the block party they could have thrown: Cinema tough guy **Edward G. Robinson**, cosmetics mogul **Mary Kay**, steamy novelist **Harold Robbins**, and glamorous recluse **Greta Garbo** all were former homeowners here. Strong-and-silent actor **Alan Ladd**, eccentric billionaire **Howard Hughes**, Broadway darling **Mary Martin**, controversial U.S. President **Richard Nixon**, and legendary director **John Ford** all once resided on neighboring Camino Norté.

The “rendezvous roost”

Rose Avenue is where to find homes once occupied by pixilated Rat Packer **Dean Martin**, matinee idol **Randolph Scott**, velvet-voiced **Nat King Cole** and consummate screen goddess **Marilyn Monroe**. And just a couple of blocks away from Marilyn's house is the past residence of **Peter Lawford**, brother-in-law of President **John F. Kennedy**. **Spencer Tracy** and **Katharine Hepburn**—who heated up the silver screen and sizzled even hotter off-camera—also had their rendezvous roost in this vicinity. Other former famous neighbors include glitzy pianist **Liberace**, beloved comedian **Bob Hope**, literary imp **Truman Capote**, TV comedy's golden couple **Lucy and Desi Arnaz**, and rock n' roll's king—**Elvis Presley**.

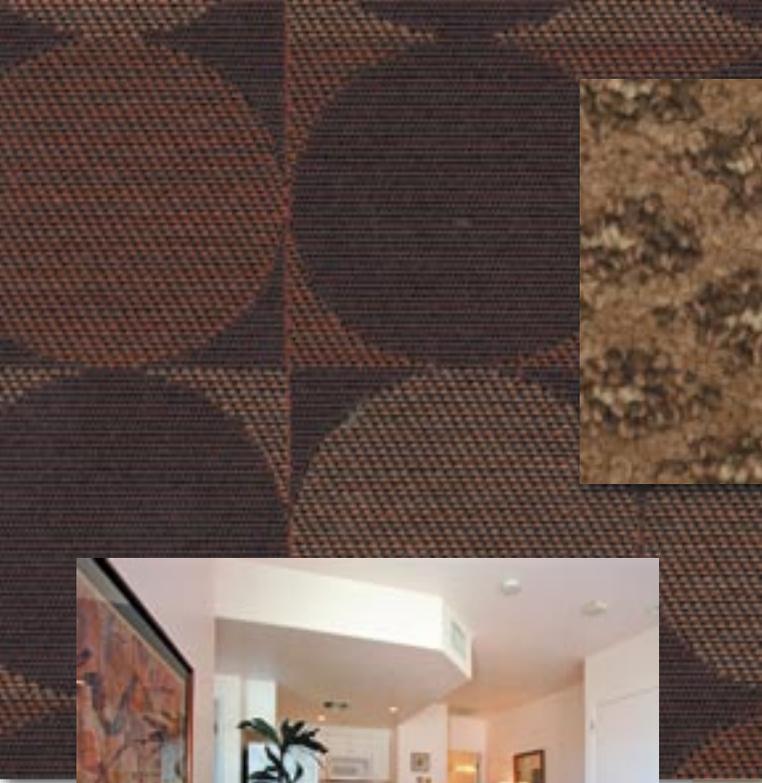
Still a hideaway

Celebrities currently maintaining a residence in Palm Springs include marketing machine **Madonna**, popular novelist **Sidney Sheldon**, eternal ingénue **Goldie Hawn** and her paramour, the still heart-throbbly **Kurt Russell**, California “Governator” **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and singer/guitarist **Trini Lopez**. And just to put everything in perspective, the tour bus will cruise you by the **Eisenhower Medical Center**—home of the **Betty Ford Center**, which has served as a \$3,500-per-week substance abuse recovery residence since 1982. ♦

Above: Hollywood siren Marilyn Monroe found refuge and relaxation in her desert bungalow in Palm Springs. Right, top: A long-time resident of the area, America's indefatigable comedian Bob Hope truly earned his constellation on the Walk of Stars. Right, bottom: Elvis and Priscilla Presley's spacious honeymoon hideaway—like Graceland, fit for a king.



BOTTOM PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER DYDYK



Product Enhancement designer Amy Preston drew inspiration from Palm Springs' Hollywood connection when choosing the retro patterns for the new upholstery and carpeting; the surrounding desert was the muse for the rich, earthy tones used throughout. The resort was originally constructed in 1960; it entered our system in 1995. Its proximity to fabulous shopping, luxurious spas, and outstanding golf courses has made it an owner favorite from day one.

A New Look for Palm Springs— Owner Favorite Gets a Facelift

Not to be outdone by the excitement over the construction of its neighbor in Indio, **WorldMark Palm Springs** is dishing up some colorful changes. The popular resort—located just over a mile from the tempting shops and restaurants of downtown Palm Springs—is currently undergoing a dazzling facelift.

Each unit is receiving a fresh coat of paint, new tile, and stylish carpeting—all in warm and inviting tones of honey, cocoa, cinnamon, and eggplant. The 64 condos are also getting spanking new furniture and accessories, including the ever-popular Murphy beds.

“The owners that have been here before love the new room design—the colors and carpet are great,” reports Palm Springs resort manager Sue Bromley. The resort’s amenities include an outdoor swimming pool, spa, and children’s pool. An exercise room, golf cage, and recreation center offering arcade games, Ping-Pong and pool tables are also available, and a convenience store is handily located on the premises.

The restoration project is expected to be completed by summer 2006. WorldMark Palm Springs will remain fully operational during its refurbishment, so that owners can continue to enjoy the evolving beauty of this desert rose.



PHOTOS BY DAN STEARNS





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Package includes roundtrip small aircraft transportation between Las Vegas and the Hualapai Indian Reservation; whitewater rafting tour and nature hike with expert guide; lunch and refreshments; helicopter ride out of the Grand Canyon; Las Vegas hotel transfers to event.

*Children must be at least 8 years old to participate. Tour length is approximately 14 hours from initial hotel departure with extremely early start time. Upon confirmation, participants' accurate weight information will be required for small-aircraft transportation safety planning. Transportation to Las Vegas and hotel accommodations not included. †Any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307. WA UBI 601190827.

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Inside cabin: Starting at 30,500 credits

Outside cabin: Starting at 36,500 credits

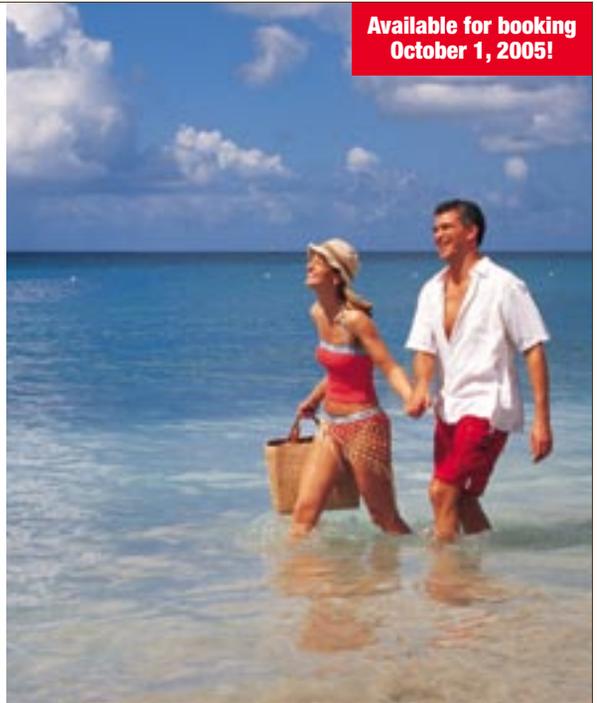
THREE-NIGHT BAJA, MEXICO, CRUISE

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June 3–June 10, 2006

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Balcony cabin: 82,000 credits

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lasting impression



Midday at the Oasis

“During our visit to WorldMark Palm Springs, we visited Joshua Tree National Park.

I snapped this picture of my husband and our friends returning from the Lost Palm Oasis. We experienced the desert in bloom while hiking eight miles roundtrip. The beauty and magnificence of the experience will be with us forever.

P.S.: Our ages range from 55 to 68 years young!” –Rebecca Mock

Photo submitted by owners Frank and Rebecca Mock

WorldMark Annual Owners' Meeting

Don't forget to:

✓ Save the Date

2005 Annual Owners' Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2005
Registration 6 p.m.
Meeting 7 p.m.
Meydenbauer Center
1100 NE 6th St.
Bellevue, WA 98004



✓ Participate

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