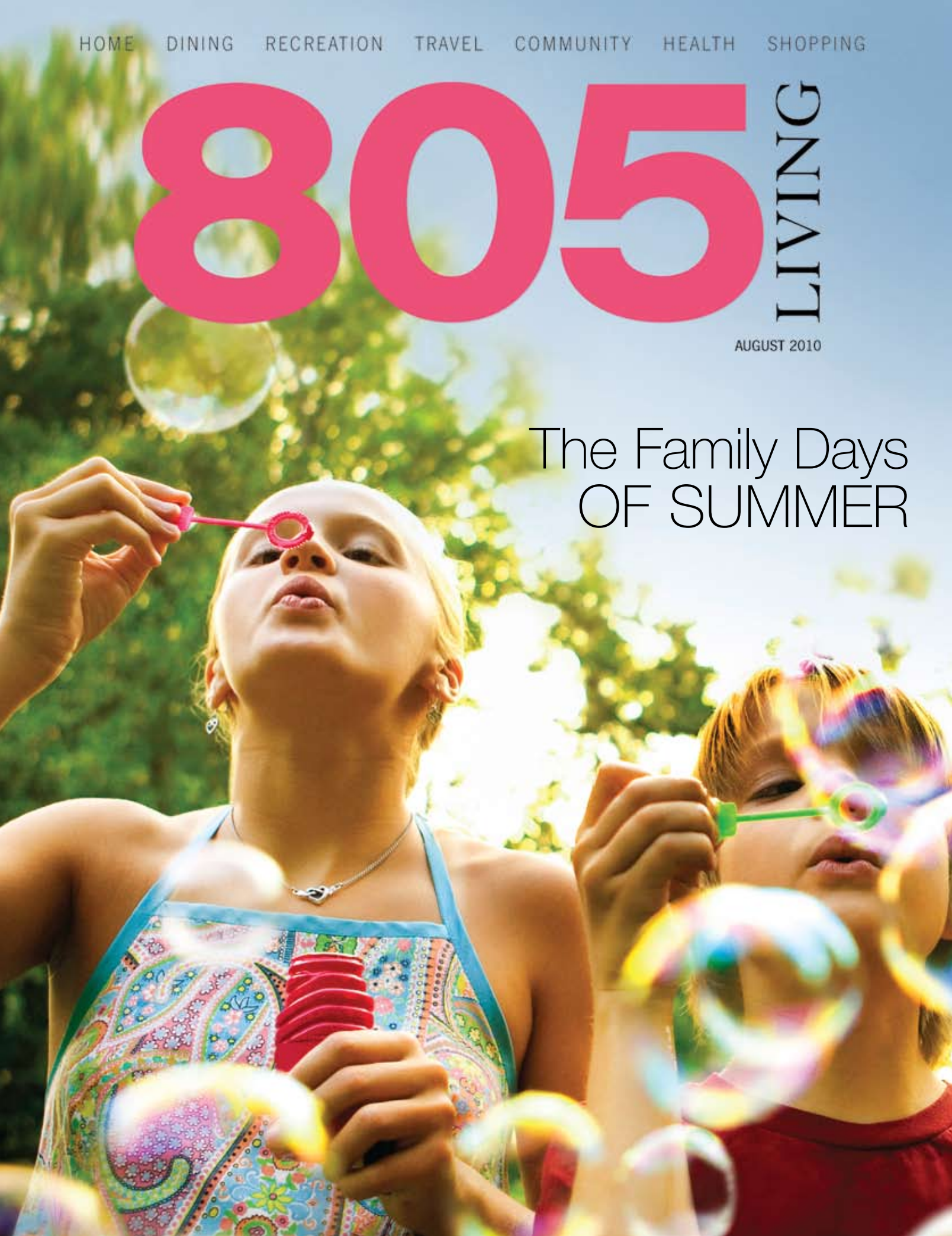


# 805 LIVING

AUGUST 2010

The Family Days  
OF SUMMER



By Mallory McCreary



Clockwise from top left: Kids 12 and under play Terranea's nine-hole golf course for just \$15 on weekends when they play with a parent; 85 percent of rooms share this cliff-top ocean view of Catalina on clear days; hiking trails on-site are a good excuse for family time.

## KIDS' CLUB KUDOS

There are resort vacations parents take to get away from their kids (by sticking them in an all-day kids' club) and then there are the resort vacations parents take to spend time *with* their kids. The nice thing about **Terranea Resort** ([terranea.com](http://terranea.com)) on the Palos Verdes Peninsula is that it offers a mix of both.

While kids' programs at many resorts seem like an afterthought, at Terranea the activities are the reason to go—and a big part of that is “director of fun” Marissa Edwards, whose enthusiasm for the job is evident. “We like to call it ‘camp without walls’ because we spend a lot of time outside,” she says. Half-day, full-day, and evening programs (so Mom and Dad can enjoy dinner out) range from pirate adventures to science experiments to cooking to crafts. “I hear all the time, ‘My kids are never willing to stay at kids’ clubs at other hotels, but I can’t get them to leave yours,’” Edwards says.

The Tadpole Adventure Club allows children ages 2 to 4 to “learn camp,” in Edwards’ words. Tidepool Adventure Camps have a different daily theme (Hollywood, Wild West, oceans) for kids ages 4 to 12;

teen adventures such as horseback riding, kayaking, and surfing can be arranged with a few hours notice. The staff ranges in age from 19 to 25, and the ratio of kids to adults is no higher than eight to one. Coming soon: fashion camp, where kids create a pattern, sew, and accessorize under the direction of a working Hollywood costume designer.

Family activities include bocce and croquet, a nine-hole family-friendly golf course, and Friday Family Night with activities like hermit-crab races and bubble-blowing contests. With the “20-10” package, guests receive 20 percent off their room rate (from \$252) and 10 percent off dining, spa treatments, or golf.

Standard guest rooms at Terranea are sunny and beach-inspired without being obvious or kitschy. Bungalow suites, casitas, and villas are well-suited for families; all have some kitchen amenities (from two burners and a microwave up to a full-size kitchen; all have refrigerators, dishwashers, washers and dryers) and all boast outdoor space with fireplaces, fire pits, or hot tubs. Several restaurants on the property offer a range of dining options.

### Hot Tip:

The fifth annual **Canon in the Parks Photo Contest** invites kids ages 13 to 17 to submit their best photo that “highlights all the splendor that nature embodies” taken at a U.S. park or monument. Deadline is September 30; the Grand Prize winner receives a trip to a U.S. National Park of his or her choice. ([usa.canon.com/parks](http://usa.canon.com/parks))



## Pampering for Parents-to-Be

There's one last chance to escape and enjoy some couple time before that baby comes and turns new parents' worlds upside down: the babymoon. While many babymoon packages offer sparkling cider and coupons for ice cream, **The Cliffs Resort** (cliffsresort.com) in Pismo Beach

does one better with the "And Baby Makes Three" package (from \$419 weekends). Who wants cider now in favor of a bottle of 805-area wine to enjoy (and remember the babymoon fondly) once it's no longer off-limits? Plus, there's room-service delivery of locally made Doc Burnstein's ice cream, ocean-view accommodations, massages for both parents, breakfast, \$50 toward dinner, a free in-room movie, and a welcome basket with diapers and a Cliffs Resort baby bodysuit.

Rooms at the property are an interesting blend of old-school elegance with modern amenities, including marble bathrooms, deep soaking tubs in suites, and lots of mirrors (to bask in the reflection of all those curves). It's refined without being stuffy, comfortable without being too casual. Dinner at Marisol restaurant strikes the same note, where chef Gregg Wangard combines fresh local produce and seafood with pan-Latin flavors to create meals that are at once familiar and surprising, as in the Peacock Farms roasted tomato soup with *pasilla* pepper or the local halibut with a pop of spicy rouille and a crab chile *piquilla* (menu changes seasonally).

A short walk (even for pregnant women) leads down to the beach, where enchanting tide pools yield natural wonders (careful on those rocks, Mama). And yes, when "Anemone" and "Abalone" pop up as possible baby names, blame the hormones.

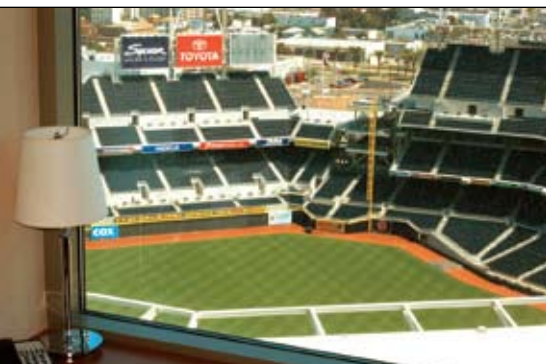
The babymoon ends with free breakfast vouchers, which can be used for in-room dining (i.e., breakfast in bed), but pregnant women may forgo that supposed luxury for the other option: the all-you-can-eat buffet.

Ready to start shopping for the wee one? In nearby Arroyo Grande, Buttons N Bows (805-473-9186) carries diaper bags by Petunia Pickle Bottom, and a darling (if small) selection of clothes as well as toys and items for older kids; Brisco's (805-481-8112) also has a small selection of ultra-soft baby blankets and toys. Carter's, Gymboree, and OshKosh all have outposts at Pismo Beach Prime Outlets (primeoutlets.com).



**ABOVE:** Ocean-view rooms are worth the splurge at The Cliffs Resort in Pismo Beach; a heated pool makes moms-to-be feel weightless; dinner at Marisol offers stunning views and innovative, delectable cuisine.

**BELOW:** Views from rooms and common spaces at Omni San Diego take advantage of both Petco Park and the ocean.



## TAKE ME OUT TO THE...

On second thought, leave me home—who wants to deal with the inevitable traffic jam that follows any Major League Baseball game? A stay at the **Omni San Diego** (omnihotels.com) erases that headache with the country's only walk-across bridge connected directly to a Major League Baseball park. The Padres (sandiego.padres.mlb.com) play at home August 25 to 29 (with Everth Cabrera bobblehead and Padres metal lunch box giveaways on the 28 and 29). Different suite configurations are perfect for families, as are two packages designed with kids in mind:

**"Family Slumber Party"** (from \$498 through December 31) includes accommodations for two nights, an in-room movie with popcorn and sodas, breakfast for two adults and two children, a guide to family-friendly sights and activities in San Diego, and free valet parking.

**"On the Road Again"** (from \$229 through December 31) includes two nights of accommodations, free valet parking, and healthful snacks and games (Legos, puzzles) for kids to enjoy on the drive home.

Children's books and a backpack of goodies are also available for guests as part of the Omni Sensational Kids program. ■