



## NEWS RELEASE

### What's New in Oceanside Winter 2025

**Oceanside, Calif. (December 2024)** — [Oceanside's 'Season of Swellness'](#) continues through winter infusing sun, fun and beachy vibes into winter getaways. Whether seeking a snowbird escape, tasty culinary adventure, or artsy exploration, Oceanside is a perfect place to unwind and recharge.

#### **Explore Oceanside's Dining Scene with the New "Swell Plates Series"**

In tandem with January's California Restaurant Month, Oceanside shows off the diversity of its vibrant culinary scene with the inaugural "[Swell Plates Series](#)," beginning January 15 and running through February 13, 2025. Sponsored by Visit Oceanside, participating local restaurants will showcase a signature dish that embodies their unique interpretation of the destination's "Season of Swellness." Culinary creations will spotlight locally sourced ingredients and/or thoughtfully paired artisan spirits or products that embody the essence of Oceanside, from the city's rich history to its vibrant art community and coastal abundance. Visit Oceanside will be offering Swell Plates Series passports, for diners to track their progress and earn prizes too. Look for the "O'side Season of Swellness" logo on menus at participating restaurants including the bar at Michelin star Valle, Michelin Bib Gourmand Dija Mara, AllMine, 24 Suns and more!

#### **Cinematic Fun at Oceanside International Film Festival**

Oceanside's rich connection to cinema includes the annual [Oceanside International Film Festival](#), which is held each February and provides a venue for independent filmmakers to have their work screened along the vibrant North San Diego coast. Scheduled for February 18-22, the 2025 festival includes films from all categories and genres including foreign films, drama, animation, cause related issues, documentaries, and comedy, plus a noteworthy batch of student films. The Surf Film track is always a standout — aligning nicely with Oceanside's rich surf culture— and will include thought-provoking films like one about a surfboard crafted entirely from cigarette butts collected on the beach and a documentary from California Surf Museum Executive Director Jim Kempton that explores the artistry behind surfing through

master surfboard shapers. The night is capped off by an epic cinematic surf film funded by Red Bull called "Creatures of Habit."

### **Wellness Beyond the Spa**

Winter wellness resolutions are a breeze in Oceanside, where outdoor activities like [Padel](#) (a hybrid between pickleball and racquet ball), rooftop yoga at The Brick Hotel, surfing lessons, or [kayaking in Oceanside Harbor](#) keep visitors active and moving. No matter the routine, new Fusion Hydration IV and Injection Therapy options at The Seabird Resort's [Sunny's Spa and Beauty Lounge](#) will aid recovery, boost recovery, and optimize health, making sure it's a good start to 2025.

### **Catch What's New in Food and Drink**

The Carlsbad-based restaurant and bar, [Crackheads](#), has expanded to Oceanside, serving up all-day bites, coffee, beer, cocktails, and their specialty killer breakfast sandwiches. With live music nights, 'Yoga & Mimosa' classes, and Taco Tuesday specials, there is always something crackin' at Crackheads. Discover the charm and comfort of [Merenda](#), Oceanside's new Southern European wine bar and bistro. The bistro's orange and earthy hues and rustic touches transports guests to an enchantingly chic European retreat. "Merenda," meaning snack in Italian, showcases Mediterranean fare made to share and a carefully curated wine list featuring sustainable, exceptional wines from Italy, France, Portugal, and the California Central Coast. [Acai Republic](#) has officially opened up their doors, offering fresh acai bowls and healthy treats to O'side locals and visitors!

### **Lean into Joy and Discovery at the Oceanside Museum of Art**

[Oceanside Museum of Art](#) (OMA) proudly presents their newest exhibit, [Marshall Toomey: Black Americana](#), open now through April 13, 2025, showcasing the life, history, and artistry of Marshall Toomey, an accomplished artist and former Disney animator. Discover the impressive work of Toomey through his vibrant and authentic paintings, capturing moments in his life with a sense of vitality that makes them feel almost alive. Blending realism with character study, Toomey offers a fresh narrative of the Black American experience, celebrating everyday traditions and joy found outside of the struggle. During his 20 years working as an animator at Walt Disney Animation Studios, Toomey contributed to some of Disney's most beloved classics, including *Aladdin* (1992), *The Lion King* (1994), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1996), and *Hercules* (1997). Explore Disney-reminiscent artistry that can be found in Toomey's pieces, sparking Disney magic in the least expected place.

Other upcoming exhibits include *Stitched and Forged: The Art of Kelly Witmer and Mônica Lóss* (January 16–May 11, 2025), exploring the beauty of metal and textile art; and *Selections From*

The Permanent Collection (February 8–August 31, 2025), highlighting the incredible works donated to OMA’s permanent collection since 2002, including new acquisitions and works that haven’t been on view since their donation.

For more about what’s new in Oceanside, visit [www.visitoceanside.org](http://www.visitoceanside.org).

### **About Oceanside**

Perfectly situated between metropolitan San Diego and Los Angeles, Oceanside is a quintessential California coastal escape that includes wide sandy beaches, a quaint New England-style harbor, historic wooden pier and charming bungalow neighborhoods. O’side (as locals affectionately call it) is a destination of discovery where visitors can explore everything from California history at the “King of Missions” to surf culture at the California Surf Museum and awe-inspiring sea life through exciting ocean adventures. This playful and fun destination thrives on taking recreation to the next level and boasts world-class surfing, skateboarding, bike riding, boating and even skydiving. A flourishing farm-to-table food and craft beer, wine and spirit scene reflects Oceanside’s creative and entrepreneurial spirit, as do exciting arts and culture programs that earned Oceanside one of just 14 California Cultural District designations in 2017. Classically charming, eclectic and always genuine, Oceanside is an ideal place to stay and a true O’riginal. [www.visitoceanside.org](http://www.visitoceanside.org)

### **About Visit Oceanside**

Visit Oceanside Conference and Visitors Bureau is the official tourism marketing organization in Oceanside, Calif., promoting travel to the city for both leisure and group visitors. The organization influences about one-third of the \$568 million that is generated by visitor spending in Oceanside each year, which supports nearly 3,500 jobs. Visit Oceanside also operates one of the state’s official California Welcome Centers. With just one stop, visitors can find local, regional and state maps, purchase discount tickets to major Southern California attractions, make hotel reservations or shop for the perfect California keepsake. The Visit Oceanside CVB and California Welcome Center- Oceanside are conveniently located just off Interstate 5 at 928 North Coast Highway. For more information, please call (800) 350-7873 or visit [www.visitoceanside.org](http://www.visitoceanside.org).

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