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**Visit Santa Barbara Relaunches Website, SantaBarbaraCA.com**

***A refreshed look, intuitive navigation and new compelling content aim to inspire and inform visitors***

**Santa Barbara, Calif. (March 9, 2016)** **—** **Visit Santa Barbara** announces the launch of its newly redesigned website, [**SantaBarbaraCA.com**](http://santabarbaraca.com/). The site showcases the Santa Barbara South Coast’s many irresistible offerings for visitors, from upcoming festivals to new attractions, while serving as an indispensable tool for trip planning.

“Filled with stunning photography and remarkably easy to use, this cutting-edge website offers engaging, aspirational content geared to inspire visitors to stay overnight in The American Riviera,” said Visit Santa Barbara President/CEO Kathy Janega-Dykes. “At the same time, it informs our many repeat visitors about the newest things to see and do.”

The website recreates the sophisticated, approachable and authentic feel of the South Coast, an area in Southern California that brings together four unique coastal cities (Goleta, Santa Barbara, Montecito and Summerland) in one inimitable vacation destination.

Created by Substance, a Portland, Ore.-based marketing agency, the site was designed with a user-friendly experience in mind. Key new features of the site include a **refreshed look**, **enhanced search and navigation**, state-of-the-art **responsive design** and **interactive maps**.

Completely [**new itineraries**](http://santabarbaraca.com/explore-and-discover-santa-barbara/itineraries/) on high-interest topics, such as car-free trips, quintessential Santa Barbara attractions, waterfront adventures and the Urban Wine Trail, serve to spark the imaginations of would-be and repeat visitors alike, while a new section titled [**“Next Month in Santa Barbara”**](http://santabarbaraca.com/next-month/) provides concrete ideas for upcoming travel. The new feature [**SB.Snapshots**](http://santabarbaraca.com/explore-and-discover-santa-barbara/sb-snapshots/) shares the distinctive look of the Santa Barbara lifestyle in a curated and evolving collection of fan-submitted and professional photos.

A robust **online booking program** (powered by JackRabbit) allows users to book their stays directly from the site, while **Trip Advisor reviews** within business listings provide ratings and insights from fellow travelers. Prompts throughout the site make it easy for visitors to share what excites them on Facebook and Twitter.

In addition to consumer content, revamped website sections for meeting planners, travel trade, media, and the Santa Barbara Film Commission provide points of contact for **industry professionals**. A Google plug-in helps visitors translate the site into 14 different languages, from Chinese to Spanish.

According to ad agency MMGY’s 2015 study, “Global Portrait of American Travelers,” which surveyed potential visitors to Santa Barbara, 24 percent of travelers first decide on a destination before planning their vacations. (The undecided travelers in the survey were considering Santa Barbara as one potential destination among many.) The new website speaks directly to undecided travelers by showing them why they should choose Santa Barbara as their primary destination or as part of a trip to California.

A Visit Santa Barbara visitor profile study also showed that 4.2 million of the visitors who came to Santa Barbara in 2013 (more than 68 percent of all area visitors) are day trippers, clearly identifying an opportunity to convert those visitors to overnight guests. Exposing web users to the sheer volume and diversity of the South Coast’s high-quality activities, lodging and restaurants, the site’s message is clear: Visitors will need more than a day to experience even a small fraction of all the incredible things Santa Barbara has to offer.

**ABOUT SANTA BARBARA**

Voted [“Best Beach Town”](http://www.sunset.com/travel/sunset-travel-awards-beach-town) by *Sunset* magazine in its inaugural travel awards in 2015 and one of *Condé Nast Traveler*’s [“30 Best Small Cities in America”](http://www.cntraveler.com/galleries/2015-07-29/the-30-best-small-cities-in-america-readers-choice-awards-2014?mbid=nl_072915_Daily&CNDID=27536286&spMailingID=7943581&spUserID=NDk0OTY2MTIyMDgS1&spJobID=723886198&spReportId=NzIzODg2MTk4S0) in its Readers’ Choice Awards, Santa Barbara is located just 92 miles north of Los Angeles and 332 miles south of San Francisco, on the Pacific coastline. Visitors can arrive via scenic Highway 101, train, bus or by flying into Santa Barbara Municipal Airport (SBA) or Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). For travel and accommodation information and to request a free copy of the official *Santa Barbara Visitors Magazine*, contact Visit Santa Barbara at (800) 676-1266 or (805) 966-9222, email tourism@santabarbaraca.com or visit [SantaBarbaraCA.com](http://www.santabarbaraca.com). Visitor information is also available at the Visitor Center, 1 Garden St. (at Cabrillo Boulevard).

**ABOUT VISIT SANTA BARBARA**

Visit Santa Barbara is a nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization jointly funded by the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara, the South Coast Tourism Business Improvement District and by a membership of hospitality-related busi­nesses. The primary mission of Visit Santa Barbara is to enhance the economies of the City of Santa Barbara, South Coast communities and Santa Barbara County areas through tourism marketing that increases business revenue, tax revenue and creates jobs. Annual spending by travelers to the South Coast totals more than $1.5 billion, supporting more than 12,000 jobs and generating more than $45 million in yearly tax revenues, according to Destination Analysts, a tourism market research firm.

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**FOR MEDIA ONLY**

**PHOTOS**

High-res photos available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/msf0g94a0dzwth4/AABUL2F_4_Lv4tRk_2onWIk0a?dl=0>.

Contact PR@santabarbaraca.com for additional images.

**MEDIA INFORMATION**Stay informed about Santa Barbara news with Visit Santa Barbara’s [**Media Center**](http://www.santabarbaraca.com/media/) and [**press releases**](http://www.santabarbaraca.com/media/press-releases/). Just getting to know Santa Barbara? The [**Media Field Guide**](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cmg/santabarbara_mediafieldguide/) is a great place to start. Planning a research visit? Use the **[Press Trip Request](http://www.santabarbaraca.com/media/press-trip-request/%22%20%5Co%20%22Santa%20Barbara%20Press%20Trip%20Request%20form)** form to get the process started. Follow Visit Santa Barbara on [**Facebook**](http://www.facebook.com/visitsantabarbara), [**Twitter**](http://www.twitter.com/SantaBarbara) and **Instagram** for daily updates, and for on-the-go information about dining, wine, accommodations, events, attractions and more.