

# Venice Beach

## A New Century Ahead



The mural of Abbot Kinney stands tall as the patriarch of Venice, its visionary designer.

If it hadn't been for Abbot Kinney's asthma, Venice may never have been founded. Kinney, born 1850 in Brookside, New Jersey, was on a three year trip around the world when a snowstorm prevented his return to the east coast. He journeyed, instead, to Sierra Madre and was so impressed by the climate he developed a citrus ranch called Kinneloa.

After his marriage in 1884, Kinney began purchasing land to the south with Francis Ryan. The partners developed Ocean Park with a walk pier and a country club. A streetcar line was extended to the site.

After Ryan's untimely death in 1898, and a succession of partners with whom Kinney couldn't agree, it was decided that the land speculator would toss a coin and the winner would choose which half of the district would be his. When Kinney won the toss, he startled the other four partners by choosing the barren, marshy property. Kinney soon announced that his sand dunes and marshland would soon be a cultural city patterned after Venice, Italy. The public laughed and dubbed the plan "Kinney's Folly".

They stopped laughing when trenches for canals were dug and Venetian-

patterned buildings began to spring up. By July 4, 1905, Venice-of-America officially opened with a wonderful pier and exciting attractions: Italian gondoliers poling their boats down fairy-lit canals, a concert orchestra supplying music that could be heard nearly all over town, camel rides, exotic hotels catering to the best tastes, a miniature railroad circling the entire scene. Cultural diversion never flourished in Venice. The public came to ride the camels and the little train and to see the sideshow. The Doge of Venice-of-America had built a cultural Renaissance by the sea.

Half Moon Bay Ritz Carlton  
 the sand, the sea  
 and casual elegance  
 by Ruby Elbogen



**P**erched on a bluff above the San Mateo County coastline the Ritz Carlton, in the quaint Northern California agricultural town of Half Moon Bay is a getaway destination with enough amenities to please just about everyone.

Picture a golf course within steps of the hotel, trails down to the ocean, an Olympic size swimming pool; a full spa and workout gym, as well as a charming town close by.

Navio, the hotel's restaurant features an innovative menu, combining locally grown produce with award winning cuisine fit for the sun, sea and sand Gods, as well as for mere mortals.

And, if ocean vistas, golf, relaxing-staying fit or both isn't enough, the Ritz Carlton guest rooms are well appointed, and the hotel is pet friendly. Booking a room on the Ritz Carlton Club Level is a splendid idea. For a not too terribly extra charge, the Club floor with it's own concierge, offers a wonderful value and a welcoming ambiance. An elegant food service in the private lounge is presented all day and evening, including: a full buffet breakfast, tempting lunch choices, afternoon tea, a late afternoon/early evening pre-dinner repast most people would consider to be a tasty supper; followed later on by trays of desserts. Coffee, tea, soft drinks and juice are available most of the time, as are jars brimming with home made cookies. The lounge is furnished with tables, chairs couches and a cozy fireplace.

The Ritz Carlton is perfect any time of the year, in rain or in shine, however, since Half Moon Bay is the pumpkin capitol of the world, October is considered by some to be the premiere season.

