

PUMPKINS ABOUND ALONG THE HALF MOON BAY COASTSIDE, CA
*Enjoy a World-Renowned Pumpkin Festival, Pumpkin Weigh-Off,
Plentiful Pumpkin Dishes, and Much More!*

HALF MOON BAY, CA –SEPTEMBER 13, 2018- There is no better place to celebrate the wonders of the fall season than along the Half Moon Bay Coastsides. Fondly regarded as the pumpkin capital of the world, this beautiful coastal region, located 45 minutes south of San Francisco, produces more than 3,000 tons of pumpkins every year. Visitors will delight in the area's brilliant orange pick-your-own-pumpkins and scenic backdrop of rich fall colors. The local menus are brimming over with pumpkin-inspired delights such as pumpkin cheese, pumpkin spice lattes, and even pumpkin beer on tap!

Below is a summary of pumpkin-related events, dining experiences, spa treatments, and more along the Half Moon Bay Coastsides. To plan a trip, visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org and also download iCoastsides to access information on the region's cozy inns and luxury coastal resorts, renowned restaurants, farm visits, golfing, wine tasting, fishing, whale watching, surfing and much more.

Special Note: All locations are in Half Moon Bay unless otherwise noted.

- EVENTS -

11th Annual Hand-Blown Art Glass Pumpkin Patch

Oct. 6 -7, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Half Moon Bay Art Glass will transform the grounds of La Nebbia Winery into a glistening glass pumpkin patch featuring the work of glass blower Douglass C. Brown. This artistic installation will feature hundreds of one-of-a-kind glass pumpkins available for purchase, each one personally handcrafted by Brown, who works year-round to create this spectacular display. La Nebbia Winery will be open for guests to partake in wine tasting and to purchase bottles of wine, while bocce ball courts offer fun for everyone. For those who wish to create their own piece of art, HMB Art Glass is offering several classes year around. Classes start as low as \$40 + tax for kids 6 years old and above. Ask for the "NewClient50" special rate for up to 50% off website pricing. *La Nebbia Winery, 12341 San Mateo Road on Hwy. 92, (650) 283-5626, www.hmbartglass.com.*

16th Annual Bernese Mountain Dog Day (free!)

Oct. 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Farmer John's pumpkin patch is sponsoring the 16th Annual Mountain Dog Day! Last year, there were over 130 Bernese Mountain Dogs who visited Farmer John's pumpkin patch. Berner friends will be accompanied by John's Bernese, Miss Cora, along with her cousin Miss Chloe who will welcome their old and new pals. Farmer John will be ready to give hayrides for his furry friends. *800 North Cabrillo Highway, (650) 726-4980, www.farmerjohnspumpkins.com.*

45th Annual Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off (free!)

Oct. 8, 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Superstar Gourd Growing Greats and their hard-to-believe, titanic orange orbs gather for the Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in the World Pumpkin Capital of Half Moon Bay. A special \$30,000 bonus mega-prize will be awarded to any grower who breaks the world

record at Half Moon Bay, considered the "Super Bowl of Weigh-Offs." A host of veteran growers contend for the coveted title, the \$30,000 world record prize and thousands in additional prize money. In a pay-by-the-pound system, the winner will take home a hefty \$7 per pound for the champion mega-pumpkin. Superstar grower Joel Holland's mighty 2,363-pound weigh-off champion mega-gourd obliterated a formidable field of heavyweight contenders in winning the 2017 Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off. The grand champion gourd (along with the top five overall) will be on display at the Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival on October 13-14. *IDES Grounds, 735 Main Street, (650) 726-9652, www.miramarevents.com. Media Contact: Tim Beeman, (650) 726-3491, tim@miramarevents.com.*

48th Annual Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival (free!)

Oct. 13 & 14, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Half Moon Bay celebrates its bountiful fall harvest and autumn splendor with a special weekend filled with enormous heavyweight champion pumpkins, four stages of blockbuster entertainment, the Great Pumpkin Parade, a bone-chilling Haunted House, harvest-inspired crafts, home-style foods, artist Peter Hazel sculpting a monster 10,000 pound pumpkin, expert pumpkin carver Farmer Mike shaping pumpkins into one-of-a-kind masterpieces, photos with the grand champion mega-gourd, pie-eating and costume contests, pumpkin carving for fun, and so much more! With so much to see and do, visitors can use [iPumpkin](#), the official mobile application of the Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival, to navigate their way through the festival. *Main Street, (650) 726-9652, www.miramarevents.com. Media Contact: Tim Beeman, (650) 726-3491, tim@miramarevents.com.*

- LOCAL RICHES -

Pick-Your-Own Pumpkin Patches

An autumn visit to the pumpkin fields around Half Moon Bay is a popular annual tradition for many families. Spread out along Highway 92 and Cabrillo Highway (Rt. 1), visitors will discover pumpkins in a wide variety of colors, shapes and sizes in beautiful rural settings. Below is a selection of local pumpkin farms open to visitors:

- **4-C's Pumpkin Patch**- at this pumpkin patch, visitors can enjoy rows of pumpkins while also enjoying pony rides, train rides, slides and a petting zoo. *12371 San Mateo Rd., (Hwy 92), (650) 726-9614.*
- **Arata Pumpkin Farm** – in addition to pumpkins, this family-friendly farm features pony rides, a haunted barn, a petting zoo, a hay maze, and more. *185 Verde Road, (650) 726-7548, www.aratapumpkinfarm.com.*
- **Farmer John's Pumpkin Farm** - life-long farmers Farmer John and his wife Eda grow more than 60 varieties of pumpkins and squash. Visitors can also check out an authentic Native American teepee and take a ride on a vintage tractor. *850 North Cabrillo Highway, (650) 726-4980, www.farmerjohnspumpkins.com.*
- **Lemos Family Farm** - this family farm specializes in year-round activities for children such as pony rides, train rides, a petting zoo, bounce houses, goat yoga, and more. *12320 San Mateo Road, (650) 726-2342, www.lemosfarm.com.*
- **Pastorino Gifts & Plants** – this family-run farm boasts hayrides, train rides, ponies, pet and feed farm animals, and giant slides. On the weekends, families can enjoy a haunted house and face painting. *12391 San Mateo Road, (650) 726-6440,*

- **Tom & Pete's Produce** - celebrating more than 50 years since its inception in 1964, guests can visit this landmark produce stand to purchase pumpkins throughout the month of October. 270 Main Street, (650) 726-7500.

- ACCOMMODATIONS -

Pumpkin Experience

Located in the heart of the World Pumpkin Capital, The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay is offering a "Pumpkin Experience Package" to celebrate this great gourd. This package includes overnight accommodations, a signature Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Facial (80 minutes) featuring a nourishing and hydrating pumpkin enzyme masque, and a special welcome pumpkin pastry amenity in the guest room. *Rates start at \$1,139 per night; includes resort fee and overnight valet parking. Valid through Oct. 31, 2018. One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7000, www.ritzcarlton.com. Media Contact: Shelly Auyeung (650) 712-7007, shelly.ayeung@ritzcarlton.com.*

- CULINARY NEWS -

Ritzy Pumpkin Delights

Relish in a deliciously pumpkin-inspired menu at The Conservatory, located at The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay, with the signature pumpkin soup served with pumpkin-infused beverages to match. The Indian Summer Cocktail - a whimsical spin on the Mai Tai - spotlights pumpkin and autumn flavors of caramel and spice. Appealing to beer enthusiasts, the resort will also offer pours of the best pumpkin brews, starting with Dogfish Head Punkin' Ale. These beverages will be also offered at Ocean Terrace, the resort's outdoor dining space with cozy fire pits, ocean views, and soothing melodies of a Sunset Bagpiper on select evenings at sundown. In Navio, guests can savor Pumpkin Caramelle featuring sage, ricotta, and pumpkin pistou, and roasted pumpkin bisque with lobster, pain d'epices, and shiso. *One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712-7000, www.ritzcarlton.com. Media Contact: Shelly Auyeung (650) 712-7007, shelly.ayeung@ritzcarlton.com.*

Pumpkin Cheese, Butter, and Truffles, Oh My!

Now through the holidays, Harley Farms, home to award-winning goat cheese, is offering their seasonal Pumpkin-Spice Fromage Blanc, a deliciously creamy and light cheese with a subtle pumpkin tang. This delectable treat along with pumpkin butter and pumpkin truffles will be freshly made, so buy a little extra for seasonal gifts. 205 North Street, Pescadero, (650) 879-0480, www.harleyfarms.com.

Pumpkin with a Southern Italian Twist

Indulge in the cuisine of Southern Italy with a festive twist at VIA UNO. Throughout late September and October, they'll be offering a variety of pumpkin dishes including butternut squash soup with fresh gorgonzola & sage, and homemade gnocchi with butternut squash purée, rock shrimp, and zucchini. The authentic Neapolitan wood fired pizza with roasted butternut squash, burrata cheese, and walnuts is not to be missed! 2810 Cabrillo Highway 1 North, (650) 560-8858 www.viaunorestaurant.com.

Seaside Pumpkin Specials

Sam's Chowder House is cooking up a variety of festive specials this pumpkin season including: pumpkin gnocchi with brown butter and sage; lobster bisque with red kuri pumpkin, lemongrass and ginger; a warm chocolate walnut brownie with house-made pumpkin ice cream, caramel

sauce; and a martini with a pumpkin twist. Plus, guests can look forward to daily pumpkin specials throughout October. 4210 Cabrillo Hwy N, (650) 712-0245, www.samschowderhouse.com.

- WINE, BREW & COCKTAIL NEWS -

Spiked Pumpkins!

Moss Beach Distillery is spiking the pumpkin drinks this fall season. In partnership with Half Moon Bay Distillery, try the popular Pumpkin Spice Martini made with Half Moon Bay Distillery's Purissima vodka, pumpkin spice liqueur, and Irish cream served up in a martini glass with a cinnamon-sugar rim. This sweet twist of pumpkins will also be served as a delicious pumpkin cheesecake dessert. 140 Beach Way, Moss Beach, CA 94038, (650) 728-5595, www.mossbeachdistillery.com.

Pumpkins are Brewing

A beloved destination known for its award-winning handcrafted beer, sustainable coastal cuisine, and scenic outdoor patio, Half Moon Bay Brewing Company is the place to be this fall for a variety of special events and offers:

- **Pumpkin Harvest Ale** – Half Moon Bay Brewing Company is thrilled to announce the re-release of one of its signature beers: Pumpkin Harvest Ale. This full-bodied Amber Ale is made with locally grown sugar pie pumpkins that are roasted with a secret blend of spices added to the brew kettle, resulting in a subtle pumpkin pie spice flavor balanced by a biscuity maltiness.
- **Pumpkin Menu (October 1-31)** – Guests can enjoy the delights of fall throughout October with a special pumpkin menu that pairs perfectly with the Brewing Company's renowned Pumpkin Harvest Ale and Barrel-aged limited release beers. Enjoy pumpkin soup, pumpkin cheesecake, and other specials made from local squashes!
- **Pumpkin Harvest Dinner (October 10)** – Back by popular demand, this annual harvest dinner celebrates the spectacular abundance of the area's coastal farms and breweries, featuring produce exclusively from local farmer John "Farmer John" Muller and Brewmaster James Costa's handcrafted beer. Tickets are \$80.

390 Capistrano Road, (650) 728-2739, www.hmbbrewingco.com; Media Contact: Mary Oldham, mary@hmbbrewingco.com.

- SPA NEWS -

Pumpkin Facial

This signature treatment utilizes a nourishing pumpkin enzyme masque from a 100% natural plant-based line high in beta carotene and vitamins A and C. Enjoy the ultimate skin care experience that leaves skin smooth, plump and hydrated. 80 minutes; \$285 (weekday)/\$305 (weekend). One Miramontes Point Road, (650) 712 7000, www.ritzcarlton.com. Media Contact: Shelly Auyeung (650) 712-7007, shelly.ayueung@ritzcarlton.com.

About the Half Moon Bay Coastside

The Half Moon Bay Coastside is a charming seaside respite located 45 minutes south of San Francisco. Nestled between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, this breathtaking region consists of four distinct areas - the North Coast, Half Moon Bay, the South Coast and the Redwood Region. Featuring the best of Northern California all in one place, visitors will enjoy

miles of white sandy beaches, redwood forests, a historic downtown filled with local artisan shops, beautiful state parks, fields of wild flowers, and trails along ocean bluffs and mountain ridges as far as the eye can see. A sampling of activities includes horseback riding on the beach, farm fresh dining, shopping, biking, hiking and world-class golfing and surfing.

For more information on visiting Half Moon Bay, visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org or call (650) 726-8380. Like our [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#) @visithmb and [Instagram](#) @visithalfmoonbay.

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Media Contact:
Kelly Chamberlin
Chamberlin Public Relations
(415) 336-4332
kelly@chamberlinpr.com