



CALIFORNIA ON THE BEACH BOYS' PLACES

Discovering the legendary California band for the July 4th holiday

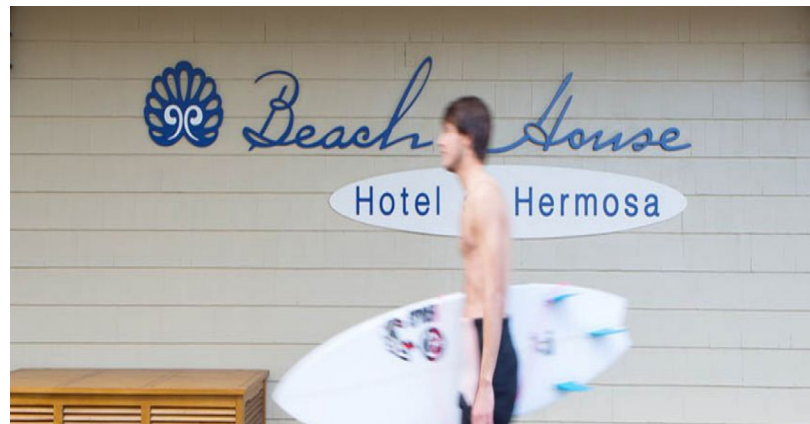
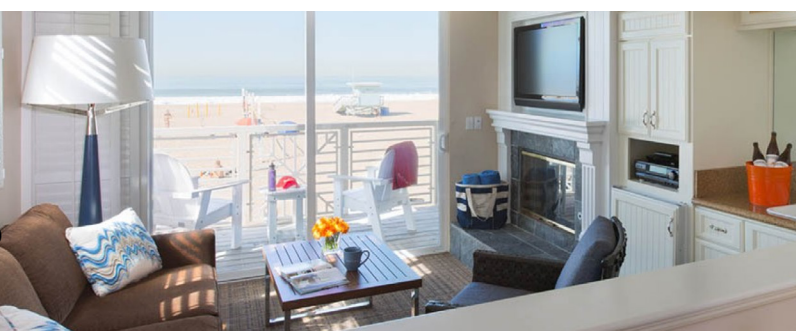
BY ALESSANDRA MATTANZA

All along the coast of California, the July 4th holiday is a special time to spend on the beach with friends doing a barbecue, surf, or enjoy a cold beer watching the fireworks. And this year is best with the Beach Boys, who mark the rhythm of beach life and culture. It also celebrates the book *The Beach Boys: America's Band*, which tells of California's most loved artists. We went to discover their sites, as well as of the present trend.

The Beach Boys grew up in Hawthorne, a small town not far from Los Angeles International Airport. The monument commemorates the Beach Boys Historic Landmark home to the childhood home of Brian, Dennis and Carl Wilson, and is now located at 3701 W. 119th Street. The original house was demolished in the 80s, when the freeway bypass was built.

Santa Monica is one of the places you hear in their songs, guys who surf were always fascinating to them. To learn this sport you can go to the school for surfing, the Santa Monica Surf School. One of the places most fashionable among surfers is the hotel's bar-restaurant-terrace Shangrila.

Venice Beach with the artists, its eccentric characters, including different body builders, its boardwalk, the Ocean Front Walk, still has a bohemian look, even if you are more and more refining, as the houses or luxury villas on beach or the canals. The surfers, musicians and creative people are surfing at the Pier and then they go to party at the bar on the roof of the Hotel Erwin. Full of character to sleep,



with a design touch from the beach, is also The Inn at Venice Beach.

Manhattan Beach, where there is a favorite promenade for pedestrians, cyclists, as well as surfers, is where reside many millionaires and businessmen, as seen from the villas that look out on the sand. The meeting point is its Pier, the pier, in front of which is lined with cafes and fashionable restaurants. It is also the "Newport Beach" from *The O.C.*, the famous television series was filmed here, and not in Newport as it appears in the story, to cut production costs.

Hermosa Beach is the favorite by the world champions in tennis, taking refuge at the **Beach House Hotel**, as well as playing volleyball on the beach front. Otherwise, throughout the beach area, you can stay well at the Hotel Hermosa, quieter, a few blocks from the ocean on a rise. Not far from Hermosa Beach is Huntington Beach, which is considered the "Surf City USA", a place teeming with restaurants and bars, and live music in the bars and on the street.

Redondo Beach is one of the most popular beaches, with several tourist entertainment and a fish market at the Pier, which is also restaurant. Here one of the most popular places at the moment has an Italian style: The Portofino Hotel & Marina. The pier yachts right in front of you often encounter groups of gregarious sea lions.