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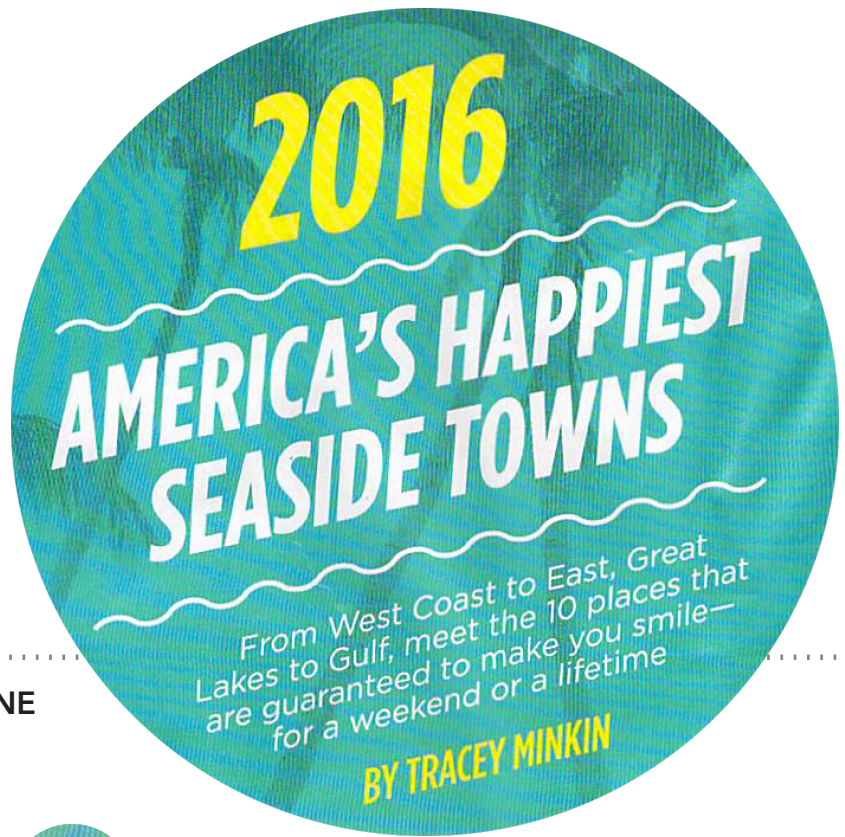


PHOTO: JESSICA SAMPLE

No. TEN

What began as a Southern California train stop has blossomed into a vibrant mix of homes and businesses strung along Pacific Coast Highway. Perhaps best known for its wide beaches, Hermosa Beach is also the home of nationally recognized nightclubs, including the Comedy & Magic Club (home of Jay Leno), and the The Lighthouse Cafe, Southern California's legendary home of West Coast jazz.

**LOCAL HANGOUT:** Pier Plaza—the last block of Pier Avenue before the water—draws everyone both local and visiting to eat, drink, shop, and listen to music. It's also the site of Hermosa Beach's New Year's Eve beach ball drop.

**COOL EVENT:** Fiesta Hermosa is the largest arts and crafts fair in Southern California (more than 300 artists participate), held twice every year—Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend.

**BEST SOUVENIR:** A surfboard. Hermosa Beach is known as a mecca of surfboard making. Browse local wares at ET Surf and score used pro boards at Jack's Surfboards.

**STAY A WEEKEND:** The Ocean Front studio suites at **Beach House** boutique hotel overlook the sand and have fireplaces and balconies. Rates start at \$289; 888-895-4559.

