

AROUND TOWN

PASTIMES AND PLEASURES

This'll Float Your BOAT

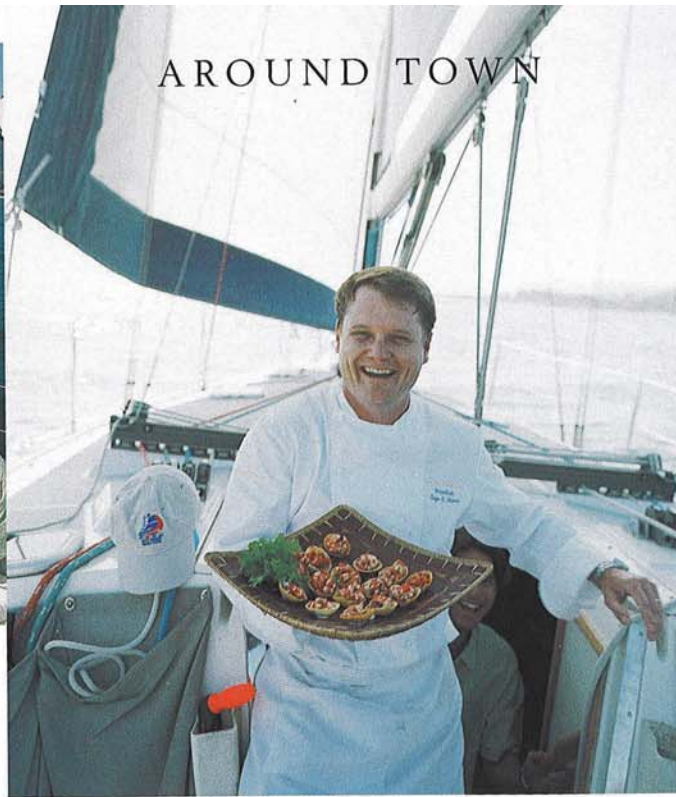
TIRED OF BUMPING INTO THE SAME OLD yachts while plying the Aegean? Instead, play the pampered rock star in our own azure waters with a posh, several days-long, Mediterranean-style sailing holiday in the Santa Barbara Channel. Several local outfits can set you and your friends up in style with a crewed yacht while you stop at scantily-visited isles with ►



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY LUCA TROVATO

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secluded, pebbly beaches and enjoy superb meals.

For your utmost hedonistic pleasure, the Santa Barbara Sailing Center recently launched personalized gourmet sailing trips on cozy yachts of 32 to 50 feet. Picture Chef Charles Fredericks (pictured above right), recently of Bouchon, at the on-deck grill asking how you want your juicy Black Angus steak. Or, Sage & Onion's chef/owner, Steven Giles, in starched jacket and toque in the rocking galley as he whips up some haute cuisine.

The Sailing Center's luxury trips are the vision of SBSC owner Skip Abed who, as an impressionable teen, sailed with his family through the Greek Isles on a chartered 61-foot ketch with a captain, cook and first mate.

Trips are customizable, from a day or two to however long, and meals created to your specifications by a top local chef. Drop anchor at will knowing you have your own "floating hotel room" to snuggle into for the night. Another option is to cruise the coastline by day and wrap up with a dockside soirée catered by your own gastronome in the galley. Either way, you're bound to be swept away. *For more information, call SBSC at 962-2826 or visit www.sbsail.com* **BETSY CROWFOOT**

Windows Down, Surf's Up



NOTHING BETTER CONVEYS the laid-back, carefree feeling of summer than a wood-paneled car overflowing with buddies and boards enroute to the beach. Now an unmistakable piece of the golden age of surf culture, "Woodies" were rescued from junkyards by beach-bound California surfers who needed lots of board room but had little cash. If the cars were missing a rear window, all the better to accommodate a longboard!

Catch this bit of nostalgia at the Santa Barbara Woodie Club's annual **Woodies at the Beach**, where hundreds of these beauties, lovingly restored, are on sunny display along with food, entertainment and perhaps a bit of reminiscing. Beach Boys tunes optional. *Woodies at the Beach, August 8-10, visit www.santabarbarawoodiesclub.com.*

EMILY SEE

MORE Sail 'n' Dine

The following local companies will also put together catered, private cruises:

• CONDOR CRUISES

Sit-down dining for up to 68 on the *Condor Express*, with a full bar, buffet table, sound system and dance floor. Trips to Santa Cruz Island also available. Catering, from light snacks to full dinners, can be arranged. *Call (888) 77-WHALE or visit www.condorcruises.com.*

• OCEAN CHANNEL ADVENTURES

A luxury 85-foot catamaran, the *Channel Cat* with a passenger capacity of 149, library/media room, all-electric galley, five televisions, Dolby surround sound and an audio-visual presentation system. Meals can be chosen from several caterers. *Call 898-1015 or visit www.channel-catchararters.com.*

• OCEAN SPORTS PRIVATE CHARTERS

Sunset cruises with light customized food options including Central Coast wine and cheese. For overnights to Point Conception or Drakes Bay, up to four can enjoy on-board barbecue. *Call 736-3272 or visit www.santa-barbaraoceanchararters.com.*

• HOTEL OCEANA

In the past the Oceana has offered a luxury getaway for a couple, including a private chartered cruise aboard 47-foot yacht the *Varuna*. *Call 965-9776 or visit www.hoteloceana.com for future plans.*

• SUNSET KIDD SAILING CHARTERS

Private day, sunset or evening cruises for up to 18 passengers, with food from the Waterfront Grill or other restaurants by arrangement. *Call 962-8222 or visit www.sunsetkidd.com.*