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# INSIDE BAY AREA

*A guide to what's happening now  
in your neighborhood*

*This month, Half Moon Bay, on the San Mateo County coast, is pumpkin central (page 34B).*



INSIDE BAY AREA



Clockwise from top left: What's new on Main Street; the Create table takes center stage at Oddyssea; Via Uno's Margherita pizza.

VISIT / *Half Moon Bay*

## Autumn fever

When the fog finally lifts on the coast, the Bay Area's most fall-forward town shines bright with new shops, eats, and 1,000-pound pumpkins.

**PLAY** Browse the pumpkin patches along Highway 1 in search of jack-o'-lantern material, then celebrate the orange globes at the free **Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival**, a weekend of live music, carving demonstrations, pie-eating contests, and a parade. The winner of the World

Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off will be on display; last year's top squash hit a magnificent 1,985 pounds. Oct 18-19; [pumpkinfest.miramarevents.com](http://pumpkinfest.miramarevents.com).

**GROW** There's a mini wave of new shops and restaurants in the once-sleepy downtown. **Garden Apothecary** was opened in spring by Jennifer Segale, who has farmed and gardened in Half Moon Bay since age 15. The shop has the feel of a really well-designed greenhouse, with seed packets, potted herbs, and copper garden tools displayed on weathered wooden tables. Antique seed catalogs paper one wall of the shop, which also car-

ries Segale's deliciously scented herbal teas, soaps, and sugar scrubs. 329 Main St.; [gardenapothecary.com](http://gardenapothecary.com).

**SHOP Oddyssea**, down the street, has a geeky affinity for natural history and off-kilter humor. You can pick up a compass, a shark jaw, or the Coastal Adventure Kit, which gives you directions to a scavenger hunt from a nearby beach to the Purisima Creek Redwoods. There's more do-it-yourself fun in their outdoor space, where you can build a terrarium or other projects. Don't miss the giant, zigzagging marble run. Yes, those are bowling balls.

Workshops from \$5; 601 and 617 Main; [oddysea.com](http://oddysea.com).

**EAT** Dining has always been a dicey proposition in Half Moon Bay, the main options being high-end hotel fare or fried fish from a walk-up window. In March, two Italian immigrants opened **Via Uno**, where they installed a big wood-burning oven that turns out terrific pizzas. Try the *capricciosa*, with artichokes, mushrooms, olives, and Italian ham. Crisp-skinned grilled seabass on fennel is good too, especially when paired with a dry white from the Old World-heavy wine list. \$\$; 2810 State 1/Cabrillo Hwy.; [viaunorestaurant.com](http://viaunorestaurant.com). —Tam Putnam