The "A" List April 2011

BY CHRISTINA ORLOVSKY PAGE



April 5: Padres Opening Day

Welcome the Pads back to the ballpark for the 2011 home opener against the San Francisco Giants. 3:35 p.m. 100 Park Boulevard, East Village, 619-795-5000, sandiego.padres.mlb.com.

April 3: La Jolla Motor Car Classic

This annual show features more than 150 of the world's finest — and rarest — cars, from vintage Corvettes and classic Packards to a multimillion-dollar 1938 Mercedes 540K Special Roadster. They're all beautifully on display seaside at Ellen Scripps Browning Park. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 619-233-5008, lajollamotorcarclassic.com.

April 6, 13, 20 & 27: Dive-in Theatre

Wine, dine and take in a movie poolside at this weekly "cinema social" at The Pearl Hotel. Modern and classic films are schown with full sound on a 10-by-13-foot projection screen over the boutique hotel's pool. Movies start at 8 p.m., with food served until 10 and the bar pouring drinks until 11. 619-235-5616, thepearlsd.com.

April 9: Taste of Julian

The mountain hamlet famed for its apple pie and gold-mining history proves it's also golden delicious during this self-guided culinary tour of the town's eclectic offering of eateries. The afternoon event also includes an art stroll featuring the work of local artists. 1 to 5 p.m. 2129 Main Street, Julian, 760-765-4758, julianmerchants.org.

April 9: Rhythm & Vine



It's all about music and wine at Rhythm & Vine, a fund-raiser for the Boys & Girls Clubs held at Westfield North County. Guests groove to the tunes of three live performances while sipping and supping on goodies from food and beverage stations. 6 to 9 p.m. (V.I.P. tent open until 10). 220 East Via Rancho Parkway, Escondido, 858-866-0591, ext. 203, rhythmandvine.org



April 9: Festival of Beers

Raise a glass to our region's recently attained reputation as a beer mecca. This annual celebration features more than 100 brews from 40-plus breweries. The North Park street fest, held outside the Lafayette Hotel, includes a souvenir taster cup, food vendors and live music at Bar Pink. Proceeds benefit the San Diego Music Foundation. 2 to 5:30 p.m. 2223 El Cajon Boulevard, sandiegomusicfoundation.org/beerfest/.

April 10: Blessing of the Vines Celebration & BBQ

South Coast Winery celebrates spring with an annual blessing of the vineyards, followed by a barbecue, live entertainment, dancing and at least a little wine. 3 to 7 p.m. 34843 Rancho California Road, Temecula, 951-587-9463, wineresort.com.

April 12: Taste of Red Marlin



Join Red Marlin chef Danny Bannister as he educates your inquisitive mind and pleases your culinary palate at this cooking class and tasting. This month, the focus is on sustainable and organic products. Guests seated at the restaurant's Chef's Table learn to prepare and enjoy four courses, including local Carlsbad mussels and all-natural Brandt beef, each paired with organic wines. 6 p.m. 1441 Quivira Road, 619-221-4868,

redmarlinrestaurant.com.

April 15-16: Ragnar Relay So Cal

Runners, take your marks – and grab 11 of your favorite running buddies and head up to Huntington Beach for the start of the 200-mile overnight relay race that takes participants down the coast through some of Southern California's most scenic spots before they reach finish line in Coronado. www.ragnarrelay.com/race/southerncalifornia.

April 15-17: Lakeside Rodeo

If the country bar's mechanical bull no longer fulfills your cowboy or cowgirl fantasies, giddy up and go to this 47th annual event, where bucking broncos abound. Presented by the El Capitan Stadium Association, the three-day competition features seven rodeo events at each performance and benefits local schools and youth programs. Various times. 12584 Mapleview Street, Lakeside, 619-561-4331, lakesiderodeo.com.



April 15-17: Head to Toe Women's Expo

It's the ultimate girls' day out — rather, three days out — at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, full of shopping, pampering and inspirational finds. The weekend expo features fashion shows, culinary demonstrations, motivational speakers and hundreds of exhibitors. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Sunday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, 619-491-0677, headtotoewomensexpo.com.

April 16: Taste of Hillcrest

Grab a handful of hungry friends for this walking feast through the streets of Hillcrest, where more than 40 neighborhood restaurants dish up hearty samples of their specialty dishes. The event coincides with the annual Sidewalk Sale, featuring discounts and promotions from local shops and boutiques. Noon to 4 p.m. 619-233-5008, mcfarlanepromotions.com.

April 16 & 17: Spring Busker Festival

Knife throwers, sword swallowers, fire eaters, oh my! The best in busking show off their skills at Seaport Village during this two-day festival, featuring street performers from across the country. Family-friendly from noon to 5 p.m. both days, the entertainment continues post-sunset with Buskers After Dark, 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday: uncensored entertainment, comedy, acrobatics and more for an over-18 crowd. West Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway, 619-235-4014, seaportvillage.com.

April 17: Duckhorn & Donovan's Wine Dinner & Auction

KPBS celebrates classical music and culinary excellence during this intimate evening event at Donovan's Circle of 5ths, featuring a five-course dinner, wine pairings and a performance by San Diego Symphony principal pops conductor Marvin Hamlisch. 5:30 p.m. 570 K Street, downtown, 619-237-9700, kpbs.org/events.

April 17: San Diego EarthFair

Kermit was wrong — it *is* easy being green, especially at the 22nd annual EarthFair. The free festival in Balboa Park has 350 environmentally friendly exhibitors, an eHome exhibit area for green living, a creative eARTh Gallery, children's area and cleaner-car concourse. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 858-272-7370, earthdayweb.org.



April 17: Fallbrook Avocado Festival

They're green, they have "good" fat, and they're grown right here. They're avocados, and in Fallbrook, they even deserve a day of their own. The 25th annual festival features culinary contests, avocado delights, a farmers' market and an inaugural Avenue of the Arts art show. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Main Street, 760-728-5845, fallbrookchamberofcommerce.org.

April 19-24: *Stomp*

Relive your toddler days when all you needed to make music was a metal pot and a wooden spoon. The

talented performers in this hit show know that if the beat is alive in you, that's all the instrument you need. Various times at downtown's Civic Theatre. 1100 Third Avenue, 619-570-1100, broadwaysd.com.

April 23-24: Beach Soccer Jam

An international sporting sensation, soccer takes to the sands for this third annual event at Fiesta Island. Originating on the shores of Brazil, the beach tournament combines athleticism and traditional Samba and Capoiera dance presentations for a two-day event that's reminiscent of its Brazilian roots. www.beachsoccerjam.com.

April 24: Chicano Park Day

Honor San Diego's rich history and diversity at this 41st annual celebration in Chicano Park, a Barrio Logan space established by Chicano activists on April 22, 1970. The free event, themed "Education and Knowledge: Our Key to a Better Future," features traditional music and dance, food, arts and crafts among the park's famous mural paintings, plus a car show with more than 350 classic low-rider automobiles. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cesar Chavez Parkway under the Coronado Bridge. 619-563-4661, chicano-park.org.

April 24: Easter Brunch at the Del

Peter Cottontail hops across the Coronado Bridge for a festive, family-friendly Easter brunch at a favorite San Diego landmark. The Hotel del Coronado pulls out all the stops for its Easter celebration, which features a lavish champagne buffet in its oceanfront ballroom and opulent Crown Room, with a kids' buffet also available, as well as three free egg hunts (baskets provided!), crafts for kids and photo opps with the Easter bunny. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 1500 Orange Avenue, 619-435-6611, hoteldel.com.

April 28 – May 1: Art Alive

San Diego Museum of Art's floral extravaganza is back in bloom for its 30th anniversary. The unique fund-raising event showcases flower arrangements that depict actual paintings and sculptures in the museum, calling on more than 100 floral designers. The weekend kicks off with an opening celebration and continues with a slate of events. Various times. 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, 619-232-7931, sdmart.org.



April 30: Downtown with David Sedaris

The popular literary comedian takes to the stage at the historic Balboa Theatre for a night of witty social commentary, satire and storytelling as only Sedaris can tell it. 8 p.m. 868 Fourth Avenue, 619-570-1100, sdbalboa.org.

April 30: Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour

This sixth annual event takes nature lovers on a self-guided tour of secluded gardens of all styles in one of the city's most eclectic neighborhoods. The day includes a Gardeners' Marketplace, where shoppers can stock up on supplies to make their own gardens grow. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 3333 Manchester Avenue, 760-753-8615, encinitasgardenfestival.org.

April 30 & May 1: Old Town Fiesta Cinco de Mayo

It's margaritas, mariachis and more in Old Town, as San Diego's oldest neighborhood celebrates Cinco de Mayo in festive Mexican fashion, with music, entertainment, food and drink, shopping, cultural exhibits and historical reenactments. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. 619-291-4903, fiestaoldtown.com.

April 30 & May 1: ArtWalk

Art takes over 16 blocks of Little Italy at this 27th annual free community event, featuring original works from more than 300 California-, Arizona- and Mexico-based artists specializing in painting, sculpture, glasswork and photography. Musicians, bands, dancers and performance artists add their touch. A special KidsWalk area gives budding artists a creative environment. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. India Street



north of Beech Street, 619-615-1090, missionfederalartwalk.org.



April 30 & May 1: Adams Avenue Roots Festival

The funky neighborhoods of University Heights, Normal Heights and Kensington rock each year with an eclectic offering for music lovers of all genres. The free festival features more than 40 live-music performances, ranging from blues to bluegrass, rock to rockabilly. adamsaveonline.com.

April 30 & May 1: Ramona Bluegrass & Old West Festival

To enjoy bluegrass sounds in countrified surroundings, head up to Ramona for this two-day annual festival featuring a lineup of live bands and just about all the banjos your little heart desires. The event continues after dark with jam sessions and fireside storytelling. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. 421 Aqua Lane, ramonarodeo.com.