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FALL 2015

\$10.00US





photo: Gilles Martin-Rago

All-American Road Trip to the America's Cup

A journey to a race as worthy as the America's Cup, which lays claim to the oldest trophy in international sport and the hardest to win, should be as rewarding as the destination itself. So with the uncommon respites of a lush, tropical land and a retreat of a bygone time where bagpipes play at sunset at a castle on the coast, we made our way to the world's greatest sailing race to be held in the challenging tides of the City by the Bay.

Departing the quaint sailing community of Newport Beach on a summer’s

Tuesday morning, we had plans to reach the waterfront of San Francisco’s America’s Cup Park on a Saturday. With roughly 450 miles in between, stays at Bacara Resort & Spa in Santa Barbara and The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay would provide welcome coastal resting spots along the way. With one eye on live updates of the America’s Cup, and the other eye on the road, we made our way north.

In just a few hours time, the 101 would take us to the Gaviota coast between the Pacific Ocean and Santa Ynez Mountains. **Bacara Resort & Spa**, tucked away along the bluffs and beaches of Santa Barbara, is a tropical oasis of 78 beachfront acres and two miles of white-sand beaches. The property blends Spanish charm with an island-time ambiance. A walk up terracotta-tread stairs leads to rooms with Mediterranean garden and glistening Pacific Ocean views. There’s much to do while visiting, such as lounging poolside at the tiered pools that lead to the beach. The four-star Spa is something to behold: over 40,000 square feet on three levels. Indulge in a Healing Stone Therapy massage, which blends saturated, silky oils with warm stones that slide over the skin for a dreamy 80 minutes of solitude. Dinner at The Bistro is a lovely way to end a day with sweeping views of the coast and the flavors of Italy. *BacaraResort.com*

After two days at beautiful Bacara, it was onward: five hours north to **The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay**, approximately 30 minutes from the Americas’s Cup. Upon nearing the resort, the surrounds clearly indicated that this road trip had reached the beauty of the Northern California coast. The dramatic Santa Cruz Mountains and redwood-forested hills drew the eye, and the climate became crisp and refreshingly cool. While the temperature change felt like a Northern state, the views at the resort seemed like another country—some quiet countryside in Scotland perhaps. It’s no wonder The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay is poignantly dubbed the ‘castle on the coast.’

After we were escorted to Club Level on the 5th floor, we found the perfect time and place to check the status of the Cup. The elegant lounge, with continuous complimentary culinary offerings, top-shelf spirits, and flowing champagne, was the perfect place to settle back with an iPad and catch up on the race.

The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay offers two breathtaking golf courses, horseback riding, the Spa, dining at Navio, and more. But few things compare to the simple choice to settle by the fire pits as the fog rolls in and a bagpiper plays “Amazing Grace” at sunset. RitzCarlton.com/HMB

With Saturday upon us, the morning marked the journey onward to **The 34th America’s Cup**. With the Golden Gate Bridge on the horizon and the sea’s salt in the air, we’d made it to the America’s Cup Park venue (Pier 27/29) to see the teams up close as they crossed the finish line each day. There was a hub of activity with fellow enthusiasts buzzing about to celebrate this legendary competition of the best sailors and fastest boats in a competition that predates even the modern Olympics.

It would indeed be a thrill to be at the center of it all, where for the first time in the 162 years of the event, the race would be sailed in the confines of the San Francisco Bay, rather than miles offshore. And it was the first time all competitors would race wing sail catamarans, known as the “50 mph flying boats.” Four teams competed: ORACLE TEAM USA, Artemis Racing (who sadly lost Andrew Simpson on May 9th as the “Big Red” capsized and broke apart during a practice session), Emirates Team New Zealand, and Luna Rossa Challenge.

We took a road trip as memorable as the journey’s end. May the winds of destiny carry you to a competition as time-honored as The Cup. *AmericasCup.com*

