

Fall into Lake Arrowhead

BY KAREN VILLALPANDO

The sun is setting a little earlier these days, there's a chill in the air and pumpkins are popping up on porches. Ahh, welcome Fall! There's no better place to experience the changing of the seasons than at Southern California's premier mountain destination, Lake Arrowhead.



photo by Captain Jon Richardson

Boating is one of the most popular activities at Lake Arrowhead.

Just a short drive from the city, Lake Arrowhead is home to many locals and Southern California visitors looking for a respite from the traffic and buzz of the city. Stunning lakeside homes are nestled among the trees. Amongst these beautiful homes is the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa, which recently completed a \$17 million renovation, making it a top-notch mountain retreat.

The vaulted ceilings and vast windows give an indoor-outdoor feel to the lobby, yet the furnishings create a cozy, mountain feel. Their guest rooms are well-appointed in a rustic-chic style, with comfortable furnishings and comfy beds. Each room features flat screen TVs, scenic lake



photo courtesy of Lake Arrowhead Resort

The spacious lobby at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa invites guests to relax in a cozy environment with post card views of the lake.

views from the balcony on the lake side, and alpine views on the mountain side of the resort. Rooms have either two queen sized beds or one king sized bed. The king rooms feature walk-in showers with glass enclosures. There are also 11 suites at the resort with large walk-in showers and soaking tubs. High quality

bath products are provided in all rooms, with a fabulous tangerine scent.

At Bin 189, floor to ceiling wine racks welcome diners to the "wine-themed" fine dining restaurant. Boasting robust dish-

es, such as braised short ribs, rack of lamb, and wild mushroom ravioli, the chef at Bin 189 enthusiastically prepares everything fresh. The diverse wine list offers choices for wine connoisseurs and novices alike. Expansive windows furnish spectacular lake and sunset views, and the bar livens up after dinner with live music for those looking to dance.

Relaxation and serenity can be found at the Spa of the Pines. Separate men's and women's lounges offer a steam room and whirlpool, and large changing rooms. With a variety of treatments, one will come away refreshed, relaxed, and rejuvenated!

Lake Arrowhead Resort guests

can enjoy their private beach and dock, complete with their own boat and effusive captain.

Captain Jon Richardson, local historian, gladly tools around the lake with an ongoing narrative of mountain lore. His own unique history is as entertaining and intriguing as that of Lake Arrowhead. Born and raised there, he has been a celebrated chef, world traveler, and now boat captain. During our hour-long lake tour, we sipped champagne, learned where all the celebs live and caught a great sunset.

The dock not only provides a home for Captain Jon's boat, but



photo by Captain Jon Richardson

The Villalpando family enjoys a sunset cruise on the lake, courtesy of the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa and their colorful helmsman Captain Jon Richardson.

great paninis!

Now, Alpine Village is celebrating Oktoberfest, a month-long party featuring authentic Bavarian food, great German beer, music and dancing. Oktoberfest in Lake Arrowhead is fun for the whole family. Kids can enjoy rides and games in the Village, Jack's Pumpkin Patch, and the Oom Pah Pah Fest at St. Richard's Episcopal Church, where kids can bob for apples, decorate pumpkins and get their

faces painted.

Check out the website for all the activities planned for the month. There's plenty of time to enjoy Fall in the mountains, and for skiers, the snow is on the way!

For more information visit Lake Arrowhead Visitors Bureau: www.lakearrowhead.net. Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa: www.laresort.com 27984 Hwy 189, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352; (909) 336-1511.



photo courtesy of Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa

Bin 189, the fine dining establishment at the resort, serves hearty fare in a gorgeous atmosphere.

also serves as a superb fishing spot. While most 17 year olds sleep til noon on vacation, my daughter Emily enthusiastically woke dad to go fishing at 7am. The two sat out on the dock for hours and came away with two nice sized trout. But you should have heard about "the one that got away." Seriously, Emily was reeling in a "big-un", as she and dad say, when Michael grabbed the line and the fish broke free.

Thank goodness there was shopping to get her mind off the errant fish. With over 40 boutiques and restaurants, Alpine Village at Lake Arrowhead is perfect for browsing and taking in the mountain air. We found the softest t-shirts and a great picture frame to commemorate our trip at In the Woods, and a great selection of wines at Vino 100. I love my daily dose of "venti green iced tea" but in the Village, The Tea Exchange brews up some amazing teas, like a citrus green tea blend. They also make



photo by Michael Villalpando

Emily left, and Rebecca enjoyed their time aboard the boat with Captain Jon. He'll gladly entertain you with his tales on the lake.