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**MONTAGE RESORT & SPA ANNOUNCES**  
**HOLIDAY EVENTS, FESTIVE PACKAGES AND PERFECT GIFT IDEAS**

*Gathering Friends & Family for Holiday Traditions by the Sea*

LAGUNA BEACH, CA -- (September 13, 2005) – Celebrate a splendid holiday season at Montage Resort & Spa. Loved ones can gather along the sunny shores of Laguna Beach to enjoy culinary festivities, exquisite shopping and an array of holiday-inspired events for children and families.

The "Artistry of Food and Wine Week," December 7-10, includes a cornucopia of wine tastings and seminars, cheese and wine pairings, holiday cocktails, and exceptional tasting menus. The Lobby Lounge will showcase an innovative new cocktail menu featuring items such as the Gingerbread Mojito and Pacific Eggnog. Meanwhile, The Loft will offer festive holiday tasting menus highlighting the hearty, rustic flavors of winter. In addition, The Loft will present wine tastings and seminars hosted by venerable winemakers Alan Phillips of Foley Estates and Lyncourt Winery; Dennis Cakebread, owner of Cakebread Cellars; and Chris Benziger, eponymous vineyard owner and manager of Benziger.

"At Montage, we view winemaking and cuisine as an art form," says James Bermingham, the resort's general manager. "We are honored to partner with these renowned winemakers to provide our guests with an extraordinary holiday food and wine experience."

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## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT MONTAGE - 2

The resort will be decorated with classic holiday decor, including a Christmas tree trimmed with vintage ornaments. An array of holiday activities and packages will also entice, and include:

### **The Ultimate Culinary Experience**

"The Montage Epicurean Adventure" is a three-night culinary and wine extravaganza. Guests will spend four days with a noted California winemaker, including a private wine tasting with the winemaker and Montage's wine director, Christopher Coon. The journey includes a reception with the featured winemaker and Studio Executive Chef James Boyce, followed by dinner in Studio; a private yacht tour to Catalina complete with lunch and wine tasting; a private chartered flight to Napa Valley for a guided, behind-the-scenes glimpse at some of Napa Valley's most celebrated wineries; and a special wine country luncheon.

Destined to be an epic experience, the package culminates with a multi-course farewell dinner in Studio. Price is \$25,000 per couple; which includes a one-bedroom ocean front suite. Space is limited. To reserve, please contact Montage Reservations Manager Elizabeth Bernard at (949) 715-6148.

### **Holiday Dining Traditions Endure at Montage**

Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts at Montage include traditional holiday fare with all the trimmings as well as inventive gourmet cuisine.

For Thanksgiving, The Loft will feature a traditional four-course dinner from noon to 9:45 p.m. The cost is \$80 for adults; \$30 for ages 4 to 12; and free for children under 4. The resort's signature dining restaurant, Studio, will feature a prix-fixe menu from 3 to 9 p.m. Price is \$115 per person; or \$185 with wine.

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## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT MONTAGE - 3

Distinctive holiday dinners will be available on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, The Loft will host a four-course holiday tasting menu from 5 to 9:45 p.m. at \$80 for adults; \$30 for children. Studio will offer a holiday five-course prix-fixe menu for \$115 per person or \$185 with wine; as well as its seasonal menu from 5 to 9:45 p.m. On Christmas Day, The Loft presents a four-course holiday menu from noon to 9:45 p.m. Price is \$70 for adults. Studio presents a festive holiday tasting menu from 5 to 9 p.m. for \$115 per person; or \$175 with wine. The customary a la carte menu will also be available.

### **Celebrations to Ring in the New Year**

Bid fond adieu to 2005 with Montage's New Year's Extravaganza. Revelers will celebrate in style at the annual New Year's Eve gala, enjoying exquisite gourmet cuisine paired with fine wines, live music, dancing and a midnight toast.

The New Year's Package includes a three-night stay in an ocean coastal view guestroom, admittance for two at the party, breakfast daily, a welcome gift and valet parking for one vehicle. Priced from \$2,500 plus tax.

Exquisite dining will also be offered to welcome the New Year. The Loft features a New Year's Eve prix-fixe menu with two seatings: 5 to 7:45 p.m. for \$70 per person, and 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. for \$140 per person. A five-piece band will play jazz, rock and pop tunes for revelers. The evening culminates with a midnight toast.

Meanwhile, Studio will feature a special 8 p.m. reception complete with a string quartet. A prix-fixe dinner commences at 9 p.m., followed by dancing to live music and a midnight toast.

### **Family Fanfare**

Stepping up to the Montage tradition, children too can anticipate a series of fun-filled holiday events, including:

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## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT MONTAGE - 4

- **Santa's Workshop.** Young guests can make pottery, candles and ornaments at these hands-on workshops. December 2-5, 9-11 and December 15-23. \$50 per child.
- **Christmas Classics.** Sunset storytelling for children and their families in front of a crackling fire in the Ocean Lawn fire pit. December 10, 17 and 24. Complimentary to resort guests.
- **Sweet Dreams.** Santa will personally tuck your young ones into bed. December 17-24. \$40 per room.
- **Star Gazing.** Scan the skies for Santa's sleigh on our Ocean Lawn. 4:45-6:45 p.m. Complimentary to resort guests.
- **Making Memories.** Families are invited to capture memories at Montage during a private family portrait session on the resort's pristine beaches. The 30-minute session includes several proof portraits and a framed photo. December 17-24. Price \$100.
- **Special Stocking Delivery.** Parents can arrange holiday stockings – overflowing with candy, toys and other trinkets - delivered to their room...complete with a personal letter from Santa. December 24. \$80 per stocking.
- **Dance The Night Away.** Our younger guests are invited to ring in the New Year with a dinner party complete with dancing, games and loads of fun! December 31 from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. \$85 per child.

### **Simplify Shopping at Montage**

Shopping is a pleasure at The Shops at Montage, which includes Treasures, the resort's signature retail boutique, and Art of Fragrance, with a distinctive collection of fragrant candles and fine perfumes, and Art of Writing, offering an array of fine stationery and books.

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT MONTAGE - 5

Visit the Shops at Montage December 9-10; 16-17; 23-24 from 3 to 5 p.m. and enjoy a cup of spiced cider, holiday cookies and a showcase of exclusive holiday gifts. A personal shopper will assist in selecting the perfect keepsake for that special someone.

For those shopping online, "Montage Essentials," the resort's on-line boutique, sells popular guestroom product lines, such as linens, robes, spa products, artwork and furnishings ([www.montageshops.com](http://www.montageshops.com)).

For guests planning to explore the area's top shopping venue, Montage has partnered with South Coast Plaza to provide savvy fashionistas with a rare shopping experience. Montage guests will be chauffeured to South Coast Plaza where premiere boutiques such as Escada, Louis Vuitton and Bulgari will provide complimentary gifts, light snacks and beverages, spa services and personal shopping assistance. All Montage guests will also receive vouchers for complimentary gift-wrapping and lunch for two at one of the shopping resort's acclaimed restaurants.

With sweeping panoramas of the Pacific and striking craftsman-style architecture, Montage Resort & Spa is situated on 30 lushly landscaped acres in the heart of the picturesque arts community of Laguna Beach. The luxury 262-room resort offers: elegant beachfront accommodations; a 20,000-square-foot oceanfront spa; three sparkling swimming pools; destination dining -- featuring Studio, the resort's signature restaurant; a museum-quality collection of fine art; and over 20,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor meeting space.

For information and reservations, please contact Montage Resort & Spa, toll-free, at 1-888-715-6700; or visit the website at [www.montagelagunabeach.com](http://www.montagelagunabeach.com).