

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Take date night outside

JUNE'S LONG EVENINGS CALL FOR MORE THAN DINNER AND A MOVIE

EAST BAY

TAKE A HIKE Above a long blue stretch of Carquinez Strait, the 1.5-mile **Franklin Ridge Loop Trail** traces a wildflower-dotted ridge, where grasses sway in the breeze and raptors soar overhead. From the *Nejedly Staging Area on Carquinez Scenic Dr. in Martinez*, follow the *California Riding and Hiking Trail* for 0.3 mile, then turn left on the *Franklin Ridge Loop Trail* and circle back around; ebparks.org

STOP FOR DINNER You'll be ready for veggie lasagna or steak and potatoes at downtown Martinez's Haute Stuff. \$\$; closed Sun; 925/229-0521.

—ANN MARIE BROWN

NORTH BAY

TAKE A HIKE Fern-filled, redwood- and madrone-shaded **Dawn Falls Trail** (1.6 miles round-trip) takes you from Larkspur into Baltimore Canyon and up up up to—surprise—Dawn Falls, a perfect turnaround point. There's no way to get lost; simply follow Larkspur Creek. Trail starts on *Madrone Ave., off Magnolia Ave., Larkspur*; marinopenspace.org

STOP FOR DINNER Go for one of Bruce Hill's all-local-ingredients pizzas (try the housemade sausage), followed by some Straus Family Creamery soft-serve ice cream, at Pizzeria Picco in Larkspur. \$; 415/945-8900. —AMY WOLF

PENINSULA

TAKE A HIKE At the top of Skyline Boulevard, with views stretching to the ocean, is **Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve**, where a 3.4-mile loop cuts through craggy oaks and across open hillsides illuminated by the evening light. From parking lot on *Alpine Rd. at Skyline Blvd., hike the Bay Area Ridge Trail to Borel Hill, then to Mindego Trail, Ancient Oaks Trail, and back to Bay Area Ridge Trail*; openspace.org

STOP FOR DINNER Cruise down the hill into Woodside for burgers and beers at the low-key Little Store. \$\$; closed Sun; 650/851-8110.

—RACHEL LEVIN

GET OUT Visiting hours with the seals

In its rebuilt home way up on the hill above Rodeo Beach in the Marin Headlands, the **Marine Mammal Center** is no zoo. It's an ER for rescued elephant seals, harbor seals, and sea lions. The big-eyed patients recover in private basking pools until they're well enough to be released. Visiting hours begin when the newly expanded center opens June 15. This time of year is usually especially good for a visit with elephant seal pups. Free; marine-mammalcenter.org

—LORA J. FINNEGAN

ON THE SCENE

Sactown's new hangout

Italians know how to enjoy a sultry summer evening: gelato, a stroll by a splashing fountain, a glass of cool prosecco. Sacramentans have always had the warm nights; now, with the opening of Midtown's **Hot Italian**, they can have the rest of the experience too. Pedal on over—there's plenty of bike parking. We love the streetside espresso and gelato bar and the super-authentic pizzas. Fired in an oven that burns local almond wood at 700°, they're hand-tossed by *pizzaiolo* (and, it must be said, hot Italian) Fabrizio Cercatore. \$; 916/444-3000. —KATE WASHINGTON



Don't miss

This month's **Sunday Streets** in San Francisco, when everyone from cyclists to strollers to double Dutch jump ropers take over the Mission. 10–2 Jun 7; free; sundaystreetsf.com