

SHOP LAGUNA

ENVIROINGENUITY'S VERTICAL FARM

Aspiring locavores will soon have a place to congregate: Laguna's forthcoming demonstration center for the Verti-Gro hydroponic vertical farming system dreamt up by the innovative local green energy firm EnviroIngenuity (opening in early September).

"In Laguna Beach, we have many discriminating foodies who demand locally-grown, clean, natural food, rich in essential vitamins, minerals and trace elements," says EnviroIngenuity's managing director, Erik Cutter. "I am certainly one of them! And knowing where your food comes from and consuming it fresh greatly reduces disease-triggering processes and strengthens the body's immune system."

Efficient, straightforward and cutting-edge, the Verti-Gro system is compact enough for homes without expansive property and simple enough for amateur gardeners. Verti-Gro operates with one nutrient recirculation system, no matter how many pots stack up on top of the tank, thus eliminating nutrient waste. The 5-foot-tall vertical garden cuts out soil entirely, eliminating with it any soil-borne diseases or bugs. Homegrown fruits, vegetables and herbs have never felt more within reach. (enviroingenuity.com)

FIVE-STAR SALON EXPERIENCE



(One Monarch Beach Resort,
Dana Point; 949-234-3367;
spagaucin.com)

The Salon at Spa Gaucin at The St. Regis Monarch Beach recently reopened with two top stylists. Master hairstylist Dennis Lee first studied the art of styling under the tutelage of famed celebrity stylist (and his uncle) Allen Edwards. With long stints at salons such as Salon Gregorie's, Gods & Heroes and Armando Joshua Christopher Salon, Dennis is in high-demand for wedding styling across the globe. Premier stylist Elizabeth Castillo also joins the salon, having served as artistic director at Vidal Sassoon and styled the likes of Sarah Jessica Parker, Kelly Ripa, Kelly Rutherford, Jennie Garth and more. What do the experts say is on trend these days? Dennis suggests layers that allow movement and body without looking obvious; the same goes for highlights—bye-bye ombre and hello natural looking color. To protect hair and nix frizz, he recommends a Brazilian keratin straightening treatment. The all-natural version he uses lasts up to six months and has no harsh chemicals.

What may surprise locals is that the prices at The Salon at Spa Gaucin are not out of line with your typical salon, yet the experience at the St. Regis takes the level of service and environment up several notches.

To entice new customers, Dennis is offering a 20 percent discount on your first visit or a free cut with hair color service through July 31.

Add a manicure or pedicure to your hair appointment, or combine it with a spa treatment or meal at the resort—complete with some of the best views in the area.

HAPPY CAMPERS

Summer is the time for kids to experience hands-on learning and enjoy day camps with their friends. For kids who enjoy marine life, Pacific Marine Mammal Center offers Camp Pinniped—a summer day camp for 8- to 12-year-olds to learn how to care for sea lions and other marine life, including arts and crafts activities (pacificmmc.org/day_camp.html). Outdoor adventures can be experienced at Crystal Cove Native American Summer Camp, where kids can learn about Native American traditions, and enjoy crafts, games and camping for one week (journeystothepast.com). The Laguna Playhouse also offers many kids and teen classes ranging from musical theater workshops to teen acting and ensemble workshops that further enhance skills necessary in collaboration, sharing the stage and acting (lagunaplayhouse.com/education/workshops).

Active kids looking to learn a new sport can take surfing lessons from La Vida Laguna this summer (lavidalaguna.com). Taught by professionals, the classes take place at Thalia Beach and teach ages 8 and up to surf on the slow-rolling tides. Steven Chew (who won "Best Surf Instructor" in OC last summer) also teaches surf classes through the City of Laguna Beach Community Services Department (lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/community/default.asp). Summer programs with opportunities for kids to learn or improve on dance, tennis, ice skating and a variety of other sports are available through the city's Community Services Department.



COURTESY OF STEVEN (SLI-DOG) CHEW