



ALTADENA

DIY classes with tasty perks

It's not the same old bar-school tips and tricks at the **Institute of Domestic Technology's Cocktail Crafting class** (Dec 3; \$125). Instead, Palate Food + Wine mixologist Joshua McIver shows you how to make bitters and liqueurs, then mix them, in the new school's bright, airy classroom at Mariposa Creamery, a private goat micro-dairy on the 1920s Zane Grey Estate. Look for workshops on advanced cheese-making and preparing holiday gifts like jams and spice blends this month, and beginner courses in fruit preserving, breadmaking, and coffee roasting in the new year. instituteofdomestictechnology.com



**FOUNTAIN VALLEY
CAN'T-BELIEVE-
THEY'RE-VEGAN
HOLIDAY TREATS**

Bite into a lemon blackberry cupcake at newly opened **Sensitive Sweets**, and you'll notice the fresh fruit blending perfectly with the light cake. What you won't notice? The lack of butter and eggs. That's right—these are **vegan** cupcakes, and they're also free of nuts, soy, and wheat, like most everything else in the cases. This month, you'll find gingerbread cookies and house kits, plus French apple, cherry, and pumpkin pies; bring some to your holiday gathering, and watch people's jaws drop when you tell them what they're not eating. **Closed Sun; 17431 Brookhurst St.; 714/968-9169.**

Don't miss...

cowboy-style Christmastime at **Alisal Guest Ranch** in the Santa Ynez Valley. This season, fishing, riding, and barnyard visits come with carolers, meals, roaring fires, and carriage rides.

Dec 1-17, Jan 2-25; from \$550; 2-night minimum; alisal.com

MAMMOTH LAKES



**GET TO THE
SLOPES FASTER**

Pity the poor souls sitting in mountain traffic. This winter, it's all about the friendly skies. United Airlines unrolls **nonstop flights to Mammoth** (MMH) from San Diego (SAN) on December 15 and from Santa Ana (SNA) a day later. Add those to Alaska Airlines' nonstops from L.A., and the joys of a car-free ski trip are yours for the taking. Bonus: A new snow tube park is opening midmonth above the Village for zooming down on inner tubes and sleds. mammothmountain.com

--By Sharael Kolberg

