

# Soothing San Clemente

*View of the pier from the balcony.*



By Bryan Felber,  
Chula Vista, CA

Years ago, we exchanged into a timeshare in Sedona, AZ, and absolutely loved it. After the trip, we seriously considered buying a timeshare, but on the way home, we realized how difficult it was to get an exchange in Southern California, particularly at a good beach spot. That's when we enlisted a broker to help us find a place, and eventually, we bought a week at the San Clemente Cove, located in the charming beach town of San Clemente, CA. Over time, this little gem has captured our hearts, and we've come to LOVE the Cove.

## A special place

We retired a few years ago — both of us had demanding jobs, and caring for my wife's father during the last three years of his life, as he battled Alzheimer's in our home, added an emotional layer of stress.

The San Clemente Cove became a much-needed sanctuary during those years. We even hosted my wife's parents for a day at the Cove, just a few weeks before her mother passed away from

breast cancer. The memories created at the Cove are etched in our hearts, making it an extraordinarily special place for our family.

Before retiring, we added another week in anticipation of having more time to relax, and this past summer, we bought a third week. With each visit, we fall deeper in love with the Cove, and look forward to many more years of enjoyment here.

## Location and vibe

The Cove is perfectly situated right across a small street from the San Clemente Pier and beach. It's not a luxury resort but its charm lies in its small, legacy nature. The location and the family-like atmosphere more than compensate for any lack of glitz. The staff is incredible. Shannon, the general manager, is warm and welcoming, always greeting us with her big, sweet smile. Monique, Kim, and Linda are just as fantastic.

Sadly, during our most recent stay, we learned that Dottie, an icon at the Cove, passed away. She was 100 years old and was still selling units up until her final days. Our recent purchase may have been one of her last. She was beloved by all and



will be greatly missed by the community.

## Cozy accommodations

All units at the Cove are one-bedroom suites. While they are cozy, they're fully equipped for a comfortable stay. The small kitchens have a full-sized refrigerator, oven/stove, microwave, and even a compact dishwasher—everything you need for preparing meals. There's also an



*Granddaughter Maisie on our balcony.*



*Sunset from our balcony.*

owner's lounge, a grill, and a spa available for guests. The setup is perfect for relaxing after a long day at the beach or exploring the town.

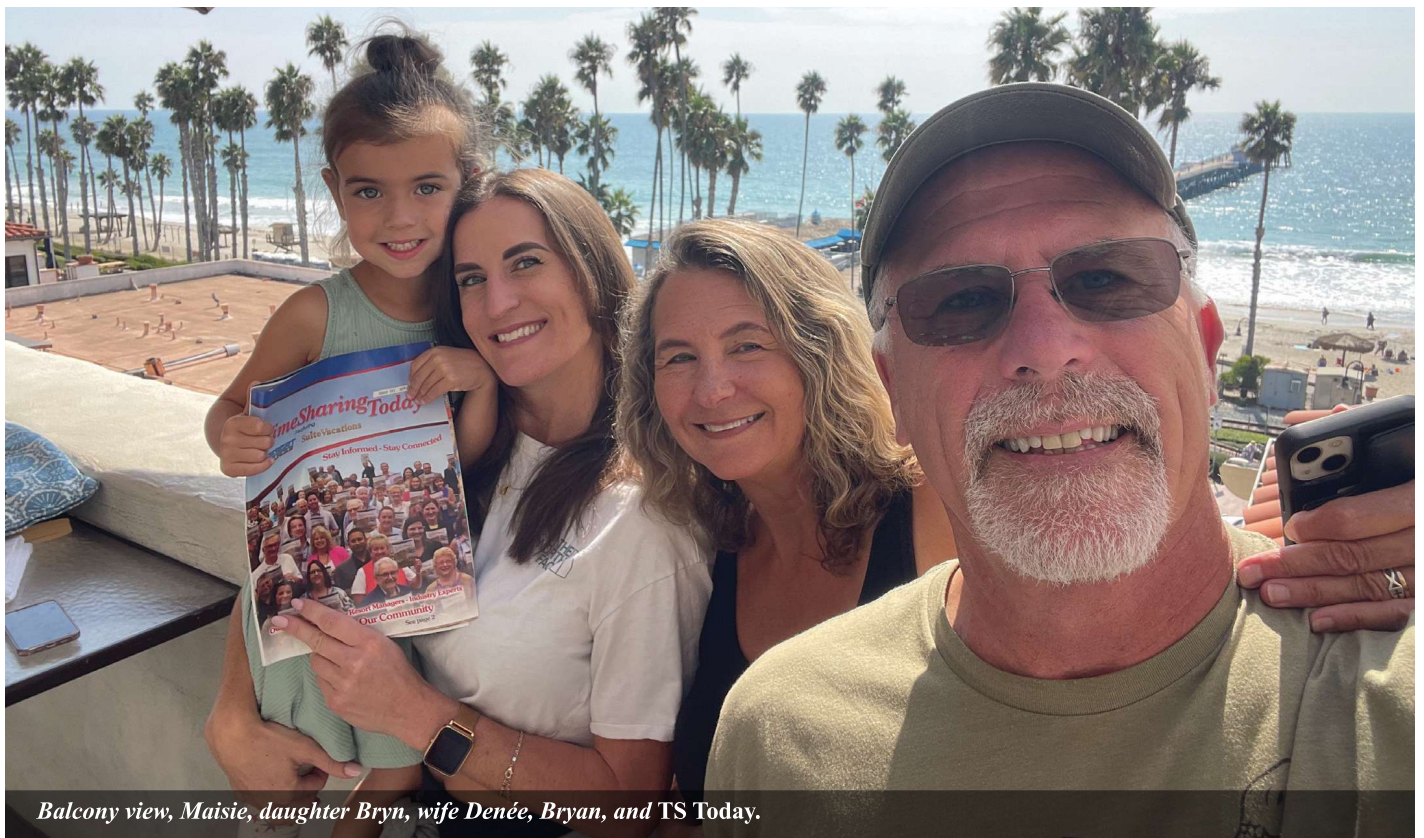
**Beachfront fun**

One of the biggest draws of the Cove is its incredible location. Just across the street lies the beach, the pier, and a scenic coastal trail ideal for jogging, running, or leisurely walks. Head south on the trail,

and you'll arrive at the State Beach and campground. Head north, and you'll find North Beach, though access is currently blocked due to a hillside slide. Once the area is stabilized, we're looking forward to returning to one of our favorite walks, which includes a stop at Moulin, a delightful French café known for its breakfast and lunch options.

The pier offers a mix of dining options, from a restaurant and cocktail bar to a

beachside snack bar. The cocktail bar's happy hour dinner deals are unbeatable—perfect for enjoying a laid-back meal with ocean views. Just below the Cove, a few restaurants and shops, including a solid pizza place, round out the neighborhood's offerings. For craft beer lovers, San Clemente is home to a number of breweries, and there are also several wine-tasting shops for those who enjoy vino.



*Balcony view, Maisie, daughter Bryn, wife Denée, Bryan, and TS Today.*



*Denée on the pier with the Cove in the background (white building above the blue umbrellas over Denée's right shoulder).*

to see hundreds of dolphins playing in the water—an unforgettable experience.

A little farther north, you'll find Laguna Beach and Newport Beach, both fantastic summer destinations. Laguna Beach, in particular, hosts the Sawdust Art Festival and the Pageant of the Masters, where live actors recreate famous artworks in a truly magical display of artistry.

**Nearby resort options**

Though we've never traded our weeks at the Cove, now that we own three, we might consider checking out other nearby resorts managed by the same company. These include the Southern California Beach Resort in Oceanside, the Carlsbad Inn in Carlsbad, and the Coronado Beach Resort in Coronado.

We've visited Coronado Beach Resort before and loved it for its unbeatable location in Coronado. It's a fantastic spot, and we're confident we'll enjoy these other resorts as well.

That said, San Clemente holds a special place in our hearts, and we expect to spend most of our time here. Whether we're strolling the beach trail or pier, enjoying a meal at one of the local restaurants, or sitting on our balcony watching surfers and sunsets, the Cove continues to be our perfect respite. Even now, with retirement and the lack of stress that comes with it, the Cove remains our go-to place for relaxation.

**Explore Avenida del Mar**

Avenida del Mar, the main street in San Clemente, is within walking distance of the Cove. Though it's a bit uphill, it's worth the walk for its charming mix of shops, restaurants, and even a local library. At the eastern end of Avenida del Mar is El Camino Real, San Clemente's main thoroughfare, which is also packed with interesting stores and eateries.

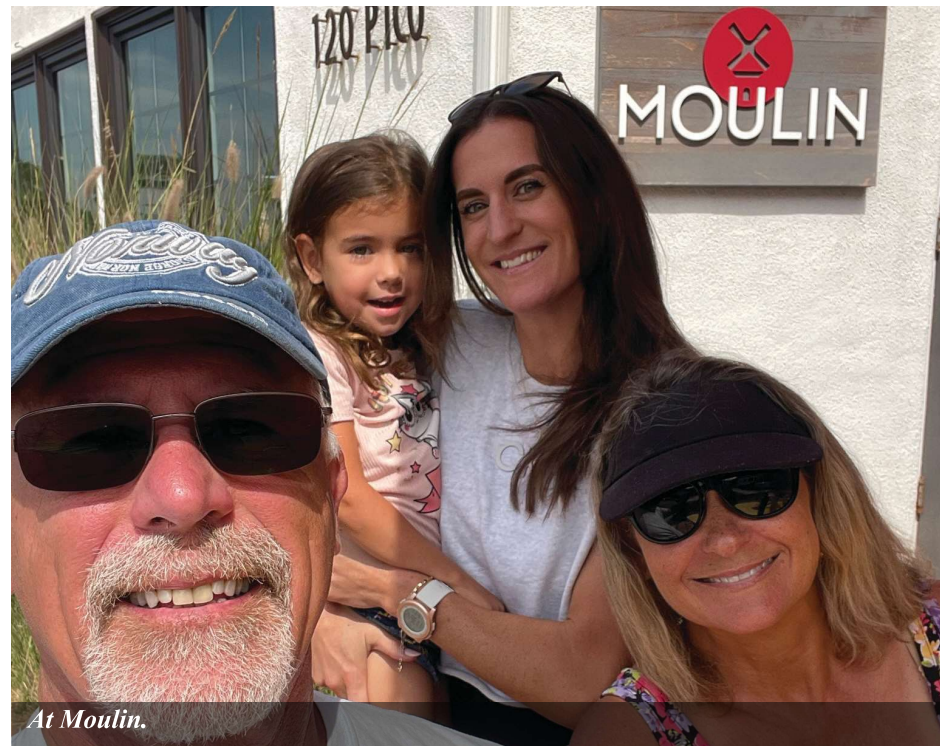
If you're a cyclist, exploring San Clemente's neighborhoods by bike is another enjoyable way to take in the area's scenic beauty. The homes are varied and lovely, offering a nice backdrop for a leisurely ride. You can also hop on a bike trail that runs from San Clemente to Dana Point, making for an exciting day trip.

**Easy day trips**

Located in southern Orange County, San Clemente is ideally situated between some major attractions. Anaheim, home to Disneyland and Angels baseball, is to the north. San Diego, with its world-famous zoo and beaches, lies to the south. Since we live in the San Diego area, the Cove is especially convenient for hosting family and friends. Day trips are common, but if we have just one or two extra guests,

they can stay overnight and sleep on the fold-out couch.

Dana Point is also just a short drive away and is known for some incredible whale and dolphin watching. On our most recent trip, we were lucky enough



*At Moulin.*