

Happy Weekend!

I am writing this from the deck of our vacation destination in gorgeous Newport Beach, California. As I stare at the Pacific Ocean, I am feeling such gratitude for being here-out of the triple digit heat and high monsoon humidity of Phoenix.



The best part of being here is having this cherished time with my children. It's funny how when they all get together they fall into childish ways~~teasing each other, and of course, teasing me more.

I know it is vacation time because I actually have fingernails. It's the only time of the year that occurs. Even though I am washing dishes, doing laundry and all the normal household chores but in a different location, I must be less hard on my hands.



We've been coming to the same place every year, during the last two weeks in July. This may be our last year all together since our son will soon be moving to Washington, D.C. to start his new after college job. Though I've already made reservations for next year, I'm not sure who will be joining us. Bittersweet.

The mornings here are overcast and cool~~referred to as June Gloom. But by late morning or mid-day, the sun is out and the skies are blue.



I love the landscaping here as it has a very Italian, Tuscan feel. The buildings have terra cotta roofs and our room is called a villa. .



There are many fountains and koi ponds. I am quite amazed at how well-maintained this property is~~~it must take a cast of thousands to keep it so beautiful.





We are located directly on the Pacific Coast Highway with one of our favorite beaches across the street, Crystal Cove State Beach. This stretch of coastline was filmed in the movies, *Beaches*. Whether it is cloudy or sunny, it's the perfect place to be.





I have been doing a great deal of reading. My daughter bought me a Kindle Fire for Christmas and I cannot believe how visible the page is in the sun.



And, of course, we have been eating lots of tasty food. One of our favorite restaurants is actually located right on the beach, the Beachcomber Cafe. It makes the most delicious beignets. While on vacation, one must indulge!



There is something about being near the ocean. It's the smell of the sea, the sound of the waves, the sand between my toes~~~I can feel the stress just melt away. Unfortunately, living near the water in California is cost prohibitive to most of us ~~unless you have several million dollars to spend on a very small home. So I am joyous to have our 2 weeks a year here.

I hope your summer is filled with relaxation time. We all need it. I'm not very good at taking time to chill out and when I finally do it, I wonder what has taken me so long. Ah, the lazy days of summer...

Mary