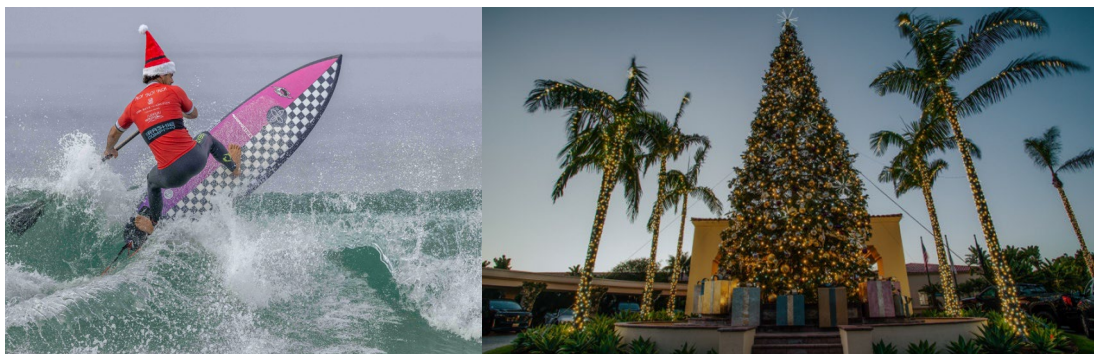




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SURFERS DRESSED AS SANTA CONQUER THE PACIFIC WAVES FOR THE RETURN OF THE RITZ-CARLTON, LAGUNA NIGUEL'S 11TH ANNUAL SURFING SANTA CONTEST
 The 14th Annual Holiday Surfboard Auction also returns to raise funds for Surfers Healing, the original surf camp for children with autism



L-R: Surfing Santa & Stand Up Paddle Board Contest and Holiday Décor

DANA POINT, Calif. – November 7, 2022 – Just in time for the holidays, [The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel](#) celebrates the highly anticipated return of the **11th Annual Surfing Santa and Stand Up Paddle Board Contest** at Salt Creek Beach in Dana Point on Saturday, November 19 and Sunday, November 20, 2022. Following this festive event, the resort will host the **14th Annual Holiday Surfboard Auction** from Saturday, November 20 until Saturday, December 31, 2022, featuring a variety of artistry surfboards by celebrated artists, creatives, and shapers. This year's auction features the works of Wyland, Firewire, Brawner Boards, Hobie, Herbie Fletcher, Andy Davis, Trevor Mezak, Bhakti, Alex Couwenburg, and more. Both seasonal events benefit Surfer's Healing, a nonprofit that provides children with autism the gift of surfing. Since partnering with Surfers Healing, the resort has raised over \$500,000 for the nonprofit, impacting countless lives supported through their work.

“I am immensely proud to be on the team of a resort that prioritizes positively impacting the lives of others through exciting events that give back to others and rally our community around this important cause,” says Marcus Cornelious, Director of Sales and Marketing at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. “It is an honor to support Surfers Healing and its mission. On behalf of the resort team, we thank the community artists, creatives, and partners involved in this life-changing tradition.”

Surfing Santa and Stand Up Paddle Board Contest is a thrilling two-day event offering fun for guests of all ages where contestants dress as Santa or other holiday-inspired characters and battle it

out in the waves on **Saturday, November 19** and **Sunday, November 20** at **Salt Creek Beach**, located directly below the resort and known as one of the best surfing destinations in Southern California. The contest features multiple categories, inclusive of surf and stand up paddle board – open to both children and adults. Each event offers prizes for placed winners, and all participants are eligible for a **cash Big Air prize**, based on contestable air points throughout the day. Cash prizes for 1st and 2nd place Costume Contest winners are also awarded. Contestants can register at www.surfingsantacontest.org with registration ending on Friday, November 18, 2022.

The **Holiday Surfboard Auction** from **Saturday, November 20 to Saturday, December 31, 2022** highlights a selection of stunning surfboards from celebrated creatives, renowned artists, iconic shapers, and professional surfers on display at the resort and auctioned online to benefit Surfers Healing. Donated surfboards include works by artists Wyland, Andy Davis, Trevor Mezak, Bhakti, and Alex Couwenburg; along with shapers such as Brawler Boards and Firewire. The boards are on display in the oceanfront resort’s lobby throughout the entire holiday season and bids can be placed online at [Bidding for Good](#) starting Saturday, November 20, 2022.

“I love the relationship we have with The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. As a young surfer, we would ride the lefts at the point and get barrels at gravels with the constant background of one of the most beautiful luxury hotels in the world” says Izzy Paskowitz, co-founder of Surfers Healing. “We truly value our relationship with The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel and are extremely grateful for them helping us raise funds all these years to keep these special children in the water and smiling!” says Danielle Paskowitz, cofounder of Surfers Healing.

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel developed the Surfing Santa and Stand Up Paddle Board Contest and Holiday Surfboard Auction with Surfer’s Healing to support the transformative surf camp for children with autism and pay homage to Dana Point’s iconic surf history. In 1958, Hobie opened as the first California surf shop on Pacific Coast Highway in Dana Point, revolutionizing the surfboard industry and birthing the ocean sport lifestyle that has become a backbone of the local community. As a way to continue honoring the city’s surf heritage, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel debuted the first Surfboard Auction in 2008, raising more than \$13,000, and two years later, the resort hosted the first Surfing Santa Contest.

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About The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

[The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel](#) opened in August 1984 as the first Ritz-Carlton resort atop a seaside bluff with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and direct access to more than three miles of sandy beach. Presented against an extraordinary backdrop, the reimagined surfside retreat redefines the guest experience by creating distinctive and unforgettable moments that embrace its oceanfront setting – from sea-inspired spa treatments and locally-sourced restaurant menus to ocean view accommodations, family-friendly eco-adventure excursions, and unique surfboard displays. The seaside property offers 396 recently renovated guest rooms and suites with personal patios or balconies, along with six distinctive dining outlets, an intimate Ritz-Carlton Spa, a dedicated Eco-Adventure Center, and unrivaled activities that embrace the surroundings. The iconic resort emphasizes unparalleled Ritz-Carlton service while delivering a genuine experience with a playful approach to luxury.

About Surfers Healing

Though Surfers Healing serves thousands, their mission exists because of one child. Izzy and Danielle Paskowitz founded Surfers Healing because of their son, Isaiah. Isaiah has autism, and when he struggled with meltdowns and sensory overload, riding the waves with his father calmed him like

nothing else. The weightlessness and rhythms of the ocean offer a surf therapy experience. Not everyone has a championship surfer for a Dad, so the Paskowitz family invited others to join them at the beach. Their idea caught on, and now Surfers Healing is a nationwide, grassroots non-profit organization. They are the original surf camp for children with autism and all of their events are free. Although autism now affects 1 in 59 children in the U.S., Surfers Healing doesn't think in thousands. They think in ones, because that's where they can effect change. One child. One family. One perfect day at the beach. Please visit www.surfershealing.org for more information.