

# Star-crossed lovers under the sky

*UCSC, Chaminade are pastoral settings for Shakespeare season*

By Kathleen Jay  
Special to The Examiner

First, this is not a theater review. With that said, William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" — which opened last weekend during the 27th annual Shakespeare Santa Cruz festival — was a crowd-pleasing celebration of the Bard's most famous work.

In addition to visiting the festival's redwood-shrouded Sinsheimer-Stanley Festival Glen for the first time, I also spent a night at Chaminade Resort, which like the outdoor Glen is nestled in a pastoral setting among the majestic Santa Cruz Mountains.

**CREATIVE, PASTORAL EXPERIENCE**

As a newbie to Shakespeare Santa Cruz, I arrived at the UC Santa Cruz campus like a freshman, totally clueless. Here are a few things I figured out along the way:

- **Arrive early for the good parking.** I arrived about a half hour before the performance, and I figured out I parked in the festival's run-off lot (\$2), which is a good 10-minute trek to the Glen.
- **Don't wear heels.** There are several hills and stairwells before getting to the Glen's entrance. Thankfully, there are signs posted



**A cool view:** The Chaminade Resort offers meals with top-flight vistas.

all over the campus to help you get there.

▪ **Dress warmly.** Although the season kicks off at the end of July, remember, Santa Cruz has Bay Area weather. Bundle up. It gets pretty cold after the sun sets.

▪ **Bring picnic basket (read: cheese, vino, etc.).** If you forget, concessions sell espresso, local wines and organic wraps. Although home-grown picnic baskets were definitely the amenity of choice.

▪ **Get there early.** For general admission, arrive one hour before a play opens for the "Groundlings" area, where you can bring your own blankets, cushions or low-backed and short-legged beach chairs. If you forget, rent a chair (\$2). For reserved tickets, I highly recommend reserving a modified

Adirondack green chair (\$2).  
▪ **Put your camera away.** Founded in 1981, Shakespeare Santa Cruz is a professional repertory company in residence at UCSC. No photos are allowed of either the Equity actors or the professionally-built stage.  
▪ **Enjoy the show.** Directed by Kim Rubinstein, "Romeo and Juliet" will run through Aug. 31.

**WHERE NATURE MEETS ARTICHOKE**

I spent the night at Chaminade Resort, which recently completed a head-to-toe renovation of all its rooms. In the short time I was there, I didn't want to leave.

▪ The grounds are gorgeous. Individual buildings, which house the rooms, circle a main lawn, where there is a large pool, spa building, trailheads to three hiking trails, tennis courts and a sand volleyball court.

▪ Get your fix of ocean — and artichokes — at Linwood's Restaurant. Request an outdoor table outside, which faces — from high up — the Pacific waves, and order Castro Valley artichokes. On the night I was there, I indulged in artichoke bisque and fire-roasted artichokes, both of which are excellent.

▪ Visit the spa. Scheduled for a full facelift this fall, it offers a full spa menu, steam, sauna, hot tub and use of a large work-out facility. For a tranquil meal, take advantage of its beautiful outdoor garden, where you can order lunch and take in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



R.R. JONES/COURTESY PHOTO

**Old Willie would have loved it:** Charles Pasternak and Caitlin FitzGerald perform outdoors under a perfect night sky in Shakespeare Santa Cruz's "Romeo and Juliet."

**IF YOU GO**  
**Shakespeare Santa Cruz festival**

**WHEN:** Through Aug. 31  
**WHAT:** Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and "All's Well that Ends Well" will be performed at the outdoor Sinsheimer-Stanley Festival Glen; Itamar Moses' "Bach at Leipzig" and Lanford Wilson's "Burn This" will be performed at the Mainstage Theater, near the university's Theater Arts Center at 1156 High St.  
**PRICE:** Tickets are \$12-\$44  
**INFO:** (831) 459-2159, [www.shakespearesantacruz.org](http://www.shakespearesantacruz.org)  
**WHERE TO STAY:** Chaminade Resort, One Chaminade Lane; (831) 475-5600; [www.chaminade.com](http://www.chaminade.com). Room rates start at \$199 per night.

Santa Cruz's Largest Year Round Hotel

Walking Distance from Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Beaches and Downtown Santa Cruz

**FREE:** Exceptional Continental Breakfast, High Speed Internet, HBO and Convenient Parking Pool and Spa Fitness Center Poolside Refreshments (during summer weekends)

831.426.7100  
Toll Free  
866.827.2466

[www.ucscinn.com](http://www.ucscinn.com)  
611 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz

Ask about our FAMILY FUN PACKAGES!

**SPLURGE**

**SHOPPING ALONG PACIFIC AVENUE**  
*Any limit*

Pacific Avenue in Downtown Santa Cruz ([www.downtownsantacruz.com](http://www.downtownsantacruz.com)) is home to blocks of shops, cafes, book stores, restaurants and movie theaters. Spend an afternoon here — there is great people watching, too. Some places worth checking out include: for the wine lovers, Vinocruz (725 Front St., 831-426-VINO; [www.vinocruz.com](http://www.vinocruz.com)) is a tasting room that houses a selection of more than 150 wines made by more than 60 wineries, all within the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA; for any chef's gadget you can imagine, visit Chefworks (1527 Pacific Ave.; 831-426-1351; [www.chefworks-santacruz.com](http://www.chefworks-santacruz.com)); for handcrafted sculptural glass dinnerware, visit Annieglass (110 Cooper St.; 831-427-4260; [www.annieglass.com](http://www.annieglass.com)).

— Kathleen Jay

**BARGAIN**

**EGGS BENEDICT**  
*Starting at \$8.25*

In downtown, visit the Walnut Avenue Cafe, a very busy, very friendly — and very yummy — restaurant that serves, without doubt, the best breakfast in town. Try any of their many variations of eggs benedict, such as the shrimp-and-tomatoes benedict (\$9.75), blackened ahi benedict (\$9.75), or traditional eggs benedict with smoked pork loin (\$9.55). 106 Walnut Ave., 831-457-2307; [www.walnutavenuecafe.com](http://www.walnutavenuecafe.com); the menu is very affordable. — Kathleen Jay

LIFE BY NUMBERS

MILES FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

65

DAYS OF SUN PER YEAR IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

300

YEARS AGO THAT SETTLERS FIRST REACHED SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

12,000