

NEIGHBORHOODS

Santa Monica

The pier is celebrating its centenary.

By Kathy A. McDonald

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The Santa Monica Pier officially turns 100 years old on Sept. 9, and the run-up to the centenary finds the beachside quarter in the middle of a major revamp, with Santa Monica Place being rebuilt and new pools and restaurants popping up. Just in time to cool off the hottest days of the summer season.

Fresh off the farm

Many of Santa Monica's chefs are at the forefront of the market-to-table culinary movement. At the Huckleberry Bakery & Café (1014 Wilshire Blvd., [310] 451-2311, www.huckleberrycafe.com), where the governor orders egg whites and multigrain toast on occasion, owner Josh Loeb can name the farmer who grew the plums and apricots for wife and baker Zoe Nathan's stone fruit tarts (\$7 each).