

King City's innkeepers welcome tired travelers

Motels offer an oasis on long stretch of Highway 101

By **SUNITA VIJAYAN**
South County Life

It's an hour's drive north to Salinas on Highway 101. Eyelids are drooping and Paso Robles is 50 miles back.

Suddenly, a sign ahead says: "Exit to King City."

Goodbye tired self, hello motels galore.

Located in the heart of Salinas Valley and called "the gateway to Monterey County," King City is situated between the scenic Santa Lucia and Gabilan mountain ranges.

More important to travelers, however, the city of nearly 12,000 is host to at least seven lodgings.

Travelers seeking a family-friendly atmosphere with all the amenities can check out Keefer's Inn.

The 47-room Keefer's Inn at 615 Canal St. is a full-service motel equipped with microwaves, high-speed Internet access, cable TV, a swimming pool and hot tub.

A gas station and diner are located conveniently close to the motel.

Deep Desai, the manager, said the motel is most busy during the summer months, catering to families, business people and other travelers.

"Good service and good accommodation — that's what we're all about," he said.

Business travelers can find comfort at other King City hostleries.

Nina Parmar, manager for Best Western King City Inn, 1190 Broadway St., said her establishment attracts mostly business travelers.

With 47 rooms, the full-service motel offers single and double beds, ranging



RICHARD GREEN/SOUTH COUNTY LIFE

The Best Western King City Inn on Broadway has 47 rooms and is one of seven motels in King City.

from about \$69 to \$79 plus tax and a complimentary continental breakfast.

"Customers like us because of our cleanliness and hospitality," Parmar said. "We look after you."

She advises travelers to call ahead during peak-travel summer months.

At 416 Lynn St., the Carriage House Inn is a 115-year-old historical home converted into a bed-and-breakfast about seven years ago.

Barbara Starkey, who runs the rustic lodging with her husband, Frank, said its moderately priced room rates attract business people for both nightly and longer-term stays.

"We try to make them as comfortable as we can ... making them feel as if this is their home," Starkey said.

DETAILS

King City

■ **BEST WESTERN KING CITY INN:** 1190 Broadway. Information: 385-6733.

■ **COURTESY INN:** 4 Broadway Circle. Information: 385-4646.

■ **MOTEL 6:** 3 Broadway Circle. Information: 385-5000.

■ **KEEFER'S INN:** 615 Canal St. Information: 385-4843.

■ **CARRIAGE HOUSE INN/BED & BREAKFAST:** 416

Lynn St. Information: 385-5714.

■ **CIUDAD DEL REY MOTEL AND TRAILER PARK:** Highway 101 and Wildhorse Road. Information: 385-4828.

■ **FIRESIDE INN:** 640 Broadway St. Information: 386-1010

Greenfield

■ **TRAVEL INN:** 120 El Camino Real. Information: 674-5816

■ **BUDGET INN OF GREENFIELD:** 452 El Camino Real. Information: 674-5828.

If King City has no vacancies, drivers can continue north another 10 miles and check several places in the city of Greenfield.

They include the 15-room Budget Inn, 452 El Camino

Real, open 24 hours daily, with prices ranging from \$35 to \$45 weekdays and \$45 to \$50 weekends.

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