

KERRI WALSH, OLYMPIC AND AVP CHAMPION,
AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL GODDESS

TT: What are your favorite things about the South Bay?

KW: The weather—you can be active outdoors year-round here—and the lifestyle. There's a whole community here that's genuinely active and into fitness.

TT: What makes the South Bay the ultimate beach volleyball spot? Is it in the air? The weather? The water?

KW: Speaking as a beach volleyball player, this is the place to be. There aren't a lot of hacks out here. There are some great university programs putting out new up-and-coming players. Again, the lifestyle is conducive. It's one of the most beautiful places in the world . . . and then you look at those million-dollar houses on the Strand, and think, "I want one of those."

TT: What would be your top etiquette tips to fans who see a pro like yourself out on the beach and want to say hello?

KW: Please, no talking to players if we're in the players' box under the umbrella. That means we're taking a time-out. Also if it's after a game and we lost, give us a couple minutes to regroup.

TT: Any requests for people watching a game?

KW: Cheer as loud as you can! Nice, respectful . . . but *loud* cheers.

TT: If amateur players are on the beach on a normal, non-tournament day, and want to throw their cap in the ring (The court? The sand?) against pros who are playing just for fun, how should they approach it?

KW: Treat people how you want to be treated. This is a close-knit community, and it takes a while to break in. So, be assertive, speak up for yourself, but be respectful.

TT: How do you balance a night out at the Hermosa bars with an early morning game?

KW: Hydrate: Have a cocktail, have a Gatorade. Also, after a while you tend to forget that, so have a minder. I'm not a very good drinker so my husband reminds me.

TT: What's your favorite time of year to be out here?

KW: Fall is pretty special. Days like this [mid-September] are a lot mellower than the middle of summer . . . the weather's still gorgeous, and it's less crowded on the Strand . . . and easier to park!