



L A T E S T   N E W S

# DEREK BLASBERG LEARNS TO SURF WITH COREY SENESE

By Derek Blasberg on Aug 27, 2012

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I had one goal this summer: Learn to surf. Well, I'm happy to report back that I did just that. (To be fair: I'm no Kelly Slater, but I did manage to stand up on the board and ride a few waves.) I can't take all the credit for it, however. Corey Senese, a Southern California boy who grew up on the waves with a hardcore surfer father, had a lot to do with my novice attempts. After a week of lessons out in Montauk, I sat down with the teacher ([whose website](#) has more information) about my performance and everything else he's seen from his perch in front of the waves.

**Derek Blasberg: Corey, tell me how I did! On a scale of 1 to Kate Bosworth in *Blue***

***Crush*, what kind of surfer am I?**

**Corey Senese:** You were really good! You had some of the easiest surf there is to learn on, so you lucked out. I have to tell you that you would have gotten smashed if the waves were chest high. So I'd put you in the 70 percent level.

**DB: I'll take a C average, since I didn't study! Is August the busiest time of year for you?**

**CS:** Yes, by far. It's when it's the warmest, but it can get very crowded.

**DB: Where do you go when its cold?**

**CS:** For a couple of months to San Diego, which is near where I grew up and first learned to surf.

**DB: Where are the best waves on Long Island?**

**CS:** Where the swell hits the coast at the perfect angle, which is different for every swell.

**DB: Where are the best waves in the world?**

**CS:** Indonesia. Definitely.

**DB: What's the best surf or biggest wave you've done?**

**CS:** Perfect Blacks Beach in San Diego. The waves were fifteen feet high and perfect.

**DB: When did you start to surf, and when did you decide it was something you wanted to do for a living?**

**CS:** I moved on to surf boards after boogie boarding. I was probably 5. I never thought about it as a career, so I just sort of fell into it. I'm very lucky.

**DB: I brought my 5-year old friend Stella on a lesson with me. Is it easier to start surfing as a kid?**

**CS:** This is the best way for a kid to get into the sport: Learn how to swim, then learn how to boogie board, then surf! Kids usually do take to it quicker than an adult once they are confident in negotiating waves.

**DB: What's the first thing that anyone who wants to surf should do? (For me, it was look for cute wet suits, but you thankfully had one for me.)**

**CS:** Do some research and take a lesson or two with a really good surf instructor.

**DB: And finally, teach me some surf lingo. Do people still say, 'surf's up'?**

**CS:** Totally! Like when you got pulled into the tube and got hit in the head by the lip and then got sucked over the falls and ate it on a rock. Surf's up!

**DB: Ha! I didn't say 'surf's up' when that happened. What I said was a little more colorful. What about 'hang ten'? Do people still say that?**

**CS:** Hang ten toes over the nose!



Corey

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Courtesy Derek Blasberg

For more information on surf lessons with Corey Senese in the Hamptons visit his website, [coreyswave.com](http://coreyswave.com).

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