

CALIFORNIA

THE GOLDEN STATE OF LUXURY

A luxury travel planning
guide to California



WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN STATE OF LUXURY



Keep up to date with California tourism and join our
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Visit California values our global network of luxury travel advisors who champion the state and curate exceptional experiences for clients. Our philosophy on luxury reflects our state. It's guided by an adventurous spirit, a playful approach to life, and a love of the original, the unique and the innovative.

California is more compelling than ever thanks to fresh experiences and attractions; a star-powered entertainment lineup; new and reimagined resorts; a thriving culinary scene; and our abundance of protected lands and parks that set the stage for outdoor adventures.

We've created this guide in partnership with our friends at AFAR as a helpful tool for itinerary inspiration, discovering new destinations and products, and practical trip-planning resources such as sales contacts at luxury properties.

You are vital partners and key players in our state's tourism economy and its destination marketing. We look forward to collaborating with you to craft extraordinary California journeys. Welcome to the ultimate playground!

Travel well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Beteta".

Caroline Beteta
President and CEO, Visit California



Mendocino County

Napa
Sonoma Valley
County

San Francisco

Monterey
Big Sur

SLO
County

SANTA
YNEZ
VALLEY
Santa
Barbara

CHANNEL ISLANDS

HOLLYWOOD

L.A.

MALIBU

SANTA MONICA

Palm Springs

Orange
County

CATALINA ISLAND

San Diego

LAKE TAHOE

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Mammoth Lakes

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

DEATH VALLEY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXTRAORDINARY ITINERARIES

- 5 Northern California Wine Country**
Explore the vineyards and wonders of Napa Valley and Sonoma County.
- 11 High Sierra**
See the raw beauty of the Sierra Nevada, stopping in Lake Tahoe and Mammoth Lakes.
- 17 Central Coast Wine Country**
Taste star vintages in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara.
- 23 Orange County**
Discover The OC, including Disneyland, the beaches and beyond.
- 29 Monterey and Big Sur**
Cruise the Pacific Coast Highway from Monterey Bay to Big Sur.

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EXCEPTIONAL DESTINATIONS

- 35 Captivating San Francisco**
- 41 Sophisticated Santa Monica and Beverly Hills**
- 47 Star-powered Los Angeles and West Hollywood**
- 53 Laid-back luxe San Diego**
- 59 Sun-drenched Palm Springs**

ITINERARY

Sonoma County
coast near the
Pacific Coast Highway

REVEL IN

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY

↓

The perfect pairing of world-class wine and gorgeous landscapes beckons travelers to Napa Valley and Sonoma County.



Less than an hour's drive north of San Francisco, the neighboring wine countries of **Napa Valley** and **Sonoma County** beckon food and wine connoisseurs from across the globe.

Elevated hospitality is par for the course from the valleys to the sea, anchored by the abundance of award-winning resorts and luxurious hideaways. In 2024, Michelin bestowed 15 Michelin Keys to Napa Valley (eight) and Sonoma County (five) properties.

For clients seeking the ultimate wine country home away from home, **The Howard Backen Estate** is now available as an exclusive 10,000-square-foot private retreat set on 160 acres in Oakville. Guests get access to a private concierge at chef Thomas Keller's award-winning restaurants in Yountville and a direct line to the most revered wineries in the region.

Vineyards at
Chappellet Wines

DAYS 1 + 2

NAPA VALLEY

Rise and shine for a sunrise hot air balloon flight to get the lay of the Napa Valley land and admire the stunning patchwork of vineyards bathed in golden morning light. Stroll around downtown Napa, browsing the shops, galleries and wine tasting rooms. Visit Robert Mondavi's new **Arch & Tower** tasting boutique and book a private tasting at the intimate **Keplinger Tasting Lounge** for in-depth tasting of rare library wines. Indulge in a transcendent Michelin-starred kaiseki feast at **Kenzo Napa**.



Surrounded by rolling fields of grapevines, **Yountville** is home to boutiques, tasting rooms and the famed **French Laundry**, chef Thomas Keller's three-Michelin-starred destination restaurant. Nearby, **Cliff Lede Vineyards** is an art-filled estate lauded for its Poetry cabernet sauvignon.

The Platinum Experience at **HALL Rutherford** features a private tasting of limited-production wines representing the best cabernet sauvignon from each vintage paired with bites by **La Toque**.

St. Helena is home to Napa Valley's most upscale retail district along walkable Main Street, including designer boutique **elysewalker** and locally made ceramics at **Carter and Co**. Tucked on a quiet side street, the chic **Davies Vineyards** tasting room pours the family's still and Schramsberg sparkling wines paired with caviar flights.

Newcomer **Alila Napa Valley** offers an intimate collection of rooms and suites surrounded by the vaunted vines of

Beringer Vineyards. Further up valley, the town of **Calistoga** is a renowned wellness destination now home to **Four Seasons Resort and Residences Napa Valley**, which also has its own winery, spa, and the Michelin-starred **Auro** restaurant.



S

DAYS 3 + 4

SONOMA COUNTY

Head west into **Sonoma County** where the rolling hills bordering the Napa Valley become ever more green as you explore the **Russian River Valley** and continue on to the **Pacific Ocean**.

Just north of charming, historic **Sonoma**, the mannered **Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa** hosts guests in an elegant mission-style resort. Nearby, **Hanzell Vineyards** produces a California chardonnay that wins raves from everyone who tastes it.

West of **Santa Rosa** and its compact downtown shopping district, the Russian River Valley holds alluring towns and is awash in excellent wineries. Near a river bend in **Forestville**, the **Farmhouse Inn** has a rich history as a working ranch. Proprietors (and siblings) Joe and Catherine Bartolomei's hotel incorporates a restaurant, spa and myriad nods to



Goat Rock Beach in
Sonoma County

comfort, such as the 24-hour pool.

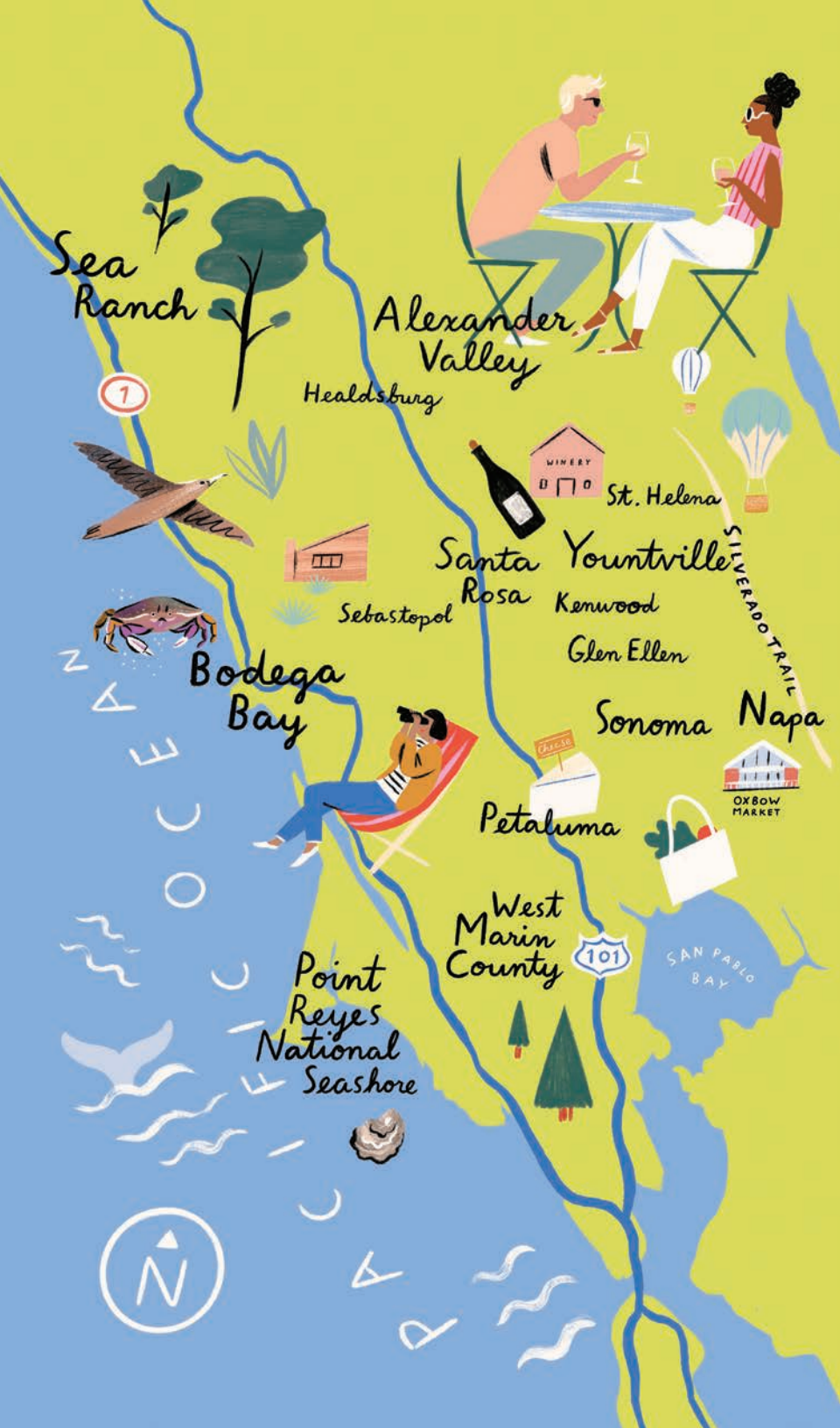
Westside Road wends through undulating fields of grapes fringed with lavender. It leads to **Healdsburg**, beloved for culinary gems that encircle the central square. Book ahead for the Michelin three-star **SingleThread**. Local wineries of note include **Truett Hurst**, a lovely spot to sip a glass of punchy zinfandel and a model of sustainable viticulture. **Flowers Vineyards & Winery** has one of the region's most attractive tasting rooms, which is – naturally – set amid fields of flowers.

Further west is the Pacific Ocean, and en route lies magnificence not found in Italy, France or anywhere else on the planet – Steinbeck celebrated the soaring trees of California's coastal redwood groves for their "silence and awe." Stand in wonder at **Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve** just north of the village of **Guerneville**. Continue up the **Pacific Coast Highway** (aka PCH or Highway 1), stopping to sample superbly fresh oysters and crab. ■

AN ABUNDANCE OF ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Montage Healdsburg is Sonoma County's newest refined wine country retreat, with 130 bungalow-style guest rooms and suites. After a major update, **The Madrona**, a historic boutique hotel in Healdsburg, has topped many a "best-of" list. Also making headlines, **Meadowood Napa Valley** and **Auberge du Soleil** are two of only 11 U.S. hotels to receive the acclaimed Michelin Three Key accolade.

For more ideas for the ultimate wine country visit, consult **Visit Napa Valley** and **Visit Sonoma County**. Find the listings for these resources in the directory.



Sea Ranch

1

Alexander Valley

Healdsburg

St. Helena

Santa Yountville

Rosa

Kenwood

Glen Ellen

SILVERADO TRAIL

Sonoma

Napa

Sebastopol

Bodega Bay

Petaluma

OXBOW MARKET

West Marin County

101

SAN PABLO BAY

Point Reyes National Seashore





HIGH SIERRA MAGNIFICENCE



Road trip through the Sierra Nevada, from Lake Tahoe to Mammoth Lakes, where the raw beauty accents luxurious style.



Skiing with a view at Palisades Tahoe

HIGH SIERRA ADVENTURES

The High Sierra beckon visitors in winter and summer, especially the brilliantly blue waters of **Lake Tahoe** and crystalline pools around **Mammoth Lakes**. It's a wonderland of great adventure in the great outdoors. The ski season can span three seasons, from fall through spring. Awesome hiking and superlative fishing are just two of the draws outside of winter. Adrenaline-fueled pursuits are limited only by the imagination.

Accommodations emphasize pampered and restful comfort, and the dining options promise memorable and hearty repasts after days out in the wilderness.

DAYS 1 + 2 NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Truckee, the delightful and historic town at the north end of the Lake Tahoe region, has a main street straight out of the 19th century, with trains whistling past as they've done since the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in 1869.

Surrounded by the jutting peaks south of Truckee, **The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe** is in the heart of **Northstar California Resort**, the vast skiing and outdoor adventure

center on the slopes of **Mount Pluto**. Lifts run right from the hotel entrance, and a real pleasure awaits at the end of the day, thanks to fireplaces in every one of the 170 rooms — reason enough for a deep dive into the room service menu.

Further south, **Tahoe Vista** and **Dollar Point** are but two of the string of bucolic villages lining the north shore of Lake Tahoe. Rent a classic lake cruiser made from varnished wood and explore the pine tree-fringed shoreline. For dinner, **Christy Hill** in **Tahoe City** serves French-inspired fare on

unbeatable lakefront tables.

West of the lake, **Olympic Valley** lies at the base of the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics, where **Palisades Tahoe** is known for world-class activities year-round. In winter, over 177 ski runs operate. Throughout all seasons, the recently opened base-to-base gondola connects Palisades to **Alpine**, the companion resort area over the mountain.

The **Everline Resort & Spa's** suites and penthouses make ideal retreats after a day of skiing or hiking. Or you might just hit the links on the resort's own golf course.

Nearby, the lifts are steps away from **PlumpJack Inn**. Its 56 rooms and intimate suites are within one of the world's most popular ski resorts. Catch the vibe around the outdoor pool or on the sunny deck at the neighboring **Le Chamois**, a welcoming bistro and bar.



DAYS 3 + 4
FROM LAKE TAHOE
TO YOSEMITE
NATIONAL PARK

The drive south along the meandering west side of Lake Tahoe is near impossible to traverse without frequent stops for some new vista of cerulean water, emerald-green forest, and silver-hued granite.

**YOSEMITE VALLEY
EMBODIES THE
PASTORAL PROMISE
DESCRIBED BY JOHN
MUIR, “NATURE’S
PEACE WILL FLOW
INTO YOU AS
SUNSHINE FLOWS
INTO TREES.”**

Following the crest of the Sierra south on Highway 395, the turn for the summer-only Tioga Pass Entrance to **Yosemite National Park** beckons.

Relatively few visitors take the route across the high Alpine meadows on Highway 120, which rewards travelers with stops that include rushing rivers in settings of absolute solitude.

Spending the night in **The Ahwahnee**, the famous 1927 hotel, is a grand and memorable experience. And everywhere in Yosemite Valley, especially outside of popular summer months, embodies the pastoral promise described by John Muir, “Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.”





Truckee

Olympic Valley

South Lake Tahoe

LAKE TAHOE

WALKER LAKE

395

Bridgeport

BODIE GHOST TOWN

YOSEMITE FALLS

EL CAPITAN

HALF DOME

Mono Lake

Yosemite

June Lake

Mammoth Lakes

Mariposa

Mammoth Mountain

Death Valley





Relaxing in a hot spring in Mammoth Lakes

DAY 5

MAMMOTH LAKES

Mammoth Lakes present unforgettable vistas of indigo waters reflecting the High Sierra. Ride to the 11,053-foot summit of **Mammoth Mountain** and gaze out at the miles long views. Here the ski season can last until July. The year-round trekking — by foot, mountain bike, or skis — is always first-rate. In summer, legendary fishing sites seem to populate every corner of the lake.

Named for the Indigenous Mono people, the **Westin Monache Resort** is ideally situated to take full advantage of this spectacular spot. Studios and suites include fireplaces and kitchens. **Petra's Bistro & Wine Bar** has been a local favorite for more than 20 years. ■

HIGH SIERRA HIGHLIGHTS

Have an exhilarating day whitewater rafting on the wild **Tuolumne River**, which flows through Yosemite National Park. Just east of Highway 395, the High Sierra's main road, **Mono Lake** offers stark beauty and magnificent serenity along its craggy shores.

For more travel-planning tips, contact **North Lake Tahoe**, **Visit Yosemite - Madera County**, and **Visit Mammoth Lakes**. Find the listings for these resources in the directory.

CENTRAL COAST WINE COUNTRY



Taste star vintages in Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo, head to the Santa Ynez Valley, and cap it all off in Santa Barbara — the epitome of relaxed luxury.



HUNDREDS OF WINERIES

Between **SLO CAL** (short for San Luis Obispo County, California) and **Santa Barbara County** — which includes the **Santa Maria Valley, Santa Ynez Valley** and **Lompoc Valley** — there are over 500 wineries, making this part of the state an oenophile's dream. These fertile lands also yield remarkable produce, and the region offers a compelling dining scene, including nearly 30 Michelin-honored restaurants.

And it's all easily accessible from either **Los Angeles** or the **Bay Area**, whether enjoying the famed views along Highway 1 or traveling along pastoral Highway 101.

DAY 1

PASO ROBLES

Cabernet and Rhône varietals largely share the spotlight in **Paso Robles**, but the rapidly developing appellation continues to foster new talent who seek out alternative styles. Explore the many wine routes weaving through the vine-laced countryside.

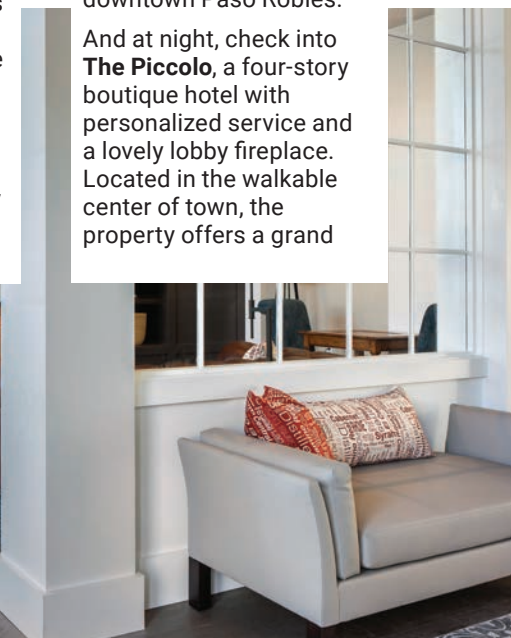
SLO CAL wineries work magic with some of the world's more esoteric grapes. One such estate is **Giornata** with a portfolio of wines made from native Italian varieties. Family-run **DAOU** champions Bordeaux grapes. Its elaborate Spanish-style tasting room treats winery visitors to sweeping hilltop views. In nearby

Templeton, Tin City is the place to taste the creations of more than 40 boutique wineries and breweries. The Michelin-starred **Six Test Kitchen** serves seasonal tasting menus that pair the best local wines with dishes featuring regional flavors. For California fare with a French twist, reserve ahead for the chef's tasting menu at excellent **Les Petites Canailles** in downtown Paso Robles.

And at night, check into **The Piccolo**, a four-story boutique hotel with personalized service and a lovely lobby fireplace. Located in the walkable center of town, the property offers a grand



The library at
The Piccolo in
Paso Robles



top-floor suite and rooftop bar. Other well-appointed lodging choices include the central **Hotel Cheval** and Tuscan-inspired **Allegretto Vineyard Resort**, set among vineyards. Also amid vines is **Just Inn**. On the grounds of the celebrated **Justin Winery**, the exclusive lodgings include three suites, a villa, and an entire four-bedroom chateau.

DAY 2

SAN LUIS OBISPO

The namesake heart of SLO CAL, **San Luis Obispo**, lies at the crossroads of Highways 1 and 101. Just up the road to the north, along the coast of **San Simeon**, the legendary **Hearst Castle** embodies luxurious living at its zenith. Book a private tour, a four-hour, in-depth exploration of the opulent grounds and mansion covering many areas that aren't open to the public. Stop for an oceanfront tasting at the **Hearst Ranch**



Mission San Luis Obispo
de Tolosa

Winery. In **Cambria**, you can sample the renowned grenache rosé of **Stolo Vineyards** at its serene, pet-friendly tasting room.

In SLO, the **Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa** dates to 1772. The modern **Hotel Cerro** nearby boasts a much sought-after penthouse. Also downtown are the contemporary **Hotel SLO** and the elegant, historic **Granada Hotel & Bistro**.

Savor an urban wine tasting experience at **Region SLO**, specializing in hard-to-find boutique producers. Local foodie favorite **Nate's on Marsh** serves modern elevated American fare for lunch and dinner in a charming residential-style setting. In town on a Thursday? Stroll through the colorful downtown **Farmers Market** to enjoy the live music, artisan vendors and bites.



DAY 3 SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

The **Santa Ynez Valley** is a delightfully rural region of family farms, boutique wineries, and timeless, walkable towns. A full-service luxury dude ranch, **Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort** invites guests to unplug and savor simple pleasures and country charms on more than 10,000 acres outside of Solvang.

More than 50 tasting rooms line the charming streets of **Los Olivos**. Auberge Resorts Collection's **The Inn at Mattei's Tavern** is a new (and luxurious) lodge in an 1800s setting. **Bar Le Côte** looks to the Pacific Ocean for its Michelin-honored seafood dishes.

Nearby in **Los Alamos**, Michelin-starred **Bell's Restaurant** serves French-accented bistro fare. Tables are reserved weeks in advance. The village of **Santa Ynez** is another walkable gem with upscale shopping.

The adjoining **Santa Maria Valley** includes the legendary **Bien Nacido Vineyards**, which is famous for its French varietals. **Presqu'île Winery** pairs tastings with a meze picnic of foods from local purveyors. And over in the **Lompoc Valley**, sea breezes provide the perfect conditions for the chardonnays and pinot noirs at **The Hilt Estate**.

The Inn at Mattei's Tavern





Known as “The American Riviera,” sophisticated **Santa Barbara** boasts magnificent architecture, fashionable boutiques and lush gardens. For a self-contained retreat, book one of the oceanfront suites at the mission-style **Ritz-Carlton Bacara**. Or be in the heart of the action at the glamorous **Hotel Californian** downtown, where standout restaurants like **The Lark** are just steps away. Perched above **Mission Santa Barbara**, historic **El Encanto**, **A Belmond Hotel** has been welcoming luminaries since Hollywood’s golden age.

Montecito, the exclusive enclave to the south, is home to the 500-acre fabled **San Ysidro Ranch** and its impressive **Stonehouse Restaurant**. Nearby, **Rosewood Miramar Beach** is another top choice and features **Caruso’s**, a Michelin-starred seaside restaurant. Off property, tour **Ganna Walskas Lotusland**, cruise out to **Channel Islands National Park** and shop **Coast Village Road**. ■



DAYS 4 + 5 SANTA BARBARA

Visit SLO CAL has all the info on wineries, lodging, the best restaurants, and much more. **Visit Santa Barbara** and **Visit The Santa Ynez Valley** can also help plan once-in-a-lifetime trips. Find the listings for these resources in the directory.



Paso Robles

Tin City

Cayucos

101

Morro Bay

San Luis Obispo

Edna Valley

Pismo Beach

Santa Maria Valley

7

Los Alamos

Sta. Rita Hills

Los Olivos

Santa Ynez

Solvang

Santa Barbara

LOTUSLAND

Montecito

Summerland

Rincon Point

Channel Islands



PACIFIC OCEAN

ITINERARY

Newport Beach
Harbor

TRAVEL DEEPER

IN ORANGE COUNTY



Go beyond the expected in The OC for elegance and excellence, whether it's family fun or the iconic SoCal coast and beaches.

Orange County (The OC) is famous for its epic coastline and the “Happiest Place on Earth.” Its world-class resorts, fabulous shopping and acclaimed restaurants — 34 have Michelin’s stamp of approval — are equally wow-worthy.



Disneyland

DAY 1 FUN AT DISNEYLAND

Experience an inspired portfolio of exclusive offerings with the **Crown Collection by Disneyland® Resort**. Indulge in meticulously curated experiences on a VIP tour, complete with a private guide, expedited access to all attractions, seamless planning, and reserved viewing. As evening falls, savor the opulence of **21 Royal**. The historic, Empire-styled retreat, once envisioned by Walt and Lillian Disney in the mid-1960s as their private in-park suite, offers an extraordinary private

dining experience for up to 12 discerning guests (booked in advance).

Right across from the park, **The Westin Anaheim Resort** has suites with balconies and views of the Magic Kingdom, and the **JW Marriott, Anaheim Resort** features a pool deck with private cabanas and top-floor suites with Disneyland views.

Anaheim has plentiful fine restaurants such as Michelin-recommended **THE RANCH Restaurant & Saloon** and **Poppy & Seed**. At **Angel Stadium**, sports fans can play ball with premium Lexus Diamond Club seating, exclusive perks, and behind-the-scenes tours. And **Honda Center** welcomes Anaheim Ducks spectators to the first ice-level, members-only VIP club on the West Coast, the Impact Club.

DAY 2

FASHIONABLE OC

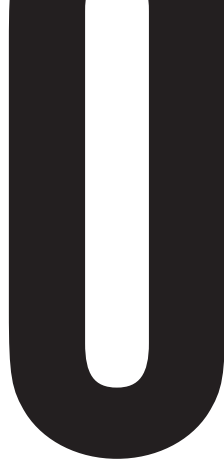
There's nothing more quintessentially OC than cruising **Newport Harbor** in a yacht and strolling **Balboa Island**. **Balboa Bay Resort** offers harborside rooms with nautical vibes, and guests can rent sailboats or take lessons on the channel. Located on the site of the former City Hall, **Lido House, Autograph Collection** embraces its heritage and bayside location with upscale beach house architecture and a rooftop bar.

The vibrant epicenter of the Newport Beach style scene, open-air **Fashion Island** is home to more than 100 ultra-

premium designer boutiques and specialty shops. Rising above Fashion Island, **Pendry Newport Beach** is a contemporary new retreat that quickly rose to the top of travel and hospitality "it" lists. Book The Pacific Suite for sweeping ocean views and get access to **The Elwood Club**, the hotel's modern members-only club. Nearby **VEA Newport Beach, A Marriott**

Hotel & Spa is the destination's social sanctuary where revelry and relaxation meet.

Set on 504 hillside acres and surrounded by 36 holes of golf, **The Resort at Pelican Hill** offers residential-style villas for absolute privacy and relaxation (private butler service included). A dip in the Coliseum Pool, one of the largest circular pools in the world, is a must.





DAY 3 BEACHES, WHALES AND ART

Along the southern coast, the picturesque communities of **Laguna Beach** and **Dana Point** are home to beautiful beaches, a phenomenal food scene, miles of hiking trails and gracious places to stay (see page 28). Originally founded by artists who were drawn to the pure, seaside light, Laguna Beach boasts over 100 galleries and artists' studios and hosts the annual summer **Festival of Arts**.

Book the Ultimate Whale Watching Experience with expert guides from **Dana Wharf Whale Watching** and spot blue, humpback, and gray whales on their annual migrations. Reserve dinner at Michelin-starred **Rebel Omakase** in Laguna Beach. ■

SOUTH COAST PLAZA IS ORANGE COUNTY'S ULTIMATE RETAIL PLAYGROUND WITH MORE THAN 250 SHOPS REPRESENTING NEARLY EVERY LUXURY BRAND, PLUS VIP CONCIERGES, PERSONAL SHOPPERS, AND MICHELIN-STARRED KNIFE PLEAT.

Humpback
whale in
Dana Point



Anaheim

DISNEYLAND

ANGEL STADIUM

LIMESTONE CANYON

SOUTH COAST PLAZA

JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT

Huntington Beach

Costa Mesa

Newport Beach

BALBOA FUN ZONE

Laguna Beach

Dana Point

PACIFIC OCEAN





THE OC'S REFINED RESORTS

The five-star beachfront **Montage Laguna Beach** straddles the line between being a hub of activity and a luxurious, only-in-Southern-California hideaway. There's an expansive spa and bungalow suites, which are de facto private beach houses. Book the new Heli-Picnic Coastal Tour, a private helicopter tour of Orange County's coastline followed by a private picnic in the backcountry of Catalina Island. Additionally, guests can now cruise the

coastline aboard the resort's new luxury Aviaara 36-foot yacht.

Nestled in its own wilderness area with an organic garden and 15,000 acres of local trails at its doorstep, the **Ranch at Laguna Beach** offers a true sense of retreat. Two-story cottages bring nature indoors through soaring windows and there's even a luxury treehouse. Opening in 2025, the fully renovated **Surf & Sand Resort** features 90 guest rooms transformed into premium

oceanfront studios.

Total immersion is the draw of **The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel**, which sits on a bluff 150 feet above the Pacific's craggy coastline. The hotel delivers impeccable service that includes beach butlers. Located on the opposite end of the beach, the **Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club** has nearly everything a worldly traveler could ask for, from a private beach club to an award-winning golf course.

Visit Anaheim, Visit Laguna Beach and Visit Dana Point are all at the ready to help plan visits. Visit Newport Beach can also help with suggestions. Find the listings for these resources in the directory.

THE EPIC BEAUTY OF MONTEREY AND BIG SUR

↓
The wonders are endless
on this trip along one of
the world's outstanding
coastal drives.

A hot soak at the Carmel Valley Ranch

Get behind the wheel of a vintage roadster or luxury cruiser to explore this iconic stretch of the Pacific Coast Highway. There are myriad reasons to stop, from tide pools and waterfalls to more than 200 wineries. The dining is a top draw too, with nearly 20 Michelin-recognized restaurants in the region, including the Central Coast's first two-Michelin-starred restaurant, **Aubergine at L'Auberge**.



DAYS 1 + 2 CARMEL AND MONTEREY

The **Monterey Peninsula** is the place to begin. Those who've only dipped a toe into the Carmel region may want to focus on coastal **Carmel-by-the-Sea**, with its galleries, fine dining and luxury shopping. But don't ignore the region's Tuscany, **Carmel Valley**.

There, fill your day with yoga, self-enrichment and golf at the 500-acre **Carmel Valley Ranch**. Spacious suites open to views of the valley, the links, or gardens with local wildlife. The ranch grows most ingredients used to prepare the food

served here, as well as the fragrant lavender showcased at its spa.

In **Monterey** proper, the **Monterey Bay Aquarium** can easily fill a day with its world-class aquatic displays, from the mesmerizing kelp forest to the sea otters. (The aquarium publishes an essential guide to sustainable seafood, too.) Behind-the-scenes tours and experiences range from onsite sleepovers to swimming in the Great Tide Pool.



Monterey Bay Aquarium

Memorable Monterey dining standouts include **Cella Restaurant & Bar**, **Stokes Adobe**, and **Alejandro's**. Along the gracious avenues of Carmel-by-the-Sea, you'll find **Aubergine** and **Chez Noir**, two Michelin-starred restaurants worth reserving well in advance. For coastal lodging, consider the new **Carmel Beach Hotel** with 26 guest rooms and suites spread across seven historic buildings – all rooms have private decks.

EXPANSIVE MONTEREY COUNTY IS HOME TO NEARLY 200 EXCELLENT WINERIES.



Aubergine's executive chef-director Justin Cogley



Hikers in Big Sur

DAYS 3 + 4


BIG SUR

With steep ocean cliffs framing churning Pacific waters, the drama and mystique of **Big Sur** has inspired countless artists and writers — including the late Henry Miller whose former house is now open as a nonprofit arts center and bookstore. Known for its hiking trails, forests and rugged beaches, Big Sur is peppered with secluded resorts, where guests' peace and well-being are the top priorities.

At **Alila Ventana Big Sur**, supremely comfortable suites seemingly mesh with nature. Those with private hot tubs are particularly dreamy. Or enjoy a room equipped with an oversized hammock and wood-burning fireplace. Sit back for the three-hour prix-fixe menu in the hotel's **Glass House**, gazing out from the ocean's edge.



Alila Ventana Big Sur



An iconic Big Sur resort, the **Post Ranch Inn** has rooms that offer a range of panoramas — ocean, forest, or mountain. Watching the sun melt into the sea from a glass-walled bungalow or sleeping in a grownup treehouse with a skylight for stargazing make for unforgettable moments. At night, guests can slip into the infinity pool overlooking the Pacific. ■

MORE SPECTACULAR STAYS

The Monterey Peninsula features many noteworthy accommodations. Famous for golf and its location along the peninsula, **Pebble Beach Resorts** offers boutique hotel rooms, private cottages and apartments between three properties. **La Playa Hotel** is the briefest of strolls from the beach in Carmel-by-the-Sea. Inland, **Bernardus Lodge & Spa** in Carmel Valley looks straight out of a Tuscan film, down to the 28 acres of vineyards.



Golfing in Pebble Beach

See Monterey has comprehensive information about travel on its stretch of the Central Coast. Find the listing for this resource in the directory.

Half Moon Bay



SF BAY

Santa Cruz



MONTEREY BAY



MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

Monterey

PEBBLE BEACH

Carmel-by-the-Sea



Big Sur



NEPENTHE

HEARST CASTLE



Cambria

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DESTINATION

The Golden
Gate Bridge



SAN FRANCISCO'S TIMELESS ALLURE



From new green spaces to top-tier art, the charms of the city by the bay — perpetually among the 10 most desirable places to visit the world over — just keep proliferating.

PLENTIFUL PARKS

A top sight spanning the **Golden Gate Bridge** and **Marin Headlands** to the north, the **Golden Gate National Recreation Area** repurposes the forested hills of the **Presidio**, the military base once tasked with guarding the entrance to the bay. Hikes and walks here deliver one wow-worthy view after another. **Presidio Tunnel Tops** is a grand new park that transformed what was once an open roadway into dense gardens and public spaces with broad vistas. Panoramas sweep from **Alcatraz** to the open Pacific, and innovative food trucks sell picnic lunches.

Golden Gate Park is another place to revel in the outdoors, and it's better than ever thanks to road closures which make strolling a breeze. Or explore all 3.5 miles of raw Pacific surf and dunes along **Ocean Beach**.



Downtown San Francisco and the Transamerica Pyramid from Pier 7

**A GRAND NEW PARK,
PRESIDIO TUNNEL
TOPS, TRANSFORMED
WHAT WAS ONCE AN
OPEN ROADWAY INTO
DENSE GARDENS.**



San Francisco seen from Alcatraz Island



WORLD-CLASS ART AND BOUTIQUES

Golden Gate Park offers indoor pleasures as well. Special exhibitions at the striking copper-clad **de Young Museum** are knockouts and the permanent collection spans old masters to modern art. Afterwards, stroll a few minutes south to 9th Avenue in the prim **Inner Sunset**

neighborhood, home to many of the city's best artisanal bakeries, such as the renowned **Tartine**.

For more inspiration, the **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art** has one of the largest public collections of art in the city. Head to **Cafe 5** in its fifth-floor sculpture garden for drinks and some of the city's best rooftop views.

GETTING TO KNOW SAN FRANCISCO

To really experience the city, you must explore its neighborhoods. Look for taquerias in the **Mission**, rainbow flags flying above the **Castro**, earnest hippie vibes in the **Haight**, and beachy quietude in the **Sunset**. Visitors will find the city welcoming and full of activities for nature lovers, bookworms, shoppers, gourmands, cultural mavens, and more.



Tip: Coffee at an outdoor table overlooking the gardens at the de Young's café is a secret San Francisco pleasure.

San Francisco is justly loved for its myriad of small shops and boutiques selling goods from the offbeat and hard to find to the exquisite. Choice shopping streets include **Hayes Street** with its decor, gift and clothing stores and **Chestnut Street** in the **Marina**, which is easily combined with bayside walks. **Fillmore Street** has been the place to go for luxury boutiques and the wares of internationally known local designers for over a century.



San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

WHERE TO EAT + STAY

The city remains a dream destination of chefs and mixologists from around the world to realize their visions. San Francisco has 113 Michelin-recognized restaurants, including 28 with stars. Get the latest intel on the food scene from hotel concierges staffing the city's many superb properties.



1 Hotel San Francisco is an eco-friendly model of comfort. In the rooms, many with bay views, organic and recycled furnishings and fittings reflect the Northern California ethos. **LUMA Hotel San Francisco** is in a modern high-rise within the city's revitalized Mission Bay neighborhood. Tech firms abound, and the Giants and Warriors play nearby.

Certified LEED Gold, **Inn at the Presidio** unveiled a significant refresh in 2024, elevating the 22 guest rooms and common spaces that pay homage to the Inn's turn-of-the-century origins and national park surroundings. Jackson Square's **The Jay Hotel** is the result of a top-to-bottom transformation of the former Le Meridien. The 360 airy modern guest rooms are inspired by San Francisco resident and sculptor Ruth Asawa, and the third floor is home to an eponymous dining and cocktail outlet by the famed San Francisco **Omakase Restaurant Group**.



Cavallo Point



Just across the Golden Gate Bridge—and boasting the Bay Area’s best vantage point of the bridge’s span — **Cavallo Point** is an anchor of the national recreation area. Fronted by a wide lawn stretching down to the bay, it has well-appointed guest rooms, some in former officer’s quarters of what was once **Fort Baker**.

Other accommodation options include some of the city’s most elegant and historic properties, such as the **Palace Hotel** known for its Gilded Age luxury. Equally storied, the **Fairmont San Francisco** tops exclusive **Nob Hill**. And nearby is the stately **Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco**.

The **St. Regis San Francisco** mixes tradition with modern style in a central location,

as does the **Taj Campton Place**, which overlooks **Union Square**. On the **Embarcadero** in the **Financial District**, the **Four Seasons Hotel San Francisco** is dedicated to excellent service.

Should trip plans include **Silicon Valley**, the **Rosewood Sand Hill** is in central **Menlo Park** near venture capitalist firms. **Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley**, in **East Palo Alto**, is close to **Stanford University**. In **San Jose**, the **Hotel Valencia Santana Row** places you in the heart of a luxury open-air shopping mall. Wherever you decide to book, savor the time-tested delights and fresh creativity that make the San Francisco Bay Area a perennial favorite destination. ■



San Francisco Travel is the source for information about the city. Find the listing for this resource in the directory.

INCOMPARABLE SANTA MONICA AND BEVERLY HILLS



Relaxed beach culture meets high style in two of the most famous cities in Los Angeles County.



Santa Monica Beach

Beverly Hills is synonymous with luxury living, from Rodeo Drive to the impressive concentration of iconic accommodations and celebrity chefs. To the west, **Santa Monica** also offers iconic Southern California sights, including the classic Santa Monica Pier. These two neighboring cities offer the perfect blend of fashionable, see-and-be-seen hot spots, incredible shopping, cutting-edge wellness, and innovative cuisine.



SUPERLATIVE SHOPPING AND SIGHTS

For visitors seeking the luxury mainstays, four blocks of **Rodeo Drive** in Beverly Hills are home to a wealth of legendary fashion houses, including Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Bottega Veneta, Dolce & Gabbana, Bulgari, Fendi, Prada and Dior. You can also find vaunted boutiques such as Tory Burch, Jimmy Choo, Rolex, La Perla, Tod's, and Harry Winston.

For something to hang on the wall, peruse a Miró or Warhol at galleries such as **Christie's**. Go a little further afield to the **Getty Villa Museum** in **Pacific Palisades** for inspiration among the estate's painted ceilings, Roman columns, and marble floors — the ideal backdrop for the 44,000-strong collection of priceless Etruscan, Greek and Roman pieces.

The elegant, open-air **Santa Monica**

Place and Third Street Promenade shopping district are anchors of the Downtown Santa Monica neighborhood. Just north of these shopping centers, **Montana Avenue** is dotted with luxury boutiques, day spas and posh cafés.

When you're ready for some sand and sun, instead of simply staring at the waves, you can learn to ride them thanks to the area's ideal conditions for beginners.

Aqua Surf School gives private surfing lessons with all gear included. The instructors can work with virtually anyone of any skill level and will soon have them standing up.

Tip: For unexpected celebrity sightings, visit the renowned Santa Monica farmers market, where food cognoscenti, famous and otherwise, roam the aisles admiring the fresh produce.

Shutters on the Beach
Santa Monica



The Beverly Hills Hotel



STAY IN LUXURY

Santa Monica doesn't lack for wonderful places to stay that pair relaxation with comfort and creativity. There's perhaps no option more timeless than Santa Monica's first lady, **The Georgian Hotel**, located just steps from the famous Santa Monica Pier. Also along Ocean Avenue stands the five-acre **Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows**, with its landmark 80-foot-tall Moreton Bay fig tree greeting all who arrive.

Following a \$25 million renovation, the **Oceana Santa Monica, LXR Hotels & Resorts** presents a luxurious all-suite experience in Santa Monica's Montana Avenue neighborhood. The newly transformed oceanfront **Regent Santa Monica Beach** includes a brand-new restaurant concept from celebrity chef Michael Mina.

Design buffs will find a dreamy sanctuary in the stylish Kelly Wearstler-designed **Santa Monica Proper Hotel**; her refined mark is on every aspect of the sand- and earth-hued hotel.

Sandbourne Santa Monica's cabana-lined pool complements the iconic backdrop of Santa Monica Beach and the state-of-the-art indoor/outdoor fitness center caters to wellness enthusiasts.

The oceanfront **Shutters on the Beach** has a charming Cape Cod by way of California look — a spirit that continues at the pool and on shuttered balconies. Its neighboring sister property, **Hotel Casa Del Mar**, has been a touchstone in the community since 1928. The Italian Renaissance style, completely unlike the surrounding architecture, makes for a lovely residential-feeling environment.

Some of Southern California's most storied names in lodging are found in Beverly Hills. Overlooking Rodeo Drive, the grand **Beverly Wilshire** is a **Four Seasons Hotel**. On Sunset Boulevard, **The Beverly Hills Hotel** features secluded bungalows. Have a cocktail and make a movie deal in the famous **Polo Lounge**.



Santa Monica Pier

RESTAURANTS FOR ANY OCCASION

Dining in Santa Monica and Beverly Hills is always exciting for the ever-changing panoply of the famous, infamous and new options. There are over 40 Michelin-recommended choices, including four with stars. Here's a sampler to get started (with reservations essential at all).

Santa Monica's restaurants tend to be more casual, as befits the town's character. **Colapasta** packs a gastronomic punch with its highly focused Italian menu, while **Cobi's** works wonders with Asian flavors. **Citrin** earned its Michelin star through acclaimed chef Josiah Citrin's consistently flawless cuisine and approach to hospitality.

DINING IN SANTA MONICA AND BEVERLY HILLS IS ALWAYS EXCITING FOR THE EVER-CHANGING PANOPLY OF THE FAMOUS, INFAMOUS AND NEW.

Beverly Hills abounds with destination restaurants. Notable options include the new glamorous Italian import, **Cipriani Beverly Hills** as well as the west coast outpost of **Novikov**, originally of London fame. **Nozawa Bar** is one of several top-end Japanese restaurants, while no visit would be complete without a meal at Wolfgang Puck's always spot-on **Spago**. ■




Coast
Shutters on the Beach

Get all the info and assistance needed to plan superlative trips to the region from **Santa Monica Travel & Tourism and Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau**. Find the listings for these resources in the directory.

DREAM BIG IN LOS ANGELES AND WEST HOLLYWOOD



How to experience a personal golden age in one of the world's cultural capitals

An aerial night photograph of Los Angeles, California. The image shows the city's skyline with numerous skyscrapers illuminated against a dark blue twilight sky. In the foreground, a multi-lane highway is visible, with light trails from cars moving through it. The city's lights create a vibrant, glowing effect across the urban landscape.

Los Angeles is one of the most dynamic travel destinations in the world. It's a powerhouse of film, television, art, fashion, music, sports, cuisine, and so much more. Experience it all, from **West Hollywood** to **Downtown**.

HELLO HOLLYWOOD

Take a star turn at the **Academy Museum of Motion Pictures**, which celebrates all things cinematic. **Universal Studios Hollywood** is the ultimate movie-inspired theme park; the VIP Experience features a red-carpet entrance and no waiting in lines. To go behind the scenes at working movie studios, book a VIP tour at **Warner Bros.** in Burbank or **Paramount Pictures** right in Hollywood.

The LA Clippers have a new home court with the opening of **Intuit Dome**. Experience the game in VIP style in the luxury suites or club seats. For car enthusiasts, **Petersen Automotive Museum** now offers VIP experiences, be it round-trip transportation in a museum vehicle, tours guided by a conservator or private after-hours tour.

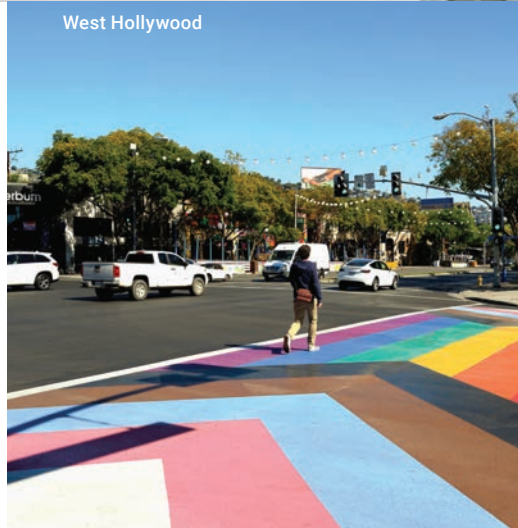
SHOP IN STYLE


Downtown Los Angeles, also known as DTLA, is one of the city's most unique shopping districts. **ROW DTLA** is a sprawling complex featuring more than 100 distinctive stores and restaurants. Don't miss the fashion at Pantora, LVIR and Jonny Cota. On the Westside, **Beverly Center** is an eight-story mall with designer shops ranging from Versace to Prada.

Top fashion houses are fueling a hot new shopping trend in the city: landmark stores with appointment-only showings of their collections. The **Gucci Salon Melrose** on iconic **Melrose Place** is among the many other boutiques to peruse. Also, check for the latest location of Louis Vuitton's exclusive pop-up showroom, which is usually found at an unmarked **Bel Air** estate.



West Hollywood





Dining next to
The Broad in
Downtown LA

FABULOUS DINING

You can travel the world without leaving the region by dining out in Los Angeles. Virtually every type of global cuisine is represented. And standards are high: LA and West Hollywood have over 140 Michelin-recognized restaurants, with 16 boasting stars.

Top two-star choices include: Chef Jordan Kahn's immersive 16-course dining experience at **Vespertine**; **Hayato**, a haven for Japanese fare near DTLA; and **Providence**, the exquisite Hollywood institution of fine dining.

One-star favorites include chef Nancy Silverton's **Osteria Mozza**; **n/naka**, where chef Niki Nakayama melds Japanese and Californian flavors; **Sushi Ginza Onodera**, the minimalist West Hollywood home to some of LA's best sushi; **UKA**, a multi-course kaiseki experience in Hollywood's Japan House; and Aussie chef Curtis Stone's Hollywood steakhouse, **Gwen**.



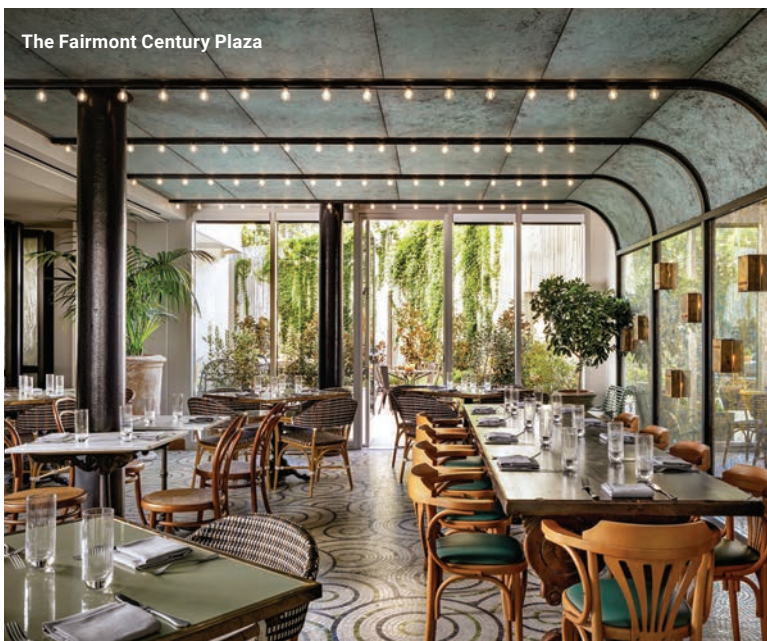
**YOU CAN TRAVEL
THE WORLD
WITHOUT
LEAVING THE
REGION BY
DINING OUT IN
LOS ANGELES.**

A-LIST ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fairmont Century Plaza building has held a storied spot in the City of Angels' history since it opened in the mid-'60s. Designed by Minoru Yamasaki (the architect of the original World Trade Center), it was recently revamped by studio Yabu Pushelberg. An expansive spa, rooftop pool, and prime location in walking distance to the open-air **Westfield Century City** complex adds to the appeal.

As the name suggests, **The London West Hollywood's** personality is one part laid-back Californian, one part British aristocrat. A penthouse designed by fashion legend Vivienne Westwood occupies the top floor.

No need to record a hit single before checking into the **Sunset Marquis** in West Hollywood — the all-suites hotel has its own recording studio for guests. The Art Deco masterpiece **Sunset Tower Hotel** is an understated spot popular with celebrities. Suites have



views across West Hollywood.

You can't beat the view from the rooftop pool at the **1 Hotel West Hollywood**, which has an eco-friendly ethos that includes organic goods throughout the property. The alluring scents in the spa draw raves. The **Kimpton La Peer Hotel** has a rooftop pickleball court and an onsite gallery with an artist in residence.

On Sunset Boulevard, where West Hollywood segues into Beverly Hills, the **West Hollywood Edition** has much-coveted penthouses with epic views. Book a private screening in the hotel's theater.

The **Pendry West Hollywood** covers an entire city block along the **Sunset Strip**. It's glam from top to bottom, especially in the suites which include



Downtown LA Proper Hotel

arrangements by renowned florists.

In the center, the **Downtown LA Proper Hotel** is housed in an elegant and reimagined 13-story Renaissance Revival-style tower. Suites have lofty ceilings and Moroccan-inspired tiled bathrooms.

Located across from **Walt Disney Concert Hall**, **Conrad Los Angeles** is the perfect base for arts and culture

lovers. It's also within steps of two of the city's leading contemporary art museums, **MOCA** and **The Broad**; the latter of which offers private docent tours before or after museum hours.

Enjoy serenity at **LAX** with **PS LAX**. It offers the exclusivity of a private jet terminal, where travelers can stay secluded until they are whisked by limo directly to the door of their commercial flight. ■



*For help with the ultimate itinerary in LA and West Hollywood, contact the **Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board** and **Visit West Hollywood**. Find the listings for these resources in the directory.*

DESTINATION

Rancho Valencia
Resort & Spa

**SHINE
BRIGHT IN**



SAN DIEGO



This coastal city with a sunny spirit is all about good vibes and relaxed times.

San Diego County offers just the right mix of luxury resorts, uncrowded beaches and adventuresome experiences spanning the coastline from **Carlsbad** and **La Jolla** to downtown and **Coronado Island**.

ANIMAL APPRECIATION

The world-famous **San Diego Zoo** takes visitors on a journey around the world as they explore 100 acres of habitats that resemble everything from the Australian Outback to the South African coastline. Book the Exclusive VIP Experience for a customizable five-hour tour with a personal guide. Itineraries are tailored to each guest's interests.



Golden Door

Don't miss the zoo's **Safari Park**, located 30 miles to the north in the **San Pasqual Valley**. Spread over 1,800 acres, it's home to more than 3,500 animals and 260 different species as well as a huge botanical garden. And at **SeaWorld San Diego**, the Ultimate VIP Tour skips all lines and offers encounters with dolphins, penguins and sea lions.

LAY OF THE LAND

San Diego County is larger than some U.S. states, making it a world of its own. The northern region is home to coastal communities anchored by expansive self-contained resorts, while the southern zone offers more compact urban and seaside experiences. You could spend an entire week exploring and just scratch the surface.



DESTINATION RESORTS

Some 40 miles north of San Diego, the famed **Golden Door** spa retreat in **San Marcos** is a haven for self-care. Weeklong stays are reserved for women or men, with a few coed weeks a year. Guests fill their days with healthful pursuits, personal training and fitness classes.

Twenty-five miles north of town, the **Alila Marea**

Beach Resort is an eco-friendly complex in **Encinitas** where guests can borrow electric bikes to explore the many nearby beaches and surf spots when not ensconced in their ocean view suites.

The **Fairmont Grand Del Mar** lives up to its name with marble columns, gold-leafed staircases and hand-stenciled ceilings. Other highlights include an 18-hole Tom

Fazio-designed golf course and the Michelin three-star restaurant **Addison**.

Right on the beach, **L'Auberge Del Mar** is a welcoming enclave with tennis courts, a vast pool, firepits for evening cocktail conviviality, and light-filled suites with patios and balconies.

In charming seaside La Jolla, the legendary **Torrey Pines Golf Course** surrounds **The Lodge at Torrey Pines**. The handsome craftsman-style resort is also known for its serene spa and culinary chops.

Brightly colored bougainvillea vines and hibiscus flowers adorn the **Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa** in **Rancho Santa Fe**. The stars here are the resort's 18-court tennis complex and its exquisite

spa. Landscaping around the casitas, luxury villas and private haciendas creates a secret garden feel.

Set among 250 lush acres of rolling hills and botanical wetlands, Carlsbad's **Park Hyatt Aviara Resort, Golf Club & Spa** is a year-round escape where nature is the architect and tranquility is the focus. Book surf lessons, tee off on the golf green or unwind at the Miraval® Life in Balance Spa. Nearby, **Four Seasons Residence Club Aviara** offers fully equipped villas and the Driftwood Spa. Spanish Mission-style **Omni La Costa Resort & Spa** features over 600 guest rooms, suites, and villas; two iconic golf courses and the Golf Performance Institute; plus, a vast spa.

When in Carlsbad, don't miss the French nouvelle cuisine at Michelin-starred **Jeune et Jolie**. And families traveling with young children (2-12) will want to dedicate at least one play day at **LEGOLAND® California Resort**.

SAN DIEGO'S FOOD SCENE IS VARIED AND TOP NOTCH — MORE THAN 40 RESTAURANTS ARE MICHELIN-HONORED.

THE CITY'S BEST PLACES TO EAT AND STAY

A legend of its namesake island, the iconic **Hotel del Coronado** is steeped in Old Hollywood lore (think “Some Like It Hot”). The dazzling Shore House at The Del offers residential-style accommodations that evoke a private beach house, complemented by cabanas around a zero-edge oceanside pool.

In downtown San Diego, the **Pendry San Diego** brings an elegant touch to the popular nightlife district, the **Gaslamp Quarter**. Suites, decorated in the hotel's signature blue tartan, serve up views of the

city and the bay. Another excellent choice nearby is the European-inspired **Westgate Hotel**, which offers spacious suites with marble bathrooms. And **Omni San Diego Hotel** recently completed a top-down makeover, including upgrades to the two luxury suites located on the 20th and 21st floors with full downtown and bay views.

San Diego's critically acclaimed dining scene is refreshingly casual; dress codes are practically unknown. Choices worth reserving well ahead include **Soichi**, a jewel of a Japanese restaurant; **Lola 55**, an innovative Mexican bistro;

and the newest fine dining restaurant in the hip North Park neighborhood, **31Thirtyone by Deckman's**, helmed by Michelin-starred chef Drew Deckman. Other hot spots include James Beard-nominated **Sea & Sky** at Hotel La Jolla and the eternally classic **George's at the Cove**.

The region also has a thriving beer scene. San Diego County has more than 150 breweries, including the nationally famous **Stone Brewing Co.** Two other noteworthy choices are **Resident Brewing**, located in the Gaslamp Quarter, and **Coronado Brewing** on its namesake island. ■



Lola 55

Contact the **San Diego Tourism Authority** and **Visit Carlsbad** for help planning the visit of a lifetime. Find the listing for this resource in the directory.

PAST LEGENDS MEET PRESENT PARADISE IN PALM SPRINGS



Laid-back luxury are the keywords of this storied desert idyll's enduring appeal.

Yucca trees

DESERT DREAMS

While **Palm Springs** may be the most familiar name, it's actually one of nine distinctive destinations in **Greater Palm Springs** and the **Coachella Valley**. **Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Rancho Mirage**, and the area's other communities all have their own highlights and attractions.

Palm Springs is justifiably renowned for its mid-century architecture. A testament to California's long-

standing innovative spirit, many of the artful designs began as custom concrete blocks. **Palm Springs Mod Squad** leads tours of the very best examples of these low-slung creations, both inside and out. Hear the echoes of long-gone local icons like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Peter Lawford, and even Marilyn Monroe. Private, customized tours can be booked in advance.

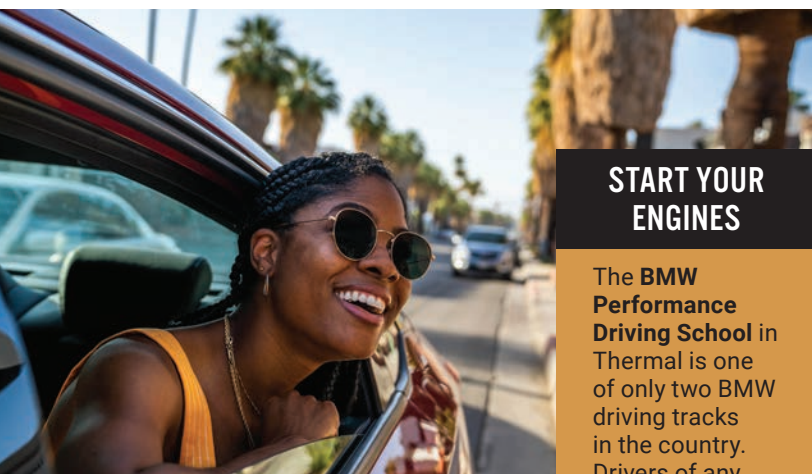
Joshua Tree National Park is 45 minutes away by car and filled with otherworldly desert landscapes



that inspire and fascinate. A great way to see them is with **Desert Adventures Red Jeep Tours**. Arrange a custom tour that includes the park, Palm Springs' Indian Canyons, Painted Canyon, the Mecca Hills, and even the San Andreas Fault.

The sole prerequisite for a private climbing experience with **Cliffhanger Guides** in

Joshua Tree National Park is a willingness to try something new. The outfitter's pro guides custom-tailor an expedition around the area's 9,000 rock climbs. Clients discover paths leading to crowd-free blond domes of gritty quartz monzonite.



START YOUR ENGINES

The **BMW Performance Driving School** in Thermal is one of only two BMW driving tracks in the country. Drivers of any skill level can take a spin in the latest BMW models and learn everything there is to know about driving like a pro. Private instruction is available, and standard offerings include the one- and two-day BMW Driver's School and high-performance M School.

FROM SHOPPING AND SPORTS TO SELF-CARE

The premier retail zone is the **El Paseo Shopping District** in **Palm Desert**. The big names you'd expect and locally owned boutiques abound — look for designer stores like Gucci and Ralph Lauren. And the **Uptown Design District** in **Palm Springs** proper is a treasure trove of premium vintage.

Golf fans descend upon the desert for **The American**



Spa at Séc-he

Express tournament, a favorite January stop on the PGA tour, while tennis lovers come for the **BNP Paribas Open** every spring. The new **Acrisure Arena** plays host to minor-league hockey and a year-round calendar of concerts and spectator events.

Powered by the 12,000-year-old Agua Caliente Hot Mineral Spring, the expansive new **Spa at Séc-he** features a range of treatments and therapies complemented by a vast array of pampering amenities.



Thompson Palm Springs

NEIGHBORHOODS TO EXPLORE

PALM SPRINGS
Downtown and the Uptown Design District have many popular restaurants and resorts that range from venerable favorites to gleaming new additions.

PALM DESERT
This city's El Paseo rivals Palm Canyon Drive as the Coachella Valley's best shopping street. The fascinating Living Desert Zoo and Gardens is also located here.

CATHEDRAL CITY
Family attractions include the Big League Dreams sports park, where you can play in replicas of beloved baseball parks.

INDIO
The most-populated city of Greater Palm Springs, Indio is famous for the Coachella Valley Arts and Music Festival — or simply Coachella, to many attendees.

RANCHO MIRAGE
The city boasts 17 championship golf courses, with another 83 within 20 miles.



The otherworldly desert landscape of Palm Springs



RESPLENDENT RESORTS AND RESTAURANTS

The longest-operating resort in the area, **La Quinta Resort & Club** is such a landmark that the town was named after it. The Spanish-style buildings include 98 private villas, with 41 pools spread across 45 acres. And in a region known for its dozens of golf courses, the resort has five of its own.

Suites at **The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage** all include large, private balconies. Those in the tower offer views across the Coachella Valley, and those on the ground level grant easy access to the vast pool area.

Sensei Porcupine Creek is a new wellness resort where guests can take an ultra-personalized, science-based approach to wellness under the guidance of accredited experts in the fields of nutrition, rest and physical therapy.

Capturing the beloved mid-century vibe is **L'Horizon Resort & Spa**, a posh and elegant boutique hotel set amid

desert gardens in Palm Springs. Many suites have outdoor showers, and there's a private house with its own pool. Palm Springs' newest boutique hotel with an adults-only tower, **Thompson Palm Springs**, features 168 bungalow-inspired guest rooms and suites with private balconies and the breezy Mediterranean restaurant, **Lola Rose Grand Mezze**, from rising star chef Quentin Garcia.

Desert dining destinations include Michelin-endorsed **Workshop Kitchen + Bar**, dog-friendly **Boozehounds** and charming **Bar Cecil**. Other places where A-list treatment is standard include **Cork & Fork**, which serves California-style small plates; **Tac/Quila**, specializing in elevated Mexican fare; and the **Colony Club**, known for elegant dining since the time of Bogart and Gable. ■

Visit Greater Palm Springs offers information and advice for travel planning in the nine desert cities. Find the listing for this resource in the directory.

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Visit Napa Valley

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Visit SLO CAL

slocal.com, 805-541-8000
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Visit Sonoma County

sonomacounty.com, 707-522-5800
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LUMA Hotel San Francisco
100 Channel St., San Francisco
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**Palace Hotel, a Luxury Collection
Hotel, San Francisco**
2 New Montgomery St., San Francisco
marriott.com, 415-512-1111

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Bay, ritzcarlton.com, 650-712-7000
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The Lodge at Bodega Bay Sonoma Coast
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Meadowood Napa Valley

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Solage

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Stanly Ranch

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The Stavrand Russian River Valley

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Vintners Resort

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High Sierra**The Ahwahnee Hotel**

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travelyosemite.com, 209-372-1407

East West Hospitality

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Everline Resort & Spa

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PlumpJack Inn

1920 Olympic Valley Rd.,
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plumpjackinn.com, 800-323-7666

The Ritz-Carlton Lake Tahoe

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The Westin Monache Resort, Mammoth

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Central Coast**Alisal Ranch**

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Allegretto Vineyard Resort

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Bernardus Lodge & Spa

415 W. Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley
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San Antonio Ave & 13th St.,
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Carmel Valley Ranch

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The Cliffs Hotel & Spa

2757 Shell Beach Rd., Pismo Beach
cliffshotelandspa.com, 805-773-5000
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Cordevalle

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Dolphin Bay Resort & Spa

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El Encanto, A Belmond Hotel

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Fess Parker Wine Country Inn

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Geneseo Inn at Cass Winery

7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles
casswines.com/stay, 805-239-1730
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The Genevieve

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Granada Hotel & Bistro

1126 Morro St., San Luis Obispo
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Hotel Cerro

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Hotel Cheval

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Hotel SLO

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The Inn at Mattei's Tavern

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**JUST INN at JUSTIN
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L'Auberge Carmel

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La Playa Hotel

Camino Real & 8th Ave.,
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 laplayahotel.com, 831-293-6100
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Ojai Valley Inn

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The Piccolo

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 thepiccolo.com, 805-226-5920
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Post Ranch Inn

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**The Ritz-Carlton Bacara,
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San Ysidro Ranch

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The Beverly Hills Hotel

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The Beverly Hilton

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**Four Seasons Hotel Westlake
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The Georgian Hotel

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Kimpton La Peer Hotel

627 N. La Peer Dr., West Hollywood
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**The London West Hollywood at
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hyatt.com/thompson-hotels/laxth-
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Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills

9850 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills
hilton.com, 310-860-6666

Orange County**Avenue of the Arts Costa Mesa, a
Tribute Portfolio Hotel**

3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa
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714-751-5100

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Balboa Bay Resort

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**The Disneyland Resort –
The Grand Californian Hotel & Spa**

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1775 S. Clementine St., Anaheim
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Terranea Resort

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Montage Laguna Beach
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Pendry Newport Beach
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Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club
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Alila Marea Beach Resort Encinitas

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Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa

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Hotel Del Coronado

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The Lodge at Torrey Pines

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Loews Coronado Bay Resort

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Park Hyatt Aviara Resort, Golf Club & Spa

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Pendry San Diego

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Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa

5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe
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The US Grant

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marriott.com, 619-232-3121
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The Westgate Hotel

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Greater Palm Springs

ARRIVE Palm Springs

1551 N. Palm Canyon Dr.,
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The Colony Palms Hotel and Bungalows

572 N. Indian Canyon Dr., Palm
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100 W. Tahquitz Canyon Way,
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La Quinta Resort & Club

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The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage

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Sands Hotel & Spa

44985 Province Way, Indian Wells
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Two Bunch Palms

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A Wine and Dine Event

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wineanddinetour.com
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Cultured Vine

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Eventis Destination Services

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Heard Global

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Relevé Unlimited

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