

## The Resort at Pelican Hill Newport Beach

By Alice and Danny Scott

Pelican Hill has invented a new form of B&B – Bentleys and Butlers. Reserve a Villa on the Newport coast of California and those options are yours along with a courtyard and exquisite 2-4 bedroom accommodations for a group retreat Tuscan style. Bungalows perched on the hillside below are not too shabby either. Homey single bedrooms are plush with cushy balcony lounges to laze the day away watching golfers play or vessels sail the ocean blue. By night, cruise lights or those of Avalon sparkle on Catalina Island.

Pelican Hill provides an elevated view of the Pacific Ocean from almost every resort and golf course angle. Each guest experience is also elevated through the luxurious appointments and attentive staff. From the moment you enter, grandiosity is balanced with serenity emanating from the genius of architecture and décor. Warmth exudes from cozy fireplaces throughout or ceiling heaters on restaurant patios where chefs bring new flavors from the world. Chef Luke Turpin is introducing new seafood flare to the Pelican Grill situated next to the golf course, popular with locals, tourists or golfers after the round.

Before the round, the practice range aims up the hill to where Glenn Deck has instructed golfers hitting down toward the ocean for 20 years. Why would he go anywhere else with this view? His teaching success is in the acknowledgement that all bodies are different. Tell him about your game, get ready for stroke reduction and get golfing.

Rated the number one golf resort in the



Photo Courtesy of The Resort at Pelican Hill

world, Pelican Hill's Tom Fazio courses are perhaps his most fabulous, laid out so that every one of the 36 holes has at least a glimpse of the Pacific Ocean in one of the most affluent zip codes of southern California. The first hole of the Ocean South course sets the stage playing down toward the ocean. Number one on the Ocean North course starts off horizontal to the ocean then weaves through the hillsides with mega million dollar homes.

After golf, relax and tan by the largest circular pool in the world, surrounded by chaises and custom equipped cabanas facing the Pacific. The Coliseum Pool & Grill sits above for casual dining day or night.

Andrea Ristorante & Bar is the Signature restaurant. Chef Marco came from Puglia, Italy where we visited last

May. We vouch for the authenticity. Waiters' cheese wheel incorporation of formaggio in the risotto, tableside is richly ingenious. Live music accompanies a spectacular sunset view out to, you guessed it, the ocean. Every morsel is to be savored.

The Caffè serves light fare, espresso and gelato near registration and Caffè II is next to the Golf Clubhouse for quick nourishment. The Piccolo restaurant rounds out the resort's many culinary options serving small sharable plates from around the globe at the Villa Clubhouse while live entertainment serenades, reserved for resort guests only.

All the famous tourist attractions are within a short drive. Fashion Island is minutes away for al fresco elegant shopping or Balboa Island for cruising,

and both avail an array of family entertainment. Beach play is available if you like to get sandy at Crystal Cove State Park located across from the Resort with complimentary coach service. In reality, the ever-present view of the sea delivers serenity and you won't want to leave Pelican Hill with a full calendar of daily activities.

Perhaps the greatest indulgence is found at The Spa at Pelican Hill, even though it is the only spot on property without the Pacific Ocean view. No windows and no cell phones – lose yourself in the Acqua Colonnade and relaxation lounge before and after treatments. Consistent with the Palladian architecture of the resort, Roman soaking tubs invite entry under a barrel-vaulted ceiling. Sauna and steam rooms are just the right temp and of course the aroma induces serenity from entrance to exit. In the relaxation room, lounges with magazines and blankets face the trance inducing water wall. Infused water, teas and healthy little snacks are available for nibbling. If you select the signature treatment, Seasonal Body Gelato, then a bowl of gelato is served. Seasonal flavors are honey in spring, lavender in summer, fig in autumn and pomegranate in winter. The "Golfers Massage" is highly recommended for any player needing relief after a round, incorporating hot stone technique but with golf balls and stretching.

Yes, The Resort at Pelican Hill is purely indulgent. Peek at the opportunities or request a custom package at [www.pelicanhill.com](http://www.pelicanhill.com).