

Back to the Ancient Future

where: Newport Beach

travel: 106 miles; 2 hours

■ The 500+ acres of The Resort at Pelican Hill are an homage to Andrea Palladio, the esteemed Italian architect of the High Renaissance whose classic buildings invoke ancient Rome and Greece. Tall columns. Domed ceilings. Exquisite use of space. And that's just the lobby.

Standard issue for your bungalow is a sweeping ocean or golf course view, and easy access to the Coliseum Pool, a salt-water-purified circular arena 136 feet in diameter. Then there's The Spa, with its luxurious Jacuzzi, spacious steam rooms, saunas, private showers, and generous menu of treatments.

It's tough to pry yourself away from that brand of indulgence, but golfers will for the opportunity to test their mettle over 36 holes of the ocean-hugging Tom Fazio-designed courses.

For a taste of the Mediterranean in the O.C., try dinner at Andrea restaurant where the chef conjures the menu from recipes the resort promises are "true flavors of Italy, made by hand, made with love."

The Resort at Pelican Hill 2701 Pelican Hill Road South,
888-507-6427; www.pelicanhill.com

