

## for the PRIVACY SEEKER



### THE RESORT AT PELICAN HILL

Built five years ago atop the tony Newport Coast enclave, The Resort at Pelican Hill is the undoubted feather in The Irvine Company's cap. As the city's only five-star, five-diamond resort, Pelican stands in a class of its very own – one where privacy is paramount.

While the 36 holes of ocean-view golf that adorn the property have been hosting the area's club swinging elite for a number of years, the resort's master plan broke ground in 2005, eventually opening its doors in 2008. Since then, well-heeled travelers and locals looking for a weekend respite have flocked to sun drenched Pelican Hill and its 504 acres of Renaissance inspired bliss.

For most, the experience begins before even setting foot on property. A personal travel designer plans and arranges every aspect and detail of the upcoming visit, from pre-shipping golf clubs to preparing the room with your preferred aromatherapy scent. The opulence continues once you enter the resort gates. For guests staying in one of the 204 Bungalows, most of which boast ocean views, details like Italian limestone fireplaces, deep soaking marble tubs, 500-thread-count sheets and private terraces abound.

If your budget allows, opt for one of Pelican Hill's 128 luxury Villas. Ranging from 2,200 to 3,581 square feet, the spaces are every bit the chic Newport Beach homes one would expect from such a property. Expansive terraces offer dramatic ocean views and a personal butler is available 24/7 to tend to even the most over-the-top requests. Each includes a gourmet kitchen and if you're so inclined, a private chef to prepare meals. Villa guests also have access to the adjacent 10,000 square foot clubhouse and pool, a more intimate setting for lounging, swimming and enjoying a bite.

Regardless of your room number, you'll want to make your way to the resort's Coliseum Pool. Aptly named, the architecture is inspired by Rome's

famed landmark. With panoramic coast views serving as its backdrop, the saltwater pool is a massive 136 feet in diameter – one of the world's largest circular pools and certainly the area's most lavish. The radiant blue bottom is adorned with 1.1 million hand cut glass mosaic tiles – all of which were laid by hand. An amphitheatre of terraced decks houses private cabanas, furnished and clad with details like a flat screen HDTV. Guests looking for a bit of alone time rent them by the day, but we also love the notion of reserving one for a private al fresco dinner overlooking the Pacific.

For those traveling with wee ones, Camp Pelican, a separate children's area, has its own mini iteration with pint size chaise lounges, a sand play area and an interactive bubble jet foundation. Camp Pelican's pool also has its very own clubhouse, where the resort's littlest guests can experience themed activities and entertainment.

Much more than a place to indulge in a massage, The Spa at Pelican Hill is 23,000 square feet of sheer bliss. The Aqua Colonnade boasts an herbal steam room, sauna and saltwater soaking tub, making it the ideal way to spend an afternoon on property. Treatments are performed with sustainability in mind – all plants, herbs, extracts and botanicals used at the spa, from wild sage to Sorrento lemons, are natural, organic and grown locally – in some cases the resort's own backyard. Seasonality is key, too. The spa focuses on figs in the fall, pomegranates in the winter, honey in spring and lavender in summer and even lays claim to its own proprietary product line made with avocado and olive oil. The menu is extensive and focused, with signature treatments like an Amber Gold Massage that incorporates dry brushing exfoliation and the Body Gelato – a scrub, wrap, massage combo that concludes with a scoop of the resort's house made gelato to enjoy post-treatment.

Naturally, dining options are plentiful and pleasing to even the most discerning palettes. Foodies will appreciate the attention to detail that chef Luigi Fineo gives to his exceptional Northern Italian cuisine. Fineo and his talented team hand make all of the restaurant's pastas in a one-of-kind, temperature-controlled Cucina della Pasta (pasta room) and dishes like Potato Gnocchi with Langoustine, Chanterelle and Brown Butter defy the expected because of it. Dessert is equally authentic, with artisan-style gelato made daily in the Laboratorio del Gelato (gelato laboratory). A glassed-in

wine room cabinet displays 1,200 bottles, predominantly from Italy and notably a number of vintages exclusive to Andrea.

The Pelican Grill is another impressive option and a favorite amongst locals. Situated within the Pelican Hill Golf Club, the eatery is everything that fine California cuisine should be. Beef is sourced from nearby Irvine Ranch® and seafood is fresh and innovative. Dining al fresco is an option year round, as the ocean view terrace was built with cleverly hidden heaters and sunscreens. An adjoining sports bar is ideal for a pre or post dinner cocktail, or for catching the game on one of the two giant screens.

The resort also offers a number of more casual dining options, ranging from the Great Room, where guests can bask in the architecture of the Pelican Hill lobby, to the pool area's well-cultivated menu via the Coliseum Grill, to the on-property espresso bar, Caffè. Guests can also indulge and imbibe at Piccolo, located in the Villa Clubhouse, where small plates from seemingly juxtaposing regions – Asia and Italy – blend perfectly for a dining experience that's both eclectic and inspired.

The Resort at Pelican Hill  
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