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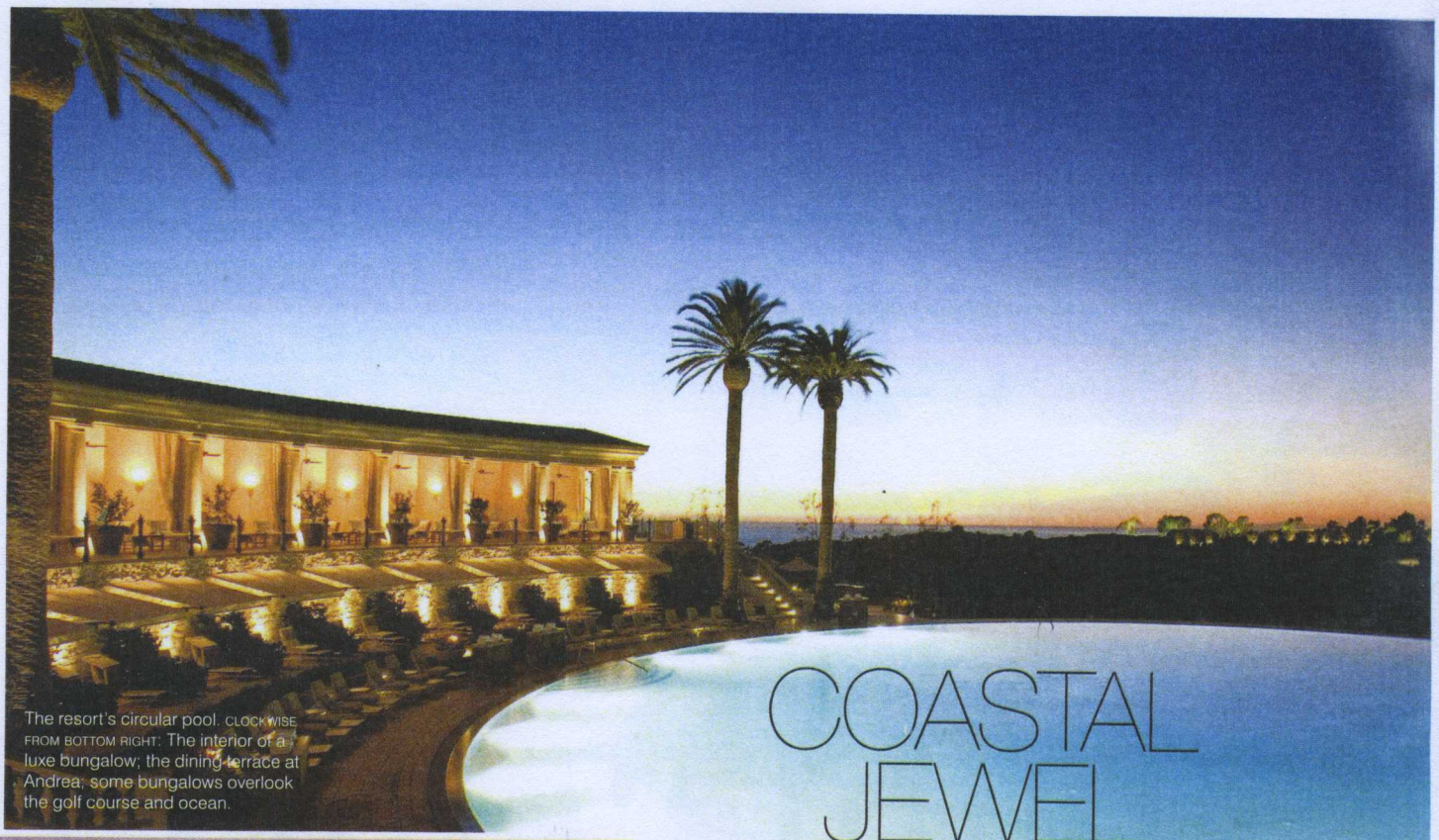

The resort's circular pool. CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: The interior of a luxe bungalow; the dining terrace at Andrea; some bungalows overlook the golf course and ocean.

COASTAL JEWEL

A Newport getaway isn't complete without a stop or a stay at The Resort at Pelican Hill. Read on and you'll agree. *By Victoria Namkung*

RISING ON A 504-ACRE SITE IN NEWPORT COAST, 45 minutes south of Los Angeles, the Resort at Pelican Hill is making waves in the OC. With 204 bungalows and 128 two- to four-bedroom villas that feel like second homes (think personal butlers, private restaurant and concierge services), guests are in for the ultimate luxurious experience. Featuring crisp lines, elegant proportions, classically designed porticos and dramatic rotundas, the Resort at Pelican Hill's look is inspired by High Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio.

While the buildings are impressive, it's actually the swimming pool that has everyone talking. Perfectly circular and an expansive 136 feet in diameter, it incorporates 1.1 million hand-cut glass mosaic tiles and is framed by numerous private cabanas with panoramas of the golf courses, coastal hills and Pacific Ocean.

Golfers will delight in the two oceanfront championship courses designed by Tom Fazio. Relaxation aficionados will have to be pried from the 23,000-square-foot Spa at Pelican Hill, which features herbal steam rooms, saunas, Roman-style baths and chic relaxation lounges.

After working up an appetite, head to Andrea—the property's signature rustic Northern Italian restaurant. Finish with fine handcrafted gelato in flavors such as pistachio, hazelnut and almond from its Laboratorio del Gelato. It's a sweet way to end the day. *Resort at Pelican Hill, 22701 Pelican Hill Rd. South, Newport Coast, 949-467-6800; pelicanhill.com*