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## The Resort at Pelican Hill

**The Resort at Pelican Hill** ([www.pelicanhill.com](http://www.pelicanhill.com)), opening in December along Southern California's Newport Coast, between the chic and affluent enclaves of Newport Beach and Laguna Beach in Orange County, will be equal parts Californian and Italian. The new luxury resort's architecture was inspired by the influential Italian architect, Andrea Palladio, who, during the High Renaissance, constructed a slew of churches, villas, palaces and other edifices in Northern Italy. His concepts and workmanship have been rekindled in Southern California's newest luxury property, part of Leading Hotels of the World.

The resort, which stretches along more than three miles of serene coastline, is composed of 204 bungalows and 128 villas, the latter accommodations being the ultimate in personalized luxury. The two-, three- and four-bedroom villas, all with ocean views, provide around-the-clock butler service, a private villa clubhouse and pool and the ability for guests to check in at their specific villa, bypassing the need of normal hotel check-in. The idea was to create an effortless and seamless stay.

**Niftiest amenity:** A personal travel designer plans every detail of the villa guests' stay before they even step on property. Guests will receive a call

before arrival, allowing them to plan their getaway in advance. The personal travel designer can arrange surfing lessons, dinner reservations at Pelican Hill's Andrea restaurant or score tickets to a Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim baseball game.

Other luxe villa touches include 50- to 60-inch, flat-screen HD TVs, private garages for those guests who arrive by car, marble walk-in showers and deep soaking tubs, gourmet kitchens with Sub-Zero refrigerators, Cuisipro cookware and Rivolta Carmignani and Fili D'Oro table linens. Note: Personal chefs can be arranged to prepare personalized meals with the menu and ingredients of your clients' choice. A full wait staff can also be put in place.

Our insider tells us that all the villa accommodations are comparable (the four-bedroom villas are the biggest, space-wise, but all amenities are similar) as are the bungalow accommodations, which feature wood-beamed ceilings, fireplaces framed by Italian limestone, marble baths and private terraces.

Luxury travel advisors should contact Mark Phillips ([mphillips@pelicanhill.com](mailto:mphillips@pelicanhill.com); 949-720-3272), the director of leisure sales, with any further questions about the resort and its accommodations.

The grounds of Pelican Hill are as exceptional as its insides. Mediterranean plants and trees line the

**The Solis, The Palmyra** Resort & Spa in Rose Hall, Jamaica named Lester Scott general manager; he formerly managed day-to-day operations for The Daufuskie Island Resort and Breathe Spa in Daufuskie Island, SC, and served as director of operations for Hotel 71 in Chicago. Additionally, Juan P. Ortega was named director of sales and marketing for the property; he was formerly with Starwood. Contact Scott's assistant, Marva Brown ([marva.brown@solishotels.com](mailto:marva.brown@solishotels.com)) if you're thinking of sending a top client. [www.solisthepalmyra.com](http://www.solisthepalmyra.com)

**The Dorchester Collection** added two U.S. luxury hotels to its portfolio—The New York Palace in Manhattan and the Hotel Bel-Air in Los Angeles. The firm—which owns and manages The Dorchester in London, The Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles, Le Meurice and Hotel Plaza Athénée in Paris and Hotel Principe di Savoia in Milan—plans to upgrade the New York Palace over the next three years with a total redesign of public areas and guest rooms. The Hotel Bel-Air, meanwhile, will open a \$6 million spa in 2009. Note: *Luxury Travel Advisor* hears that management personnel will stay in place at both properties. [www.dorchester.com](http://www.dorchester.com)

504-acre site, giving the resort a very Italian-village feel. Look for the 750 olive trees that line the main thoroughfares and access roads to the bungalows and villas.

Pelican Hill is also a golfer's dream come true. Pelican Hill Golf Club features 36 Tom Fazio-designed holes. The original layout was completed in the 1990s by Fazio, but he came back to "re-perfect" it, as he said. Both the Ocean North Course and Ocean South Course engage the Pacific Ocean, with ocean views from nearly every hole.

For those who'd rather hit the spa than the links, Pelican Hill offers a 23,000-square-foot, 22-treatment-room haven that is fronted by an entryway wall of water and 28-foot Palladian-style rotunda. Treatments use seasonal and local products and are recommended to guests based on their personal needs.

Fly clients into John Wayne Airport (Orange County Airport), which is a mere 10-minute drive away from Pelican Hill. Los Angeles International Airport, by contrast, is 45 minutes of driving time.

— *David Eisen*