



No. 7 at the Resort at Pelican Hill's South Course.

The Resort at Pelican Hill

IMAGINE A RESORT WITH TWO COURSES ON THE OCEAN AND EVERY AMENITY; IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS

By **MATT MCKAY** | SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

Let's build the perfect golf resort. Cost is not an issue.

Begin with a prime piece of property on the Southern California coast, where the palms grow tall, the sun is warm, the landscape dramatic and the ocean views magnificent. Next, hire world-renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio to sprinkle his magic dust on the golden hills.

Let's build two courses on the ocean and maybe a third inland-style Fazio design for a total of 54 holes. To top it off, we could add a world-class golf academy.

Our dream Tuscan-style resort will have

more than 300 villa and bungalow accommodations with everything a family or an individual traveling golfer might even consider necessary. The villas will include two-car garages, washers and dryers, two-, three- and four-bedroom floor plans, and access to a wedge-shaped infinity pool perched on a hillside.

Instead of "hotel rooms," the resort might feature 200 or so townhouse-style bungalows, with soaring California-style wood ceilings, king beds, a fireplace, sumptuous bathrooms and private balconies.

Such a property already exists. It's

called the Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport, Coast, Calif.

With the luxurious Andrea Ristorante to the more informal Pelican Grill at the golf clubhouse (two of the five on-property restaurants), the Coliseum Pool and shops and The Spa, the resort exudes luxury at every turn and level.

Add the two Fazio courses, the Ocean North and the Ocean South, a third Fazio design at the resort's Oak Creek Golf Club in nearby Irvine and The Pelican Hill Golf Academy featuring top instructor Glenn Deck, and it's easy to see why the resort would be on any golf travel industry "best of" list.

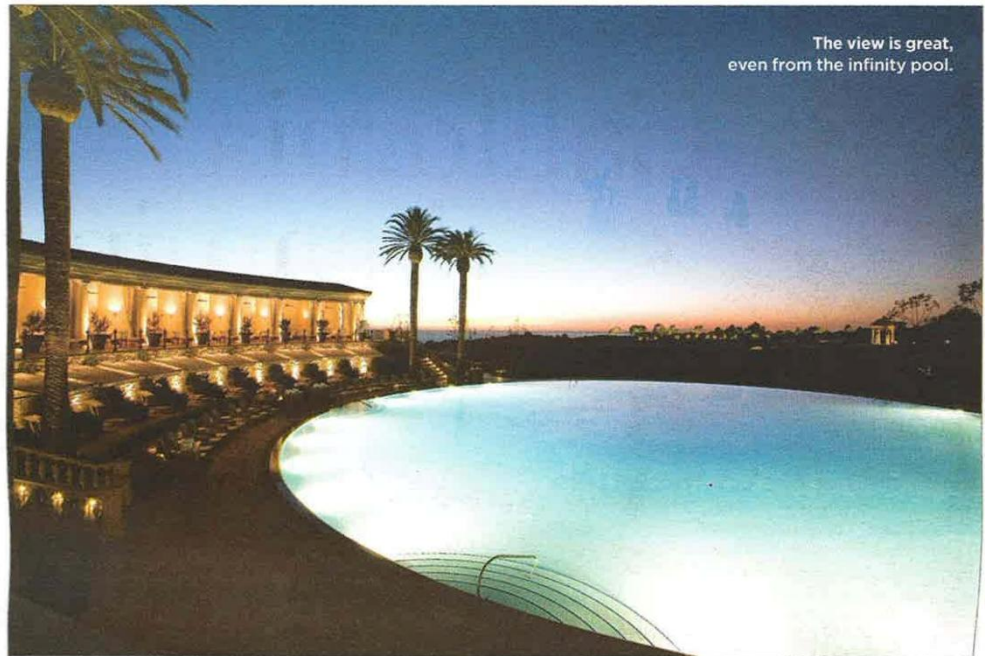
"If we worry about the details, the big

things naturally happen right," said Pelican Hill managing director Giuseppe Lama. "And the details, whether it's service delivery, whether it's product, whether it's attitude, whether it's verbiage, whether it's uniforms, whether it's passion, it's what gets us there."

It's possible — nay, likely — a visitor might never leave the property and have every need filled. However, those who must feel the sand between their toes can take advantage of the Crystal Cove coach service, a two-minute ride to an idyllic beach. For those who must feel shopping bags in their hands, there's also a free shopping coach to world-renowned Fashion Island 10 minutes in the other direction.

IN THE KNOW
**THE RESORT
AT PELICAN HILL**

Location: Newport Coast, Calif.
Cost: \$150-\$280 excluding tax and gratuity; rates vary by season.
Contact: 1-800-820-6800
Highlights: 128 two-, three, and four-bedroom villa configurations, and 204 bungalow accommodations overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Two on-property 18-hole golf courses designed by Tom Fazio. One of world's largest circular swimming pools.
Notable: Winner of nine major golf/travel industry awards in the past five years, including No. 1 Resort in the U.S. by *Condé Nast Traveler* Readers' Choice Awards. ... The resort buildings house coffee shops, boutiques, restaurants, lounges, and the golf shop has a separate bar and grill, along with al fresco options for post-round dining or drinking.



The view is great,
even from the infinity pool.

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