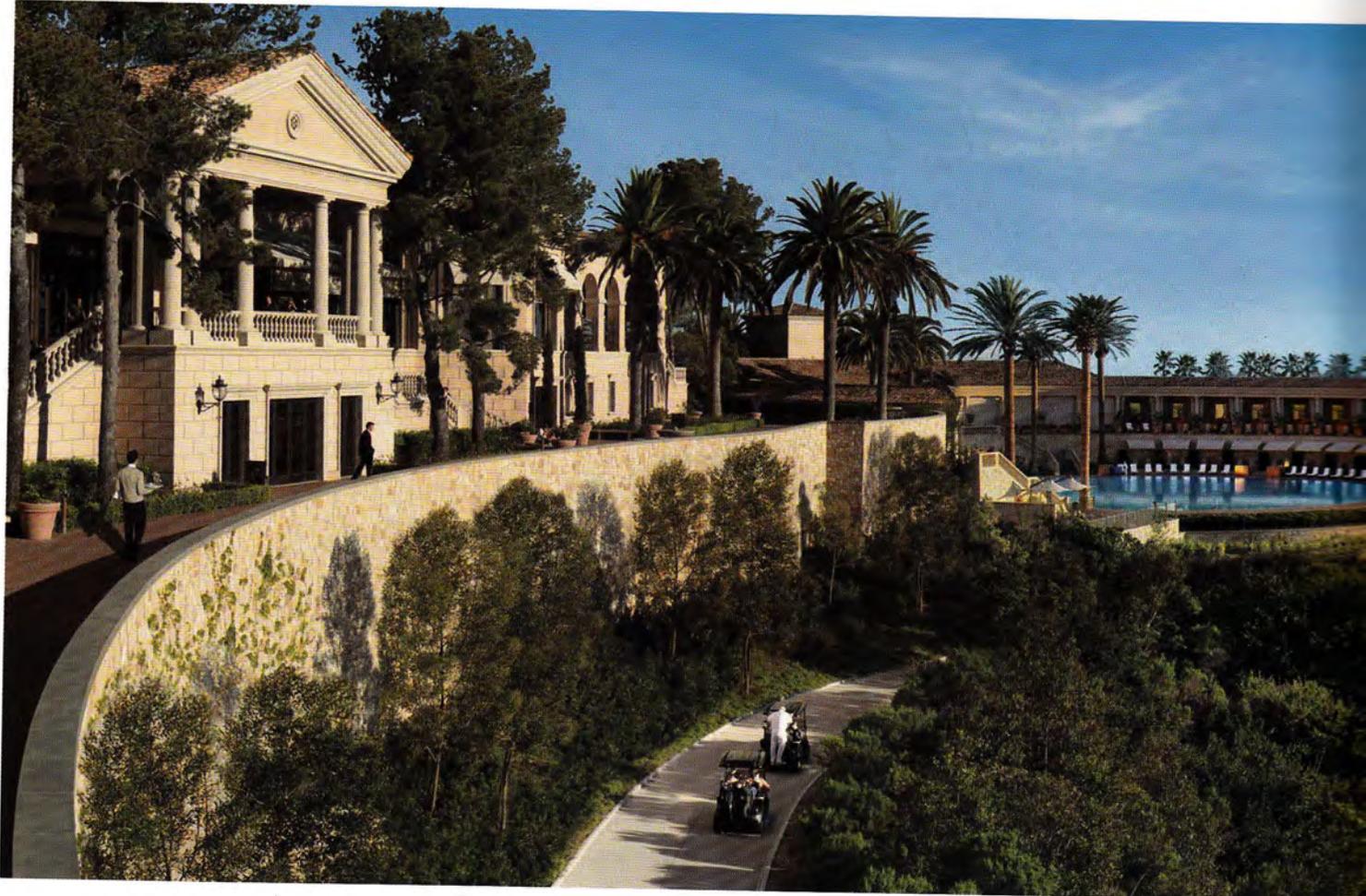


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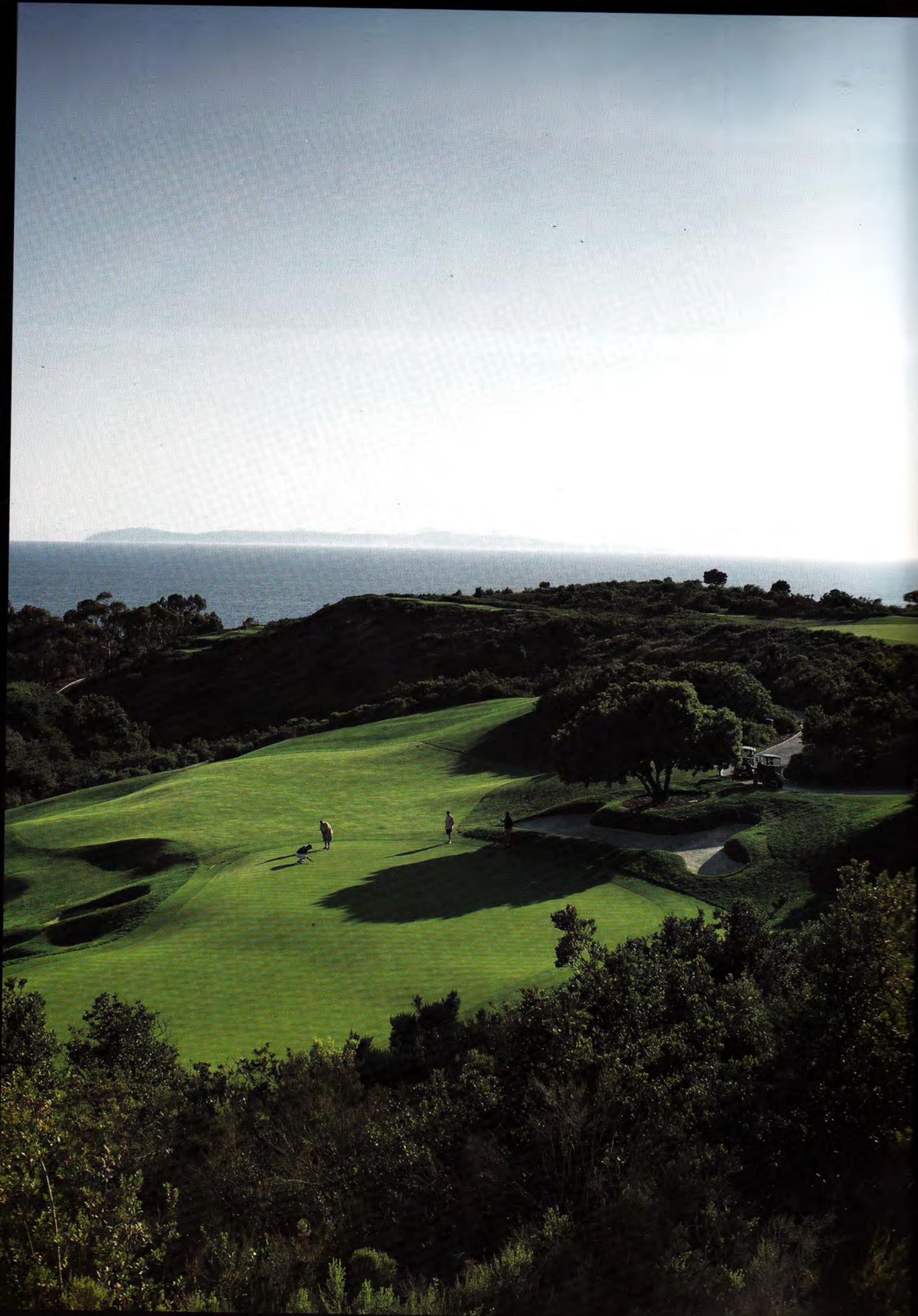
San Diego



*The Italian Seaside  
Village in California*

**PELICAN HILL RESORT** is less than 50 miles southeast of Los Angeles. After a stunning drive down Pacific Highway 1 you will find over 500 acres of beautifully manicured grounds perched high up on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, with some of the best accommodation, golf, cuisine and hospitality I have ever experienced in the USA.

Words Andie Jones Images Pelican Hill





The resort opened back in 2008, creating its own unique class of luxury, service and sophistication in the resort world. Visually stunning, the resort's architecture is as bold and massive as it is elegant and detailed, embodying the vision and principles of Italy's most renowned Renaissance architect, Andrea Palladio. On arrival it is like being transported into a charming Italian village, with villas and bungalows lining streets that encircle a world-class golf course. On clear days, of which are in abundance, the property is an ideal setting from which to take in the breathtaking and peaceful views of the surrounding area.

Most apparent is the resort's commitment to personalised service, which it takes very seriously. Even before guests arrive, service begins with a level of planning that can only be described as unrivalled. A personal travel designer pre-arranges every aspect and detail of a guest's Pelican Hill experiences, everything from having your golf clubs shipped to the resort ahead of time, to scenting the suite with your preferred fragrance. Then, after arrival, the most highly trained, around-the-clock staff, butlers, concierges and

personal chefs, will see to your every need, completely customizing and individualizing the experience, creating a truly one-of-a-kind stay.

Seasoned travellers are all too aware that exceptional pampering and quality of service are most important, but let's face it; everything starts with your accommodation!



*Italian influences*



**At Pelican Hill**, there is a choice of staying in one of the 204 bungalow guest rooms and suites, which range between 847sqft to the largest at 2,486sqft, or one of the 128 villas, luxurious, ocean-view home accommodations available for a daily rental. There are two, three and four-bedroom villas, which range between 2,200 and 3,628sqft, each feature every amenity imaginable and the most thoughtful attention to detail I have ever experienced. Upon arrival into the resort, you will be met by your personal House Butler, who will show you around your property unpack your vehicle and make sure you have everything you require. In addition, your butler will be on call 24 hrs should you require anything during your stay. The villas have lovely limestone fireplaces, 500 thread-count linens, walk-in showers and deep soaking tubs, fine toiletries by Gilchrist & Soames, 60-inch flatscreen HD TVs with Bose surround sound systems, wireless complimentary Internet, private double garages, your own wine cabinet, a gourmet kitchen with Sub Zero refrigerator, Wolf oven and range, Cuisipro cookware and much, much more. During our stay we had a three bedroom property which was a home from home for me my wife our son and nanny. Having settled into our wonderful villa and booked dinner, we went to check out the outdoor amenities, which include the Coliseum Pool.



An architectural marvel unto itself, this is the world's largest perfectly circular pool, featuring 1.1 million hand-cut glass mosaic tiles. Also sure to encourage relaxation is Pelican Hill's 23,000sqft spa, complete with a dramatic 28-foot-high Palladian rotunda, a wall of flowing water, 22 private treatment rooms, steam rooms, saunas and Whirlpools. During my stay, I had a personal wet shave treatment, which was amazing! For the golfers amongst you, and that includes myself, the Pelican Hill Golf Club was voted number one course in California and the number two golf resort in the whole of America. Opened in 2008 after a huge investment, which involved the closure of the established golf courses during the development of the hotel, between 2006 and 2008, there are two courses which were originally created in 1992 and designed by Tom Fazio. With ocean panoramas from nearly every hole and a 44,000-square-foot clubhouse in which to relax after a round, what more could you want?

The golf clubhouse is about three minutes drive away from the hotel but there is a courtesy shuttle running from the lobby. The Resort also have their own beach club down by the ocean and a courtesy shuttle will take you down to the beautiful crystal cove beach. To tickle the taste buds after a day spent poolside or on the greens, there are some tempting options at Pelican Hill, which include the more casual 'The Cafe' and the 'Coliseum Pool & Grill' or the upmarket 'Ristorante Andrea', home to outstanding and authentic Northern Italian cuisine that rivals what you might find at any Italian restaurant around the World. Andrea skilfully recreates culinary traditions in classic dishes bursting with the true flavours of Italy. You will savour the regional cuisine of Northern Italy and a most gracious service in a casually elegant atmosphere. Just like in Italy, Andrea makes exquisite fresh pastas daily in their temperature-controlled Pasta Room, as well as artisan-style gelato. There is a sophisticated wine list and an elegant



bar overlooking the Pacific Ocean as well as an exquisite private dining room. My two top tips are; try and get there for sunset drinks and make sure you reserve a table on the veranda, simply fantastic!

Last but not least, a lifesaver of an amenity can be found in Camp Pelican, a separate facility for kids, where the youngsters are treated like VIP guests, as well. If dad's golfing and mum has booked a spa appointment, children from four to 12 can hang out in this fantastic 'kidoppolice' with two big-screen HD TVs, popular video games, Karaoke, iPod accessories, board games, computer stations and books and magazines at their disposal. For kids who would rather be outdoors than in, the patio area at Camp Pelican has comfy furniture, a spouting bubble jet fountain, private swimming pool, table tennis and even a telescope. Our son Sam who is nine years old spent a few hours checking it out one afternoon during our stay and reported back to me 'Dad, this place is so cool can we build one at home'.

There are many options when it comes to luxury resorts around the world, but Pelican Hill really is a unique five-star paradise, so exceptional, many guests find themselves extending their stay.



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