STANFIELD REAL ESTATE GROUP PRESENTS

ICONIC CALIFORNIA LIVING

# Head Over Heels for Hops The founders of Stone

Brewing are focused on social responsibility and sustainability.

**Crystal Vision**Crystal Cove Conservancy's
Cottage Restoration Project aims to complete the plans for Crystal Cove State Park.

Creative Environments
This fall, two of Orange
County's major museums are exploring themes of art and nature.

The Hemp Rush
CBD derived from hemp is a constantly growing industry in Orange County.

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Pacific

Sotheby's





Opposite page: The Rooftop Lounge at La Casa del Camino; this page, top left: the front of the historic property, which faces Pacific Coast Highway; above: The Lost Surf Room features a Moroccan theme by local designer Christine Hallen–Berg.

for a fully integrated experience.

Pick a Room: One signature flair to La Casa del Camino is the thematic array of rooms, ranging from antiquated Mediterranean-style abodes to contemporary surf-inspired arrangements. While dining at the Rooftop Lounge, owner Christopher Keller began brainstorming ideas that would depict the most current impression of Laguna Beach, which gave birth to the Casa Surf Project, where 10 refurbished, custom hotel rooms were individually curated by seminal surf brands such as Billabong, Rip Curl, Roxy and more to illustrate a style of surf-meetshigh-design. "It was really time to bring surf culture to a hotel in Orange County and Laguna Beach is really at the heart of it all," says former Quicksilver co-founder and CEO Bob McKnight, whose company sponsored one of the themed rooms designed by Angela Tesselaar that includes an oil painting of an old Spaniard proudly displaying his Quiksilver surfboard. "It's the epicenter of surf culture, art, sculpture and music," he says.

Enjoy the View: Nestled at the bottom of Cress street, La Casa del Camino overlooks a patch of churning water in the distance: Third Reef, the epicenter of Laguna Beach surf culture. When stronger surf arrives from the south, guests can enjoy a front row seat to an eruption of surging waves and hungry surfers quenching their desires. While The Rooftop Lounge serves as the most ideal place to admire Laguna's jaw-dropping coastline, the casa surf rooms provide equally magnificent coastal viewing. The yoking of haute-monde culture with boho surf style has endowed more historical value to the Casa's rich repertoire.

Grab a Bite: Amongst the beautiful architecture, rustic furnishings and newly customized suites, guests can indulge their palate at the renowned K'ya Bistro. Served on small plates, diners can enjoy anything from crispy polenta to turmeric-spiced fried cauliflower. Additionally, K'ya complements its beach town ambiance with freshly prepared fruits de mer dishes like blackened seabass

coupled with herb risotto. Or, indulge in the signature coconut shrimp with spicy mango dip and island slaw that's sure to satisfy even the most seasoned gastronomes.

After a hot and sandy day at the beach, guests can cool off during The Rooftop's happy hour with a mint mojito and generous plate of Hawaiian ahi poke. The Rooftop is a fantastic place for people-watching, and popular with locals wanting to watch the sunset. Above all, it provides a glorious panoramic view of the glittery Pacific. (lacasadelcamino.com) – Tess Hezlep and Dante Amodeo

## **HOTEL JOAQUIN**

Opened last fall after a complete renovation of the delapidated Motor Inn Laguna Beach, the Hotel Joaquin follows the "soul is our style" ethos of corporate owner Auric Road's existing properties: Korakia Pensione in Palm Springs and Lone Mountain Ranch in Big Sky, Montana. Named after the original land grant of Rancho

Below: Hotel Joaquin's renovated open-air lobby and restaurant, Saline, which looks out over the Pacific.



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Above: At Hotel Joaquin, daybeds surround the pool. Right: a room with a balcony and view

San Joaquin, which encompassed much of present-day Orange County, Hotel Joaquin pays homage to the laidback elegance of the California coastline.

Inspired by the island of St. Barths, the 1950s Southern California beach culture and the the Mediterranean coast, the 22-room "petite resort," designed by New York's Studio Robert McKinley, is a low-tech designer sanctuary where guests can enjoy a fully unplugged atmosphere with television-free suites outfitted with vinyl record players and a curated music collection in each room. Vintage furniture from France is spread throughout the property and if you want to eat in its much lauded restaurant, Saline, you have to stay here, as it's available to hotel guests only.

Pick a Room: The three-tiered hotel provides private decks, ocean views and ocean breezes from some of its rooms, garden view from others, and all individually designed with one-of-a-kind vintage pieces, customized furniture and curated artwork. With no TVs, guests can enjoy the hotel's collection of books that are in the rooms and the lobby, and the in-room turntables are ready to spin whatever you desire. The "Living Room," the hotel's lobby lounge—which looks out over the lawn, the original pool upgraded with cozy daybeds and the ocean beyond—has an eclectic collection of vinyl, games and books available to guests. Luxurious bathrooms feature monolithic imported stone offset by solid brass fixtures, soaking tubs in many rooms, and hand-cut and crafted tile.

What to Do: Guests are encouraged to take advantage of what Laguna Beach has to offer with an all-access pass to the hotel's Adventure Garage that has surfboards, hiking and diving gear, bicycles and playful outdoor accessories outfitted by an adventure guru and Laguna



Beach local who will give you advise about beaches, coves, trails and surf breaks. Just below the hotel is Shaw's Cove, where the staff will bring down chairs, towels and umbrellas for a day in the sand. Or just chill in the "Living Room," where alkaline-boosting VitaJuwel gem water dispensers and a creative cocktail menu give new meaning to lounging around.

Grab a Bite: It's worth the price of the stay here just to eat at Saline, the hotel's Mediterranean-influenced restaurant only open to hotel guests and helmed by the charming Argentine chef Leo Bongarra. Breakfast is included in the price of your stay and features the chef's unique take on just about everything, including Rawnola with blue majik, almond milk, blueberries and pistachios; French toast brioche with berries, jalapeño honey and mascarpone; and Berkshire pork sausage with fried eggs, Cajun butter toast and farm greens. Wholesome lunches range from truffled tuna with avocado, panca chile, chive and paratha to a chopped salad with greens, dried fruit, black rice and pomegranate dressing, or a vegan panini with grilled vegetables, nut cheese and olive tapenade. You may want to stray from the hotel for lunch just to experience the area, but the constantly changing and reasonably priced, sea-centric dinner menu is worth sticking around for. We enjoyed a chef-recommended dinner of oysters with absinthe jelly; octopus carpaccio with harissa aioli and wild greens; marinated artichokes and black garlic; Indonesiainspired seabass with black forbidden rice and coconut broth; lamb chops with turmeric cauliflower, sweet potatoes, pine nuts and preserved lemon and the chef's famous Argentine skirt steak with pureed sweet potatoes. We were too full to continue, but dessert choices are whatever the chef feels like creating that day.

To complement the coastal cuisine, the cocktail program offers a creative nod to the classics, using fresh ingredients with a nod to Middle Eastern spices and flavors. Fun and eclectic spirits make for an experimental journey while taking in the sunset or paired with any of chef Bongarra's dishes, such as Samsara, a magical blend of seven rums, fortified sangria, ginger, lime and absinthe. Playful low-alcohol and no-alchohol spritzes are also available throughout







the day and night, such as No Booze Cruise, featuring the world's first nonalcoholic distilled spirit, or Path of the Pamplemousse, with Dolin dry vermouth, Giffard pamplemousse, Avua Amburana cachaca, cinnamon, lemon and soda. (hoteljoaquin.com) —Justine Amodeo

### PACIFIC EDGE HOTEL

Newly renovated in 2010 and sold again in 2017, the Pacific Edge Hotel's much-needed redesign transformed the run-down, sprawling property into a trendy boutique hotel in the heart of Laguna Beach. Set on the sand, the 132-room property matches the vibe of the city, with bold accent colors and modern design, edgy artistic elements and surf-themed details including a partnership with Bruce Brown Films to become the first official "Endless Summer" hotel with the surf film's themed artwork throughout the property. Breakfast and parking, a rare find are free

Pick a Room: Pacific Edge features 28 suites, a twostory casita and 104 deluxe guestrooms. Oceanfront rooms, most with balconies overlooking the Pacific Ocean, include 32-inch flat screen televisions, comfortable Adirondack chairs and queen-sized sofa beds.

What to Do: The full-service hotel features two heated swimming pools and a Jacuzzi, a gym, a spa and poolside pingpong. A unique Beach Sherpa service will make trips down to the water with beach chairs, umbrellas and beach toys. Set on the sand, the hotel offers guests the complimentary use of lounge chairs, umbrellas and beach towels. If you're entertaining, five oceanfront rooms have been transformed into Bungalows designed by one of five local brands featuring Billabong, Fox Racing, Lolli, Gorjana and XS. The Bungalows' indoor private living rooms include a couch and seating area, flat-screen TV, bar area, Bluetooth speakers, air conditioning and private bathroom with shower to rinse away sand.



Grab a Bite: Located on a 3,000-square-foot, openair beachfront deck, The Deck offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, fire pits for chilly nights and a carefully thought-out cocktail and food menu. Open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, The Deck embraces seasonal, local ingredients for use in the chef's culinary creations and craft cocktails, and touts ocean-to-table dining as a perk of the location, which also offers mellow live music. To add a little history to your night, walk upstairs from The Deck to the Stateroom Bar inside Driftwood Kitchen, whose menu is focused on locally caught fish and seasonally grown produce. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and has been a haunt for locals for years. Situated where Hollywood icon Slim Summerville once had his library, the bar does a great job paying homage to this history with old photos on the wall, a throwback aesthetic and a series of drinks named in honor of other legendary Laguna nightspots. (pacificedgehotel.com) -J.A. PC

Clockwise from top left: a wooden beachfront deck in front of the Bungalows at Pacific Edge Hotel; the Gorjana Bungalow; open-air dining at The Deck

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