













CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT; The Ace Suite at the Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles; a room at the Ojai Rancho Inn; the pool and barn (which doubles as a bar and lounge) at Sparrows in Palm Springs; the communal game room at Hotel Zetta in San Francisco; the ocean view from a suite at Pier South Resort in Imperial Beach; a morning trail ride through the 10,000-acre Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort in Solvang.

STAY & PLAY

Whether it's a weekend in the city, a bike jaunt through wine country or a full-fledged surfing expedition, these California hotels have something new and exciting happening this summer. BY ERIC ROSEN

→ Every new Ace Hotel makes a splash, perhaps none more so than the new Downtown LA location thanks to a swinging rooftop pool party scene. Commune Design completed a hipster-friendly renovation of the original 1927 United Artists building; there's still a massive movie theatre "palace" downstairs that now plays host to concerts and other events. Minimalist rooms contrast the ornate Spanish Gothic architecture, and the LA Chapter bistro and coffee bar serves Stumptown roasts on the first floor. Rates start at \$235, ace

hotel.com/losangeles

→ Step back to a simpler time at Palm Springs' new Sparrows, a former 1950s motor lodge that has been converted into a vintage ranch-style hotel complete with a saltwater pool, outdoor fireplaces and a horseshoe pitch. The 20 Craftsmanesque rooms feature creative décor including reclaimed redwood furniture and horse troughs for bathtubs. Rates start at \$150. sparrowshotel.com

→ The salvage-chic Oiai Rancho Inn came under new management two years ago and has flown under the radar as the place to stay while hiking and mountain biking in the surrounding hills. Guests can also take advantage of nearby Ventura's beach scene with its world-class surfing, kayaking and paddleboarding. This summer the inn hosts a live concert series on the first Sunday of every month and opens Chiefs Peak, a new bar serving local beer and wine. Rates start at \$120. ojairanchoinn.com

→ The venerable Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort in Solvang, in California's Central Coast, is known for its unique horsebackriding experiences and proximity to some of the area's best wineries, not to mention romantic casita-style rooms with fireplaces. Now Alisal also offers a series of guided cycling tours that get guests out and exploring the Santa Ynez Valley's rolling vineyards and mountain roads. Rates start at \$515 (includes breakfast and dinner); cycling activities start at \$75

per person, alisal.com

→ Just north of the border and off the famous Boca Rio surf break, Imperial Beach's new Pier South Resort is one of the only beachfront boutique hotels in San Diego County (each room has an ocean view). The resort features yoga on the sand, guided wildlife hikes and a "coastal tavern" called SEA180, where you can fuel up before paddling out. Rates start at \$199. piersouthresort.com

→ Hotel Zetta—voted one of "America's 10 Highest-tech Hotels" by CNN-is sandwiched between San Francisco's Union Square and SoMa districts. The lobby bar and game room have become the city's hottest drop-by hangout spots, while the contemporary English pub cuisine at The Cavalier leaves you craving fish and chips long after your stay. Be sure to check out the hotel's commissioned artwork, including the eyeglass chandeliers in the lobby and the eight-story graffiti stairwell by emerging artist Jonathan Matas. Rates start at \$250. viceroyhotelgroup.com/ en/zetta &