





Clockwise from top left: The striking lobby at Hotel Californian was designed by Martyn Lawrence Bullard; a deluxe room overlooking lush gardens at the Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore in Santa Barbara; warm woods, whites and metallic furnishings collide at Garde in Summerland.

## Riviera REDUX

Long hailed the American Riviera, Santa Barbara is sparkling right now with hot openings and a full heart.

By Jennifer Blaise Kramer

After recovering from January's tragic Montecito mudslides, Santa Barbara is once again shining with locals and travelers alike, all eager to soak up the sun-drenched, European-esque locale. Check into the harborfront **Hotel Californian** (805.882.0100, thehotelcalifornian.com), which is making waves with its 121 plush rooms and Moroccan-style spa. Design icon Martyn Lawrence Bullard's bold interiors put a graphic twist on the city's longtime Spanish architecture. "I wanted to honor the historic nature of Santa Barbara style, but infuse a breath of fresh air into the vibe," Bullard says of his international interpretation on the 1925 building.

New splashes meet classic style at the famed Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore (805.969.2261, fourseasons.com), which reopened this summer. Both the picturesque hotel and neighboring Coral Casino Beach and Cabana Club are a step back in time, best experienced with a stroll on Butterfly Beach, via a rose quartz facial at the spa or with a signature honeycomb-bourbon cocktail at the bar.

Nearby, the **Montecito Country Mart** (montecitocountrymart.com) just launched the farm-to-table **Bettina** (805.770.2383, bettinapizzeria.com) as well as **Merci** (mercitogo.com), a local favorite for Californiameets-French fare and plenty of rosé. And in the Funk Zone, wine tasting rooms runneth over.

Head to the Santa Barbara Wine Collective (805.456.2700, santabarbarawinecollective.com) or the The Valley Project (805.453.6768, thevalleyprojectwines.com) to sip local chardonnay and pinot noir. For an easy alfresco lunch, try Lucky Penny Pizza (805.284.0358, luckypennysb.com), and, after dark, don't miss nearby Loquita (805.880.3380, loquitasb.com) for Spanish tapas and cocktails in the garden. In Montecito, The Monarch (805.869.0789, themonarchmontecito.com) offers elegant, locally sourced fare from chef-owners Phillip Frankland Lee and Margarita Kallas-Lee.

For some retail therapy, pop into the fashion-forward **Shopkeepers** (theshopkeepers-sb.com) for a mix of unique clothing, objects and art pieces; find handprinted fabrics at **Raoul Textiles** (805. 899.4947, raoultextiles.com), and take home Turkish linens from the aptly named **Riviera Towels** (rivieratowel.com). And don't miss the second outpost of **Garde** (gardeshop.com) that just opened in Summerland. Founders Scotti Sitz and John Davidson expanded its beloved L.A. concept, offering elevated housewares, along with an overnight option: There's an Airbnb upstairs. "Although casual, as a beach community might expect, it is also sophisticated," Sitz says of the outpost's location. "It's perfect for a weekend getaway."

