

## TAKE TO THE WOODS THE CAMPING ISSUE • SUMMER 2015 GLAMPING

### CARMEL VALLEY RANCH, CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

#### The Site

Hyatt Hotels scion John Pritzker took inspiration from his childhood camp in Wisconsin for the resort’s “play for all ages” calendar of activities, which range from beekeeping and archery to trail rides and firepit-side s’mores. The accommodations? Think treetop studios with patio soaking tubs and indoor/outdoor fireplaces.

[Carmel Valley Ranch](#)

*1 Old Ranch Rd, Carmel-By-The-Sea*

#### The Activity

Camp was made for kids — and yours can choose from a slate of [full-on camp activities](#), like hiking, swimming, tennis, arts and crafts and “Silly Songs and Games.” Parents, meanwhile, might want to sign up their offspring for [Kids Night Out](#), which will distract the young ‘uns with Wii, movies, and foosball while mom and dad get some one-on-one time.



#### The Pro Tip

*Mother Nature is kind to the shrewd eye, but capturing its beauty presents a*

challenge. So we linked up with the gentlemen at [Collective Quarterly](#) — the gorgeous travel journal that explores far flung destinations one issue at a time (out now: [Issue 2, Mad River](#)) — for quick and dirty tips on how to take better photos in the wild.

### **1. Set Yourself Up for Gold**

The “Golden Hour” is the magic time of day just before sundown or just after sunup when you can capture nature at its best. Drop your pack and don’t stop shooting. Another one of our favorite times to shoot: early dusk, when everything looks ghostly and weird.

### **2. Landscapes**

A good landscape image is all about composition. There has to be a triangle of interest that pulls the viewer through the landscape. Without a strong focal point and visual rhythm, your landscapes will look flat — like a bunch of trees and mountains pancaked on the screen.

### **3. Lighting**

One of the biggest struggles of photographing while hiking is the way light is constantly going from harsh to soft as you move in and out of forest shadows, cloud shade and blazing high-noon sun. Using fill flash in these situations will fill in shadows for well-balanced light.

### **4. Shooting Mermen at High Noon**

An appendix to our tip on flash: blending shadows and highlights is crucial to well-balanced color photos. It can also salvage an image that’s backlit during the brightest hours of the day. Without a strong fill flash, I wouldn’t have been able to shoot this [Budweiser-swilling merman](#).

### **5. Stop to Smell the Rhododendrons**

Be flexible enough to stop and spend time shooting in unexpected environments. Remember to enjoy the journey.

