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LUXURY

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SPAS

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WEDDINGS



CAMEL VALLEY RANCH'S infinity pool cabanas allow the bride and groom to indulge in some private poolside lounging.

Bridal Spa Takeovers

Brides-to-be and their wedding parties can seek some pre-ceremony refuge with a private spa takeover. From bachelorette parties to groups seeking some post-nuptial R&R, spas across the board are rolling out the red-carpet treatment to help them unwind, including customizable services served up alongside bottles of bubbly and savory bites.

Carmel Valley Ranch (www.carmelvalleyranch.com) in the Monterey region of California sports Spa Aiyana, which uses botanical infusions and oils made with wild lavender herbs and honey from its on-site apiary populated by more than 125,000 Italian honey bees.

Wedding parties are privy to an extensive range of packages in the 11-room spa. Our favorite is the "(Bee)autiful Bachelorette," which offers up the Aiyana VIP

spa suite for a half day of treatments and includes a customized facial or massage. We suggest the Lavender Garden Swedish massage, where pressure is tailored for the individual. Tip: Ask for Jamie Rosaro, a client favorite. Note that the minimum age for facials is 16 years old; those 18 and older can receive massages.

Bachelorettes can make sure they're perfectly sun kissed for the big day with Natural Body Bronzer Spray Tan. Post pampering, ladies can retreat to the cabanas for some bubbly and poolside bites like the East Coast Muffaletta with fennel salami and truffle fries or the Molinari family charcuterie plate.

Gents can opt for a trip to the Grooming Bar where they'll be treated to bloody marys to start off their beauty buzz, followed by a 60-minute hot shave. Nice Touch: The extra 30-minute

"Arnica" deep-tissue massage blends sport stretches and targeted muscle work to restore vitality for the big wedding day.

The bride and groom can indulge in a side-by-side couples massage and some private poolside cabana lounging before retreating to the couples suite, complete with fireplace, shower and treetop patio.

Top Tip: For some extra romance, try out the new "Starlight Spa Service," where guests can enjoy treatments on a private, heated wooden deck fronted by ancient oak trees right beneath the stars.

Luxury travel advisors should reach out to Spa Director Franziska Haala (fhaala@carmelvalleyranch.com; 831-626-2573) to make special arrangements. If you're planning on hosting your wedding here, Rachel Schanding (rschanding@carmelvalleyranch.com;

831-620-6408) is our go-to person and can assist with the details ahead of time.

For honeymooners, the resort recommends private "Treetop Suites," which have great views of Carmel Valley (No. 292 gets the most raves). The wedding party can choose from the very new 800-square-foot one-bedroom Estate Suite, which has a kitchenette. The Oak Grove Suite is 1,200 square feet in size and has a bedroom, living room and dining room.

Head Concierge Gabrielle Wagemakers (gwagemakers@carmelvalleyranch.com; 831-620-6427) can keep everyone in the wedding party busy, from horseback riding, garden tours, hilltop yoga and even a customized bee-keeping experience.

If you're flying in via private jet, the Monterey Regional Airport is just 20 minutes away;