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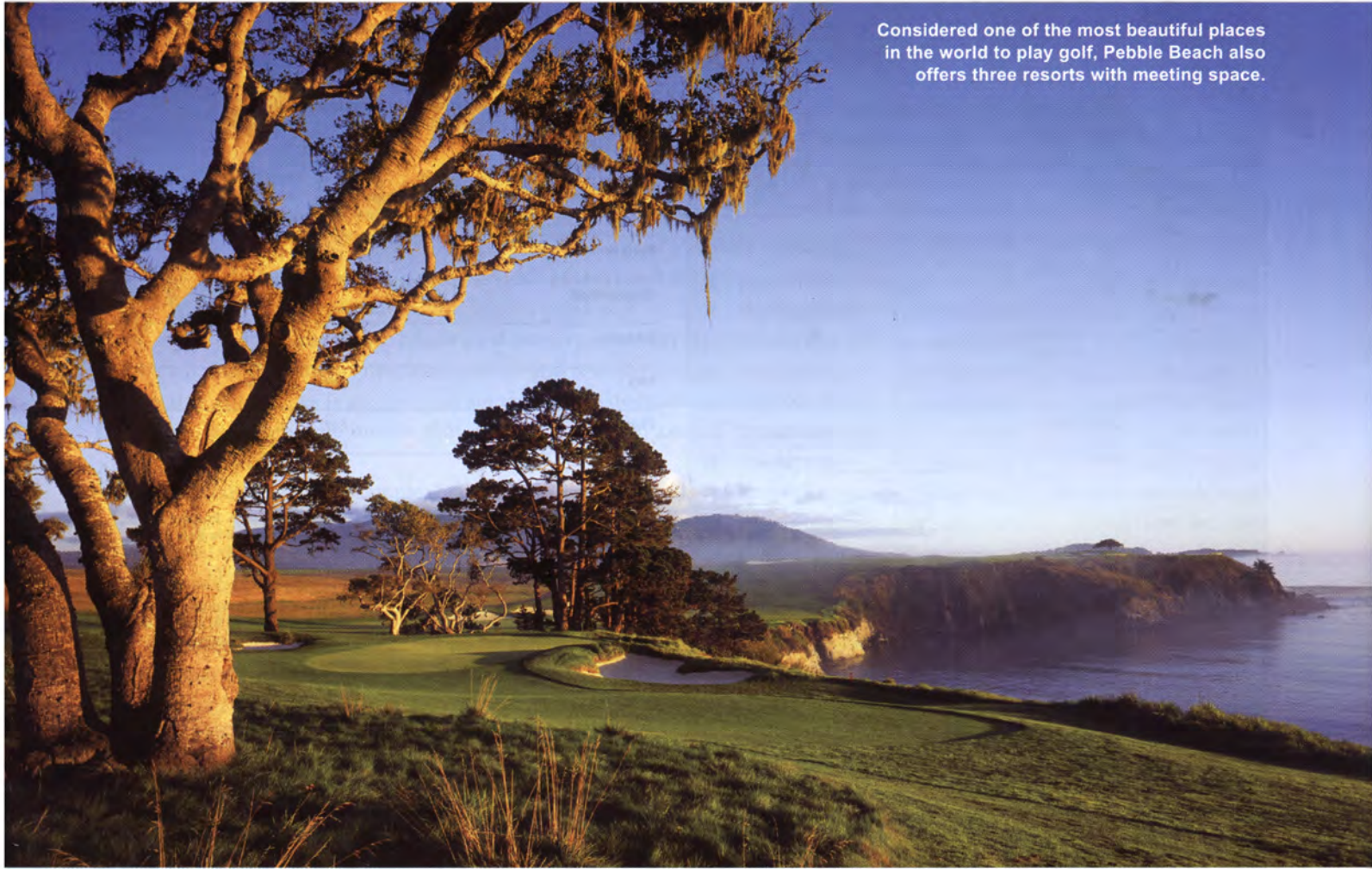
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SPOTLIGHT

Considered one of the most beautiful places in the world to play golf, Pebble Beach also offers three resorts with meeting space.



GOLDEN CALIFORNIA

WHERE BUSINESS MEETS PLEASURE

By Rachel Carr

For association executives like Janene Gordon, president of the California Association of Polygraph Examiners, holding a meeting in the heart of the Golden State offers something every meeting planner is looking for: peace of mind.

“With our group,” said Gordon, “to not have one serious complaint expressed is almost unheard of and simply incredible!” But that’s exactly what happened when she brought her group to Monterey—and it’s a sentiment echoed by other meeting planners.

**THE SACRAMENTO AREA:
WORK HARD, PLAY HARD**

As the state capital, **Sacramento** is an obvious choice for groups that want to get down to serious business, and the city’s numerous venues reflect its status as the state’s seat of power. The city’s largest venue is the Sacramento Convention Center Complex, located across the street from the Capitol and within walking distance of 1,800 hotel rooms, including the adjacent Hyatt Regency/Sacramento, which recently finished renovating all of its 503 guest rooms. The convention center offers 134,000 square feet of exhibit space, a 24,000-square-foot ballroom and 31 meeting rooms. Also part of the complex are the historic 3,855-seat Memorial Auditorium, the 272-seat Jean Runyon Little Theater and the 2,422-seat Community Center Theater. A convenient shuttle system links the convention center area to downtown hotels, shopping and historic districts. A few blocks west of the convention center is the Crocker Art Museum, which added a 125,000-square-foot wing last year, tripling the size of the facility.

Three notable venues lie just beyond the downtown area. The 17,000-seat Power Balance Pavilion offers space for up to 1,600. In **West Sacramento**, the 15,000-seat Raley Field offers several 50-person event suites. And the 350-acre Cal Expo features 18 indoor and outdoor venues and can accommodate groups as large as 50,000.

**DAVIS & SANTA CRUZ:
TESTING MINDS & BODIES**

The college towns of Davis and Santa Cruz—both part of the University of California system—are ideal destina-

Recent additions in Sacramento include the 25-story U.S. Bank Tower on the Capitol Mall and a new wing at the Crocker Art Museum.

tions for groups that want to invigorate attendees mentally and physically. **Davis**, just 15 minutes west of Sacramento, is home to more than 100 miles of bike lanes as well as the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame. On campus, associations can meet at the new UC Davis Conference Center, which opened last year and has been awarded gold LEED certification. It offers 5,400 square feet of meeting space, a catering kitchen and is adjacent to a new 75-room Hyatt Place Hotel, which is expanding.

Santa Cruz—two hours south of Davis—is a hub for surfing, windsurfing and kitesurfing (several local shops offer instruction). Planners will find venues for meetings on the University of California Santa Cruz campus; downtown at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, which can accommodate up to 2,000; or by the boardwalk at Cocoanut Grove, a historic landmark with 20,000 square feet of space for events of up to 1,000. The Santa Cruz Dream Inn recently finished an 18-month renovation that upgraded all 165 guest rooms and added 3,505 square feet of meeting space and a beachfront bistro.

In nearby **Watsonville**, the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds offers more than 33,500 square feet of function space. In **Felton**, groups can meet at Roaring Camp; its Bret Harte Hall has indoor space for up to 450, and outdoor space is available for up to 2,500.

**THE MONTEREY PENINSULA:
SMILES ALL AROUND**

In February, the California Association of Polygraph Examiners held its spring seminar at the newly renovated Portola Hotel & Spa in **Monterey**. President Janene Gordon was quick to praise the hotel’s hard work and “smiling staff.” “It was obvious to me, and to our membership, that staff members truly enjoy their various positions



VENUE	GUEST ROOMS	FUNCTION SPACE
SACRAMENTO AREA		
Doubletree Hotel	448	33,800
Hyatt Regency at Capitol Park	503	28,000
Radisson Hotel	306	28,000
Lions Gate Hotel & Cottages	128	25,000
Sheraton Grand Sacramento	503	20,000
Hilton Sacramento Arden West	331	18,850
Red Lion Hotel/Arden Village	331	18,800
Holiday Inn/Northeast	230	16,000
Sacramento Marriott	262	14,000
Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza	362	13,000
The Citizen Hotel	197	11,000
Embassy Suites Hotel	242	8,000
Le Rivage Hotel	100	6,600
Courtyard by Marriott/Cal Expo	152	5,300
TownePlace Suites by Marriott	110	5,300
Fairfield Inn by Marriott/Cal Expo	74	5,300
PLACER COUNTY		
Rocklin Park Hotel	67	4,082
Heritage Inn	101	2,780
JACKSON		
Jackson Rancheria	146	7,500
DAVIS & YOLO COUNTY		
Days Inn	80	11,885
Cache Creek Casino Resort	200	1,800
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY		
Seascape Resort	285	14,000
Chaminade Hotel	152	12,000
University Inn & Conference Center	172	6,000
Hilton/Santa Cruz-Scotts Valley	177	4,467
Santa Cruz Dream Inn	165	3,505
Best Western Seaciff Inn	149	3,137
MONTEREY		
Portola Plaza Hotel & Spa	379	50,000
Monterey Marriott	341	50,000
Hyatt Regency Monterey Resort	575	42,000
Asilomar Conference Grounds	313	31,000
Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa	290	16,000
Embassy Suites Hotel	225	13,000
InterContinental The Clement	208	10,200
Beach Resort Monterey	196	9,000
Hilton Garden Inn/Monterey	204	6,001
Casa Munras Garden Hotel	171	3,500
PEBBLE BEACH		
Lodge at Pebble Beach	161	15,000
Inn at Spanish Bay	269	14,000

FUNCTION SPACE IS SHOWN IN SQUARE FEET



Paul Owen/Carmel Valley Ranch

A \$35 million renovation project at the Carmel Valley Ranch included a new 11,000-square-foot spa with two pool areas.

at the hotel,” Gordon said. “Their dedication to serving patrons was evident from daybreak to nightfall.”

The city’s main dedicated event venue is the Monterey Conference Center, which provides 41,000 square feet of meeting space for up to 1,700 people. Associations can also hold events at the Naval Postgraduate School, which has event space for up to 800; the historic Golden State Theatre, which can host up to 1,100 people; and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which can arrange dinners and receptions for up to 3,000 people.

The nearby community of Pacific Grove is home to the Asilomar Conference Grounds, overlooking the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The oceanfront complex boasts 31,000 square feet of meeting space and was designed by Julia Morgan, architect of the legendary Hearst Castle.

Known as one of the most picturesque places to play golf, Pebble Beach is also home to three resorts with meeting space. The two largest, the Lodge at Pebble Beach and the Inn at Spanish Bay, recently completed renovations that included the addition of outdoor fire pits at Spanish Bay.

In the Carmel Valley (eight miles east of the town of Carmel-by-the-Sea), the 500-acre Carmel Valley Ranch has completed a \$35 million renovation project.

The footprint of American novelist John Steinbeck can be found on much of the Monterey Peninsula. In Salinas, attendees can visit the National Steinbeck Center, which also provides meeting space for up to 600 people. South of Salinas, near Soledad, Paraiso Vineyards has an event facility for up to 190.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY: WILDLIFE TO WINERIES

In the city of San Luis Obispo—located 190 miles from both San Francisco and Los Angeles—California Poly-

technic State University offers several meeting spaces, among them the Performing Arts Center, a four-story building with 91,500 square feet of space, and the 1,313-seat Harman Hall. Off campus, the Veterans Memorial Building has function space for up to 500. In nearby Pismo Beach, various hotels and restaurants can accommodate up to 300 people for an event, or the recently renovated Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall has space for up to 600.

North of San Luis Obispo is the wildlife haven of Morro Bay. In town, the Morro Bay Community Center has auditorium space for up to 537 as well as smaller event rooms. South of Morro Bay, in San Simeon, groups regularly enjoy tours of the famous Hearst Castle.

In Paso Robles, more than 200 wineries as well as outdoor recreation and agri-tourism opportunities await. The Paso Robles Event Center’s new Mission Square offers more than 10,000 square feet of space. And the historic Paso Robles Inn, known for its hot springs, has undergone a renovation.

SOLVANG & SANTA MARIA: A TASTE OF THE GOOD LIFE

In the Santa Ynez Valley, cuisine and culture are highlights. From the renowned restaurants and wineries to rural retreats, there’s something to please everyone. In Solvang, authentic Danish heritage and a number of winery tasting rooms delight. One of the area’s most historic—and scenic—properties is the Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort, which offers 73 guest accommodations and meeting space for groups of up to 200 people.

For more unique space, in Buellton, the Firestone Walker Brewery’s Taproom Restaurant can host up to 80 people, and, in Los Olivos, the Zaca Lake Retreat has event space and overnight accommodations for up to 120.

In Santa Maria, famous for its barbecue, the Rancho Miranda Garden Event Center offers outdoor event space for up to 750, and the Santa Barbara County

VENUE	GUEST ROOMS	FUNCTION SPACE
CARMEL		
Carmel Valley Ranch	139	10,000
Bernardus Lodge	57	9,000
Carmel Mission Inn	165	4,500
SAN MARTIN		
CordeValle	45	4,100
SAN LUIS OBISPO		
Madonna Inn	110	20,000
Embassy Suites	196	12,000
PISMO BEACH		
Cliffs Resort at Shell Beach	165	10,000
Best Western Shore Cliff Lodge	99	3,280
PASO ROBLES		
Paso Robles Inn	100	6,000
CAMBRIA		
Cambria Pines Lodge	125	9,178
SANTA MARIA		
Radisson Hotel Santa Maria	185	10,000
Historic Santa Maria Inn	166	10,000
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY		
Fess Parker’s Doubletree Resort	360	44,000
Bacara Resort & Spa	360	25,550
Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore	207	15,000
Marriott Santa Ynez Valley	149	12,000
Hyatt Santa Barbara	171	10,000
Hotel Corque	122	7,500
Pea Soup Andersen’s Inn	97	6,916
Alisal Guest Ranch & Golf Resort	73	6,800
Canary Hotel	97	5,000
Holiday Inn Santa Barbara/Goleta	160	4,500
Days Inn at the Windmill	108	3,834
Best Western Pepper Tree Inn	150	2,986
VENTURA COUNTY		
Ojai Valley Inn & Spa	308	35,000
Ventura Beach Marriott	285	16,000
Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach	258	16,000
Four Points by Sheraton/Harbor	176	14,000
Pierpont Inn	77	10,000
OXNARD		
Embassy Suites/Mandalay Beach	248	16,000
Residence Inn by Marriott	252	12,946
Casa Sirena Hotel & Marina	150	12,763
Courtyard by Marriott	167	10,432
Comfort Inn	95	8,160
Hilton Garden Inn	166	7,056
Homewood Suites	129	4,200

FUNCTION SPACE IS SHOWN IN SQUARE FEET