





Carmel Valley Ranch
has been the go-to for
leisure golfers, tennis
buffs and the proverbial family reunion. This fall,
thanks to a \$35 million renovation,
the 490-acre outdoor playground
of moss-covered oak trees and rolling hills sports a new look and casual concept to impress even the
most seasoned "camper."

You probably won't hear "Happy Trails" sung around the fire pits here, though. "It's a ranch, but it's not a *yippe ki-yay* ranch," says Founding Partner and Director John Pritzker about the posh prop-

erty—just 10 minutes from downtown Carmel—once home to the Ohlone native Americans and later used as an orchard and dairy farm. "We like to think of it as summer camp without the discipline," he adds, inspired by his childhood days at Camp Horseshoe in Wisconsin. "It's about having fun, roasting s'mores and trading stories by the fire, but it's not the next 'California Ranch Disneyland.' It's about authenticity." Just watch the kids (and kids at heart) soaring in tree swings throughout the grounds.

The nine-month transformation, which began at the beginning of this year, includes a pristine 18hole golf course designed by Pete Dye (with a revamped main clubhouse to match); a new lobby and restaurant headed up by Executive Chef Tim Wood; a 2,000-square-foot spa utilizing honey and floral extracts harvested from the property's three beehives and multiple lavender fields; freshly groomed trails with morning and afternoon guided nature hikes, complete with frequent deer, wild turkey and cottontail rabbit sightings; an "adventure kitchen" for educational programs, cooking classes and private parties; and a

River Ranch designated family area with a fitness center, tennis and bocce courts, a pool, two Jacuzzis and, for the wee ones, a splash fountain.

Each of the 139 suites has been outfitted by design firm ForrestPerkins with leather club chairs, rain showers, iPod docking stations and enough closet space for a family of four—plus a private patio and fireplace. Despite being a scout's dream, it's hardly roughing it. One Old Ranch Rd., Carmel, 831-625-9500; carmelvalleyranch.com.

Tailored Totes

Italian micro-twill exteriors lined with striped, yarn-dyed interiors and polished nickel hardware make the new travel line for S.F.-based **Wisecracker** a collection of quiet luxury. With 16 versatile bags for men and a capsule of five styles for women, "We're targeting the savvy traveler who wants quality and style and prefers to stay under the radar," says Managing Director David Dow. Wilkes Bashford, S.F.; wisecrackerluggage.com. DIANE DORRANS SAEKS



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