

Carmel Valley Ranch: A Perfect Weekend Escape



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Relax and Unwind at Carmel Valley Ranch

Photo: Karla Erovick

Slideshow: Relaxation at Carmel Valley Ranch



San Franciscan's and visitors seeking a sunny weekend (and romantic) destination need look no further than [Carmel Valley Ranch](#). Located inland from [Carmel-by-the-Sea](#), you will experience rolling hills and warmer weather in a relaxing resort setting. As you drive through the property, the road meanders uphill past the golf course, vineyards, gardens and vistas, until you reach the Lodge.

The Lodge is the resort's heart and soul and where the adult pool, hot tub, spa, restaurant, bar and concierge are located. Designed in a rustic yet elegant scheme you will instantly feel at home and relaxed. This is a place that takes play seriously. Just look around at the swings suspended from the giant oak trees. Fire-pits provide Smores supplies so you can indulge your inner child. Borrow a board game or DVD to enjoy in your room. Furniture was selected with comfort in mind. The use of sustainable and beautiful materials adds to the aesthetics. No need to feel guilty about staying here, they utilize sustainable operating practices that are good for the environment.

Explore the 500-acres in the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Hiking trails are scattered throughout the property. The [18-hole Peter Dye Golf Course](#) and driving range are available or you can take a tennis lesson from a professional instructor. For the adventurous there are group exercise classes and a fitness center to indulge your inner athlete. Should you be more interested in quieter pursuits you can join the Garden Tour which visits the organic garden supplying produce to the restaurant. Lavender harvested in the garden is used in spa treatments. The Bee Experience includes a visit to the apiary where you can see where the resort's honey comes from.

For those who crave relaxation that only comes from the [Spa](#), you won't be disappointed. Choose from among spa services including: massage, body treatments, skin care, waxing and nail services. Or spend the day being massaged, buffed, and wrapped into bliss. The lavender treatments use lavender grown in the organic garden. The pool and cabanas make for a relaxing way to spend the afternoon. The infinity hot tub has views of the valley below.

The Guest [Suites](#) are elegant, comfortable and relaxing. A subdued color scheme blends into the outdoors. Lots of natural light and views allows you to feel part of nature. Relax on the deck while gazing out across the property. On cool mornings and evenings you will appreciate the fireplace. Bedrooms are luxurious with high-thread count linens, fluffy pillows and comfortable beds. Bathrobes and slippers are a welcome addition. The bathtub is ideal for bubble baths and the shower can accommodate two.

The [Dining Room](#) located in the Lodge, serves California cuisine using fresh local vegetables, fruit and fish from Monterey County. You can dine indoors, at the bar, on the pool deck or in your room.

No matter how many activities you choose to participate in or not, you will enjoy your weekend visit to Carmel Valley Ranch. As you leave the property you will feel rejuvenated.

Getting there:

Carmel Valley Ranch is approximately a two hour drive from San Francisco. If you have plenty of time, drive down Highway One from San Francisco which winds along the Pacific Ocean with beautiful views.