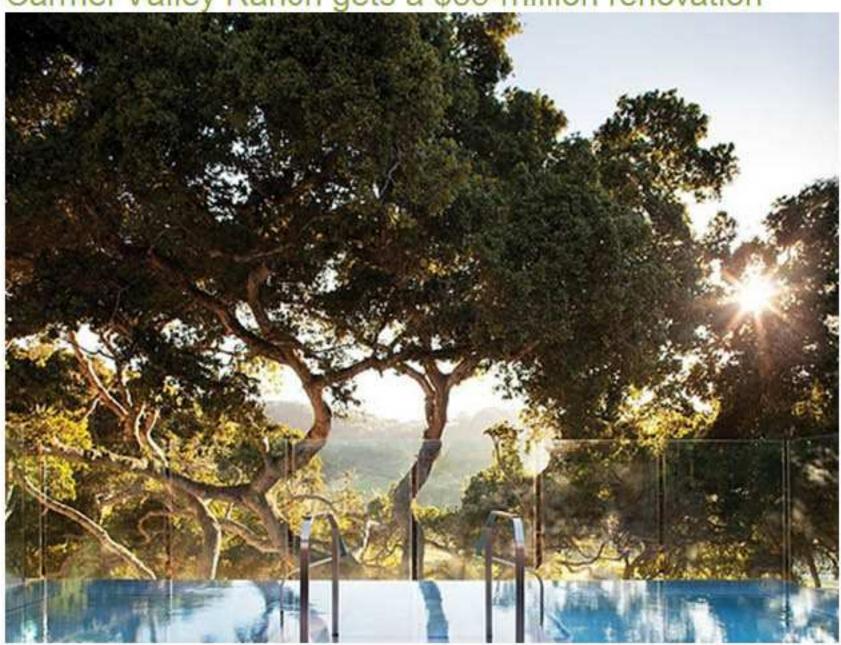
Los Angeles Times travel

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Carmel Valley Ranch gets a \$35-million renovation



Carmel Valley Ranch, a golf and tennis resort tucked into the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountains, has received a \$35-million face-lift.

The resort, which stretches across nearly 500 acres in Carmel Valley, was purchased in 2009 by John Pritzker, the founding partner of San Francisco-based Geolo Capital and son of the late billionaire Hyatt Hotels founder Jay Pritzker, who endowed the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize. John Pritzker estimated last year that the renovation would cost \$25 million.

"The landscape at Carmel Valley Ranch is breathtaking," said Pritzker, "but the spirit of the place, or 'secret sauce,' as I call it, is the activities. We want our guests to tell their friends, 'You can't believe what I did at Carmel Valley Ranch.' It's like the best of summer camp without the discipline."

In its reincarnation, the property has been expanded to include a spa, two resort pools with adjacent outdoor dining and fire pits, and the refurbishment of the 139 guest suites. The 18-hole Pete Dye-designed golf course has been upgraded.

Improvements include the addition of an area called River Ranch, described as "a playground for adults and kids," which has a Junior Olympic-size pool, a splash zone for kids, boccie courts, playground and a 5,200-square-foot fitness center.

Introductory rates will start at \$300 a night.

Info: Carmel Valley Ranch, (877) 583-0052

- Rosemary McClure, special to the Los Angeles Times

Photo: Carmel Valley Ranch infinity pool. Credit: Paul Dyer Photography