

# california

## meetings + events

MEETINGSMAGS.COM // WINTER 2019

# *Best of 2019*

*24 categories including:* BEST COASTAL RESORT, CRAFT BREWERY WITH MEETING SPACE, NEW VENUE, ATTRACTION/THEME PARK, MOUNTAIN RESORT, CONFERENCE/CONVENTION CENTER *and more!*



# Winter 2019



## MEETING NOTES

### 9 PEERSPACE

The online marketplace pairs planners with creative, one-of-a-kind meeting spaces.

By Megan Gosch

### 10 VENUE SPOTLIGHT

Fresh from a \$13 million renovation and expansion, Shelter Island's Kona Kai Resort & Spa has the only private beach in San Diego where alcohol can be served, along with other amenities for standout events.

By Karen E. Baker

### 11 MEETING MUNCHIES

The churro croissant is a new bakery hybrid that's well worth a bite.

By Shelley Levitt

### 12 SIGNATURE DRINK

The Blood Orange Margarita at Chulita Venice is an intoxicating balance of tart, bitter and sweet. By Shelley Levitt

### 13 TASTE

The InterContinental Los Angeles Century City celebrates the arrival of LeBron James with a martini and layer cake featuring Fruity Pebbles, his favorite cereal.

By Shelley Levitt

## INDUSTRY UPDATE

### 38 INFOGRAPHIC

USA is ranked the No. 1 destination in the Eventex Top 20 Destinations for Meetings and Events Index. Research courtesy of Eventex

### 40 REGIONAL NEWS

Awards, venue and people news, association updates and more.

### 46 SNAPSHOTS

The dress code was white and the setting a rose garden at Le Diner en Blanc. Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills offered an exclusive package



## ON THE COVER

Park Hyatt Aviara Resort Golf Club & Spa is this year's Best Golf Resort (Southern California).

Photo courtesy of Hyatt

## Winners

divided between indoor and the wave-lapping outdoors, the luxury property can accommodate groups of up to 200. A stand-alone conference center features an elevated garden terrace, the Pelican Ballroom and numerous boardrooms, all with vaulted ceilings and natural light.

**Runners-up:** Hotel del Coronado; Terranea Resort

### BEST MOUNTAIN RESORT

#### Lake Arrowhead Resort & Spa

lakearrowheadresort.com | 909.336.1511

The scenery is incomparable and the service luxe at this AAA Four Diamond mountain hideaway that sits at an elevation of 5,200 feet along the shores of Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino National Forest. Both secluded and convenient, Lake Arrowhead Resort & Spa is just 90 minutes from Los Angeles and Orange County, but worlds away. The Autograph Collection Hotel has 162 guest room and 11 suites—all with stunning lake or mountain views so no attendee feels short-changed—and 23,000 square feet of indoor meeting space. As for outdoor space and activities, that's pretty much unlimited with a private beach, an event lawn, an expansive deck, and year-round fun that includes s'mores at sunset, drive-in movies, walking, hiking and mountain-biking trails, and guided kayak and fishing tours.

**Runners-up:** Ritz-Carlton Lake Tahoe; Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe

### BEST DESERT CITIES RESORT

#### La Quinta Resort & Club

laquintaresort.com | 760.564.4111

The sky is endless in the Coachella Valley, and so are the possibilities for gatherings at this Waldorf Astoria Resort. With 190,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space, a guest capacity of 1,300 and three ballrooms (the largest can accommodate 1,800 attendees), La

Quinta welcomes groups of all sizes. From world-class golf and tennis to 41 pools on 45 landscaped acres and the award-winning 23,000-square-foot Spa La Quinta, attendees will relish their restorative R&R time between sessions.

**Runners-up:** Two Bunch Palms; Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage

### BEST GOLF RESORT (SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)

#### Park Hyatt Aviara Resort, Golf Club & Spa

Carlsbad | hyatt.com | 760.448.1234

Both Golf Digest and Golf Magazine have named the Aviara Golf Club one of the best resort golf courses in the country. Your attendees will agree: The 18 holes and 7,000 yards weave around rolling hillsides, wildflowers and streams, offering lots of challenges. The 32,000-square-foot Golf Clubhouse, with a wraparound terrace, Argyle Steakhouse, bar and library, is just one of many venues for a memorable gathering at the 327-room Forbes Five Star and AAA Five Diamond luxury destination.

**Runners-up:** Ojai Valley Inn & Spa; La Quinta Resort & Club

### BEST GOLF RESORT (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)

#### Pebble Beach Resorts

pebblebeach.com | 888.242.8131

For the second year in a row, Pebble Beach Resorts, a collection of six golf courses and three hotels on the storied Monterey Peninsula, takes the award in the golf category. This year marks the resorts' centennial with special attention to accomplishments ranging from the addition of Fairway One at The Lodge at Pebble Beach to complete renovation of all guest rooms across the three properties, which also include The Inn at Spanish Bay and Casa Palmero, a 24-room "resort within a resort." A new Pebble Beach Visitor Center features



#### Ojai Valley Inn & Spa



#### Pebble Beach Resorts

PHOTOS: PEBBLE BEACH RESORTS PHOTO BY RANDY TUNNELL; OJAI VALLEY INN & SPA



exhibitions that celebrate Pebble Beach history, including its championship golf pedigree and commitment to the environment and community. In another centennial milestone, Pebble Beach Golf Links will host its sixth U.S. Open Championship June 13-16.

**Runners-up:** Quail Lodge & Golf Club; Silverado Resort and Spa

**BEST SPA RESORT  
(SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)**

**Ojai Valley Inn & Spa**

ojaivalleyinn.com | 855.697.8780

Since last year when the Five Diamond property was voted into the top spot in this category, the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa has been planning the early 2019 opening of its extraordinary new venue The Farmhouse. A majestic retreat within the resort, it features an 8,500-square-foot Great Room that can accommodate 600 seated guests (or 800 reception-style) under its 25-foot-high peaked ceilings; a gorgeously manicured event lawn that can host up to 1,750; the 11,000-square-foot courtyard, centered around a stately outdoor fireplace, with a capacity of 600, and several intimate settings including the Library and Kitchen Terrace.

**Runners-up:** L'Auberge Del Mar; Park Hyatt Aviara Resort

**BEST SPA RESORT  
(NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)**

**Indian Springs Resort & Spa**

Calistoga | indianspringscalistoga.com  
844.378.3635

We dare you to get out of the pool! It's not just any pool; Indian Springs' centerpiece attraction, in operation since 1913, is an Olympic-size mineral pool heated by on-site geysers and maintained between 92 and 102 degrees, depending on season. The adjacent, beautifully restored spa is even older, dating to 1862 and offering a menu of mud baths (using volcanic ash harvested on-site), massages and

