



Alla Mare Beach Resort, Encinitas

**F**OR EVERYONE WHO believes life is better at the beach, we've collected a tantalizing group of new coastal treasures to explore this fall.

Seven oceanfront hotels, from San Diego County to Santa Barbara County, have opened or undergone major transformations in the last few months, offering splashy places to play.

Four are new builds — surprising, as they were constructed during a pandemic when supplies and labor were limited.

Most of the action has been in San Diego County, which has three new beachfront hotels and two major hotel renovations, all with endless blue horizons included in their daily rates.

**HOTEL DEL CORONADO**  
CORONADO ISLAND  
Locals call it the Del. The San Diego hotel has been part of their lives since 1888 and has been serving guests since then, except for three months last year during pandemic-related closures.

Like many hotels, the Del used the COVID-19 shutdown to good advantage, making progress on a three-year, \$400-million face-lift.

"We've missed making memories with you," the hotel tweeted, adding that it had upgraded the pool and added beachfront rooms with fire pits during the closure.

Some of the new Cabana rooms overlook the pool, others are a few steps from the sand and have large terraces, walk-in showers and concrete fire pits.

The hotel has redesigned the main entry, upgraded its dining rooms, added more guest rooms, and extensively renovated its front porch and lobby.

If you're a fan of the 1959 Marilyn Monroe film "Some Like It Hot," you might remember the porch scene filmed here. The wide veranda disappeared in 1991, but designers have restored it and the lobby, removing layers of nondescript additions.

But the most dramatic change is to the hotel's entry, complete with a portico and central fountain, which now offers arriving guests a grand view of the building and its red-roofed turret.

More changes are on the way, with renovations expected to be completed next summer. Included in the master plan is a new residential-style resort called Shore House, which will bring to 902 the number of rooms at the hotel. **Info:** Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Ave., Coronado, (619) 435-6611, [hoteldel.com](http://hoteldel.com). Weekday rates from \$222 per night.

**ALLA MARE BEACH RESORT**  
ENCINITAS  
There are bragging rights associated with staying at a new hotel, especially when it's as striking as Alla Mare Beach Resort Encinitas.

Built on sandstone cliffs overlooking the Pacific, the resort offers offers awe-some panoramic views. It opened in March 19 miles south of Oceanside.

Parents will be happy to know that the resort is family-friendly and just a few miles from Legoland.

The Alla group has luxury hotels in Indonesia and India, plus another stand-out California coastal resort, Ventana Big Sur. Alla Napa Valley also opened in March.

The Mareia ("tide" in Spanish) has 130 rooms, an oceanfront pool, a spa, a gym and meeting facilities.

Although the hotel isn't in a popular area, that's not necessarily bad. Crowds are limited, and there aren't as many people sharing the beach.

The hotel is dramatic-looking — the two-story cliff-top building seems suspended over the sea — and features warm woods, stone and driftwood. **Info:** Alla Mare Beach Resort, 200 N. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, (760) 452-3366, [amr.com](http://amr.com)

**PARK HYATT AVIARA**  
CARLSBAD  
Golf, anyone? Step into the Topgolf Swing Suite at the Park Hyatt Aviara Resort, Club & Spa, where you can experience a new way to play.

Topgolf, a simulator that features a massive screen, is one of the renovations at the Carlsbad hotel, which recently completed a \$20-million face-lift. Park Aviara was already well known for its Arnold Palmer-designed 18-hole golf course, which is home to the LPGA Kia Classic.

But now you don't have to walk outside to get into golf mode. Just enter the Topgolf Suite for the lobby for an immersive experience.

On the way there, take a good look at the brilliantly illuminated lobby, which has been reconfigured to create a Mediterranean-style outdoor living room that brings the ocean view indoors.

And don't miss the ceiling, where an unusual reflective art piece moves slightly in the breeze.

Although Park Aviara isn't a beachfront resort, it's included because of its great hilltop views of the Pacific and because its renovation was all-encom-



Alla Mare Beach Resort Encinitas, top, offers panoramic coastal views. The lobby at Venice V features a mural created out of skateboard wheels.

## The hottest beach hotels in SoCal

SEVEN NEW OR RENOVATED COASTAL TREASURES TO CHECK INTO FOR A LITTLE SALTY FALL FUN

BY ROSEMARY MCCLURE

**MAREIA.** Weekday rates from \$648 per night.

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passing. Everything seems fresh at this expensive hotel, which has 363 rooms and spans 200 acres.

Changes include two transformed pool areas, updated guest rooms and a reconfiguration of the main building that allows guests to exit the lobby onto a veranda and take a grand staircase to formal gardens. It's a lovely place to walk or take photos. **Info:** Park Hyatt Aviara, 7100 Aviara Resort Drive, Carlsbad, (760) 448-1234, [m.hilton.com](http://m.hilton.com). Weekday rates from \$645 per night.

**MISSION PACIFIC AND SEABIRD RESORTS**  
OCEANSIDE  
Topping our new favorites list are two adjacent boutique-style resorts, the Mission Pacific and the Seabird. These appealing, pier-front sites, both of which opened in May, account for San Diego County's largest hotel development in 50 years.

The \$200-million Hyatt development comes at an ideal time. Oceanside, which borders Camp Pendleton, once was considered one of California's scruffier beach communities. But like a Marine recruit, it has cleaned up, shaped up and dressed up.

There's no better time to take advantage of its wide sandy beach, historic

wooden pier and New England-style harbor.

Each hotel is a winner. Fans of sleek, contemporary architecture will like the Mission Pacific, while the Seabird oozes the charm of an upscale Maine fishing village. I expected to see schooners on the horizon and Olden Age manna along the shoreline.

Both have lively pools, interesting restaurants and well-equipped gyms. Leave open the doors to your balcony (most rooms have them), and you'll spend the night listening to the sound of waves.

**Among the perks:**  
• Mission Pacific has Oceanside's only rooftop bar. It also has the historic Crown House, a bright blue Victorian sometimes called the "Top Gun" house because it was featured in the 1986 Tom Cruise film. It will eventually become a desert café.

• Both hotels are accessible by Amtrak — the station is one block away — which makes them easy to reach from downtown L.A. or Orange County. **Info:** Mission Pacific, 285 N. Myers St., Oceanside, (855) 365-5678, [missionpacific.com](http://missionpacific.com). Weekday rates from \$275 per night. Seabird Resort, 101 Mission Ave., Oceanside, (855) 420-8863, [seabirdresort.com](http://seabirdresort.com). Weekday rates from \$275 per night.

**VENICE V**  
VENICE  
The Venice V, our fourth beachfront newcomer, is funky and fun.

The small boutique hotel, in a beautifully renovated 1935 building in the heart of Venice, sits on the boardwalk, offering ocean views and a continually evolving panorama of skaters, bodybuilders and beach bums.

The building has a colorful history, having hosted Charlie Chaplin, Patti LaBelle, Clara Bow and other luminaries during the '20s. Venice's golden era; in the '60s, it became a hangout for Doors' lead singer Jim Morrison.

The \$10-million renovation took four years and created 34 rooms. Each is one of a kind and pays homage to the waves of skaters and surfers, artists and other bohemians who shaped the community.

Among the Venice-oriented artwork in the hotel is a striking 12-by-12-foot lobby mural of Venice developer Abbot Kinney, created out of skateboard wheels.

Looking for an unusual room? Try one of seven stand-alone penthouse bungalows. **Info:** Venice V Hotel, 5 Westminister Ave., Venice, (310) 312-6482, [venicevhotel.com](http://venicevhotel.com). Weekday rates from \$295 per night.

**MAR MONTE HOTEL**  
SANTA BARBARA

The Mar Monte might not be on the sand, but it's about as close to the beach as you can get if you're planning a stay in Santa Barbara.

Like many hotels in this part of the city, the Mar Monte is separated from the beach by Cabrillo Boulevard. But the views of the Channel Islands are wonderful, and the hotel is just a short walk to Blue Beach.

The hotel, built in 1921 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, has never looked better, now that its \$23-million renovation is complete. Architects left intact the overall structure of the stucco buildings but added bright white walls in public areas, exposed wooden beams, Spanish tile, terra cotta floors and chandeliers.

The Mar Monte's 200 rooms have been updated and renewed, and new restaurants have been added. Costa Ricchen & Bar, a dinner house, serves Cal-Mediterranean cuisine with eastern Mediterranean and Southern California influences.

Sister restaurant Café Lido offers light plates by the pool or in the café during the day. **Info:** Mar Monte Hotel, 111 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, (805) 802-2334, [marmonte.com](http://marmonte.com). Weekday rates from \$291 per night.