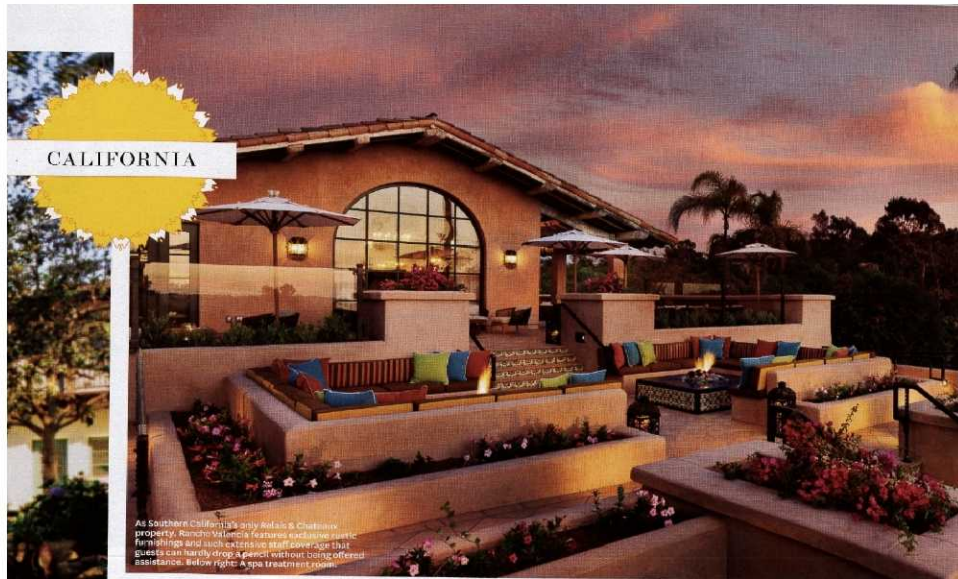


25 FRESH ESCAPES FROM L.A.

Dare to cheat on your regular vacation location with new hotspots guaranteed to fulfill your sense of wanderlust, whether you're halfway around the world or within walking distance from home

Edited by Degen Pene



CALIFORNIA

As Southern California's only Relais & Châteaux property, Rancho Valencia features exclusive amenities, furnishings and such on-trend staff cover-ups that guests can hardly drop. A pencil without being offered assistance. Below right: A spa treatment room.

▲ RANCHO SANTE FE

The draw for north San Diego County's Rancho Valencia (5921 Valencia Circle; doubles from \$725) is its 4-to-1 staff-to-guest ratio, which has paid off with such top-drawer bookings as the **Bills**, both **Clinton** and **Gates**. After a \$30 million makeover in 2012, titans are kicking back in the private hacienda guesthouse (from \$5,000). The 45-acre resort flaunts tennis courts, a spa, a yoga pavilion that's 1,000 square feet (also the average room size) and the new Veladora — with interiors by W San Diego's Mister Important Design — and its Pony Room bar. Pair chef **Eric Bauer's** seasonal cuisine with one of more than 100 tequilas or wines offered on tap. For civilized sport, nothing matches the panoramic Croquet Lawn. And in July, *Top Chef* **Brian Malarkey** opens a Del Mar outpost (12995 El Camino Real) of his highly rated Searsucker. — K.S.

