

# Austin American-Statesman

<http://www.mystatesman.com/news/travel/relaxation-and-rejuvenation-in-southern-california/nsxS2/>

## Relaxation and rejuvenation in Southern California

### Terranea Resort offers escape from hustle and bustle of Los Angeles

**TRAVEL** By Kristin Finan - American-Statesman Staff



Posted: 12:00 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016

I was midway through a steaming bowl of Prince Edward Island mussels, swimming in herbed garlic butter and flanked by a crunchy baguette, when every head in Nelson's restaurant at Terranea Resort turned toward the Pacific Ocean.

It took a minute, then I spotted it: a Pacific gray whale was zigzagging through in the water below.

It was a spectacular sight, the cherry on top of a delightful dinner on the outside patio — adorned with fire pits to stave off those cool Southern California breezes — featuring everything from succulent lobster tacos to vibrant cioppino to flavorful California wines. We loved it so much that the next night we scrapped the dinner plans we had made in Los Angeles, 30 minutes away, to eat there again.

In fact, we canceled several plans in Los Angeles to spend extra time at Terranea, which is part of the Destination Hotels brand and manages to perfectly channel that signature Southern California blend of relaxation, indulgence and natural beauty in a way that just begs you to linger.

That vibe starts at check-in, when guests are handed a glass of California-based Onehope sparkling wine and a "taste of Terranea" treat — think basil mini-cupcakes, orange tarragon biscotti or herbed cheese macaroon — created by executive pastry chef Pierino Jermonti. The "tastes" incorporate products sourced on-site, including

honey from the on-property beehives, sea salt from its Sea Salt Conservatory and produce grown in its Catalina Garden.



Disneyland is a short drive from Terranea Resort.  
Kristin Finan/American-Statesman

Many aspects of the 102-acre property pay tribute to the area's environment and unique history. Nelson's restaurant, for example, is named after Lloyd Bridges' character, Mike Nelson, from the TV series "Sea Hunt," which was filmed on property before the resort opened. The resort has also been featured in a number of movies including "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Charlie's Angels," "Fun With Dick and Jane," "Aviator," "Pearl Harbor," "This is 40" and "Savages." In addition to acting in movies there, celebrities also enjoy vacationing there — recent guests included Caitlyn Jenner and Annie Leibovitz during our spring visit.

For nature lovers, there's also plenty to do, from exploring the tide pools, where you can spot marine invertebrates such as sea slugs, anemones, sea stars and shellfish, to kayaking, surfing, standup paddle-boarding and horseback riding.

The highlight for my two daughters, 8 and 5, however, was spying the whales, which you can see from various locations on property from December through April during their annual migration. Make the short walk from the resort to the Point Vicente Interpretive Center and you'll find exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the area with a special emphasis on the Pacific gray whale. In fact, the official whale count is conducted at the center, and resort guests can participate in it through a volunteer program.

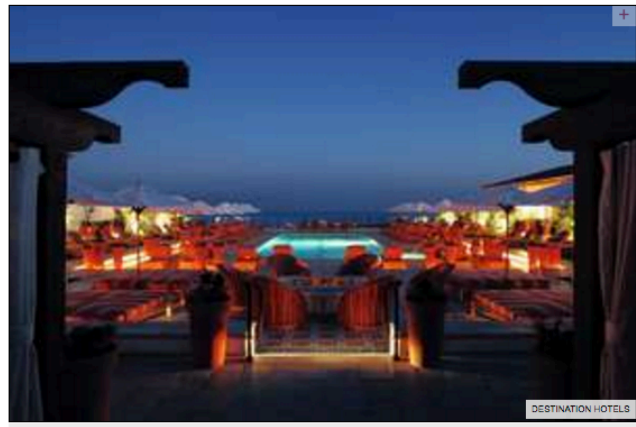


The water feels sweet at Terranea Resort, located outside of Los Angeles. Kristin Finan/American-Statesman

We did manage to leave the resort for a few L.A.-area must-dos, including a day trip to Disneyland, located a little under an hour from the resort. We all loved our time with Mickey and Minnie, but my husband and I, after a day filled with sweaty crowds and loud traffic, loved returning to the quiet waves, cool breezes and sounds of nature at the resort even more.



The view from Terranea Resort includes both the pool and the ocean. Courtesy of Destination Hotels



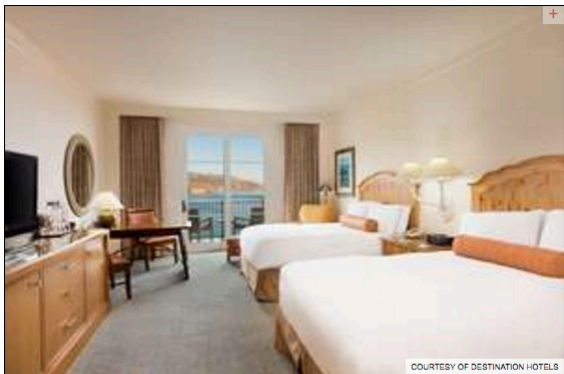
Fire pits come with the territory at Terranea Resort in Southern California. Courtesy of Destination Hotels



Sunrise at Terranea Resort in Southern California. Courtesy of Destination Hotels



Sunset at Terranea Resort in Southern California. Courtesy of Destination Hotels



A double guestroom at Terranea Resort in Southern California. Courtesy of Destination Hotels

Terranea Resort is located 30 minutes from downtown Los Angeles at 100 Terranea Way, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.  
310-494-7891, [terranea.com](http://terranea.com)