

HAUTE HOTELS around Southern California are famous for

their signature style from celebrity designers like Martyn Lawrence-Bullard and Kelly Wearstler. Check out these 805 destinations with winning looks from some local designers (who are celebs to us).







TOP: SFA Design went with a Spanish, slightly Moroccan design for the 1,900-square-foot, one-bedroom Hacienda Penthouse at Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, in keeping with architect Bill Mahan's initial vision. BOTTOM: SFA Design used floor-to-ceiling wood cladding in the quest rooms of the Chumash Casino Resort Hotel to visually make the space feel taller.

NEW IN OJAI AND SANTA YNEZ





SFA DESIGN (sfadesign.com) in Santa Barbara has designed various features at Ojai Valley Inn & Spa (ojairesort.com) over the years, from the 10,000-squarefoot Tuscan-style Casa Elar freestanding house to the Hacienda Penthouse and the spa. According to senior designer on the project Rosie Feinberg, next month sees the completion of the first round of room refreshing: some new furniture plus new carpet and drapes; and next year the guest rooms will change from a bright, saturated color scheme to a more sophisticated, neutral, contemporary design. So a TV previously enclosed in a handpainted, flowered armoire will give way to a wall-mounted TV hanging above a modern stone-topped dresser with inlaid

leather panels on the front. The plan was to make guests "instantly feel serene and relaxed," Feinberg says, adding that the design "couldn't just be anywhere, it's obvious it's in Ojai."

SFA Design is also working with the AAA Four-Diamond **Chumash Casino Resort Hotel** (chumashcasino.com) in Santa
Ynez, helmed by senior designer on the project **Stacy Szuhy**. In keeping with the property's heritage, Szuhy took Chumash symbols and subtly incorporated them into the carpet and headboard designs. Modern artwork and a metallic glass partition that separates the shower from the rest of the bathroom are other new enhancements to the 106 rooms to be completed by the fall. >



Shannon Scott of Shannon Scott Design in Santa Ynez chose a neutral palette with splashes of lime green, chocolate brown, cream, and gold for the redesign of most of the rooms at the Fess Parker Wine Country Inn & Spa. The mix of bold fabric patterns is exciting. Scott says. "Otherwise it's a monotone design."

A New Take on Wine Country Charm

The Victorian architectural style of the Fess Parker Wine Country Inn & Spa (rooms from \$295; fessparkerinn.com) in Los Olivos could have been quite a challenge when it came time for a more modern redesign. Shannon Scott of Shannon Scott Design (shannonscottdesign.com) in Santa Ynez says keeping the moldings and cabinetry more traditional while bringing in sleeker lines in the furniture and light fixtures allowed the two styles to blend and create a retro-modern look. The \$1.5 million renovation is scheduled to be

completed next month and includes a redesign of all 20 guest rooms and suites, as well as construction of a new pool and expanded spa. Scott incorporated sustainably harvested woods, fabrics and carpet with recycled content, low-energy lighting, and low- and no-VOC paints into the design. Guests receive complimentary wine tastings at four locations owned by the Parker family, one on the grounds and three within walking distance of the inn.

DOLPHIN DREAMS

Blue Dolphin Inn (cambriainns.com) fronts a wild and wonderful stretch of Moonstone Beach in Cambria, as do a string of look-alike properties. But a top-to-bottom renovation elevated the property from ho-hum to memorable, thanks to San Luis Obispo-based interior designer Lisa Marlow of Marlow Interiors (marlowinteriors.com). She revamped all 20 rooms, but for the six that face the ocean, she created themes to represent various locations around the world where blue dolphins swim. So "Estero Bay" has an iron bed and textiles that reflect California's Spanish heritage; "Sea of Japan" features bamboo and Asian accents. Many of the rooms

(deluxe rooms from \$175: oceanfront rooms from \$270) have a blue feature wall that varies from turquoise to a deep blue, but Marlow cut the intensity of the colors so they are comfortable and soothing rather than shocking. Owner Mitchell Masia hears positive comments constantly about the color palette from satisfied guests; some visitors have even commissioned original artwork from Marlow after seeing the custom pieces she created for the inn's hallways.

Blue Dolphin is an adults-only property. Breakfast is delivered in picnic baskets and left hanging on the doors of guests' rooms for private in-room dining or for a romantic meal on the beach. •



Designer Lisa Marlow wanted to create the feeling of a tropical getaway in the rooms of the Blue Dolphin Inn, to help guests truly relax. "Some [repeat customers] either have their favorite room or go back and try to experience all of them," she says.