

Smart meetings

June 2021

California



FUTURE FORECAST

HOSPITALITY TRENDS
FORECAST IDENTIFIED

CERTIFIED SOLUTIONS
CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION CENTERS
CALIFORNIA SPECIAL REPORT
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
WESTERN MEXICO
WHEN IT IS TIME FOR GOLDEN SANDS

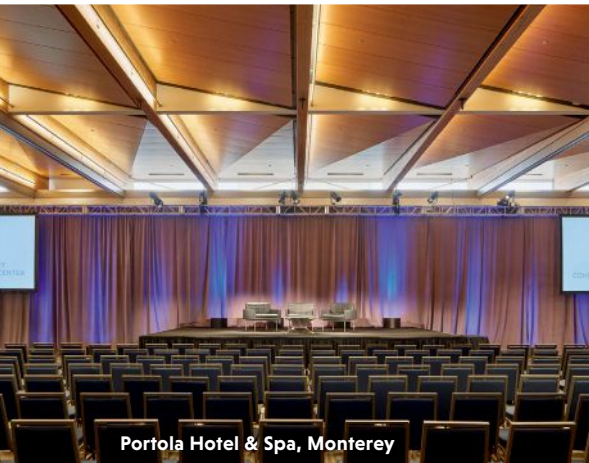
UNIFIED VOICE SANCTUARY SEATING



Carmel Valley Ranch



Limewood Bar & Restaurant at Claremont Club & Spa, a Fairmont Hotel, Berkeley



Portola Hotel & Spa, Monterey

on the recently reopened Highway 1 Discovery Route. Teresa Savage, vice president of business operations at Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau reports that a survey of 500 meeting planners by Destination Analytics found that Monterey County was recognized as one of the “best destinations for safe meetings.”

The CVB is offering group room credits for eligible meetings booked through the end of the year to offset meeting expenses like hybrid services, transportation and F&B.

She also says that after 15 months of Rey the Penguin having the run of an empty **Monterey Bay Aquarium** (trust us, you are going to want to look up the YouTube video of this), it is open to human visitors once again, with limited capacity. Intimate corporate events with an under-the-sea backdrop will commence starting August 15.

Shiny New Spaces

Portola Hotel & Spa

This independent property connected to the

recently renovated GBAC STAR-certified Monterey Convention Center added a dreamy touch to all 379 guest rooms. All 60,000 sq. ft. of meeting space and four restaurants on property, including a new Peet’s Coffee, follow a Health and Sanitation Program based on CDC guidelines.

Monterey Marriott

Across the street, Monterey Marriott completed a multimillion-dollar renovation of its 341 guest rooms and signed on for Marriott International’s Commitment to Clean protocols. With almost 88,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, including the newly expanded, 9,700-square-foot Steinbeck Ballroom and 10th-floor Ferrantes Bay View room, groups can spill over from the convention center or create a bubble on site. Like the convention center, which is leveraging CANVAS hybrid meeting technology—the platform used by celebrity coach Tony Robbins—Monterey Marriott has invested in streaming meeting technology to make virtual meetings easier.

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa on Del Monte Golf Course

The largest meetings hotel in town completed a multimillion-dollar, Craftsman design-inspired renovation, including the hotel’s lobby, 560 guest rooms, entryway and two of its on-site dining options. The secluded property is GBAC STAR-accredited and appointed a Hygiene and Well-being Champion to oversee health and sanitation efforts. Covid-19 testing is also available.

Carmel Valley Ranch

This 500-acre, all-suite retreat was built for maximizing fresh air with outdoor soaking tubs, hiking trails and abundant terrace meeting spaces. It

now has the GBAC STAR to prove it. Over the last year, the spa has been enhanced with a new reception and boutique area, and a 10,000-square-foot meeting space and the Gold Club were reimaged. The Market and Creamery provide a novel experience to guests, including tastings and demonstrations.

Ventana Big Sur

This intimate classic Big Sur resort on 160 acres of rolling meadows and towering redwoods features Pacific Ocean views, 59 guest rooms and now offers glamping, an ocean meadow lawn and the all-new The Sur House garden-to-table outdoor restaurant.

SF BAY AREA

The Bay Area, including East Bay communities of Oakland and Berkeley, was one of the first regions in the state to issue shelter orders “out of an abundance of caution” in 2020 and one of the first to open again in May as case numbers declined. SF Travel is busy spreading these words: “Our gate is open.”

“Bringing the conventions business back into the city is one of our top priorities for the coming year,” says Joe D’Alessandro, president and CEO of San Francisco Travel.

The new Chase Center is already hosting NBA basketball games and has scheduled a fall concert lineup, including Celine Dion’s Courage World Tour in September.

Across the bay in Oakland, a travel pledge and handy, updated resources on what businesses are open and what regulations are in place mean you will never be surprised. One highlight on the now