





Photos: Courtesy of Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa

DESTINATIONS



HYATT REGENCY MONTEREY HOTEL AND SPA

Monterey, California

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Some of Monterey's signature natural highlights—summer fog, weathered driftwood and colors straight from the coastal sand dunes—now grace guestrooms at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa.

The property unveiled updates to its 560 rooms and suites this spring.

"Our designers from Gensler, the Bay Area-based firm, captured the color and the beauty of this area and put those subtle nuances into action," says Kevin Ellis, Hyatt Regency Monterey general manager. "Paint palettes mimic the soft gray of that morning marine layer that we often see in June. Artwork might focus on something as simple as a succulent that grows in the dunes. Everything has its own story."

Resort renovations kicked off in late 2019, a few months before COVID-19 largely paused travel in California and around the globe. While original blueprints called for indoor-outdoor connections throughout the property, the pandemic moved plans more strongly in that direction.

"The layout is very conducive to escape. Travelers who want to get out of an urban setting will find an area with a little more space and an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors," says Ellis.

The 22-acre Hyatt Regency Monterey, which opened in the mid 1950s as the Mark Thomas Hotel, occupies a scenic wooded landscape along the Del Monte Golf Course. Thomas himself lived on property during his days as an innkeeper. Today, his former home is the 2,500-square-foot President's House, a four-bedroom guest villa with two fireplaces, outdoor terraces and



The Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa has been remodeled with 560 guest rooms that “blur the boundaries between indoors and outdoors with crisp, clean color palettes, natural textures and floor-to-ceiling picture windows...”



a private, kidney-shaped pool. The Spyglass Poolside Suite also offers generous living, dining and sleeping areas for families who want extra space to spread out.

Rooms and suites across the resort now feature Bluetooth-enabled heating and air conditioning systems, along with STAYCAST technology that lets guests stream their favorite subscription services on large-screen smart televi-

sions. Accommodations have king or queen beds, and many open to patios with pool or golf course views. Recent renovations also brought enhanced internet access to guestrooms, conference facilities and outdoor venues.

The higher-bandwidth network powers more devices per room, and extends to the property's walking paths, open-air lounges and a new hammock garden. That's been a popular addi-

tion, Ellis confirms, as have fire tables installed outside Sea Root Restaurant and Hearth, the new resort restaurant.

“The three fire tables sit right on the 17th green of the Pebble Beach Del Monte Golf Course, and they have been probably the biggest wow of the outdoor renovation thus far. It's a wonderful, comfortable space, and families can cook s'mores there morning, noon



The hotel is on 22 acres on the Del Monte Golf Course. The course, which was designed in 1897 and launched the California State Amateur, started with nine holes then grew to 18 holes.



The recently upgraded Hyatt offers pet suites and a “barking lot,” a pet play zone, two outdoor pools, two fire pits, a health club, meeting rooms, wedding space, tennis, golf, dining and “Roam Service.”

and night,” says Ellis.

Opening just in time for the summer travel season, Sea Root will serve a Mediterranean-inspired menu that spotlights the region’s fresh produce and seafood. There’s an open-concept kitchen and several distinct seating areas. The 28-seat Hearth Bar and adjacent outdoor patio will focus on craft cocktails.

Central Coast Provisions opened a few months ago, pouring Starbucks brews, pressing fresh juices, and selling Paris Bakery pastries, sweets by

Lula’s Chocolates, and products from other regional purveyors. Knuckles Sports Bar, a Monterey mainstay for 17 years, will reopen with a revamped menu of American comfort

food and an array of draft beers this fall.

The Hyatt’s new Roam Service menu also invites guests to have food delivered to their rooms or to far-flung corners of the property,

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from the pool, to the spa and fitness complex, to the tennis, basketball or shuffleboard courts.

A cluster of new pet suites in the resort’s southwest corner accommodates guests who

choose to travel with their four-legged family members. Outfitted with wooden floors, pet-friendly furniture and sliding doors that open to the surrounding lawns, these accommodations also front the new “Barking Lot” pet play zone.

“We have doghouses out there, and we’ve got toys and tunnels and a dog run. We see guests and pets chatting out on their patios and on the playground, kind of like they do when they bring their kids to the park,” says Ellis.

“The pet fees that we collect from those suites get donated to Max’s Helping Paws, a local animal care charity that we’re really excited to support.”

Ellis calls the pet suites a highlight of the

resort renovations. After a few months of watching staffers welcome guests during check-in, he also lists the lobby among his favorite hotel spaces.

"The lobby has been really, really fun," Ellis says. "From a design standpoint, it has just come together beautifully. It brings a level of sophistication that I think we were missing. The lobby also has a lot of natural light and an extension to the outdoors. It really goes back to the original intent of these renovations."

The Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa is located at 1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey. For more info or reservations, call 831/372-1234 or go to hyattregencymonterey.com.



Sea Root restaurant sources its ingredients locally and offers Mediterranean influenced dishes and cocktails. Knuckles Sports Bar provides a more relaxed environment, while Central Coast Provisions provides coffee, pressed juices and baked items.