

MODERN LUXURY

RIVIERA

MARCH 2025

MODERNLUXURY.COM

+

CHARITY & SOCIAL
DATEBOOK 2025

Untamed BEAUTY

Adria Arjona Embraces Her Authentic Allure

THE LUXURY BEAUTY AWARDS:
THE PRODUCTS & PROS
TO GET YOU GLOWING

Ranching Out

Premium service, serenity and sustainability meet at The Ranch at Laguna Beach.

by ALLISON MITCHELL

Tucked at the top of a winding road off Pacific Coast Highway lies The Ranch at Laguna Beach (theranchlb.com). The 97-room luxury lifestyle hotel marries California's coastal charm with farm-to-table dining, decadent spa treatments and mountainside golf with roots that date back to 1871. What began as a modest homestead owned by George and Sarah Thurston has blossomed into an 87-acre property featuring a biodynamic farm and a GEO-certified nine-hole golf course.

In 2024, The Ranch was designated as the first Ocean Friendly Hotel in California by the Surfrider Foundation, a renowned recognition of its commitment to sustainable practices and ocean conservation. The same year, The Ranch became the first hotel in California to partner with Orange County electric car company Rivian, offering guests local transportation via Rivian's R1S and R1T vehicles. "Our partnership with Rivian allows us to provide our guests with even more opportunities for immersion into the iconic destination of Laguna Beach while continuing our unwavering commitment to

sustainability in all that we do," notes The Ranch's COO Kurt Bjorkman.

While sustainability is at the heart of The Ranch's methods and programming, I'm struck by the serenity of the property and the service found at its on-site restaurant, Harvest, and its Sycamore Spa. Peace of mind begins in your charming accommodations, which range in size from the 410-square-foot Canyon Room to the 1,125-square-foot two-bedroom Cottage Suite. There's also The Treehouse, a 1,600-square-foot home with two bedrooms and three bathrooms ideal for families or romantic retreats. During my visit, I stayed in the Cottage Suite and felt like I was in an idyllic private home rather than a hotel.

By day, I wile away the hours at the pool, where the on-site Pool Bar offers drinks and bites, before heading to the Sycamore Spa, a collaboration between The Ranch and Hudson Salon & Spa. I opt for the Calming Canyon massage and love that you can enjoy your treatment in-spa or outside in a private cabana. A range of facials, body treatments and even lash extensions are available in addition

to the heavenly massage selection. If a bit of competition is more your speed, gather your crew for a round of golf on the nine-hole fairway, one of Orange County's most verdant offerings. The Porch, an alfresco dining option with live music and fire pits, is the perfect spot to toast your win over nachos and cocktails.

By night, a relaxing dinner at Harvest awaits—though breakfast, brunch and lunch are also available. Executive chef Kyle St. John's menu highlights seasonal California cuisine, utilizing as many ingredients as possible from The Ranch's ½-acre farm and local purveyors. The house focaccia bread, Spanish octopus, red wine-braised short rib and pan-roasted black cod were favorites during our evening visit. Save room for the sticky toffee pudding dressed up with bourbon toffee sauce, orange supreme slices, candied hazelnut and caramel ice cream—it's a sensational sweet and salty finish.

Checking out is bittersweet after how relaxed The Ranch has left me, but it's reaching that bliss point that has me knowing I'll be back for more.



Take your treatments outdoors at the Sycamore Spa at The Ranch at Laguna Beach. Opposite page: The Ranch at Laguna Beach's nine-hole golf course winds through the Aliso and Wood Canyons.

