

DREAM IN COLOR: OUR HAMPTONS SHOWHOUSE

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CALIFORNIA

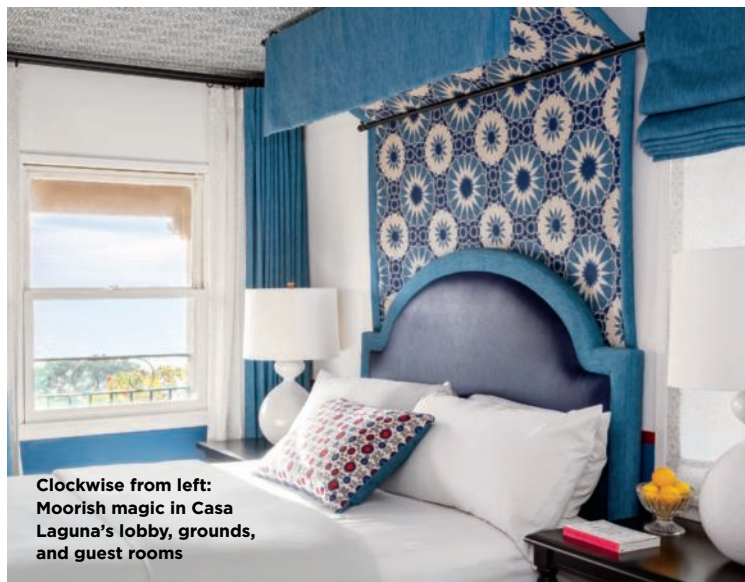


ISLAND
HIDEAWAYS!
EUROPE'S SUNNY
(& SECRET) SHORES

SEPTEMBER 2016



HOT HOTEL



Clockwise from left:
Moorish magic in Casa
Laguna's lobby, grounds,
and guest rooms

CALIFORNIA'S NEW SHANGRI-LA

Casa Laguna Hotel & Spa, a popular hideaway in renowned Laguna Beach, emerges from a redesign—and takes our breath away

STOP THE SoCAL PRESSES: *Where* one stays in Laguna Beach may now finally be as memorable as *that* one stays in Laguna Beach. It's true. From its early days as an art colony, Laguna's natural beauty has often outshone the hotels that dot the town's seven miles of tawny, hillside-guarded coves. And while high-profile resorts like the Montage have earned their moments in the sun, it's only recently that small hotels of high style have emerged along the streets of Laguna itself.

LEADER OF THE HOTEL PACK: A popular hotel for decades, Casa Laguna Hotel & Spa is a Mediterranean-inspired cluster

of 23 guest suites perched right above Pacific Coast Highway. It has leapt into the design VIP lounge thanks to new ownership and to the buoyantly sophisticated vision of L.A.-based designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard. The result: a hideaway-style hotel stripped back to historically appropriate, Spanish Colonial white walls and red tile roofs, encased by lush landscaping and infused with a sensibility revived directly from California's exotically informed 1920s.

MORE MOORISH: Echoing that period's obsession with Orientalism (and in a nod to Laguna Beach's blossoming status at the

time as a getaway for movie stars, plein aire painters, and other assorted bohemians), Bullard has summoned Moroccan influences as the soul-defining statement of Casa Laguna, including graphic ceramic tiles that brighten patios, wrap fireplaces, line baths, and create vibrant wainscoting. Midcentury California pottery, including Catalina tiles, and Bullard's own ceiling treatments and fabrics (many in oceanic blues) bring the illusion into perfect focus.

COMPLETING THE PICTURE: If this weren't enough, a house restaurant serves small plates on Casa Laguna's intimate patio, a pool overlooks the sea, and a spa caters to sybaritic desires. A short but steep walk to a hidden Pacific cove heightens the sense of intoxicating escape. It only takes one trip to Laguna Beach to appreciate its magic; a night (or more) here may capture you for life. *Rates start at \$249. 2510 South Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach; 800/233-0449 or casalaguna.com.*