

# COASTAL ESCAPES

*Visit, dine and relax in and around  
the Carmel Coast*

By **LAURA NESS**

From day trip to bucket list, the coast of Carmel beckons adventure seekers, car lovers, beach bums, wine lovers, golf geeks and gourmands. There is something for every get-away-craving soul here in California's most beloved coastal stretch, from the lighthouses to the Victorians of Pacific Grove and the gleaming grounds of Pebble Beach, through the incomparable charming streets and shops of Carmel, culminating in the sweeping splendor of the place where mountains meet sea: Big Sur.



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Joann Dost



THE INN AT SPANISH BAY



GOSBY HOUSE INN

Andrew Garsetti

The Gosby House Inn wraps old-world elegance around modern convenience.

This year, there are so many reasons to put the Carmel Coast on your agenda, beginning with the first-ever 2023 **U.S. Women's Open** to be held at Pebble Beach, July 5-9. Here, the top players in the game compete for the most coveted championship in women's golf—the 78th Annual U.S. Women's Open. Witness history with each stroke, while soaking in the beauty of The Inn at Spanish Bay, perhaps imbibing a cocktail fireside in the famed lobby lounge. Follow the action from outdoor firepits, catch the legendary bagpiper at sunset, and relax over a glass of Clarice Garys' Vineyard Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir in Stave Wine Cellar.

August is Car Month on the Monterey Peninsula, with two events one cannot miss: the **72nd Concours d'Elegance** at Pebble Beach, where the rich history of automobilia is on display, Aug. 20; and **The Quail**, A Motorsports Gathering at Quail Lodge & Golf Club, Aug. 18. Now in its 20th year, The Quail is the place for motorsports enthusiasts to witness the unveiling of the very latest in automotive invention, from supercar to hypercar, alongside breathtaking collections of classic gems in a garden-party setting.

This year's storied marques at Pebble Beach include Mercedes-Benz, Pegaso, Porsche, McLaren and Lamborghini, with historically significant Porsches from 1948 to 1973 in celebration of the marques' 75th anniversary. The Quail goes all out to honor Porsche, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1973 RS Carrera and the fabulous Porsche 959. The event will also highlight Bentley's early 1950s R-Type coupe, as well as a spectacular "Eyes on Giugiaro" class, penned by famed father and son designers Giorgetto and Fabrizio Giugiaro.

Sherman Chu



PEBBLE BEACH



GOSBY HOUSE INN



Liz Jacobs

WILD FISH

## PACIFIC GROVE

With its lovely collection of B&Bs, inns, antique shops and restaurants, Pacific Grove is a quaint spot to escape coastal crowds. The famed **Seven Gables Inn** is one of the larger properties, dating to 1883, and is listed among the 10 most romantic Inns in America. Each room has an ocean view.

The recently remodeled **Gosby House Inn**, a Four Sisters Inns property, wraps old-world elegance around modern convenience. Vivid gleams of original stained glass reflect off

contemporary furnishings, while bedding and seating seamlessly integrate leather, tweed, houndstooth and plaid. Vintage armoires and headboards remain, accenting a tasteful blend of yesterday and today.

**Passionfish**, the first officially certified "Green" restaurant in Monterey County, has drawn diners to its humble spot for 40 years with sustainable seafood, organic produce, and a 400-bottle-strong wine list.



SEVEN GABLES INN



SEVEN GABLES INN

Kirkwood Collection





Nepenthe

NEPENTHE



NEPENTHE

SIERRA MAR

Owners Liz and Kelvin Jacobs of tiny but mighty **Wild Fish**, serve only wild-caught fish from the Western seaboard, along with strictly organic produce. Each dish is superbly orchestrated to create a symphony of the freshest local flavors. Jazz on weekends, too.

### CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Carmel-by-the-Sea, a maze of high-end boutiques, pastry shops, wine-tasting rooms, cottages, inns, candy stores, antique galleries and restaurants, never ceases to entertain. No matter how many times you visit, simply duck into a flower-filled courtyard and discover a new thrill. Local wineries like **Talbott Vineyards** specialize in Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from the highly acclaimed Sleepy Hollow Vineyard. **Caraccioli Cellars** sets a new standard for méthode champenoise sparkling, sourced from Escolle Vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands. It can go flute to flute with the finest Champagne. Their swanky tasting room is reminiscent of a French cave.

Don't leave without enjoying hand-crafted European country cuisine, including pillow-soft Parisian gnocchi and stuffed champignons at **La Bicyclette**, also famed for its Andrew Molera pizza, with artichokes and garlic confit. Molera was the first to bring artichokes to the Monterey Peninsula on a commercial scale. There's also a State Park named for him in Big Sur. If you're truly looking to splurge, the pinnacle of indulgence is **Aubergine**, where Relais & Châteaux Grand Chef Justin Cogley and pastry chef Yulanda Santos perform culinary magic.

### BIG SUR

Upon entering Big Sur, a must stop is the breathtaking **Nepenthe**, a favorite of tourists and locals alike since 1949. Their Ambrosia Burger and homemade desserts will help you forget your travails while refreshing you for your remaining travels. The views alone at Nepenthe will beckon an inevitable return.

**Sierra Mar** at Post Ranch Inn, a pinnacle of fine dining since inception, demonstrates a new commitment to sustainability under the leadership of Executive Chef Reylon Augustin. Each diner in the party enjoys a consistent, harmonious dining experience—with a fixed share-centric menu that changes nightly, largely sourced from the on-site garden. A few dishes at a time—like diver scallop tartare with Brokaw citrus and garden fennel, and soy-braised marble potatoes with Gochujang aioli and garden nasturtium—are delivered for everyone to try. No decisions: no remorse. It's a scalable new approach to communal dining with a view beyond compare.



Kodiak Greenwood