



# GENLUXSHOP GETAWAY

## PUTTING THE OH! IN OJAI

Less than two hours north of LA is a hidden treasure in a quiet valley. As our LISA WAYNE finds, the Ojai Valley Inn and Spa feels like a world away.



**New and Improved:**  
Ojai Valley Inn & Spa  
glows brightly after  
\$90-million renovation

**Soothing Scents:**  
Fragrant flowers in  
and around the spa  
give guests a feeling  
of serenity

Enter through the gates of the **Ojai Valley Inn & Spa** along the picturesque giant Eucalyptus tree-lined road, and the resort's luscious scents and tranquil energy envelop you.

Since 1923, the five-diamond resort on 220 rolling acres has welcomed guests to its scenic surroundings that include a classic George C. Thomas golf course and the most delightful spa this side of paradise. The property's recently completed \$90-million renovation and expansion makes this a truly unique California destination.

The award-winning 31,000-square-foot luxury spa has 28 treatment rooms. Here you will find a knowledgeable staff to guide you through the list of highly original treatments. Try the very refreshing Pixie Body Scrub where the massage therapist extracts the juice of a half-dozen Ojai Pixie tangerines and incorporates this elixir into the scrub. After 50 minutes of bliss, your skin is super-hydrated and glowing! Throughout the spa, women are milling about comfortably in their robes...sampling the nice selection of herbal teas, reading, or just dozing in the comfortable lounge area. In this welcoming atmosphere you'll find massage rooms with fireplaces, whirlpools, steam rooms, saunas and sunbathing loggias for men and women.

There are many activities to keep you busy throughout your stay. Visit Spa Ojai's charming Artist's Cottage and Apothecary located under a centuries-old oak tree. Choose from a wide array of classes in mixed media, from painting on glass to silverpoint drawing and silk scarf painting—all taught by local artists. The Apothecary is also a perfect setting for creating your own personal scent of essential oils that bears your name—a lovely souvenir to take home.

There are golf and tennis lessons available, and personal training sessions at Spa Ojai's well-equipped gym. The daily schedule of complimentary mind/body classes, including t'ai chi, yoga, qi gong and meditation, fill up fast with eager participants, as do the very enjoyable power walks and nature hikes!

On the property are four wonderful restaurants, and their team of culinary experts all work closely with the local farmer's markets to offer up the most enticing organic fare. The Oak Grill serves lunch and dinner outside on a lovely terrace overlooking the golf course or inside by the fireplace. With its cozy, chic clubhouse atmosphere,

you're invited to linger over the chef's specially prepared dishes and desserts. My favorite: the Lavender cheese-cake, infused with herbs from their own hillside gardens.

The Inn also provides bicycle rentals at \$25 dollars for the day. It's an easy ride into the historic town of Ojai. Here you can visit the many charming art galleries and shops along Ojai Ave. Stop in and see the Trowbridge Gallery, which deals exclusively in original and fine art with a local feel. Down the street is the Feast Bistro for an afternoon tea or espresso and assortment of homemade baked goods—before heading back to your room in paradise.

Room rates are \$400-\$600. Suites range from \$700 to \$6,000. **Ojai Valley Inn & Spa**, 905 Country Club Road, Ojai, CA 93023. 805-646-1111, [ojairesort.com](http://ojairesort.com)

**Tea Time:**  
Feast Bistro for  
an afternoon treat,  
805-640-9260

**Area Art:**  
Ojai artists' works  
Trowbridge  
Gallery,  
805-646-0967

## THE SAN FRANCISCO RETREAT

San Francisco's famed Golden Gate Bridge turns 75 this year, so why not celebrate in a suite created especially for the occasion?

**The Hotel Palomar San Francisco**, located in the heart of the city, has cleverly themed a suite experience with everything from tollbooths to end-tables constructed from the actual metal retired from the bridge.

There's artwork, pillows, and almost everything else you can think of, dedicated to the structure. There's even a set of large bay windows showcasing a faux view of the "golden" span. And what's a celebration without a signature cocktail? Among other surprises, suite guests are treated to a complimentary Golden Gate cocktail from the hotel's Fifth Floor Restaurant. **The Hotel Palomar San Francisco**, 12 Fourth Street, 866-373-4941 [hotelpalomar-sf.com](http://hotelpalomar-sf.com)

**Golden Arches?** Um, not so much. The GG Bridge better matches this orange vermillion, PMS 173



**Trompe l'oeil View:**  
A stunning faux view  
of the GG Bridge is a  
larger-than-life sight.

