

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2008

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL

# HOT LIST

2008

THE YEAR'S 136  
TOP NEW HOTELS\*

## UNITED STATES

### Grand Del Mar, Del Mar, California

**H** If Hearst could do it all over again, this is how he might render his sprawling California castle. Tucked in the Los Peñasquitos Canyon, Reserve just north of San Diego, the resort, built with a nod to the Spanish colonial revival style popularized by Addison Mizner, pays homage to both old-world design and New Age lifestyles, blending hand-stenciled ceilings and herbal reflexology, gold-leaf bathtubs and flat-screen TVs that double as electronic abstract paintings. But the vibe is modern California, especially around the pool area with its white sand beach, on the velveteen golf course, and in the gardens, a Wi-Fi hotspot where guests are glued to laptops. Even the smallest of the 249 rooms are spacious and extravagant, outfitted with gilt mirrors and solid Empire-style furnishings, the showers

outfitted with marble seats for watching a mini television mounted on the bathroom wall. The restaurant Addison has gained a reputation as one of San Diego's finer French dining rooms, while Amaya delivers mouthwatering Mediterranean bites. After dinner is when the Grand seems most like Hearst Castle, especially the lobby lounge, where a blazing hearth, live classical music, and a jolly good selection of port transform retro into reality. **When to go:** The Grand Del Mar makes a great base for special events in the area, like the Thoroughbred races (July and August), the PGA tournament at Torrey Pines (January), or the Street Scene music festival (September). **Which room to book:** Rooms in the 330s have balconies overlooking a leafy courtyard or views of the golf course (858-314-2000; [thegradelmar.com](http://thegradelmar.com); doubles, \$395-\$470).

## UNITED STATES

Grand Del Mar, Del Mar, Calif.  
Sojag Calisanga, Napa Valley, Calif.  
Colony Palms Hotel, Palm Springs, Calif.  
Ivy Hotel, San Diego, Calif.  
Hotel Oceana, Santa Monica, Calif.  
Armelle at Vail Square, Vail, Colo.  
St. Regis, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
Angler's Boutique Resort, Miami, Fla.  
Hides South Beach, Miami Beach, Fla.  
Hotel Sak, Chicago, Ill.  
Trump International Hotel & Tower, Chicago, Ill.  
Liberty Hotel, Boston, Mass.  
The Palazzo, Las Vegas, Nev.  
Bowery Hotel, New York, N.Y.  
Duane Street Hotel, New York, N.Y.  
The Plaza, New York, N.Y.  
Renaissance Providence Hotel, Providence, R.I.  
Ritz-Carlton, Dallas, Tex.  
Sky Lodge, Park City, Utah  
Hotel Terra, Jacksonville, Fla.

**ARGENTINA**

Alvez Spa & Fitness Center,  
Buenos Aires

**AUSTRALIA**

Spa Omnia, Hamilton Island  
Bald Spa, Port Douglas

**AUSTRIA**

Auriga Spa, Yelden

**BAHRAIN**

Banyan Tree Spa, Al Areen

**BHUTAN**

Taj Spa, Thimphu

**CARIBBEAN**

Heritage Bay Spa, Spa at  
Curtain Bluff, Spa Tranquility,  
Antigua  
Mandara Spa, Bahamas  
Yumri Spa, Dominican  
Republic  
Fern Tree Spa at Half Moon,  
Rockhouse Spa, Jamaica  
Clara Spa, Martinique  
Spa at Jade Mountain, St. Lucia  
Dior Spa, Spa at La Terrasse,  
St. Maarten  
Regent Spa, Turks and Caicos

**CHILE**

Casa de Baños Mare Val,  
Easter Island  
Llivo Spa, San Pedro de  
Atacama

**CHINA**

Chi Spa, Jing-Chen Spa, Quar  
Spa, Serenity Spa, Beijing  
HOMA Esprit Spa, Guilin  
Quan Spa, Yuan Spa, Shanghai

**EGYPT**

Le Spa at Sofitel, Cairo  
Oherot Zahira Spa, Nile River

**ENGLAND**

Spa at Luton Hood,  
Bedfordshire  
Ole Herriksen Face/Body  
Spa at Bluebird, Spa  
Incor Centre Hotel, London

**FINLAND**

Palace Kämp Day Spa,  
Helsinki

**FRANCE**

Spa at Four Seasons  
Resort, Var

**INDIA**

Spa at Ista, Hyderabad  
Divya Spa, Kerala  
Aura Day Spa, New Delhi

**INDONESIA**

Kriya Spa, Luxe Lounge Spa,  
Safari Wellness Spa, Bali

**IRELAND**

ESPA at Powerscourt,  
County Wicklow

**ITALY**

E'Space 1898, Venice

**JAPAN**

Armani Spa/Ginza Tower,  
Peninsula Spa by ESPA, Tokyo

**KENYA**

Sanctuary at Ol Lantico,  
Lakipla

**MALAYSIA**

Spa Village Malacca, Malacca

**MEXICO**

Spa Aqua, Cancun  
Paz Body & Mind Spa,  
Los Cabos  
Spa at Mandarin Oriental,  
Riviera Maya, Riviera Maya

**NEW ZEALAND**

Spa at Cape Kidnappers,  
Newly's Bay

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

Spa at Galgorm, County  
Antrim

**OMAN**

Six Senses Spa, Zigby Bay

**PORTUGAL**

Real Spa Marine, Casals  
Sparto Spa, Lisbon

**RUSSIA**

Ritz-Carlton Spa by ESPA,  
Moscow

**SINGAPORE**

Fish Reflexology House,  
Medical Sleep Spa, Remède  
Spa at St. Regis, Singapore

**THAILAND**

Banyan Tree Spa, Spa  
Baanira, TRIA Integrative  
Wellness, Bangkok  
Spa Alila, Cha Am  
Sala Spa, Phuket  
Six Senses Spa, Yao Noi

**UNITED STATES**

CALIFORNIA: Spa Solage,  
Calisooga; Voda Spa,  
Los Angeles; Spa Desert  
Springs, Palm Desert;  
Spa at Grand Del Mar,  
San Diego

NEVADA: Drift Spa, Las Vegas

TEXAS: Spa at Four Seasons,  
Austin; Ritz-Carlton Spa,  
Dallas

VIRGINIA: Spa of Colonial,  
York

WYOMING: Solitude Spa,  
Jackson Hole

**WORLD**

Yin & Yang Spa,  
Norwegian Gem  
Cunard Royal Spa, Queen  
Victoria

Key to Symbols: 🚢 Cruise spa 🏨 Urban hotel spa 🏠 Resort spa 🕒 Day spa 🌐 Destination spa 🌊 Water feature  
👫 Couples rooms 🌿 Outdoor treatments 🏞 Views 🏥 Medical treatments

Massage prices listed are for one-hour sessions.

**Spa at Grand Del Mar** 🏠 San Diego, California

With its marble, golden frames, and cassels galore, this new hotel (see "Hot List") and spa has the ambience of an old-world resort. Inspired by architect Addison Mizner's opulent Florida villas, the building suggests the Gilded Age. The treatment menu in the 21,000-square-foot space, however—which employs specially made products with local eucalyptus, sage, and mineral-rich muds—is refreshingly New World. The Dance of Three (\$260) includes a manicure, pedicure, and half-hour session on a dry "float on bed." First, guests are gently scrubbed, rubbed with goat butter, and wrapped in heat blankets; then, with the touch of a burton, the table beneath them fills with bubbling warm water for a half hour of womblike suspension, coupled with a scalp massage (858-314-2020; massages, \$165–\$175). 🏠 🌊 🏞



REVITALIZING EYE TINCTURE  
AND GINGER-LIME CANDLE  
San Diego's Grand Del Mar spa makes  
its own line of botanical-based products.