

»» 25 WEEKEND GETAWAYS

Los Angeles

EXCLUSIVE!

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Lounging to the Extreme in Del Mar

»» THE MUD THAT IS applied for the "Core Elements" massage is said to be from Italy, and the therapist's ministrations will transport you farther than that. Set in San Diego's nature-rich Carmel Valley, the **Grand Del Mar** (858-314-2000 or granddelmar.com; \$609-\$5,500) sports a Tom Fazio-designed golf course, but the place is so sumptuous, it's ideal for just lying around and being coddled. Outside are elegant lawns, pools, fountains, and fireplaces that crackle with life at night. Inside is the height of Napoleonic luxury: bold red marble columns, gilt-edged black ironwork, mosaic-inlaid marble floors. The oversize rooms, decorated with alabaster lamps, brocade upholstery, and other Empire details, recall Paris's Prince de Galles, but the staff is too friendly. In the giant gym is a trainer who, in his other life, works with elite weight lifters. The on-site restaurants, the Addison and the Amaya, are as opulent as you'd expect, but go casual and eat at everyone's favorite Mexican spot, **Fidel's** (858-755-5292), in nearby Solana Beach.

