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MAGAZINE

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15
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JULY 2021



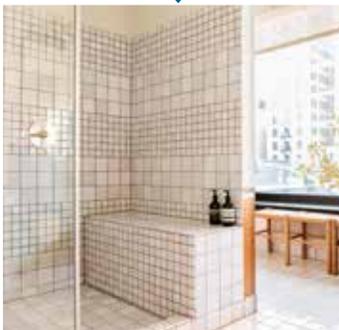
Cabo San Lucas is a two-hour flight away!

\$6.95

New SoCal Hotels

From downtown digs to scenic lodges, a new slate of SoCal-situated hotels is creating high-design experiences primed for road trips and R&R

BY ARCHANA RAM



DTLA Proper

Proper has opened a fourth location—this time in downtown LA, the once-neglected neighborhood that's blossomed into a trendy district for dining, art, shopping, and more. Designed by Kelly Wearstler, the 148-room DTLA Proper features the acclaimed designer's signature modern-meets-organic style housed in a renovated 1920s California Renaissance Revival building. There's a rooftop pool—and suites outfitted with indoor pools if you really want to splash out—plus a vintage basketball court and fitness center with Peloton bikes. Even with restaurant options like Rossoblu and Zinqué within walking distance, you'll want to check out the three on-site eateries spearheaded by chef Suzanne Goin and restaurateur Caroline Styne, both James Beard Award winners. Downtown never looked, tasted, and sounded so good. Rooms from \$365 per night for a double; properhotel.com/downtown-la

Palihouse Santa Barbara

Tucked in the historic Presidio neighborhood, a few blocks from the tourist throng of State Street and just a mile from the ocean, this boutique hotel expands the Palisociety footprint to the American Riviera. For their latest, this micro-chain brings a retro beach-chic vibe: Think pink pool umbrellas, rattan accents, and floral textiles. The 24-room hotel has cool-kid amenities like Smeg fridges and Diptyque bath products, a calm, cozy pool, a charming courtyard, and an "honor bar" nestled behind some bougainvillea for self-serve drinks once the bar is closed. When you want to venture out, it's an easy stroll to a great cuppa at Handlebar Coffee Roasters, Lebanese eats at Zaytoon, and wine tasting in the Funk Zone. It's less "hotel," more "vacation at your cool friend's impeccably decorated coastal retreat." Rooms from \$395 per night for a double; palisociety.com/hotels/santa-barbara



San Luis Creek Lodge

With mountains on either side of town, the ocean just a short drive away, and a lively downtown, San Luis Obispo has something for every traveler. And this newly refreshed lodge makes for an ideal home base. A-list designer Nina Freudenberger has given the lodge a modern makeover, embracing the city's laid-back feel while infusing on-trend design details throughout the common areas and 25 rooms, which have perks like Aesop bath products. Rent bikes from the front desk to cruise downtown for coffee at Scout Coffee Co., acai bowls at Seeds, and creekside patio seating at Novo Restaurant & Lounge. When you're ready to get behind four wheels, it's a short drive to Bishop Peak Trail, a marquee SLO hike with sweeping views. If you prefer something closer to sea level, you can sip reds, whites, and bubbies at local wineries like Edna Valley Vineyard and Kelsey See Canyon Vineyards, where the roaming peacocks are as much of a draw as the award-winning apple wine. Rooms from \$249 per night for a double; sanluiscreeklodge.com