

- **Carmel Valley Ranch provides a perfect year-round tennis escape**

Monterey Magic

BY REBECCA WALLWORK



The outdoor sun-drenched pool and cabanas offer a great opportunity for relaxation away from the resort's nine tennis courts.



GETTING THERE

Carmel Valley Ranch is located minutes from Highway 1 and is a 10-minute drive from Carmel-by-the-Sea, a city of less than 5,000 that's known for its natural scenery and rich artistic history. Guests can fly into Monterey Peninsula Airport, 13 miles from the resort. The drive from San Francisco International Airport is about two hours, and from San Jose Airport is about an hour and 40 minutes.

Nestled in the Santa Lucia foothills, a short hop inland from California's Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Valley Ranch has long been a popular getaway for tennis enthusiasts. Its seven hard courts and two clay are surrounded by impeccably landscaped grounds—and the light that washes over the mountains makes the whole resort look as if it were yanked straight off a movie screen.

Carmel Valley Ranch's tennis complex is managed by Peter Burwash International, so you can count on serious coaching from the PBI pros available for private lessons—and spirited competition with fellow guests. Traveling solo? Not a problem; the Pro Shop can

arrange matches, or slot you into a group clinic or drill session. That, and the temperate year-round climate, leaves guests with no excuses for sitting out a match.

Fresh off a head-to-toe renovation that debuted last fall, the resort now offers a sparkling new 10,500-square-foot Spa Aiyana, perfect for recuperating after a long day on the court. There are also more than 400 acres to explore—hiking, biking or running—not to mention the 18-hole Pete Dye-designed golf

course, which has also just undergone a multi-million-dollar upgrade. For lighter exercise, the resort has two bocce courts and two outdoor heated swimming pools, plus two hot tubs for soothing tired muscles.

Players can re-fuel with seasonal Californian cuisine (and vino) at the Lodge Restaurant, or pop into the elegant Clubhouse Lounge, near the 9th and 18th holes of the golf course, for a quick bite or cocktail. A range of newly renovated suites—there are 139 in all—caters to

couples, families and groups. All of the suites have private decks that make you feel as if you're perched in your own luxury treehouse. Regardless of whether you check in for a USTA event, spring training, a romantic weekend or a family vacation, Carmel Valley Ranch promises the same effect: feeling that you never want to leave.

Visit www.carmelvalleyranch.com or call (877) 583-0052 for more information.