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## MONTAGE HOTELS & RESORTS

FROM A SINGLE SEASIDE ESCAPE IN LAGUNA BEACH, MONTAGE HAS QUICKLY BECOME THE ULTIMATE IN UNDERSTATED LUXURY FOR SAVVY TRAVELERS

WORDS BY BETSY MARR

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS, REALLY. THE afternoon tea served on the terrace. The craftsman style cottages reminiscent of a bygone era. The Egyptian cotton towels. The fact that everyone – from the bellman to the maître d' – knows your name. These are the details that set the Montage brand apart. And whether you're visiting the California coast, the peaks of the Rockies or the lowcountry of South Carolina, the experience is much the same. Refined. Discerning. Flawless.

It all began nearly eleven years ago, when Montage unveiled its first and perhaps most iconic property in Laguna Beach, California. Since then, Montage has built two other hotels – Beverly Hills and Deer Valley – and recently added the historic Inn at Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina to its portfolio. This month, the brand will add its first resort outside the continental US to the mix as it opens Montage Kapalua Bay in Maui. And while all five resorts maintain their own unique architecture and style indigenous to their geography, the tenants that make a property a “Montage” property remain. An emphasis on art, a focus on the resort's community and surroundings, a strong affinity for design and distinctive culinary experiences.



### Montage Laguna Beach

THE COMPANY'S ORIGINAL RESORT, MONTAGE LAGUNA Beach is the area's most coveted respite, due in large part to its sweeping ocean views that each of its 248 guest rooms and 60 suites are privy to. But the crash of the waves and views of the water are only the beginning. The hotel itself is the epitome of understated luxury, sitting on 30 acres of picture perfect landscape, yet in the most classic of manners. From the wood and stone architecture, to the crown moldings, copper gutters and Cape Cod style roof, the resort was built with the beachfront art community of Laguna Beach – one that dates back to the early 1900s – in mind. A definitive distinction from most of the resort's Spanish style contemporaries.

There are no bad rooms, or bad views, since all of them boast balconies that face the Pacific. Much like the homes that grace the hillside above, Montage is elegant, but not overdone. It's luxurious without being ostentatious. Contemporary but comfortable.

Its spa – all 20,000 square feet of it – is among the best appointed in the nation. The usual suspects abound, a sauna, Eucalyptus steam room, fireplace lounges and whirlpools making for the ultimate retreat, but the adult-only lap pool with full ocean views makes it truly resplendent. Opt for the 90-minute Laguna Beach Organic Facial, a luxe treatment that uses concentrated seaweeds and raw algae to nourish and balance the skin. Afterwards, order the Cucumber Crush (voted So Cal's best skinny cocktail) poolside, and curl up on a chaise as you watch the waves post-treatment.

The Loft is the property's more casual dining option, yet still boasts an award winning team of chefs and sommeliers. In fact, the restaurant even employs an in house fromager who curates a renowned selection of cheeses in The Loft's cheese gallery. Guests can settle in at the marble counter and sample varietals much in the same way they would with a som when tasting wines.

Studio, perched in its own charming space above the Pacific, is one of the area's most celebrated restaurants and with good reason. Studio serves modern French cuisine with California influences best experienced via the ever-changing six-course chef's tasting menu. The chef scours the California coast to find fresh ingredients from the sea, local ranches, orchards and farms, even enlisting a personal forager in his pursuit. Studio's wine program is equally impressive, with a pedigreed sommelier perfectly paring wines from over 2,500 labels. The space itself – an idyllic knoll with sweeping ocean views – plays host to a pair of twin palms, known as “Luci and Desi” in honor of the Hollywood couple's 1953 movie filmed at Studio's very location, *The Long, Long Trailer*.





MONTAGE HOTELS & RESORTS  
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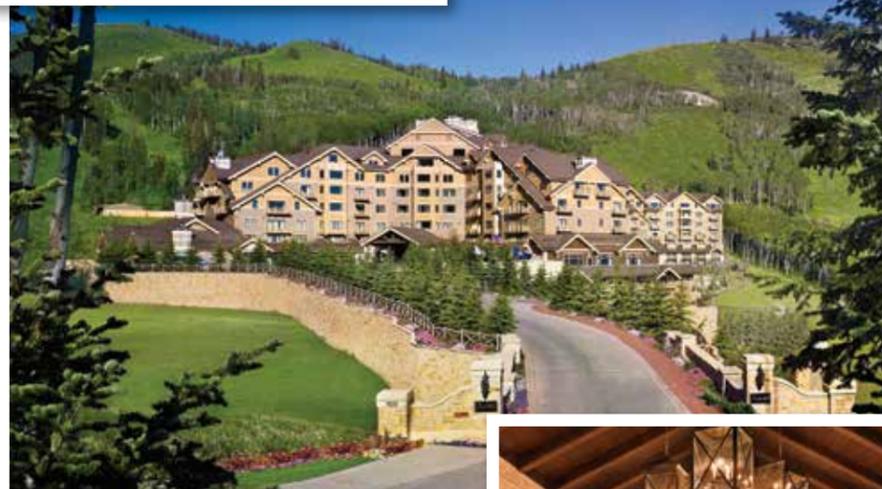
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## Montage Beverly Hills

JUST UP THE COAST FROM MONTAGE'S original Laguna Beach property sits the second hotel in the brand's growing collection, Montage Beverly Hills. A see and be seen playground in the midst of America's most famous zip code, the hotel is stunning in every sense. Inspired by the Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and Mediterranean styling prevalent in Beverly Hills, the hotel itself evokes the same residential ambiance of Southern California's glamour estates of the 1920s and 1930s.

Inside, the space brims with the level of luxury one might expect – an over-the-top spa and Kim Vo Salon, afternoon tea served by the property's onsite "tea specialists" and elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites. The rooftop pool and cabanas – a lush oasis in the middle of bustling Beverly Hills – play host to style savvy visitors, both famous and less so. Book a cabana, along with the "unwind" package and bask Beverly Hills style – a massage, poolside lunch and cold pressed juice sampler are all included.

Dining at Scarpetta, the hotel's most impressive on-property eatery, is a must. Helmed by celeb chef Scott Conant, Scarpetta serves modern Italian cuisine alongside an inspired craft cocktail menu.



## Montage Deer Valley

MONTAGE'S FIRST FORAY OUTSIDE the confines of California was an extraordinary one. Montage Deer Valley opened its alpine-inspired doors in late 2010, immediately becoming Park City's toniest respite. The lodge's coveted location atop Empire Pass makes for a ski in/ski out experience in every sense of the word while remaining mere minutes from the area's charming downtown.

A cozier iteration of the Montage brand, Deer Valley plays perfectly into its surroundings. A 35,000 square foot mountain-style spa is perhaps Montage's best appointed in the entire portfolio. Both an indoor lap pool and an outdoor pool and private sundeck are exclusive to spa guests and offer a sanctuary from the busier resort pool.

For foodies, options are plentiful, the newest of



which is Burgers & Bourbon. Housed inside the resort's Apex restaurant, Burgers & Bourbon serves the classics – from gourmet burgers and fresh cut fries to hand spun shakes and craft spirits. The menu pays homage to local artisans and farmers and the bar boasts over 100 bourbon selections. Also check out Yama Sushi and Vista Lounge and Terrace, both of which offer award winning cuisine.



## The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, A Montage Resort

EARLIER THIS YEAR, MONTAGE moved east, assuming management of the Inn at Palmetto Bluff. It was the first time that the company added an existing property to its portfolio. A shrewd move, as the Inn lays claim to Conde Nast's #1 spot for top resorts in America. And in true Montage fashion, the brand is taking an already iconic property to new heights with a planned \$100 million expansion.

The Inn embodies everything that's wonderful about southern living. Set on 20,000 acres in South Carolina's idyllic Lowcountry, the resort is quintessentially southern – both in style and in substance. Its 50 pristine cottages evoke the region's flavor with moss draped oak trees, shaker style furnishings and wraparound porches, perfect for relaxing in a hammock as the world around you slows, if only for a bit.

For link lovers, Jack Nicklaus' Signature May River Golf Course is ideal and is surrounded by a sweeping nature preserve. There's also horseback and bike riding available throughout the property or if you're most privy to the water, canoes and scenic river cruises.

Dining is a celebration of all that is southern with four restaurants all of which serve locally sourced cuisine and fine wines. And with an on property, traditional Chapel, more than a few southern belles have celebrated their nuptials at the Inn in grand South Carolina style. ♡