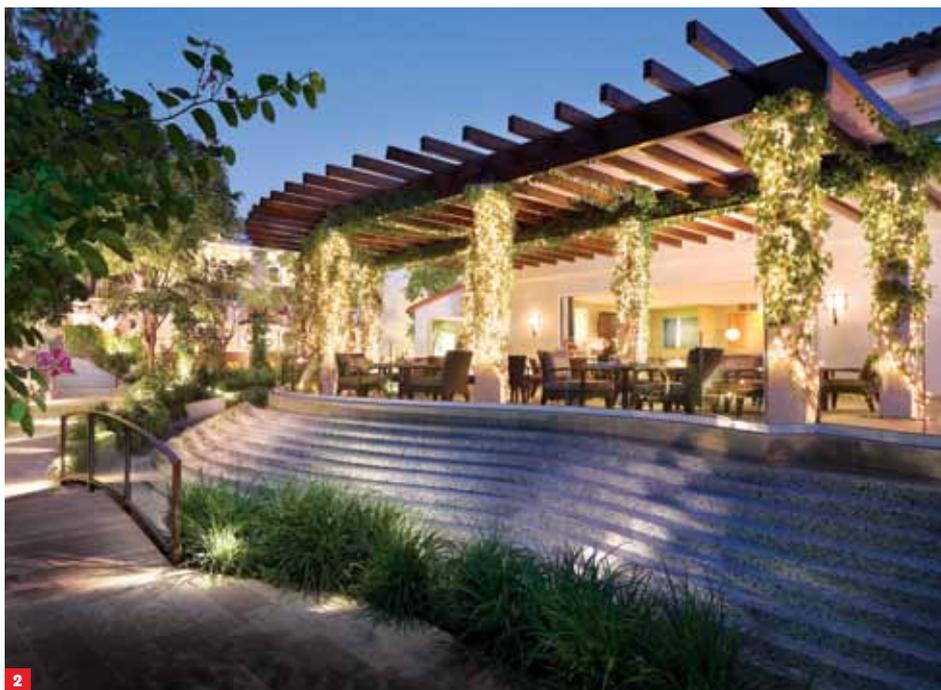


**Peninsula
by the
Numbers**

3
Scamstresses on
staff Oscar weekend

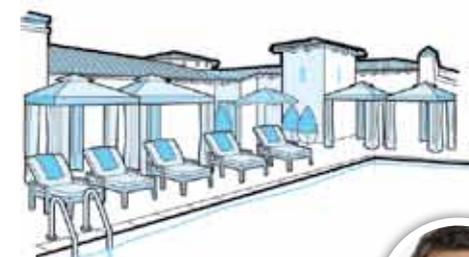
11
Golden Globe
winners as guests
in 2012

1. The newly renovated one-bedroom Peninsula Suite (\$7,000) at the Peninsula Beverly Hills clocks in at 2,250 square feet and includes a grand piano, two fireplaces and a formal dining room. **2.** The indoor-outdoor restaurant at the Sunset Marquis.



Peninsula Beverly Hills

To alleviate limousine gridlock during Oscar weekend, the hotel pays for permits from the city of Beverly Hills allowing it to post no-parking signs on four surrounding side streets. The extra curb space lets limos line up and be ushered into the driveway one at a time. Just weeks ago, the Peninsula completed a \$20 million refresh of its 193 guest rooms, villas and suites. One special touch: Repeat guests get their own monogrammed sheets. In the living room, look for live music from former Hotel Bel-Air piano player **Antonio Castillo de la Gala** (who has had impromptu duets with the likes of **Billy Joel**); he decamped here when the Bel-Air recently was closed for two years of renovations. **INDULGENCE** The hotel will deliver room service course by course. **WHO STAYS** *Kate Winslet, Glenn Close, Cate Blanchett, Michael Caine.* From \$625



Sunset Marquis

The five-acre property, which underwent a \$30 million renovation and expansion in 2010 (adding 40 new villas), is a mecca for music industry players. During Grammy weekend, 32 nominees checked in at the hotel, whose garage can fit two tour buses. It's also a draw for European directors (**Danny Boyle, Pedro Almodovar**), and **Michael Fassbender** rented out one of its villas for four nights during his Golden Globes visit. Those staying in the Presidential Villa (\$5,000) can avoid the lobby via a dedicated staircase to the underground lot. **INDULGENCE** Booking time in the hotel's world-class Nightbird recording studio, where Drake recorded his latest album and *Ocean's Eleven* was sound-edited. **WHO STAYS** *The Artist* director **Michel Hazanavicius, George Clooney, Usher. From \$330**



Hazanavicius



Montage Beverly Hills

There are only three Montage Hotels (the others are in Laguna Beach and Deer Valley), and they are privately owned and maintained like polished gems. While the 201-room Beverly Hills location, modeled after the area's Spanish Colonial Revival great estates, has hosted junkets recently for *Underworld: Awakening* and the fourth *Pirates of the Caribbean*, it's more likely to attract New York society and European royalty. Word is, when **Oprah Winfrey** stays in L.A., it's always here. **INDULGENCE** For an exclusive get-together with friends, spend \$2,000 to \$5,000 to rent out the private bar Ten Pound (located above Scarpetta restaurant), which pours some of Macallan's rarest whiskies. **WHO STAYS** *Meryl Streep, Robert De Niro, Harvey Weinstein.* From \$500

10 Great Hotels Where You Can Fly Under the Radar

Want to avoid the scene? Duck into one of these luxe lodges, from the five-star L'Ermitage to the tiny Charlie

NOT EVERYONE WANTS TO BE IN the middle of the full-court Oscar schmooze-fest. Some industry insiders stay a bit away from it all in Santa Monica: *Boardwalk Empire's* **Steve Buscemi** is a fan of the historic Italian Renaissance Revival **CASA DEL MAR** (from \$575; 1910 Ocean Way), while the Cape Cod-style **SHUTTERS** (from \$595; 1 Pico Blvd.) has welcomed **Gwyneth Paltrow** and **Diane Keaton**. ... Others like to hide out right under the nose of the Kodak at the historic **HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT** (from \$269; 7000 Hollywood Blvd.), site of the first Oscars in 1929. Hole up in the \$5,000-a-night penthouse suite where **Carole Lombard** and **Clark Gable** conducted a clandestine affair in the 1930s. ... One of only four L.A. hotels with both five-star and five-diamond rankings (the others are the Beverly Hills Hotel, the Montage and the Peninsula), the **L'ERMITAGE BEVERLY**



L'Ermitage
Beverly Hills

HILLS (from \$665; 9291 Burton Way) lures guests who appreciate its Zen-like calm; a dozen Globes nominees stayed there this year. It recently unveiled its Italian-meets-Asian restaurant Livello. ... For a boutique experience, try the petite, Spanish-style **CRESCENT BEVERLY HILLS** (from \$159; 403 N. Crescent Drive), right in the Platinum Triangle. Two other options, both designed by **Kelly Wearstler**, are West Hollywood's **CHAMBERLAIN** (from \$315; 1000 Westmount Drive) and Beverly Hills' **MAISON 140** (from \$180; 140 S. Lasky Drive). New properties include **MR. C** (\$389; 1224 Beverwil Drive), from the Cipriani family, and **THE REDBURY** (from \$499; 1717 Vine St.), where **Adele** has been spied. To really disappear, check into the 3-year-old **CHARLIE HOTEL** (from \$300; 810 N. Sweetzer Ave.), a former retreat of **Charlie Chaplin's** that boasts 13 English-style cottage apartments. — DEGEN PENER