



have a Zen-chic vibe, decorated with English sycamore maple paneling, maple wood furnishings, exquisite artwork and high-tech touches.

Indeed, the quarters here are stellar, including a 1,200-square-foot, one-bedroom suite replete with a living room, two bathrooms, two walk-in closets (for all that Rodeo Drive shopping) and two balconies with French doors that open to panoramic views of the city and surrounding hills.

For the ultimate in luxurious accommodations, book the 2,900-square-foot two-bedroom, three-bath Governor Suite, which features a large flat-panel TV and Bose surround sound system perfect for theater-style viewing. An Art Deco-style fireplace, formal dining area with seating for 10 and four balconies overlooking the city make it even more special.

The rest of L'Ermitage Beverly Hills is equally impressive. At Livello, the hotel's



CALIFORNIA DREAMING

L'Ermitage Beverly Hills Provides All The Comforts Of A (Very) Cosmopolitan Home || BY LINDA HAASE

After a whirlwind holiday season, we craved some peace, serenity and refined luxury. We found it all at L'Ermitage Beverly Hills, an AAA Five-Diamond, Forbes Five-Star haven.

Everything here, from the private cabanas surrounding the rooftop pool to the exceptionally skilled masseuses who made our muscles feel like butter, had us longing to become permanent guests (Lakers star Dwight Howard lived here for two months while his Los Angeles home was being built—why not us, we mused).

Located on a quiet tree-lined street just blocks from Rodeo Drive, this impeccably designed boutique hotel combines the appearance of a sophisticated club with the vibe of an urban residence. The result: cosmopolitan comfort.

The wariness of a long flight seemed to fade as a friendly staffer greeted us, and we were escorted to our Asian-inspired guestrooms. The rooms



The Lobby Lounge & Bar is a must-visit when in Beverly Hills, having been dubbed by *The Hollywood Reporter* as “a sophisticated spot where in-the-know, well-heeled industry types make deals.”

signature domed restaurant, alfresco dining is dished up with a view of lush gardens and a soothing waterfall. Inside, a crackling fireplace and yet more garden vistas provide the setting for some amazing food.

Chef de Cuisine Benjamin Dayag's menu weaves Asian and Italian flavors and procures ingredients from locals who



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share his passion for quality, sustainability and freshness. That extends to the Sunday brunch, where offerings include Crème Brûlée French Toast, Big-Eye Tuna Tataki and Crispy Rock Shrimp Po Boy. A pianist livens things up on Friday evenings, with a diverse song list ranging from Otis Redding to Duke Ellington.

The Lobby Lounge & Bar is a must-visit when in Beverly Hills, having been dubbed by *The Hollywood Reporter* as “a sophisticated spot where in-the-know, well-heeled industry types make deals” (actor Ryan Reynolds met with execs over breakfast here and it’s been rumored that Giorgio Armani and Julia Roberts have visited). The people watching, soft music and subdued lighting make it a delightful spot to enjoy a glass of wine and a bite to eat.

There’s much to see in Beverly Hills and the hotel is in the heart of the action. It’s a short stroll from Rodeo Drive’s incredible shopping (stores include Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co., Gucci, Lladro



and Michael Kors) and several beaches (for solitude, head to 23-acre Nicholas Canyon Beach). Other diversions include hikes through Runyon Canyon Park or up Mount Hollywood to the famous Hollywood sign, browsing among

the 10,000 works of art at the Museum of Contemporary Art, or checking out the stars (of the celestial kind) at Griffith Observatory, where the use of telescopes is free to the public. For dinner, the concierge is very adept at snaring reservations at exclusive spots like Madeo and Tangine.

Before your vacation ends, be sure to set aside time to visit The Spa at L’Ermitage Beverly Hills, where, in our collective humble opinion, the signature massages should be named a Wonder of the World (the Papaya Pineapple Infusion is 90 minutes of pure bliss).

It’s one of the many reasons L’Ermitage Beverly Hills has captured coveted awards from AAA and Forbes for 12 consecutive years (that’s longer than most Hollywood marriages), and others such as Trip Advisor’s 2012 Certificate of Excellence and *Condé Nast Traveler* Readers’ Choice Awards.

Isn’t it time you headed for the Hills? ○

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L’Ermitage Beverly Hills is located at 9291 Burton Way Beverly Hills, Calif. For more information, call 310-278-3344 or visit viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/beverlyhills/.