

Monterey & Carmel by the Sea: A NorCal Nest for Food and Luxury

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Monterey is a city adored for its “grab life by the moment” mantra. Carmel, a neighboring quaint city with colossal character, each house even having its own name in place of the standard numerical address. Loaded with history, scenic properties, restaurants and breezy weather, Monterey and Carmel by the Sea may be the perfect NorCal getaway for lovebirds.



[Vendange Carmel Inn & Suites](#) is a small boutique experience for those who have their eyes set on immersing themselves in this vintage town, nestled in the midst of some of the most unique homes. None of the homes have an exact physical address, each home is named by the owner. This property is just as intimate as Carmel itself and provides 18 unique guest rooms and suites. Weekly wine tastings are always available, with this particular area of the West Coast known for its boasting assortment of amazing wine. Check into a cozy room, have a glass of wine in the private garden, or take a quick stroll around this charming neighborhood. Vendange Carmel also provides a delightfully fresh complimentary breakfast spread daily.



If you are looking for an adventure a little off the beaten path, learn where your produce most likely comes from with a tour by [AG Venture Tours](#). A happy well-read man in a van will guide you to all the sights, some you may not have known existed. Like the beautiful fields of artichoke, [Earthbound Organic Farm](#) which is definitely worth a visit—and possibly a snack at the artichoke food truck! Be sure to skip on over to [Restaurant 1833](#) (pictured) whose name is references the building's age. Claiming to be haunted by the former physician who used to live there (allegedly responsible for many deaths), the atmosphere and food should not be missed. Most notable are the bacon cheddar biscuits with maple-chili butter and the branzino with wild mushroom. Another must-have is [Il Fornaio](#), an authentic Italian restaurant in the midst of Carmel by the Sea with a charismatic staff and a menu that will have you return. Favorites on the menu include the cappellacci de succa, ravioli filled with butternut squash and walnuts served with tomato sauce, brown butter, grana padano and crispy sage. Finish with dessert zabaione alla gritti: chilled zabaione with fresh berries, bellini sorbet, fresh whipped crème and amarena cherry.

Photos courtesy of <http://www.carmelcalifornia.com/>, Vendange Carmel Inn & Suites and Restaurant 1833