



THE TRAVEL ISSUE

Sunset

EXPLORE
THE WEST

217 TRANSFORMATIVE TRIPS



Transporting Resorts,
Charming Towns, Spectacular
Restaurants, Epic Parks,
Idyllic Wineries, Superlative
Spas, and More!



ISLAND DREAMS
COCKTAILS ON KAUAI
MODERN HAWAIIAN
RECIPES
WEST MAUI PLANNER

The stunning
Hotel Hanalei Bay

LUXURY TAHOE
RETREAT

APERITIVO HOUR IN
SAN FRANCISCO

INSIDER
BOZEMAN

Hotel del Coronado, fresh off a \$550 million renovation project, bridges history and modern luxury in San Diego.

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The winning ticket for travel in the West.

Best of the West

- 5 Bay Area aperitivo bars transport drinkers to la dolce vita with exquisite Italian drinks; interior designer and textile artist Peter Dunham's garden obsessions; 1 Hotel Hanalei Bay.

Home & Garden

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Funneling grand ideas into compact footprints is a long-standing tradition in the storied L.A. neighborhood. Architect Mike Wang's own multigenerational compound is filled with inspiration for rebuilding with community in mind.

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A new-build home in Martis Camp, a private Lake Tahoe community near Truckee, softens the grand scale of a contemporary ski house with plenty of old-fashioned charm.

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Autumn is prime time for planting. Here's how to maintain your garden, no matter where you are in the West. Plus: drought-defiant design and the mixological marvels of a cocktail garden.

Food & Drink

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On Maui, chef Sheldon Simeon has taken restaurant and community hub Tiffany's and turned it

into a culinary powerhouse that feeds locals and is a dining destination for Hawaiian food fans.

Travel & Escapes

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Our annual Travel Awards celebrates the resorts, motels, bars, restaurants, cities, and destinations that offer travelers satisfaction and delight. Here's where to go, where to eat and drink, what to do, how to get there, and how to cruise throughout the West.

- 80 **Insider Guides**
Local experts share their travel tips for Bozeman, Montana; Jenner, California; and West Maui, Hawaii.

Voices of the West

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In the wake of the devastating wildfires in Lahaina, Kenneth Duane Sparkman, founder of Treecore, is on a mission to reforest the land and help families rebuild.



ON THE COVER
The 1 Hotel Hanalei Bay offers a stunning pool with a view.
Photograph by
THOMAS J. STORY

TRAVEL & ESCAPES

2025

The Sunset Travel Awards

From the coast to the mountains to the desert and beyond, the West is where travelers can live life to the fullest. Here are the most transporting experiences in this beautiful place we call home.

Where to Stay.....52

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Tidal pools at
Four Seasons
Resort Hualalai

WHERE TO Stay

The Ritz-Carlton,
Half Moon Bay



Each year, when we gather to judge the Sunset Travel Awards, we're reminded just how extraordinary the West truly is.

From the iconic landscapes of our national parks to the creative energy pulsing through our cities and the quiet magic of under-the-radar small towns, the West continues to surprise, delight, and inspire. We're seeing more: more innovation, more sustainability, more design-forward hotels, next-level food, and unforgettable experiences. That's why this year, in response to the sheer volume of standout entries, we've expanded our list to 200 winners. Whether you're searching for a luxurious escape, a charming roadside motel, a hot new restaurant, or your next great hike, these winners represent the very best of the West. Dive into the full list ahead—and head to [sunset.com/traveldirectory](https://www.sunset.com/traveldirectory) for our searchable database to start planning your next Western adventure.

Coastal Gems

Seabird Ocean Resort and Spa

Exceptionally friendly staff, easy access to Oceanside's lovely beach, delightful restaurants and bars, and sweet rooms decorated in soothing coastal colors—this is the kind of something-for-everyone resort you'll want to return to again and again. A welcome addition to this classic California beach town.

Hotel Californian

100 years since its opening date, the latest iteration of the Hotel Californian is the best expression yet of this Santa Barbara coastal classic, thanks to its opulent interiors from Martyn Lawrence Bullard, excellent restaurant and bars, and Moroccan-inspired Majorelle Spa. Beachside bliss.

Shutters on the Beach

The iconic Santa Monica oceanfront hotel channels casual Cape Cod vibes

through a California lens, and it's a delight, all the more transporting thanks to a stylish and inviting redesigned lobby, aka the Living Room, from design firm Nickey Kehoe, complete with new artwork from luminaries such as Robert Rauschenberg.

Sandbourne Santa Monica

A welcome addition to the top tier of beachside Santa Monica hotels. Soothing spaces designed by Gulla Jónsdóttir flow seamlessly from indoors to out, letting in the sea breezes and coastal light. Equally smartly appointed rooms and suites, some with balconies, and a restaurant from local legend chef Raphael Lunetta round out the experience.

The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay

This massive 261-room spa and golf destination is the San Francisco Bay Area's only oceanfront resort, which means it attracts the gamut—surfers, golf aficionados, and city dwellers

The Ranch Malibu

The Ranch Malibu, nestled in the scenic Santa Monica Mountains, offers a transformative wellness retreat that harmonizes luxury with nature across 200 acres of rugged coastline. Renowned for its immersive programs, focused on long-term health and vitality, guests indulge in guided hikes, plant-based cuisine, and innovative wellness practices, creating a rejuvenating sanctuary where relaxation and personal growth flourish.

Miraval Arizona

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, Miraval Arizona offers a sanctuary of transformative wellness nestled in the serene Sonoran Desert, providing guests with luxurious accommodations and a holistic approach that harmonizes mind, body, and spirit. Through immersive workshops, from equine experiences to Ayurveda and digital mindfulness, this retreat fosters profound personal growth, creating a rejuvenating escape that reconnects guests with themselves and the world around them.

Sensei Lanai, A Four Seasons Resort

Set on 90,000 serene acres in the uplands of Lanai, this world-class wellness retreat, founded by Larry Ellison and Dr. David Agus, is all about helping guests create a roadmap to living longer, healthier lives. With personalized programs led by expert guides, spa hales, onsen baths, and dining by Nobu, it's a truly one-of-a-kind sanctuary for top-tier athletes and wellness seekers alike.

Murrieta Hot Springs Resort

Just 80 miles from L.A., this newly updated 46-acre sanctuary is built around dozens of geothermal soaking pools, cold plunges, and tranquil water features designed to restore body and mind. Alongside its thermal experiences, guests can deepen their well-being with yoga classes and soothing sound baths, all rooted in the healing power of the natural mineral springs that have drawn Hollywood's famous starlets since the early 1900s.

Wine Country Escapes

The New Inn

The New Inn, nestled in Southern California's famed Temecula wine country, offers an exclusive escape with glamorous accommodations and access to the region's top wineries through complimentary tasting cards. Guests



The New Inn



enjoy curated experiences like hot-air balloon rides, horseback adventures, and couples' massages, all while fostering community and creating lasting memories in a breathtaking setting.

Hotel San Luis Obispo

This handsome boutique luxury hotel in downtown San Luis Obispo offers a modern retreat on the Central Coast. With a rooftop bar offering sips, drinks, and views of the rolling hills, plus three other restaurants with local produce and proteins cooked with exacting technique, and sleek and chic rooms, Hotel SLO is a uniquely sophisticated stay in the region and combines the best of city and country.

MacArthur Place Hotel & Spa

City and country combine at this relaxing

modern farmhouse resort in the heart of the town of Sonoma. The ratio of 69 rooms to 6 acres allows for privacy and space to stroll the grounds and enjoy the firepits, pool, sculptures, and art (there's an excellent artist residency program), or simply spa the day away. Be sure to book at one of its restaurants to experience the bounty of the surrounding countryside.

Abbey Road Farm

Abbey Road Farm is a dreamy Willamette Valley escape where you can sip estate-grown wines, sleep in chic converted silos, and wake to a gourmet breakfast crafted by Chef Will Preisch. With a winery, tasting room, and a cast of resident alpacas, pigs, and donkeys, this is farm life with a seriously luxurious twist.

Kahuwai Cookhouse & Market

Paniolo (Hawaiian cowboy) cuisine is practiced at this breezy restaurant at Kona Village Resort on the Big Island that celebrates local classics, often cooked over open fire. Expect smart and delicious takes on musubi rice with Spam, Kiawe wood-grilled short ribs, and barbecue Kumamoto oysters,

Mahina & Sun's

Waikiki's lineup of hotels is stacked, but it's tough to compete with the vibes of Surfjack Hotel & Swim Club, where you'll find Mahina & Sun's, helmed by Native Hawaiian Chef Erik Leong, whose menu reimagines Hawaii's comfort foods with a refined twist. Visitors can enjoy nightly live music and some killer cocktails, including the best mai tai in town, sitting beside the retro "Wish You Were Here" pool.



Spoonbar

Inspired Italian

Tavernetta Vail

Colorado's esteemed Frasca Hospitality Group has joined forces with Four Seasons Resort Vail at this restaurant that celebrates lesser-known but super satisfying Italian Alpine cuisine. Think buckwheat mafaldine pasta with short rib ragu and wild quail stuffed with Alpine sausage, served in an elegant dining room, complete with Tuscan villa-worthy takeout wine window.

Pasta Sisters

This L.A. institution made its name by serving some of the best handmade pastas in the city in an unassuming strip mall (the vernacular architecture that is home to so much of L.A.'s best cuisine). The friendly service, attention to detail, and extreme convenience of the walk-in concept were, and remain, a revelation.

Tony's Pizza Napoletana

This must-visit San Francisco institution helmed by 13-time World Pizza Champion Tony Gemignani offers nearly a dozen regional styles from Neapolitan to Detroit. Our personal favorite is the award-winning margherita, but order early because there's a limit of 73 margherita pizzas made per day.

Little Original Joe's

In a city slammed with good Italian joints, this charming spinoff of the renowned 87-year legacy restaurant Original Joe's successfully marries the warmth of an old-school Italian neighborhood eatery with flash fit for the Marina. This 100-seater has become a classic, too, serving as both a testament to the

Duggan family's nearly 90-year culinary legacy in the city.

Markets and Bakeries

Bob's Well Bread Bakery

What started as a passion project for a mid-career Hollywood exec has turned into hands-down the best bakery in the Santa Ynez Valley. Yes, the loaves are transcendent, but the breakfast dishes, desserts, and lunch sandwiches are equally sublime.

Bouchon Bakery

Do you love shatteringly crisp on the outside, tender on the inside, Parisian-worthy croissants, whimsical macarons, artisanal breads, and exactly brewed coffee in a jewel box of a bakery worthy of your wine country, European-inspired, American-made culinary explorer dreams? Then the Yountville icon Bouchon Bakery is your dream realized.

Top Tables

ROOH

ROOH has redefined modern Indian dining in the Bay Area with its bold, globally inspired dishes and striking design. It has now expanded to locations in San Francisco and Palo Alto, making its regionally-inspired dishes from ROOH SF's executive chef Valice Francis easier to access. Think classics like lamb masala or Punjabi paneer plated up with progressive, modern panache that puts the food of South Asia on a pedestal, where it rightfully belongs.

Lola Rose Grand Mezze

Pan-Mediterranean food spanning the region from Greece to Egypt is an excellent starting concept, and the execution at this restaurant at the new Thompson Palm Springs makes this one of the most welcome openings in town in years. Don't sleep on the smart California-heavy wine list and craft cocktails.

Blackbird

Tucked into Santa Barbara's Hotel Californian, this brooding restaurant and bar was inspired by Alfred Hitchcock, and thanks to Martyn Lawrence Bullard's dark and sexy design, is one of the grooviest and moodiest spots to sip a noir cocktail made with activated charcoal and contemplate the mysteries of life.

Spoonbar

Healdsburg's go-to SoCoMed (that's Sonoma County Mediterranean) restaurant is now an institution, thanks to its exquisitely sourced, technically prepared, oh-so-satisfying modern wine country food. Yes, you can get salads loaded with local produce, but you can also get a darned satisfying burger and beer.

Elena's

In a city known for its culinary scene, it's tough to make a splash, but this buzzy new El Portal Mexican-American restaurant from the family behind Original Joe's is doing it, blending heritage recipes and California flair in a vibrant, family-friendly setting. The menu is centered around comforting classics like handmade tortillas, tamales, and pozole—dishes that mirror owner Elena Duggan and her daughters' time in Mexico.