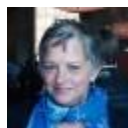


TRENDING NOW

FORBESLIFE

Bernardus Lodge: Rustic Luxury In Carmel Valley



By Kim Westerman Contributor

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[Bernardus Lodge](#) in Carmel Valley, long a destination for wine-loving travelers, has just undergone a gorgeous four-month renovation that further ups the ante on luxury travel in the region. The 57-room lodge on 28 acres of vineyard, garden, and lavender fields at the foot of the Santa Lucia Mountains and a short drive from the ocean, has been re-envisioned as a rustic-luxury ranch retreat, with whimsical chandeliers made of mercury glass (a mid-19th century alternative to silver) placed inside and out across the property.

The re-imagined rooms are fully in the 21st century, so comfortable that, if you don't need to leave, well, you just might not for days on end. As we learned when we traveled there in June with our two young kids — whose etiquette isn't quite up to Lucia dining-room standards (yet) — room service will bring you sustenance, and in short shrift.

Interior colors are primarily olive and oyster, with accents of greens and blues from sophisticated aquas to earthen greens. Hand-knotted rugs and side tables made from reclaimed wood and iron are both functional and aesthetically appealing, as are the limestone gas-burning fireplaces, French oak floors, and oversized Strathmore chairs. The spacious bathrooms have deep tubs built for two. The beds come outfitted in Frette linens with lots of pillows that are the perfect middle between firm and soft.

