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How to Be a Fungi at Bernardus Lodge

 **Where:** 415 W Carmel Valley Road [\[map\]](#), [Carmel Valley, CA, United States, 93924](#)
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Starting this month and running through January 31, 2013, [Bernardus Lodge](#) in **California's Carmel Valley** is showing us something we haven't seen in awhile: **how to be a fungi**. And a fun gal. Post [Hurricane Sandy](#) and her [havoc on NYC hotels](#) plus the stress of the recent [2012 presidential election](#), seems we are long overdue for a good time, and Bernardus is pulling out all the stops with a seasonal forage fest that highlights the magical mushroom.

Play along with us, folks; a little fungi spun Bernardus-Lodge-style could work wonders right about now. Seriously, mushrooms never looked so legal *and* fun:

Start with guided foraging treks along the coastal redwood forests of Big Sur. Happening every Wednesday and Saturday during the season, you'll spend three hours uncovering notable fungi like chanterelles, porcini, and candy cap (from \$75).

If hiking and trekking are not your idea of fun, we bet spa treatments are. Sign up for the **Mushroom Medley** treatment, which includes an exfoliating body scrub followed with a hot-rock massage combining an oak, moss and mushroom-infused oil (\$150.00). Add on a 25-minute mushroom soak in the alfresco whirlpool.

When mushroom-inspired dishes and cocktails show up at Chef Cal Stamenov's mind-blowing Marinus Restaurant, we pay close attention . For wild cocktails, try the **Bernardus' Chanterelle and Elderflower Martini** (pictured above) or the **Squab "Cailette" with Porcini and Sauce Perigord**. On the dinner menu, go for Local Black Cod with Chanterelles and Carmel Bay Spot Prawns with Matsutake Angnolotti; there's even fungi-inspired deserts like Black Truffle Ice Cream Sundae and maple-overtone Candy Cap Pot de Crème with Pistachio Streusel. And, if you want to go all out noshing 'shroom food, reserve a spot for **the five-course tasting menu paired with Bernardus Winery vino, scheduled for November 17 (\$150)**.

Bernardus Lodge is currently offering a Funguy & Girl two-night package starting at \$1050; it includes accommodations, a three-hour foraging trek for two, a mushroom spa package for two, and \$150.00 meal credit at Marinus Restaurant or Wickets Bistro. www.bernardus.com.

[Photos: Bernardus Lodge]