





Photos: Courtesy of Monterey Beach Hotel

DESTINATIONS



STYLE BY THE SEA

Monterey Beach Hotel

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Extraordinary coastal landscapes and wildlife access draw many travelers to the Monterey Peninsula. Stretching along 600 feet of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary shoreline, the freshly renovated Monterey Beach Hotel offers a front-row seat to the grandeur.

"The first time I walked into the lobby of the hotel, I was shocked. It felt like walking onto a cruise ship, with all those floor-to-ceiling windows," says Nathan Hanner, the property's general manager.

Before long, he spotted more than 40 dolphins frolicking in the bay.

"It was the craziest thing I've ever seen. The fact that you can be that close to the wildlife and to the natural beauty of Monterey just blows my mind. It really speaks to the exclusivity of this location."

The Monterey Beach Hotel opened in 1967, the same year that big-name musicians like Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin performed down the road at the Monterey Pop Festival. After changing hands and changing titles in the decades that followed, the property returned to its original name and unveiled a top-to-bottom transformation in August 2024.

The 192-room hotel, now part of the Marriott Tribute Portfolio, capitalizes on its waterfront location.

"Whether you're sitting in the Lantern Room, which is our new signature restaurant, or staying in an oceanfront room, you'll find completely unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean," Hanner says.

Upon arrival at the Monterey Beach Hotel, the view immediately takes center stage with a peek through the lobby from the porte-cochère. The property features art by local artists Jessica Bover, Maria Schoettler, Jess Soriano and Emily Hess.







The hotel's top-floor restaurant, The Lantern Room, provides incredible panoramic views of the bay and is the perfect destination to watch the sunset and enjoy a menu that celebrates the Monterey Bay and the bounty of the Salinas Valley.



The newly renovated guestrooms are fresh and inviting. (Above) Premium Ocean View Rooms are located on higher floors and feature incredible views and dedicated relaxation space. (Below) Standard Rooms are comfortable and inviting.

anemones and storybook mermaids.

Area artists such as Jessica Bovert, Jess Soriano and Maria Schoettler also created ceramics, murals, maps and mixed-media pieces on display throughout the property.

The hotel's emphasis on local extends to on-site dining at three distinct venues. A wall of windows fronts the Lantern Room, the fourth-floor breakfast and dinner spot that serves dishes anchored by seasonal ingredients. Resident Culinary Advisor Paul Corsentino and Executive Chef Jose Velasquez source ingredients from Fogline Farm, Ad Astra Bread Co., Baker's Bacon and other Monterey Bay purveyors. Winemaker Ian Brand of I. Brand & Family outlined a wine list featuring area producers, while taps flow with fresh pours from Alvarado

Refreshed rooms and suites play up the hotel's coastal connections. The Los Angeles-based firm Indidesign outfitted accommodations in natural wood tones and beachy shades of blue and white, creating spaces that are chic yet comfortable. Amenities include flat-screen televisions, high-speed Wi-Fi, Lavazza coffee

makers and Big Sur After Rain bath products by D.S. & Durga. Large, L-shaped sofas in waterfront rooms and suites invite guests to relax and watch the waves at any time of day. Binoculars put wildlife in closer view, and wall art by local marine biologist and illustrator Emily Hess takes inspiration from real-life sea



The heated pool is perfect for a relaxing afternoon dip or a brisk swim to start your day. For those just looking to relax, the jacuzzi is the spot to enjoy a cold foggy morning or a clear starry night.

Street Brewing and Other Brother Beer Co.

"It's California fare made with fantastic, simple ingredients," says Hanner. "We're getting much of the lettuce and vegetables from Salinas. We can go to the farmers market and grab strawberries that are in season for desserts. The mushrooms in the omelet come from Big Sur. There's such a story behind each dish, and those stories really come alive."

small bites, including charcuterie boards from The Meatery in Seaside, to a beachfront courtyard with fire pits and cozy sofa seating.

"We have oversized wool blankets out there, and a specialty hot cocktail list for chilly Monterey nights," Hanner says.

The Monterey Beach Hotel's on-site market sells grab-and-go food and beverages by many of the same local providers showcased in the

Guests can visit that downtown Monterey farmers market—along with the Monterey Bay Aquarium and other area attractions—by checking out e-bikes and following the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail that runs right past the hotel. The property has a heated outdoor pool, hot tub, fitness center and daily yoga classes. And this winter, a Scandinavian-style outdoor spa will introduce a contrast ther-

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The Lobby Lounge serves both lighter plates and upscale pub fare, along with cocktails, beer and wine. Guests can also order sample sizes or full pours of local reds and whites at the interactive wine wall. Large windows frame the bar, table and fireplace seating areas, providing panoramic views at all points of the day.

Outside, Tidewater brings beverages and

culinary program. In addition to bottled beer and wine, Captain + Stoker coffee and Zum Zum Tea, the shop stocks a variety of other items produced in the region, including snacks, sweets, mugs, hoodies, art and more.

"It's like walking into the farmers market on Alvarado Street. It's a lot of those vendors," Hanner says.

apy experience with barrel saunas and ice baths.

"Wellness has come to be important with guests, both in the global market and especially locally in California, so we've doubled down on that. We're really excited to offer this to guests and locals," Hanner says.

He and his hotel team are also pleased to host nightly beach bonfires. Flames dance in four

oversized cauldrons that protect the sand from heat, and guests can make s'mores, sip drinks on the beach, or simply gather around the fire. This is one of several top places to watch the sunset while on property.

"We have a couple of areas that we call our 'secret spots,'" says Hanner, whose favorite faces the Monterey coastline on the building's fourth floor. "When the sun goes down, the peninsula sparkles with lights and it is so beautiful. That's your best view."

The Monterey Beach Hotel is located at 2600 Sand Dunes Drive in Monterey. For more information, visit www.montereybeach.com or call 831/394-3321.



Tidewater, the hotel's oceanfront restaurant, serves coastal cuisine in an outdoor setting with cozy firepits surrounded by comfortable seating. The restaurant's food and beverage menus are crafted to highlight incredible local ingredients.