



# Carmel by the Sea



## An Oasis of Scenic Splendor

BY CARLA IACOVETTI

**T**he Central Coast of California is an oasis of scenic splendor. Imagine a painter's canvas coming to life with vistas of crashing waves against rocky shores, secluded beaches, barking sea lions, tide pools, and towering cliffs, all framed by cypress trees and Monterey Pines, set against a backdrop of lush green hills. This haven of California's coast has provided inspiration for poets, painters and has captured the hearts of visitors everyday for hundreds of years. It is no wonder that this one-of-a-kind geographical treasure mesmerized the Spanish sailors in the 1600's, or why it is alleged that the Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson drafted his book *Treasure Island*, after spending several months here in 1879. Rumor has it, that

some of his settings for the famed work of fiction were inspired by his memories of this ridged coast, specifically his time spent at the Carmel Mission.

Amid this striking lush green canvas, with hovering cypress and white sandy beaches, sits Carmel by the Sea. The community is nestled in a forest, with quaint cottages, cobblestone streets, and an array of charming specialty shops, world-renowned galleries, and varied restaurants, appealing to every kind of art enthusiast and shopper. Carmel is notorious for its clean air, remarkable weather, and breathtaking vistas uniting both the sea and shore, and continues to be a home for many of the rich and famous. You might feel as if you're in a scene from Hansel and Gretel as you stroll through downtown Carmel with its gingerbread architecture, tearooms and fairytale style hous-



es: all a part of what makes this one and only unique town a world apart. Explore all of the little court ways with one-of-a-kind shops, galleries and cafés – all a part of the priceless and memorable moments that keep people from all over the globe coming back for more.

For the resort-minded enthusiast, the world famous Pebble Beach Resorts offer unequaled golf and full resort facilities. Every imaginable service is accessible at Pebble Beach, from its award-winning golf courses that draw many of the rich and famous, to their varied restaurants and cafés, the fitness center and full spa, and the array of exclusive specialty shops guaranteed to appease every indulgence. Pebble is known for the famous AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, a fully televised golf tournament that draws thousands, with an amazing line-up of famed golfers such as: Tiger Woods, Bill Murray, Clint Eastwood, Don Johnson, and Kevin Costner, to name a few. In 2007, Golf Magazine Digest voted Pebble Beach

Resorts as the number one golf resort in America.

Carmel Valley Ranch is an absolute must for those who appreciate sophisticated “play.” The newly transformed resort is not just another luxury resort. Au contraire, the 500-acre ranch is located in picturesque Carmel Valley, just minutes from Carmel-by-the-Sea. Silhouetted by rolling hills lined with matured oak trees, Carmel Valley Ranch is family-friendly, and dedicated to the ever-powerful “elixir of life.” It takes leisure to a new level. Lodged somewhere between reality and the imagination, Carmel Valley Ranch is inimitable offering every possible amenity. Features like: 7,000 lavender plants, bee harvesting, organic gardens, vineyards, and state-of-the-art fitness center, 81-degree saline pool, state-of-the-art spa with spa pool and an infinity tub overlooking the vineyards, to name a few. So when your planning your next weekend escape, create your own romantic fairytale and head north to a magical locale named Carmel by the Sea. **EL**

