

The starchitect behind Treasure Island's startling makeover

# ESCAPE PLANS

GORGEOUS ROOMS, HEAVENLY TREATMENTS  
19 state-of-the-art spots where you can loaf in style

Berkeley against Brooklyn:  
A righteous smug-off

# San Francisco



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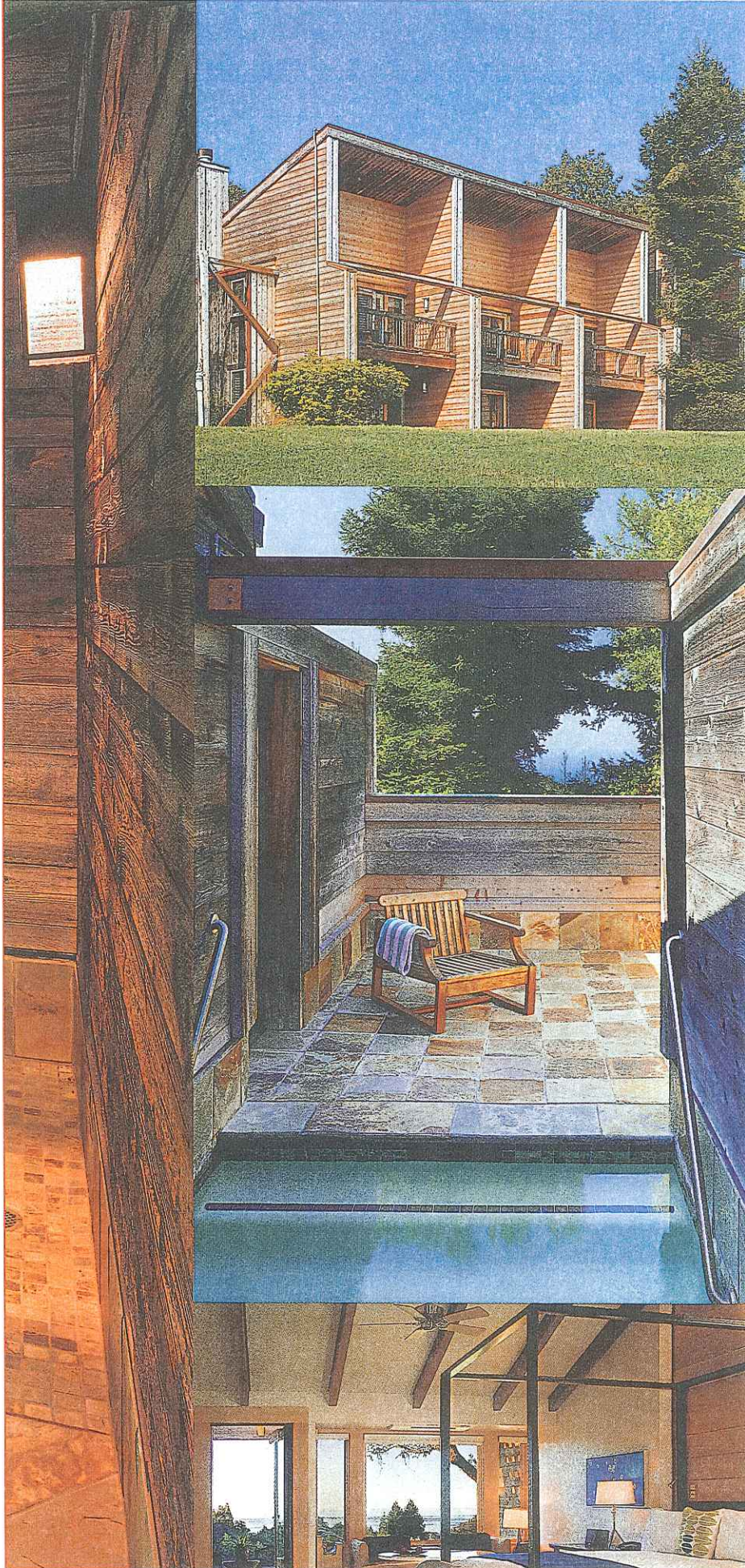
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FRONT-ROW AT RED ROCKS:  
A stunning view of Utah's desert  
landscape from the patio of a suite  
at the Amangiri Resort—perhaps  
the most spectacular new small  
hotel in America. See page 68.

# JUMP INN

*FROM SONOMA TO SOUTH ASIA, 19 NEW-FASHIONED HOTELS  
JUST GOT THE FULL SPA TREATMENT—SO YOU CAN, TOO.*





## BIG SUR

**VENTANA INN & SPA**  
THE MAKEOVER WORKED.

**THE NEWS:** Nestled among the mile-high hills overlooking Big Sur, the venerable resort has undergone a \$26 million update and remodel—think modern-looking stone fireplaces, lots of natural fibers, light and airy earth tones in the new guestrooms, and a spiffed-up spa. But if you're the nostalgic type, you can still hole up in a rustic '70s-era wood-paneled suite or villa.

**THE MOOD:** All of Ventana, from the Japanese baths and daily yoga classes to the sun-soaked rooms, feels spalike: Guests with blissed-out grins pad around in bathrobes and slippers. The nods to Big Sur's holistic reputation—Reiki, reflexology, craniosacral therapy, private meditation, even astrology readings—add to the effect.

**INSIDE THE SPA:** Unlike the windowless treatment rooms at most spas, Ventana's offer powerful views of the property's fruit and magnolia trees, those famous rolling highlands, and a gleaming stretch of sea.

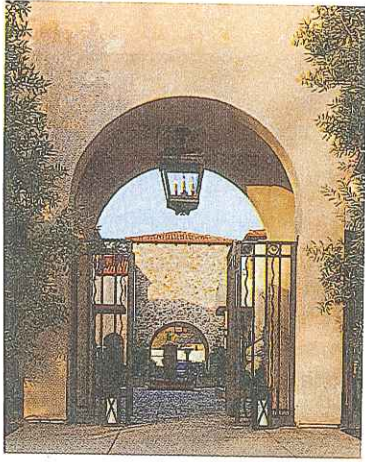
**SIGNATURE TREATMENT:** The Organic Seaweed Leaf Wrap (freshly harvested seaweed blasts your skin with antioxidants) and the Santa Lucia Wine Wrap (gives you a glow without the buzz) break down the buffers between our hectic lives and the gifts of Mother Nature. Even a basic exfoliating scrub with local sea salt or a rubdown with essential oils from plants and herbs indigenous to Big Sur can make you feel like you've gone native.

**LINES:** Massage treatments use neroli oil scented with essential oils—simple and pure. The facial treatments incorporate the Hungarian skincare line Ilike.

**REASON TO SPA:** If you have to go on one more hike, you'll lose it.

**SARAH BOSSENBROEK**

ROOMS FROM \$500, 48123 HWY. 1, BIG SUR,  
831-667-2831, VENTANAINN.COM



## YOUNTVILLE

**HOTEL LUCA EVERYTHING FEELS EASIER IN TUSCANY.**

**THE NEWS:** Recently opened on the north end of Yountville's main drag, Hotel Luca is all about convenience. You can walk to the town's best restaurants—including a modest place called the French Laundry—or bike to the region's famed vineyards (if you ever put down your fork).

**THE MOOD:** The hotel has the vibe of a Tuscan villa where you've landed comfortably, ready for anything.

**INSIDE THE SPA:** The downstairs spas are simple and sweet. The blue-lit relaxation room features a lavender-altwater soaking pool, and the treatment rooms include little more than a table covered with a sheet. But once the therapists start working on your shoulders, you can close your eyes and drift away to anywhere you want to be.

**Signature Treatment:** The Personalized Aroma Journey begins with a warm neck rap and a mug of fruit tea. While you're rftening up, the massage therapist flips through her recipe book of essential oils to find just the combination to suit your mood. After she's had her way with you, she slips you a vial of the custom blend to remember her by.

**Facials:** Luca's facial treatments rely on botanical cleansers and moisturizers, and the personalized aromatherapy sessions incorporate oils from Tara, a Carmel-based line.

**WALK TO SPA:** It's the best way to take a breather between meals.

### NEWBERRY

ROOMS FROM \$305, 6774 WASHINGTON ST., YOUNTVILLE, 707-944-8080, HOTELUCANAPA.COM

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: BATISTA MOON STUDIO/COURTESY OF JOIE DE VIVRE HOSPITALITY

CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PAGE: Ventana's tranquil Japanese baths invite silent relaxation; the grounds have retained their woody, rustic charm; lounging areas encourage visitors to dip in and out of the baths; gone are most of the dark guestrooms—in their place are spaces brightened by natural light and a cleaner, airy look.

