

ESSENTIAL

TAKING CHARGE

WILLEM DAFOE

PUBLIC SCHOOL AND MOËT & CHANDON UNIFY HERITAGE

DAVID CASAVANT AND JACOLBY SATTERWHITE REDEFINE ART AS FASHION

ALIREZA NIROOMAND JUST WANTS TO HAVE FUN / MATCH YOUR SCENT TO YOUR HOME

BRANDON & DYLAN LEE ON THE PROWL IN DOLCE & GABBANA

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WINTER 2017

SHARP SPACES

A glimpse of the finest offerings in architecture and interior design.



Sets of walking sticks, binoculars, and lanterns can be found in each room—the perfect accessories for a hike through the verdant, old-growth forests rising through the fog. Within a 20-acre canyon, Ventana scattered fifteen Glampsites: canvas tents enclosing reclaimed redwood beds, ice chests and custom picnic baskets, and both propane- and wood-fueled firepits to cast light and shadows across the canopy of redwoods. When nature calls, the nearby Bath House offers marble vanities and restrooms, not to mention teak-enclosed showers. Supernatural levels of luxury can be found within the cedar cabanas of Spa Alila, where guests are pampered with Balinese skin scrubs and an “Essence of Big Sur Herbal Massage” utilizing compresses of local herbs before returning outside to soak in a clothing-optional Japanese hot bath and take in the ocean breeze rising from the cliffs.

Adventurous types can also try their hands at falconry, or take in the work of local artists at new Glass House Gallery, before dining on coastal cuisine sourced from local farmers at the Sur House. And the stone-clad Social House is stocked with vintage records and reclaimed redwood chairs, the ideal spot to watch the sun set before hitting the road. •

In 1944, Henry Miller escaped Los Angeles and a bad case of writer’s block to travel down the newly-opened State Route 1. He stopped at a friend’s place in Big Sur, fell in love with its natural grandeur, and stayed. Countercultural icons including Jack Kerouac and Lawrence Ferlinghetti soon arrived, essentially putting the California cliffs and rocky coves on the map.

“Certainly paradise, whatever, wherever it be, contains flaws,” he wrote from his Big Sur house in a memoir of his time there. One 21st century flaw? The scenic, perilous road itself was prone to small landslides and, in February 2017, home to one of such unprecedented severity that the 40-year-old resort became all but inaccessible. Finally, after months of repair, the road reopened this fall. And with a multi-million dollar refresh, so did Ventana Big Sur, now the first North American property of Singapore luxury brand Alila Hotels & Resorts, who brought in BraytonHughes Design Studios and architects Ray Parks & Associates to re-imagine the resort as an adults-only bohemian enclave.

Architect and designer Kipp Stewart’s original modernist gems of weathered cedar still nestle within the 160 acres perched on the Pacific coast. The 59 guest rooms, suites, and houses feature tributes to Mid-century California, like tubs for two with fireplaces behind retractable walls; kitschy-chic macramé and lamps filled with beach sand; and egg chairs suspended beneath star-filled skylights.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

WORDS BY JESSE DORRIS

FOLLOWING DEVASTATING DAMAGE, VENTANA BIG SUR REOPENS BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER.

