

california

meetings + events

MEETINGSMAGS.COM // WINTER 2019

Best of 2019

24 categories including: BEST COASTAL RESORT, CRAFT BREWERY WITH MEETING SPACE, NEW VENUE, ATTRACTION/THEME PARK, MOUNTAIN RESORT, CONFERENCE/CONVENTION CENTER *and more!*



GLADOW NEAD
COMMUNICATIONS

CALIFORNIA MEETINGS + EVENTS
WINTER 2019



MEETING NOTES

9 PEERSPACE

The online marketplace pairs planners with creative, one-of-a-kind meeting spaces.

By Megan Gosch

10 VENUE SPOTLIGHT

Fresh from a \$13 million renovation and expansion, Shelter Island's Kona Kai Resort & Spa has the only private beach in San Diego where alcohol can be served, along with other amenities for standout events.

By Karen E. Baker

11 MEETING MUNCHIES

The churro croissant is a new bakery hybrid that's well worth a bite.

By Shelley Levitt

12 SIGNATURE DRINK

The Blood Orange Margarita at Chulita Venice is an intoxicating balance of tart, bitter and sweet. **By Shelley Levitt**

13 TASTE

The InterContinental Los Angeles Century City celebrates the arrival of LeBron James with a martini and layer cake featuring Fruity Pebbles, his favorite cereal.

By Shelley Levitt

INDUSTRY UPDATE

38 INFOGRAPHIC

USA is ranked the No. 1 destination in the Eventex Top 20 Destinations for Meetings and Events Index. **Research courtesy of Eventex**

40 REGIONAL NEWS

Awards, venue and people news, association updates and more.

46 SNAPSHOTS

The dress code was white and the setting a rose garden at Le Diner en Blanc. Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills offered an exclusive package



ON THE COVER

Park Hyatt Aviara Resort Golf Club & Spa is this year's Best Golf Resort (Southern California). **Photo courtesy of Hyatt**

Uncovering Off-Site Gems

New platform helps planners discover unconventional meeting spaces.

PRODUCTS, PLACES & INSPIRATION



VENUE SPOTLIGHT»

Kona Kai Resort & Spa

Surrounded by water, the newly remodeled Kona Kai Resort is a luxurious San Diego resort perfect for both business and leisure. **BY KARIN E. BAKER**

REMOVED FROM THE HUBBUB OF SAN DIEGO, yet a quick Uber ride to Balboa Park and buzzy Liberty Station, Shelter Island's Kona Kai Resort & Spa is a calming, elegant getaway that both soothes and stimulates.

Originating in 1953 as a private club, Kona Kai was purchased in 2012 by Noble House Hotels & Resorts. The property recently underwent a \$13 million expansion and remodel that complemented the Polynesian décor with modern and Spanish Colonial-style elements.

The pet-friendly resort's 170 guest rooms and suites have undergone stunning transformations. The redone rooms feature oversized spa bathrooms with luxurious soaking tubs, and a private balcony or patio and many also include a double-sided gas fireplace.

The omnipresence of water is part of what makes Kona Kai so special. Overlooking both Kona Kai Marina and San Diego Bay, the resort features its own private beach with nearly 23,000 square feet of white sand, along with two swimming pools and several water sport options, including kayaking, paddleboarding and jet skiing.

Kona Kai's SpaTerre promotes health, relaxation and well-being with treatments that incorporate Thai, Indonesian and Ayurvedic elements. Indulgences like the Himalayan Salt Stone Massage can be further enhanced when performed on the spa's unique heated quartz sand bed.

Kona Kai Resort has an array of meeting and event spaces. "Most of our meeting rooms feature lots of natural light and can be configured to accommodate various group sizes," says General Manager Hugh Hedin.

BY THE NUMBERS

55,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting/function space, including the new Marina View Lawn

7,020 square feet of spa space at SpaTerre

518 boat slips in the adjacent Kona Kai Marina

90 miles south of Los Angeles; **30 minutes** north of downtown San Diego

25 complimentary fitness classes a week

These spaces include the Point Loma Terrace, which overlooks the Marina; the Point Loma Ballroom, whose three sections can be divided or joined to create various levels of intimacy, and the Coronado Room, with floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook a garden courtyard. Other options include the verdant Cabo Garden Court and the aforementioned white sand beach. "It's the only private beach in all of San Diego on which alcohol can be served," says Hedin.

Exemplary New American cuisine is served at Vessel, Kona Kai's restaurant and bar. Two swimming pools provide distinctive experiences for visitors. The 21-and-over-pool area includes the Paloma Bar, where you can order a Point Loma Paloma of sangria. A Tiki bar at the all-ages pool offers Polynesian-influenced classics like the Rum Runner, a mai tai and kid-friendly nibbles.

Between group sessions, guests can enjoy pleasures like lounging on the private beach and toasting marshmallows, engaging in yoga and wine (one of the most popular fitness classes is the Saturday yoga session called Namaste and Rosé), and making an easy foray to Little Italy's trendy eateries. resortkonakai.com; 619.221.8000

PHOTOS: KONA KAI; PITCHOON BAKERY; HASH KITCHEN; CRUSTACEAN