

**UNDER THE NAPA VALLEY SUN: AUBERGE DU SOLEIL OFFERS  
LUXE POOL AND OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM**

*'Al Fresco' Playground For Hotel Guests Brings The Laid-Back Elegance of  
The Riviera To Napa Valley*

**RUTHERFORD, CALIF.** – Secluded, discreet and elegant, Auberge du Soleil has always been a hotel that could just as easily belong in the South of France as it does in the Napa Valley. With its sun-drenched pool and lounge space, the inn offers an exotic outdoor living room that blurs the lines between California Wine Country and the French Riviera.

Inspired by the famed small luxury hotels of the Mediterranean, including the Château de la Chèvre d'Or on the Côte d'Azur and Il Pellicano in Tuscany, designer Suzanne Tucker of San Francisco's Tucker & Marks transformed the pool area in Spring 2007, and the space was christened *La Plage*. Tucker, who gave the iconic Michael Taylor-designed inn a stylish update, beginning with the Michelin-starred restaurant and bar, followed with the 50 guestrooms and the two spacious private *maisons*, culminating with the pool in 2007. The result is a sexy, laid-back venue, where guests can spend lazy hours lounging on oversized chaises or underneath gauze-draped canopies on day beds for two, sipping signature cocktails or wine from a neighboring vineyard. Middle-Eastern-styled Dedon lounge furniture imported from Germany and upholstered in the Auberge's signature shade of persimmon match the two-toned oversized market umbrellas scattered throughout the four-tiered lounge area.

Rough-hewn Egyptian and Moroccan limestone in varying textures and honey, gold and walnut patinas give the pool area's four hillside terraces a Provençal look. Two upper terraces, trellised for shade, overlook the pool. Lighter fare and cocktails can be enjoyed in a dining area clustered around a rustic fountain imported from France. Two additional lounge areas terrace down the hillside below the pool. Perfect for discreet sunbathing, this area features oversized chaises and a Michael Taylor Designs fountain as homage to the inn's original designer. Custom-designed Moroccan-tile tables throughout the seating areas lend an Old-World atmosphere, while handcrafted Italian planters filled with rosemary, olive and lemon trees perfume the air.



“With *La Plage*, we give our esteemed hotel guests a little playground – somewhere sensual and intimate,” said Managing Partner George Goeggel. “After a day of wine tasting in the Valley, there is no better place to indulge in the sheer decadence of doing nothing at all.”

The centerpiece of the \$1 million renovation was, of course, the pool itself, glowing under the warm California sun to reveal a pebble-sheen floor inlaid with an Italian mosaic, an iridescent Auberge sun crafted in mother-of-pearl. Honey-colored limestone accented with South American ipe wood creates a rustically elegant deck surrounding the pool.

Hotel guests can enjoy a host of poolside amenities, including Wifi and a DJ-mixed pool soundtrack heard through custom-designed sound system, cocktails and lounge food from Auberge du Soleil’s award-winning restaurant. Upon arrival poolside, guests are greeted with a signature Auberge Bellini, the first of an array of refreshing amenities, such as gourmet Italian ices, sorbets, gelées, chilled eucalyptus-infused towels and iPods, to be offered by doting attendants. Poolside dining from the Auberge’s award-winning restaurant is also available. Even the pool water is a departure from the ordinary, thanks to a new eco-friendly ozone-and-salt-based system that reduces chlorine usage and is gentle on both swimmers and the environment.

Auberge du Soleil is a distinctive property that captures the international atmosphere of today’s Napa Valley. Its restaurant, one of the first great Wine Country destination restaurants, pays tribute to its legacy with an award-winning menu and wine list. Luxurious accommodations, a renowned spa, exceptional cuisine and service earn Auberge du Soleil recognition year after year as one of the world’s most renowned small luxury hotels.

### **About Auberge Resorts**

Auberge Resorts is a collection of exceptional hotels, resorts and private clubs, each with a unique personality that assures a memorable guest experience. Among the distinctive properties are Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley; Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas; Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley; The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina; Encantado, Santa Fe; Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif, with several others currently in development. While Auberge Resorts nurtures the individuality of each establishment, all are characterized by a set of communal elements: intimate, understated elegance; captivating locations that inspire exceptional cuisine and spa experiences; and gracious yet unobtrusive service. For more information about Auberge Resorts, please visit [www.aubergeresorts.com](http://www.aubergeresorts.com).

Auberge du Soleil is also a member of Relais & Châteaux, the prestigious global hospitality association of intimate, elegant and independently owned hotels and acclaimed restaurants. Founded in 1954 in France, the association is comprised of 480 luxurious establishments in 56 countries.

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