

# SOCIAL LIFE

JULY 4, 2019

*celebrating 16 years  
of print*

**CHRISTIE  
BRINKLEY**





# BODEGA BAY LODGE

## SONOMA COAST ESCAPE

BY ANTHONY MICHAEL



**B**odega Bay, California, is not particularly well known, and this is exactly the characteristic that makes it a best-kept-secret destination. That said, any film buff is unwittingly familiar with this idyllic seaside refuge: it was the site for many of the location shots in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*. Indeed, an (unusual) abundance of birds contributes a certain sense of energy to this otherwise sleepy fishing village.

Bodega Bay is the type of place where one goes with a life partner — or gets married to one — and spends a few days communing with nature. Miles of languid Sonoma coastline, rolling hills, nearby vineyards, and a smattering of sporting options (among them fishing, golfing, running, and biking) provide everything one needs for a true, low-impact escape.

In keeping with the remote environment, there is only one option for lodging, meetings, and weddings, and it is exceptional. You'd never know that Bodega Bay Lodge is a former motor inn, but after millions of dollars spent to bring the property up to a consistently No.1-rated lodge on the Sonoma coast, it has been transformed into something spectacular. Suites with fireplaces, luxurious bathrooms, exceptional linens, and striking ocean and bluff views contribute to a sense of welcome isolation.

The unlimited green spaces are marked by wildflowers, stately trees, and a generously sized pool that are perched on a dramatic rise that seemingly rolls into the western horizon. A well-equipped gym cohabitates with a suitable spa offering limited — but expert — massage and other treatments.

Wanna get out? Go beachcombing for driftwood. Fly a kite. Scout for whales. Eat local crab and oysters at nearby food shacks. Discover boutique Russian Valley wineries and sip your way through handcrafted Sonoma County wines. Explore rugged hiking trails through untamed countryside.

All trails lead back to the Lodge where, of particular note, attention is paid to gastronomy. The results are outstanding. Start in Drakes Fireside Lounge, which boasts wines exclusively from Sonoma County wineries and eight Sonoma County craft beers on draft.

Make your way to Drakes Sonoma Coast, which celebrates the local bounty of Sonoma's spectacular coastal region. The menu reflects the seasonal availability of local, sustainably-farmed produce, seafood, and meats. Having established close relationships with local organic family farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and artisanal cheese makers, the chef creates menus that are fresh, innovative, and ever-changing.

Although only an hour's drive from the Golden Gate Bridge, Bodega Bay Lodge is an unspoiled, unruffled, unplugged, and unexpected oasis.

**Bodega Bay Lodge**  
[bodegabaylodge.com](http://bodegabaylodge.com)