

# Food & Beverage

INTERNATIONAL

## Great Italian Restaurants

Jean Georges

Francis Ford Coppola

George Morrone

The Southern Rhone

Egg Caviar with Vodka Cream  
Presentation by  
Jean Georges Vongerichten



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HOTEL HIDDEN TREASURES

# Ojai Valley Inn

**T**HE OJAI VALLEY INN & SPA is 220 acres of heaven, embraced by the Topa Topa Mountains and located only 73 miles northwest of Los Angeles in the charming town of Ojai. The Ojai Valley is renowned as a haven for artists, writers and movie stars, who find inspiration in its serene beauty. The Inn features 260 spacious rooms and suites in ten buildings, which offer spectacular mountain and golf course views. The Inn, known as Shangri-La, was the site of Frank Capra's 1937 classic "Lost Horizon," and this year will proudly celebrate its Diamond Jubilee.

**By Bonnie Carroll**

is a Cappuccino pie with meringue.

This uniquely complete hotel property has a total ambiance of relaxation, and provides the opportunity for long walks to commune with nature. But, if you're a non-walker like moi, perhaps a charming young bellman named Robert will chauffeur you to your destination in one of the hotel's sporty green golf carts. The pro shop at the Inn is brimming with very smart apparel and the finest equipment. There are also several boutiques on the property which offer everything from chic resort clothing to walking sticks.



Garden entry of the beautiful Ojai Valley Inn & Spa

The town of Ojai is fun to visit. Numerous antique emporiums, art studios and one of the best health food stores going. On Sunday morning they hold a Farmers Market that offers terrific fruits/vegetables/plants and a first hand experience of how very nice the Ojai locals are.

Last but not least is the newly opened 31,000-square foot SPA OJAI. Do treat yourself to possibly the most beautiful spa facility in the country. The separate building is designed in Andalusian Spanish

style and has the charm of a thriving Mediterranean village. SPA OJAI features a charming waiting room with comfy overstuffed chairs, where patrons enjoy hot herbal tea by the fireplace between treatments. The

The George C. Thomas designed 18-hole championship golf course, horseback riding at the Inn's own Ranch & Stables, guided hiking, bird watching tours, Tennis Center, three heated pools, and full service Spa provide a bevy of activities for guests in one of the most beautiful settings in the world.

The Maravilla, fine dining room at the Inn features the extraordinary culinary talents of Brent Wuest. Chef Wuest brings his extraordinary talents in the culinary arts to the Inn, which include his experience as former Executive Chef at the 5-Diamond French Room in the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, Texas. The tasting menu offered in the Maravilla includes such items as Yellowtail Snapper on caramelized red onions and endives with carrot sauce; or herb roasted pork loin with vegetable ragout and blackberry vinegar sauce. Wuest creates a constantly changing menu for the dining rooms, as well as the Spa menus, which are available in all the Ojai Inn dining venues, room service menus, and at the Acorn Cafe in the Ojai Spa area.

The newly renovated dining room is beautifully appointed to synergize its seventy-five year history with accents of contemporary color and design. The adjoining hallways are filled with paintings of local artists, and pottery of the late-great Beatrice Wood is on display. I highly recommend dining on the outside adjoining patio, overlooking the pristine golf course as the sun is setting...what peace and beauty! The Shangri-La room is another favorite. This wonderful open-air party room holds up to 400 people and is surrounded by windows overlooking the golf course. This would be a perfect spot for a wedding!



Ojai Valley Inn Executive Chef Brent Wuest

jacuzzi/shower/sauna/steamroom area is lined with windows that fill the colorful tiled room with natural light. A variety of body treatments, including Green Tea (exfoliating treatment using herbs and green tea), choice of Massage (Lisa's Shiatsu, Swedish), a selection of Facials, the Kuyam (a stylish take off on the spiritual mud ritual practiced by the Chumash Indians), Petals (body polish with rose petals and oils), and a variety of