

SAN FRANCISCO

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INTERIORS / ARCHITECTURE / INSPIRATION

# DESIGN 2018



# CHECK IN

## VENTANA BIG SUR

Big Sur is back on the scene in a big way after last year's massive landslides closed a good portion of the coastline to the public for several months. The Ventana Inn took the downtime to revamp and rebrand, reopening its doors to visitors as Ventana Big Sur (the first North American property for Allia Hotels & Resorts), just as the new Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge was unveiled in October. Perched on the bluffs above the Pacific Ocean, the property retains all of its original character—stone fireplaces, cedar-planked interiors, luxury bathtubs, and private balconies and patios—while boasting new rustic-chic design elements including rich leather furnishings, cozy bedding and handcrafted accessories. Fifty-nine guest rooms get the custom treatment with macramé wall hangings by renowned Portland artist Holly Mueller and black-and-white photography of Big Sur's rugged landscape by Sonoma-based photographer Chere Pafford. "She hiked 15 miles in the coastal region with a Ventana guide to capture the perfect photos of Big Sur," says Rachel Fischbach, principal at Brayton Hughes Design Studios. The new Glass House Gallery, a 40-foot shipping container repurposed with a glass-and-cedar-slat façade and outdoor viewing deck, showcases work by a rotating lineup of Central Coast artists, while the reimagined Social House encourages guests to linger. Think plush leather chairs for lounging, a vinyl record collection for listening and various game tables for playing. "We opened up the three existing lobby area rooms to create interesting spaces with a luxurious cabin vibe," Fischbach says. And if you're the type who likes an action-packed vacation, Ventana Big Sur also offers a host of activities—from treatments at the signature Spa Allia and soaking in the infinity-edge hot tub to guided nature walks and energizing quartz bowl sound baths. [ventanabigsur.com](http://ventanabigsur.com)



# CURATORS

ON MAKING ART MORE INCLUSIVE



"Oftentimes in the art world, artists are represented by a gallery and make work based on what that gallery can sell. We opened State to show the work of contemporary Bay Area artists who are looking for a project space to push their artistic practice forward. Our gallery exists in opposition to the fast pace of today's art world and, instead, offers artists a chance to create a show unbound by market-based constraints."

—DANIELLE SMITH,  
[statespacesf.com](http://statespacesf.com)



"We wanted to use our gallery experience to support local artists. At State, we provide the public, not just collectors or art world insiders, with a place to look at what contemporary artists are creating in their city. In the gallery world, there used to be this elusive notion of the back room, where artwork from past shows or new and special acquisitions were stored and only ever open to elite collectors and VIPs. Our back room is just that, except it's open for anyone to see."

—KIMBERLY VERDE,  
[statespacesf.com](http://statespacesf.com)