## WESTERN ARTS Architecture From Cowboy to Contemporary



## WESTERN LANDMARK

The Lodge at Torrey Pines is crafted California at its finest

WRITTEN BY DAVID M. BROWN





**This page, from top:** The 170-room Lodge at Torrey Pines, north of San Diego, celebrates the California Craftsman architecture of brothers Charles Sumner and Henry Mather Greene. The handcrafted style recalls the Greenes' landmark Gamble and Blacker homes in Pasadena. Drive up to the porte-cochère and kilted doormen provide the gracious service for which the perennial AAA Five Diamond property is world famous, while recalling Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the distinguished Scottish architect and Art Nouveau designer. His craftsmanship inspired the design and details of the spa. Photos courtesy The Lodge at Torrey Pines

## Kilted doormen greet you at the porte-cochère of The Lodge at

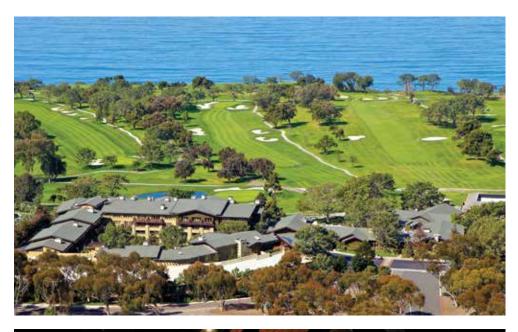
Torrey Pines — displaying its superlative service and celebrating Charles Rennie Mackintosh [1868-1928], the Scottish architect and Art Nouveau artist, whose clean, elegant craftsmanship and commitment to detail inspired the design of the property's boutique spa.

Nothing is gimmicky, trendy or ersatz here. If it isn't true to the early 20th-century California Pacific Coastal experience, you won't find it at the lodge. This AAA Five Diamond property, a distinction it has held since its opening in 2002, is located just north of San Diego between the beach communities of La Jolla and Del Mar.

On a bluff looking toward the Pacific Ocean over the Rees Jones-redesigned Torrey Pines Golf Course, site of the annual Farmers Insurance Open, the 6.5acre resort is surrounded by the 2,000-acre Torrey Pines State Reserve, one of two places on Earth where this rarest of pines remain. The lodge's courtyard garden is an adaptation of this unique, wild environment.

At the lodge, you can hike to the famous beaches beneath the Torrey Pines cliffs, watch sea birds, enjoy a chaise by the pool or play croquet — just a few miles from a great American city.

Owned by longtime San Diegans, the Evans family, the residential-style lodge







embodies the spirit of brothers Charles Sumner Greene [1868-1957] and Henry Mather Greene [1870-1954], whose California Craftsman architectural style was inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement of the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.

Consistent with this inspiration, the 170 rooms and suites, ranging in size from 520 to 1,500 square feet, have furnishings in the style of Gustav Stickley [1858-1942] and wallpaper recalling the pioneering work of William Morris [1834-1896].

Responding to Victorian architectural excesses of ornamentation and patterns, and industrialism's assembly-line homogeneity, Craftsman exemplars, such as the Greenes, called for clean lines, open spaces and rough-hewn materials. Their homes — in particular the landmark Gamble and Blacker in Pasadena - harmoniously celebrate nature, fastidious workmanship and indoor-outdoor living.

In this spirit, Wimberly, Allison, Tong & Goo

This page, clockwise from top left: The Farmers Insurance Open returns annually to the Rees Jonesredesigned Torrey Pines Golf Course. | The Lodge's signature restaurant, A.R. Valentien, honors one of the major figures of California Impressionist art, and its executive chef, Jeff Jackson, creates contemporary California cuisine in the spirit of the boutique hotel's turn-of-the-20th-century coastal theme. | The lobby exemplifies Craftsman ideals: clean lines, meticulous workmanship and indoor-outdoor seamlessness. The ceiling reveals post-and-beam construction, celebrating the Torrey pine, Jatoba cherry woodwork and Art Nouveau fixtures, and the room also incorporates Tiffany-style lamps and furnishings in the style of master designer, Gustav Stickley.

of Irvine, California, created the architecture and design for the lodge, and Craftsman authority Randell L.

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homes. The signature restaurant honors painter A.R. Valentien.

Makinson of the Gamble House Trust in Pasadena supervised. Interiors are by Kristine Smith Design Studio in Escondido.

The structure incorporates post-and-beam construction, clinker-brick masonry, rich Jatoba cherry woodwork, winglike rooflines, and shingle and sandstone-bluff exteriors. Coordinating indoor and outdoor living, the design complements the area sandstone formations and wildflowers, with beam details celebrating the Torrey pines.

In addition, the resort displays California plein air paintings by turn-of-the-century California Impressionists, all charter members of the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition. These include Albert Robert Valentien [1862-1925]; Maurice Braun [1877-1941]; Charles Reiffel [1862-1942]; Charles Fries [1854-1940]; Alfred Mitchell [1888-1972]; and Everett Gee Jackson [1900-1995]. The property's meeting rooms and suites have been named for the artists In the restaurant, Executive Chef

Jeff Jackson creates his contemporary California cuisine using the finest produce from local farmers and the best California seafoods and meats. He stocks California wines for his cellar. Every fall, the lodge hosts Celebrate the Craft, which showcases this commitment to regionally grown ingredients and innovative cooking and winemaking. That event incorporates The Torrey Pines Plein Air Invitational, which shows contemporary canvases of a painting style so well represented inside.

From the architecture to the art collection and right down to the food on each plate, The Lodge at Torrey Pines is in every sense a celebration of California's singular taste, beauty and craftsmanship.

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