

# 805

LIVING

Soak Up  
the Season



By Erin Rottman



A porte cochère (below) curves between the entrance of 1 Hotel Hanalei Bay and the lobby courtyard, which is highlighted with fire bowls. The still surface of the main pool (left)—one of two at the resort—contrasts with the rolling ocean waves just beyond it.

## A New 1 on Kauai

**W**hen 1 Hotels took over the former St. Regis Princeville on

Kauai's north shore, the new parent company of the resort literally “blew the lid off” of it. After deciding that the property was at odds with the lush landscape, 1 Hotels founder Barry Sternlicht had the roof removed from the lobby. Transformed by the \$300 million redesign, **1 Hotel Hanalei Bay** (1hotels.com/hanalei-bay, from \$1,600) is the brand's first resort and new flagship. Guests can tell they're in Hawaii the moment they step inside—water cascades over black volcanic rock at the entrance, and the central lobby is filled with dense plant life, sunlight, and tropical breezes.



The ambience aligns with 1 Hotels' pursuit of nature-inspired design and sustainability. The property relies on 75 percent natural light to reduce energy consumption, and pili grass roofs provide natural insulation. The hotel also harvests rainwater, which is said to reduce outdoor water use by 97 percent.

To blend in better with the environment, the once-white buildings sport a fresh coat of sage-colored paint. To further the effort, vines drop down the face of

the exterior and frame windows. Guest accommodations feature reclaimed teak, woven-willow paneling, and in the bathrooms, puka-lava rock walls. Filtered-water stations provide refills for reusable water bottles, and a plaque, entitled “1 Less Thing,” offers an opportunity to lighten luggage by donating an extra article of clothing to someone in need.

While the sustainability mission is impressive, indulgence is also an essential part of the mix. Surrounded by palm trees, >



Paradise found (from top): An ocean-view studio suite looks out to the cobalt waters of the Pacific and the chartreuse mountains across the bay. Cabanas with daybeds offer shady comfort at the adult pool. Welina Terrace, one of seven food and drink venues at the resort, serves modern Japanese cuisine, like the White Tiger sushi roll, stuffed with tuna, avocado, jalapeño, cucumber, and *tobiko* (flying fish roe). A Bamford Wellness Spa focuses on treatments connected to nature.



the main pool features in-water lounges, where relaxation typically involves a frozen Banana Colada or a Frosé Pink Flamingo—made with rosé, Tito’s Handmade Vodka, guava, Lillet, and fresh citrus fruit. The pool is close to the beach, so guests can go back and forth all day between relaxing dips and ocean activities, like guided snorkeling, outrigger canoeing, and paddleboarding. Beach lounges offer a full view of Hanalei Bay and the jagged green cliffs of the mountains behind it. It’s an extraordinary vista with not a high-rise in sight, thanks to Kauai county’s restrictive, preservation-conscious building-code designation for the bay as mostly residential and open.

To get pampered indoors, head to the Bamford Wellness Spa for a facial, massage, or other body treatment featuring local botanicals. Or, opt for a less common holistic wellness option, like hyperbaric oxygen therapy or a shocking cold plunge in a cryotherapy chamber. In another relaxation quest—the salt pod floatation—a guest is suspended by 10 inches of saltwater in a tub under ceiling lights that depict constellations before eventually going dark. When the lights return, it seems impossible that 30 minutes have already passed.

Expected to open this month, an aesthetic medical spa backed by a team of doctors and registered nurses will offer IV infusions, hormone balancing, and nutritional evaluation, among other services. Multiday wellness retreats based there are in the works.

When the sun begins to dip toward the horizon—get a table for a sunset dinner at the indoor-outdoor I Kitchen. Start with the Milk Bread, served with Maui Onion Butter and Black Lava Salt, and end with the Island Bananas With Caramelized White Chocolate Mousse, Miso Caramel, Banana Rum Cake, and Kaua’i Honey Crumble. >

# Hidden on Dillon Beach

**O**n the western edge of Northern California’s Marin County, tucked along a private beach between Bodega Bay and the mouth of Tomales Bay, are 25 cozy cottages and three cabins that welcome guests to enjoy a quiet coastal town at the culmination of a dead-end road. “It’s still a hidden gem,” says Mike Goebel about **Dillon Beach Resort** ([dillonbeachresort.com](http://dillonbeachresort.com), from \$299). The resort’s owner, Goebel helped lead the renovation of the property, which dates back to the late 1800s. “Here, people are barefoot and barbecuing on the beach,” he says.

Vanilla and salted-caramel soft serve from Petaluma-based Double 8 Dairy is dispensed at the general store, where guests can also grab breakfast pastries, blankets, and beach supplies. In the evening, the resort restaurant, Coastal Kitchen, offers clam chowder, burgers, seasonal veggies, and a kids’ menu.

The newest of the accommodations, 13 tiny houses with ocean views, debuted last month, featuring stocked kitchens and space for two to six people. No room service is available, but soft sand and beginner to intermediate surf waves are plentiful. “We kept it simple and let the coastal features be the draw,” says Goebel.



## HOT TIP IN SAN DIEGO

Celebrating a birthday? Book a complimentary one- or two-hour harbor tour with **City Cruises San Diego** ([sandiego.org/members/boating/city-cruises/offers/hornblower-free-birthday-harbor-tour-cruise.aspx](http://sandiego.org/members/boating/city-cruises/offers/hornblower-free-birthday-harbor-tour-cruise.aspx)). The cruise passes by the Maritime Museum, Harbor and Shelter islands, and military ships. “It’s a great way to get ideas for other things to do [while you’re here],” says the company’s associate general manager Chris Durrant, who also reports that guests recently saw a baby whale off Point Loma. Book in person, and cruise within one week of a birthday.



At the newly renovated Golden Door bathhouse, a cold soak in Epsom salts is offered to boost mood and speed muscle recovery.

# San Marcos’ Japanese-Style Refresh

An *onsen*, or hot-spring bath, is often the centerpiece of a Japanese inn. That’s the inspiration behind the bathhouse at north San Diego County’s **Golden Door** ([goldendoor.com](http://goldendoor.com), from \$10,450/person/week), a destination spa known for its personalized wellness programs and Japanese aesthetic.

Having recently completed a full redesign, the Golden Door bathhouse now features a soaking tub for a warm cherry blossom bath or a cool Epsom salt plunge, a new wet room for body scrubs and treatments, a steam room and sauna, and a hot tub. From the hot tub, bathers see time-lapse images of a mushroom emerging from the earth, a flower opening, and other natural progressions by cinematographer Louie Schwartzberg. “We created a healing room, a room inside the bathhouse with this exclusive art,” says general manager and COO Kathy Van Ness. “Because it’s slow-moving art, just looking at it actually slows you down.” ♦

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DILLON BEACH RESORT; TANVEER BADAL; CITY EXPERIENCES