

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

The Regent Santa Monica is a modern love letter to a bygone golden era



Chic rooms have subtle maritime references in their design

In Los Angeles, ambition is in the air. Everyone wants to look better, be fitter, be someone. The city is known for its fads; the next big thing. But step into the lobby of this new beachfront beauty and all that falls away. The Regent Santa Monica (sister to the Carlton Cannes) signals a return to the golden age of travel. We're talking drink trolleys, Art Deco finery and waist-coated bellhops who'll call you ma'am.

Previously Loews Santa Monica, the shell and bones remain the same (by law) but inside, it's entirely

transformed. Every inch oozes glamour and serenity and the attention to detail is off the scale (the hotel's grand opening gala was hosted by *Vanity Fair*).

Rooms are awash with soft ocean hues, inviting curves and subtle yachty references. The finishing touch: expansive views of the glittering Pacific. Nothing beats opening your drapes in the morning to surfers taking their first waves, the iconic Santa Monica Pier whirring to life and acrobats from nearby Cirque du Soleil practising their moves on high bars planted in the sand.

Adding a dash of European flair, is the first-ever Guerlain spa on the western seaboard featuring 12 treatment rooms and a softly lit bed-strewn relaxation area infused with the scent of white lily and amber.

Orla, The hotel's main restaurant, is fast becoming a hotspot for its unconventional Middle-East meets Greek menu conjured by celebrated Cairo-born chef Michael Mina (Urfa dusted big eye tuna with crispy falafel; black harissa-grilled lamb chops and ember-roasted Rosa Bianca eggplant). The décor is as striking as the dishes. Byzantine mosaic floors writhe with octopi, sculptural bronze lamps dangle from above and one whole side of the restaurant is open to those views. And when the legendary Santa Monica mists descend, the surrounding landscape takes on a mythical anything-could-happen quality – just like in the movies. ■ regenthotels.com



WORDS: LEO BEAR



If you're looking to rub shoulders with the city's beautiful people, book a table at Orla

"EACH INCH OOZES GLAMOUR AND SERENITY AND THE ATTENTION TO DETAIL IS OFF THE SCALE"