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# STRATOS

JOURNEY BEYOND FIRST CLASS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2011

## TOP SKI RETREATS

Enjoy a Winter Wonderland  
Out West



# L.A.'s Newest Landmark

*Two decades in the making, Terranea Resort rivals Pebble Beach with its wondrous California oceanfront setting. STRATOS checks into the Vanderlip Suite for the full experience.*

Whether arriving from the north or the south, upon turning west into the Terranea Resort it is immediately apparent that this place is something special. Twenty-two years in the making and just 20 miles from the Los Angeles and Long Beach airports, Terranea occupies a 102-acre tongue of land surrounded by ocean on three sides. From the driveway to the courtyard through the lobby and along the winding walk to the end of the fourth floor hallway, anticipation builds before arriving at the door of the Vanderlip Suite.

Anticipation is oftentimes better than the reality, but not here. The reveal is worth the wait, as cherished few resorts enjoy such a vast expanse of California coast and blue Pacific as their backdrop, and the Vanderlip Suite delivers 270 degrees of just such a vista.

Terranea sits on the site once occupied by Marineland of the Pacific. When it opened in 1954, Marineland was the world's largest oceanarium. Guests of a certain age may recognize the setting from the popular television

show "Sea Hunt," which was filmed on and around the site and aired in the late 1950s and early '60s. Marineland closed in 1987 and the land was purchased by a development company with an eye toward building a hotel, but the plans — and the site — languished until 1997 when new developers revitalized the idea of a luxury resort on this unique plot.

Opened in 2009, the resort and residential offerings include 20 bungalows, 50 castles, 32 villas, and the 360-room hotel with 32 suites. The 2,200-square-foot Vanderlip Suite is named in honor of Frank A. Vanderlip, the founding father of the Palos Verdes Peninsula who led a group that bought 16,000 acres here in 1913 and built the first homes in 1924.



*Terranea guests rejuvenate in the 50,000-square-foot oceanfront spa and fitness center, complete with expansive views of the Pacific Ocean.*



The resort resembles a Mediterranean estate, while the 2,200-square-foot Vanderlip Suite presents décor befitting the beach setting and laid-back lifestyle. Light and breezy, with cool creams, earth tones, and aquatic hues, the suite has an air of luxurious austerity. The artwork is distinctive and sea-themed. The large, round dining room table is elegant and inviting, and the living room is at once spacious and sumptuous. There is a desk, though focusing on work would be a tall order given the visual distractions.

The master suite has a sitting room with tile fireplace and a telescope, with which one can get a good look at Catalina Island. The pillow-top king bed is a motivation zapper, and the wood and marble bathroom is designed with couples in mind.

The amenities and activities are as bountiful as the scenery is beautiful. The Links at Terranea is a nine-hole, par-three golf course that is fun, challenging, breathtaking, and does not chew up an entire day, leaving ample time to hike along the scenic bluff-top trails, comb the secluded beach cove below the hotel, swim in one of the three sparkling pools, including the big one with the 140-foot waterslide, rejuvenate in the 50,000-square-foot oceanfront spa and fitness center, or dine in Terranea's three restaurants, which not only offer a variety of excellent fare but also majestic views. Our family's favorite was Nelson's, named after the

main character in "Sea Hunt," played by Lloyd Bridges. Nelson's has the feel of an upscale surf shack and is worth a visit if only to check out the bar crafted from recycled wine bottles.

The appointments in the Vanderlip Suite are everything one would expect in the premier digs of an ultra-luxury resort, but there is no prepping for the impact of the views. Standing on the balconies off the dining and living rooms is like being perched in the crow's nest of a ship with the sparkling azure ocean splayed out before one's eyes. To the north are the beachfront hotels of Santa Monica, and while close in proximity Palos Verdes is a world away from L.A.

The master bedroom and sitting room enjoy a balcony that faces south and looks down the rugged coast toward the oceanfront resorts of Orange County, which, while lovely, do not deliver the uniqueness of Terranea. In the garden spot that is this peninsula, there is nothing even remotely like this.

Just south of the resort is Donald Trump's lavish golf course, which The Donald boasts is better than Pebble Beach. Golf-wise, that is a stretch. But having had the pleasure of staying in both the Sloat Suite at The Lodge at Pebble Beach and also the Vanderlip Suite at Terranea, I can honestly say there is no comparison to this room with that view. ☼

## STRATOS Details

• TERRANEA RESORT	
Rancho Palos Verdes, California	(800) 832-8000
www.terranea.com	
FBO INFO: LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL	
Atlantic Aviation	(310) 215-5745
Landmark Aviation	(800) 942-7738
LONG BEACH DAUGHTERTY FIELD	
Airflight Inc.	(800) 241-3548
Long Beach Air Center	(888) 800-8005
Signature Flight Support	(800) 354-3591

*In the making for more than 22 years, and just a short drive from the Los Angeles and Long Beach airports, Terranea occupies a 102-acre tongue of land surrounded by ocean on three sides.*