

THE HOOD



TOWN AND COUNTRY RESORT MONKEY BAR LOBBY / PHOTO: TOWN AND COUNTRY RESORT



A Town in the Country

BY NIKI CHOPRA RICHARDSON

Town and Country Resort in San Diego is more than just a vacation destination. It is an iconic Mission Valley gathering place, which has been a staple in the community since it was first built in 1953. The forward-thinking San Diego businessman, Charlie Brown, built this very first hotel and convention center in San Diego in a predominantly agricultural area, giving start to what was the development of a “town” in the “country,” hence the name.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
TOWN AND COUNTRY
RESORT POOLSIDE; SNAZZY
KING; LOBBY; MAIN POOL /
PHOTOS: TOWN AND
COUNTRY RESORT

Muhammad Ali is said to have trained here in 1973 for his big fight against Ken Norton and in a nod to the boxing great, his likeness is splashed on the wall and wrapped on the elevator doors of the fitness center.

The present-day resort is the result of a 2019 overhaul where everything except the original 40-room motor lodge was gutted and has given rise to a mid-century modern resort with a sprawling campus-style feel. It boasts the largest convention center space in San Diego second only to the San Diego Convention Center and is home to all kinds of events from homecoming and quinceaneras to weddings and corporate conferences. The pet-friendly Town and Country prides itself on being an accessible luxury resort welcoming aspirational travelers and high-rollers alike with equanimity.

The longest serving staff member has been with this family-owned resort for more than 50 years and it's common to find multi-generations of staff smiling with pride of ownership as they prepare for the day.

Another element you'll notice right away are the funny pithy sayings, designed to make you smile. Started during the time of the 2019 construction, the resort realized that the construction was wearing on their neighboring community; to make people smile, the staff started putting up funny sayings on their marquee. The tradition stuck and they make sure that they don't take themselves too seriously by having the best of all their sayings all over their property. If you have a favorite, be sure to take a picture with it and tag the resort on social media.

While you certainly will not need to leave the premises, should you choose to use this location as a steppingstone to explore all things San Diego, you are strategically only a 10-minute drive to Sea World, Balboa Park, San Diego Zoo, Legoland, the airport or area beaches. >>



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WHAT TO DO

Town and Country boasts a 4-story, 150 foot-long (twistiest) water slide, making it the longest in all of San Diego. Appropriately named the Twister, this is available for your kids or your inner kid to enjoy.

The main pool area has a large pool as well as a kids' wading pool both with zero entry, making it easier to access for kids and adults alike. The area is well appointed with a host of lounge chairs and umbrellas. A few cabanas are also available to rent for an added layer of shade and luxury.

Firepits, a ping pong table, volleyball net and a dog park are scattered around throughout property, providing a variety of activities for every member of your family including your furry friends.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
MONKEY BAR; LAPPER KITCHEN + TAP;
TWISTER WATERSLIDE; ARLO / PHOTOS:
TOWN AND COUNTRY RESORT

For a break from the activity, head to the Regency Tower for a more relaxed, contemplative pool experience. Be sure to take a photo on the giant oversized beach chair that invites you to flamingle with it by the main pool complex.

The 9th floor of the Regency suites features a spacious gym with a good selection of cardio and resistance equipment, including a dedicated space for yoga and floor exercises. Yoga mats, water and towels are available, just pack your own water bottle.

Throughout the property, you will find art featuring California artists including notable surfer and artist Andy Davis. You'll find a detailed description of the locations and names of artists at www.towncountry.com/art. Take a moment and stand outside the main entrance of the resort and look at the giant orb depicting a sun rising (or setting?) over water. The hand painted curves of the waves above the geometric rays of the sun are mesmerizing and

if you stare at them long enough, you might even find them rippling.

Take a hike to the back of the property along the 4-acre park through which the San Diego River runs.

The resort features live music, trivia nights, dive-in movies by the pool and a host of other activities designed with the whole family in mind. The full activity calendar can be found on the resort's website.

WHERE TO EAT

The MARKT features grab and go foods and a fabulous assortment of coffees and lattes for poolside munchies or even to take a picnic in the park.

Monkey Bar offers small bites, wood-fired pizza and a host of cocktails to please every palate. Grab a spot by a fire pit and enjoy live music as you nosh.

If you're not ready to leave your poolside perch, Lap it Up offers a perfect selection of blended drinks both spiked and kid friendly as well as a wide selection of foods easy to eat poolside. Lappers Kitchen + Tap provides a large selection of Tequilas, Mezcals, cocktails, beer, wine and mocktails for everyone to enjoy. Be sure to check out their Surf and Turf nachos served with delicious Carne Asada and four jumbo perfectly seasoned shrimp, fire-roasted salsa, guacamole, pickled jalapenos, and cheese. And make sure to attend Trivia Night for some lively fun!

Lapper Kitchen + Tap provides a large selection of Tequilas, Mezcals, cocktails, beer, wine and mocktails for everyone to enjoy. Be sure to check out their Surf and Turf nachos served with delicious Carne Asada and four jumbo perfectly seasoned shrimp, fire-roasted salsa, guacamole, pickled jalapenos, and cheese.

If you're looking for a fine dining experience look no further than the award-winning ARLO, Named as OpenTable's 2023 best restaurant in San Diego for foodies. Featuring a global approach to local ingredients, an innovative cocktail program and an extensive wine list, ARLO offers the best of California's lifestyle and San Diego's creative culinary culture.

Town and Country is a resort with a big heart, welcoming staff, eclectic art, sayings that make you smile, clean and well-appointed rooms, family-friendly activities, and exceptional food; it is the perfect location for your next San Diego getaway. ❖

Town and Country San Diego

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