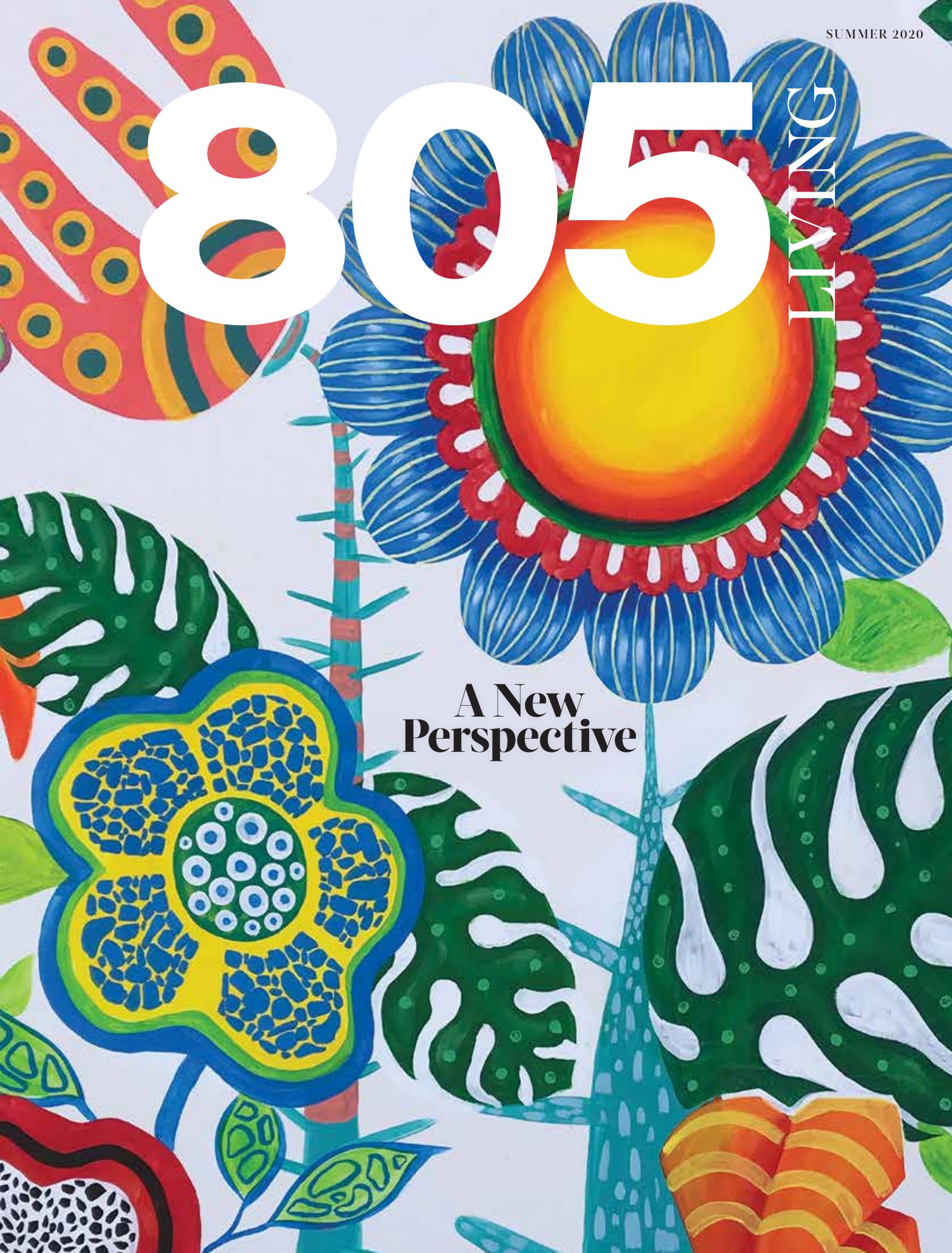


805 LIVING

**A New
Perspective**



By Erin Rottman

Stay Safe

LOCAL HOTELS ADOPT PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS TO PROVIDE WORRY-FREE VACATION LUXURY.



Europe may be off the itinerary this summer, but **Westlake Village Inn** (westlakevillageinn.com; from \$200) brings a little bit of the Mediterranean to the 805 with its new Spa Relais, comprised of 14 suites (from \$400), a 25,000-square-foot spa, Starr MedSpa for anti-aging treatments, gym, and pool. “Our owner was inspired by the great spas of Europe,” says Maria Solorzano, director of sales and marketing. “He really wanted people to be transported to Tuscany or somewhere in Europe.”

From its retro sign (right) to its cowboy hat-covered walls and custom-built wooden beds (bottom, right), the recently renovated Cuyama Buckhorn roadside inn infuses modern comforts with rustic charm and provides COVID-19-conscious adaptations.



Only guests staying in the spa suites can access that pool and gym. The suites, set along the golf course, have steam showers, soaking tubs,

fireplaces, and decks. Westlake Village Inn offers curbside check-in with minimal contact.

If this is the summer of the road trip, then **Cuyama Buckhorn** (cuyamabuckhorn.com; from \$175) offers a stylin’ roadside inn at just the right time. Situated on Route 166 between Ojai and New Cuyama with easy access to Los Padres National Forest, the 21-room pet-friendly inn kept its wood and metal sign from the 1950s but installed Tesla chargers and 2020s comforts.

Bright white rooms have modern geometric-print tile flooring, custom-built rustic wood beds, and Brooklinen bedding. Cowboy hats, a



tribute to the West, hang on the walls. The inn has adapted to the pandemic with new offerings like no-contact clean linens and spray sanitizer delivery for guests who prefer not to have housekeeping.

The inn’s Buckhorn

Restaurant, which sources ingredients from local farms, ranches, and wineries, is open for lunch with favorites like the Santa Maria tri-tip sandwich and Buckhorn burgers.

Guests can order dinner—and breakfast boxes for the next morning—delivered to their room and enjoy meals on their own semi-private patio.

Learn how to achieve the perfect pan sear on a piece of fish or make elevated hummus using a couple of unexpected ingredients via **Tuesdays with Travis**, a weekly culinary demonstration on >

An elegant, Tuscan-style treatment room (above) at Westlake Village Inn’s new Spa Relais (top, left) opens to an outdoor soaking tub.



Chef Travis Watson of Hotel Californian’s Blackbird restaurant demonstrates his expert culinary techniques weekly on Instagram.

SPA: VICTOR ELIAS; CHEF: JACQUELINE PILAR PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY OF HOTEL CALIFORNIAN; HOTEL: STEPHANIE RUSSO/COURTESY OF CUYAMA BUCKHORN



Dolphin Bay Resort & Spa in Pismo Beach is a great stay-at-home away from home beach destination with full kitchens in every room, smart TVs for use with personal Netflix accounts, and grocery shopping provided by the hotel staff upon request.

Instagram offered by Santa Barbara's Hotel Californian (hotelcalifornian.com; from \$499). Chef Travis Watson, who apprenticed with Chef Georges Paccard of the Michelin-starred La Ciboulette in France, joined Hotel Californian last fall and leads the on-site Mediterranean-inspired restaurant Blackbird. Follow @hotelcalifornian on Instagram for notifications on when the events begin.

Pismo Beach's Dolphin Bay Resort & Spa (visit thedolphinbay.com for rates) has always been a favorite with the staycation crowd, but it's even more popular now during the pandemic, says marketing manager Christina Stieb. The 60 rooms have full kitchens with granite countertops, travertine flooring, and everything needed for staying in.

Call 48 hours ahead, and the hotel will do your grocery shopping. With smart TVs allowing guests to log in to personal Netflix accounts, two-bedroom suites in 1,600-square-foot, and the beach and tide pools a five- to seven-minute walk away, it's a vacation with the comforts of

home. Ask for the fourth night free promotion or 20 percent off weekdays, both available through September 3.

Shaded by oak trees and lined with chaparral, Wills Canyon Trail may be the coolest of the 27 miles of trails managed by the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Make base camp a five-star experience at **Ojai Valley Inn** (ojaivalleyinn.com; from \$459), which is offering 20 percent off all room types through the Time for Ojai package, available weekdays through December 23. While there, check out the Farmhouse for a whiskey and chocolate tasting, an artisan pizza-making class, or a vegan culinary workshop. Events have been modified to ensure physical distancing.

Date night, girls' night, or, or just plain get-out-of-the-house night can be doubly special at **Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village** (visit fourseasons.com/westlakevillage for rates), which has introduced hair color and cuts to its Rhythm & Hair salon, located inside the spa. "People don't just come for their hair," says Jacqueline Kerns, director

of public relations and communications. "They come and meet their husband afterward for sushi at Onyx or to go to Coin & Candor."

Coin & Candor recently celebrated its one-year anniversary and has reopened after providing safer-at-home orders with a seasonal vegetable-focused menu that also includes the signature house-made red fife sourdough bread and wood-fired Baja California red snapper with adobo.

Belmond El Encanto has combined some of its rooms and suites with connecting doors to create six private cottages (belmond.com/elencanto; from \$1,575) ranging from one to four bedrooms that accommodate up to 10 guests. The Santa



Get your sushi fix at Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village's Onyx restaurant.



Book a staycation at Ojai Valley Inn to explore Ojai Valley Land Conservancy trails through nearby scenic landscapes like the Ventura River Preserve.

Barbara resort, known for its spectacular coastline views, offers private fitness and meditation sessions as well as picnic menus to enjoy on private terraces with choices like fresh fruit and cheese, grain bowls, and local wines. End the day with an alfresco movie screening, complete with truffle popcorn. ♦