

RENDEZVOUS BED & BREAKFAST Palm Springs, Calif. This is the main-drag motel you stayed in as a kid, a 1950s overnigher built around a small pool. Revamped in retro-mid-century style: blue astroturf pool deck, martinis in the vinyl bar. Each room a 1950s theme: Crooners, TV Shows, Pretty in Pink (Marilyn Monroe actually stayed in this very room). 10 rooms; from \$160, incl. breakfast, evening martinis, and appetizers; www.palmspringsrendezvous.com.

BEST WESTERN HOTEL TOMO San Francisco, Calif. Refurbished in youthful homage to J-pop (Japanese pop culture), in center of Japantown. What starts in lobby—Godzilla movies playing under anime ceiling murals—continues in guest rooms: bean bag chairs, glow-in-the-dark desk blotters. Nightly sake tasting. 125 rooms; from \$119; www.hotelto.com.

THE AMBROSE Santa Monica, Calif. A residential retreat in sync with this hyper-green coastal city. In-room recycling, nontoxic housekeeping, preferred parking for hybrid cars. Stickley-style furnishings, natural limestone countertops. Even hotel's London taxi runs on biodiesel. Guests carpool to attractions, like Santa Monica Pier. 77 rooms; from \$239; www.ambrosehotel.com.

CAVALLO POINT LODGE Sausalito, Calif. The new Bay Area place-to-be enclave with a green heart and a red neighbor: Golden Gate Bridge. Landscape restored with native plants. Rooms (choose historic or contemporary) cozy with organic sheets and towels; recycling bins and ceiling fans. Free yoga and guided weekend hikes. 142 rooms; from \$20; www.cavallopoint.com.

HOTEL JEROME Aspen, Colo. Authentic Aspen character enshrined in 1889 Main Street Victorian. Roomy digs with feather pillows, down comforters, contempo-Victorian decor. Beyond



skiing; rafting, cattle drives, walks with naturalist. Score a discount by spending a morning clearing trails for National Park Service. 93 rooms; from \$185; www.hoteljeromerockresorts.com.

BEAVER CREEK LODGE Beaver Creek, Colo. Rocky Mountain High resort anchoring a pedestrian village at base of ski area in White River National Forest. Mountain-man chic: leather sofas and headboards, faux fur throws. Menu defines the region: Colorado elk, venison, produce from

local farmers market. Soaring atrium lounge, ski bridge to the slopes. Consider this Vail's less crowded cousin. 72 rooms; from \$179; www.beavercreekodge.net.

THE HISTORIC STRATER HOTEL Durango, Colo. Honky-tonk hotel on Main Street, spilling beer since 1887. Now on the National Trust's Historic Hotels of America list, this place stays in character: servers in costume, live performances in the Henry Strater Theatre, ragtime piano in the summer. Victorian but not stuffy: walnut antiques, authentic wallpapers. Louis L'Amour's favorite room: 222, directly above the saloon. 93 rooms; from \$109, incl. breakfast; www.strater.com.

RANCHO DE LA OSA Sasabe, Ariz. An adobe guest ranch with Spanish land-grant heritage in high Sonoran desert. Pool with 100-year-old saguaro. Mission bell rings when cantina (1725) opens. Lots of bird song (350 species). Everything recycled: horseshoes become wall hooks, saddles turned into furniture. Secret ingredient? Prickly pear syrup in lemonade and sauces. 20 rooms; from \$290; www.ranchodelaosa.com.

HAY-ADAMS HOTEL Washington, D.C. Closest you'll get to spending the night at the White House. 1920s Italian-Renaissance hotel drives Secret Service crazy with direct White House views from top floors. Restaurant defines power dining; bar is called Off the Record for a reason. Ornamental fireplaces, marble baths. Obama's choice for pre-Inaugural digs. 145 rooms; from \$435; www.hayadams.com.

TABARD INN Washington, D.C. Word-of-mouth hideaway on a tree-lined street in Dupont Circle district. Quirky character: vintage furnishings and flea market finds; no TVs but windows open to city sounds. Clubby fireside lounge, Sunday
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