

GENTRY DESTINATIONS

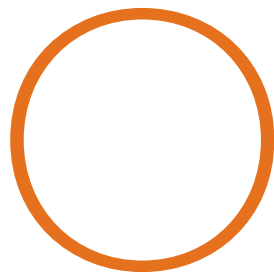
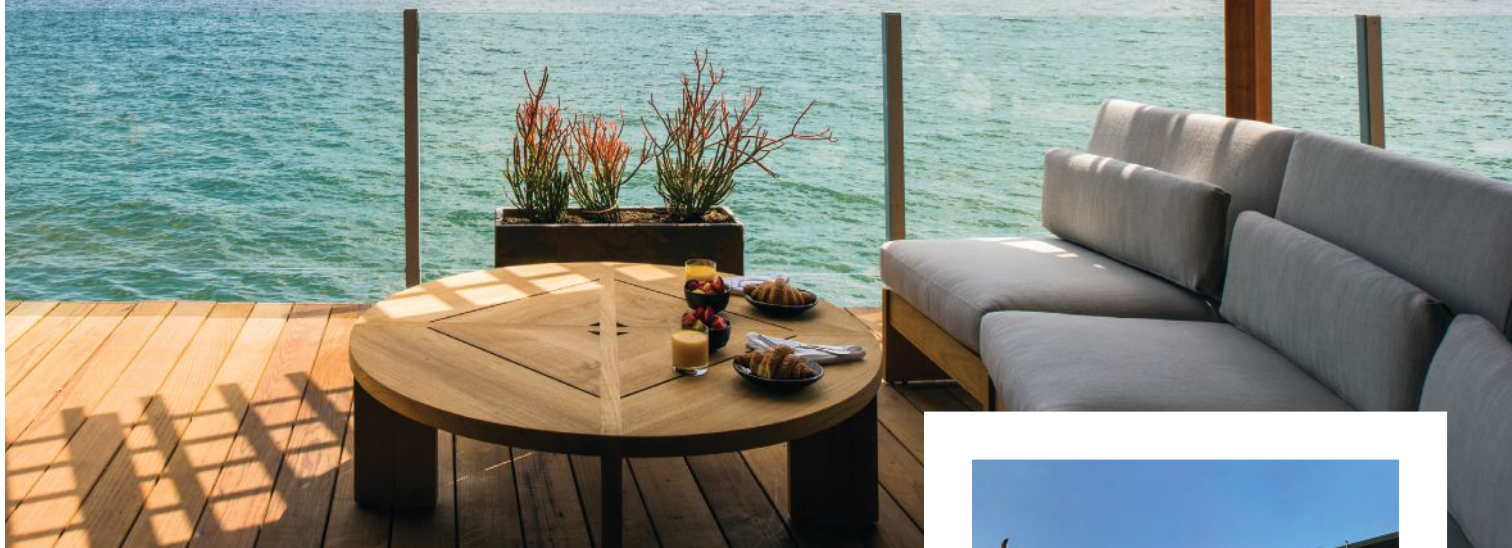
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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018

YOUR COASTAL WEEKEND ESCAPE JUST GOT CLOSER

Carolyn Miller McCusker indulges in a getaway to Sausalito's Inn Above Tide.



In this sunny spring morning, all was calm on the bay. The only sounds were of seabird calls, tiny waves lapping at our paddle boards, and our guide describing the colorful history of Sausalito's houseboat community at Waldo Point Harbor.

While I could see San Francisco shimmering on the horizon, I felt worlds away from the bustling city. I must confess that until my arrival the night before, I had considered Sausalito only as a convenient lunch spot for out-of-towners after visiting the Golden Gate Bridge. But my stay at luxurious The Inn Above Tide changed my incorrect view of Sausalito and placed this charming coastal town at the top of my list of dreamy weekend getaways.

My first glimpse of the boutique hotel came on a vibrant April evening when the full Pink Moon painted the sky in hues of rose and lavender. The city lights twinkled behind The Inn Above Tide, perched on a coveted bayside spot where it's been for the last 20 years.

Only a 30-minute drive from San Francisco, and an hours drive from the Silicon Valley, the family-owned inn is an oasis with 33 guest rooms, including three new modern suites outfitted with fireplaces, soaking tubs, seaside patios, and one with a full kitchen. For the spacious remodeled suites (worth the splurge!), the design team of Antonio Martins of A/M Interior Design opted for luxurious wall coverings and warm earth-tone furnishings, mixed with the cool blues of the bay reflected just outside the windows. ➔



Panoramic San Francisco Bay views are the signature of The Inn Above Tide. This intimate Sausalito waterfront hotel with 33 rooms and suites is a magnificent location for a uniquely inspiring luxury retreat.



Talk about a room with a view! If my stay at The Inn Above Tide consisted only of hanging out on the private terrace of my over-the-top waterfront suite—with a glass of wine in hand at night, and a cup of coffee in the morning—soaking in the panoramic views of the San Francisco skyline, the Golden Gate Bridge, and sailboats on the bay, then my getaway could be called a success. But the natural beauty of this seductive seaside spot invites guests to get out and explore. There is much to discover in picturesque downtown Sausalito—art galleries, eateries, shops, secret stairs carved into the hillside, sailing—and the inn is conveniently located in the center of it all. From almost every vantage point in the village, you are treated to views of the bay, or of Alcatraz, Angel Island, or Marin.

If a city excursion is on your list, the ferry is one minute from the inn and will transport you to the iconic Ferry Building, one of San Francisco's favorite foodie attractions. For outdoor adventurers, there is stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking on the bay (rentals \$25/hour at Sea Trek); or, drive 10 minutes from the inn to hike in the Marin Headlands and its 2,100 acres of open space. Whether you drive, hike, or bike (the inn provides complimentary bikes) to the Headlands, the stunning vantage points of the Golden Gate Bridge are not to be missed. On the north side of the span, drive to one of the Headlands' vista points—the first and second points can be full with visitors, but keep going to the third for fewer cars and awesome views. ➔



Richardson Bay Marina is located in the waterfront community of Sausalito—world-renowned for its Mediterranean flair, breathtaking views, dining, shopping, art, biking, and water sports.



Sausalito offers plenty of delicious dining options. Walk down Bridgeway, the town's main street, for breakfast at Cibo, a hip coffee house with a locally sourced menu and friendly vibe. For seafood lovers, enjoy fresh fare at the perennial favorite Fish Restaurant, on the harbor. There's also the lively Copita Tequileria y Comida steps from the inn, where we dug into a memorable feast of seasonal tacos and tapas packed with flavor (as well as tasty margaritas) with author and celebrity chef Joanne Weir.

After spending a few days in this laid-back and friendly coastal town, I got in my car and headed for home feeling relaxed and rejuvenated. ♦

The Inn Above Tide

30 El Portal, Sausalito

Rates: Rooms from \$415; the new suites from \$1,555.

www.innabovetide.com

