



February 12th, 2008
Carlton Hotel—Wine Country—Atascadero, CA Review



Wine lovers take note! You know you're in the right place when you see the locally crafted, award-winning wines that surround you in the lobby, cocktail bar, restaurant and even hotel rooms at The Carlton Hotel, a 52-room boutique hotel, set to the backdrop of a quaint city with charm and old-fashioned honesty you'll be hard pressed to find in the city. Celebrities (we promised not to name them) have enjoyed this luxury hotel in a rural setting. The hotel is ideal for exploring the Central Coast in a luxurious manner. It offers hospitality, the best regional cuisine and state-of-the-art services and amenities. Beautifully restored to its original glory and even upgraded, this historic hotel was launched as a boutique hotel property in 2005.

First built in 1928 and called The Annex, The Carlton Hotel changed hands and became the Hotel Halfway and Coffee Shop a few years later. In 1931, new owners took over and changed the name to The Carlton, adding the neon sign that, thankfully, survived the years: the most recent owners have left it intact. In 1928 The Carlton Hotel began as a single story building for the Atascadero Development Syndicate. The 52-room hotel on the second floor called "Annex" opened its doors at a gala event on November 28, 1929.

In 1931 the building changed hands for the third time. With new owners came the neon sign on the rooftop that is still there today and a new name, "The Carlton." Soon the hotel was hosting Hollywood's elite radio and television personalities including Jack Benny, Bette Davis, Fred MacMurray, Dick Powell and Ralph Bellamy. The next 20 years brought the addition of a new corner entrance and clock tower that was recreated in 2004 to once again be an Atascadero landmark.

After changing hands many times over the years, enduring an incarnation as a senior complex, and then sitting empty, this grand building was rescued by the current owners. The interior is solid and stately with authentic detail that blends with the scenic setting of the Central Coast. The Carlton Hotel may be the most luxurious hotel in San Luis Obispo County; it's a fitting place to stay and enjoy the Hearst Castle tour in nearby San Simeon. It can be such a come down to visit something so opulent as a castle, then return to budget accommodations. Not everyone needs to feel special but for those who enjoy that upscale luxury, The Carlton may fit the bill for you next wine tour or Central Coast excursion.

50 richly appointed guestrooms feature Courtyard and Patio views in addition to spectacular views of the rolling hills. Guestrooms offer all the comforts of home including 400-thread-count Italian linens, down comforters, marble baths, separate showers, luxurious spa robes and slippers and the creature comforts to make you feel so special. Every room at The Carlton has the same thoughtful attention to detail with residential furnishings, sumptuous linens and marble baths. Your own private sanctuary includes mahogany and maple furnishings and fine appointments that include luxury window draperies. In addition to the rich decor and elegant fixtures, your connection with the world is provided via high speed internet access and movies on demand.

Cuisine is at the very heart of The Carlton Hotel. The Carlton Hotel features four distinct dining options -an artisan bakery, an inviting lounge, the casual Carlton Restaurant and Grill, and diVINE, one of the areas most inspired fine dining restaurants. The Carlton also offers in-room and courtyard dining. The minute you step into The Carlton Hotels intimate lobby, set foot in one of the warm and sophisticated guest rooms, or enter one of the hotels dining establishments, you know you are in for a wonderful experience. The staff has considered every detail. From the understated and refined architecture to the inviting public meeting spaces, the courtyard garden to the gracious full-service amenities, The Carlton Hotel is dedicated to one goal -creating an unforgettable experience for all its guests, whether they have come for a meal or a meeting, a rendezvous or a relaxing get-away.

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