

LODGING

MARSHALL LAW

After 50 years, and with Marshall at the helm, the Educational Institute is headed into a new era

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Openings

TWO NEW HOTELS OFFER GUESTS THE FLAVOR OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS

PROPERTY: THEhotel Mandalay Bay

WHERE: Las Vegas, Nev.

ROOMS: 1,118 suites

OWNER: Mandalay Bay

VICE PRESIDENT: Ana Fernandez

DESIGNER: Richardson Sadeki

In a city deluged with flashing neon, the new all-suite hotel sharing the Mandalay Bay Casino and Resort's complex, THEhotel, is a glaring exception with its rich earth tones and tailored style. Created by the crafty crew that own Mandalay Bay, Excalibur, Circus, Circus, Luxor, and the Monte Carlo, is not just any hotel. It's THEhotel, a 1,118-suite, 43-story luxury setting flanked by the popular hotel and casino and one of the most predatory exhibits in town, the Shark Reef.

The standard suite is a 725-square-foot marvel, the largest of any suite in Las Vegas. Ushering in a new model of simplicity and modern luxury to a Vegas Strip that's punctuated by flamboyance and spectacle, and hotels that scream, "look at me!" THEhotel is a standalone building, with its own \$11 million bathhouse and spa, offering a waterfall corridor, steam rooms, saunas, mud baths, facials, and massages.

Each living area in the suites features a 42-inch plasma TV, a half-bath, private bar, and

plush chairs and sofa. The bedrooms, which also feature 32-inch flat screen TVs, have down comforters and pillows, high thread-count linens, robes, slippers, and pillow-top mattresses.

Balancing the business lifestyle and the stylish luxury accommodations, Mandalay Bay Entertainment thinks it has created offerings unparalleled in Las Vegas, which explains the name.



PROPERTY: River Terrace Inn

WHERE: Napa Valley, Calif.

ROOMS: 106

OWNER: Gustin Property Group, LLC

MANAGER: Sam Schorr

DESIGNER: HVSCompass Interior Design

ARCHITECT: TWM

Somewhere between your living room and a rich, bold, wine-drenched version of heaven is the River Terrace Inn, just down the road from Napa's famous wine train, and downtown. Designed with the smooth textures and flavors of Napa Valley, the inn, which opened November 16, is an intimate setting for a relaxing getaway or a business meeting, with wi-fi access throughout the hotel, and a cozy fire in the lobby's core.

The project, initially conceived in the fall of 1999, was delayed after September 11, 2001, and the inn took a slightly different shape following the postponement, says manager Sam Schorr. The project was upgraded from mid-tier to luxury, because of the changing face of tourism in the Napa Valley. "The addition to downtown Napa of award-winning restaurants and the Napa Valley Opera House was one factor," he says. "And the increasing desires of guests to have nicer amenities and impeccable service, particularly on vacation, was another. So pillow-top mattresses, 300-thread-count sheets, wi-fi, large bathrooms with granite counter tops, extensive use of millwork, upscale windows and DVD players all made sense."

Local flavor is part of the woodwork, as well as the hotel's décor: local artists' works adorn the walls. The hotel makes the most of its location next to the river, and has recently secured an adjacent park area to hold wedding ceremonies in the future. In the meantime, guests seem content to sit by the fire or at the bar, which boasts a Napa Valley wine list fit for Robert Mondavi himself, as well as a handful of beers (all favorites of the owner, Bob Gustin). ■

