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TODAY'S MOST POPULAR

Hyatt Carmel Highlands and The Big Sur Food & Wine Festival Present Gateway to Big Sur
Hyatt Carmel Highlands will serve as the lead...

LA Tourism Industry Market Outlook Forum
The LA Tourism & Convention Board presents...

Palmilla Cocina y Tequila Introduces Mexican Riviera Brunch
Palmilla Cocina y Tequila on the Hermosa Beach...

Limoneira Hosts Pucker Face Contests Through Social Media
Limoneira is hosting "The Pucker Face Contest"...

A New Food Festival Makes Its Debut in LA
Another weekend, another food festival...or two...

A New Beginning in Magical Ojai

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By:
Shelley Levitt



It feels fitting to be writing my first blog post as editor of *California Meetings + Events* from Ojai. Just 90 minutes north of my home in Los Angeles, nestled between citrus groves and the gorgeous Topa Topa Mountains, this small artsy community of 8,000 is one of my favorite places in all of California.

Ojai is extraordinarily beautiful- the mountains run east-west making it one of the few places on earth that has what's called a "pink moment." As the sun sets it creates a brilliant splash of pink light on the bluffs. It is also an exceptionally welcoming place. In the few days that we've been here, my dog Carlos and I have yet to pass a single individual who did not offer a nod of the head, a warm greeting, a compliment (those went mostly to Carlos, who is an extremely handsome golden retriever).

More to the point, Ojai offers in its few square miles a remarkable diversity of settings for people to gather in a spirit of celebration, commemoration, motivation and renewal. There are small inns, such as the Mission-Revival style [Su Nido Inn](#) and the enchanting [Emerald Iguana](#), and homey bed-and-breakfasts, including the historic [Lavender Inn Bed & Breakfast](#), which began life in 1874 as a schoolhouse.



[The Oaks at Ojai](#), was one of the first destination spas in the country- and it is still one of the most affordable and least pretentious. [The Pepper Tree Retreat and Education Center](#), has played host to such assorted luminaries as Aldous Huxley, Greta Garbo and The Beatles, and its ten guest rooms and indoor and outdoor meeting rooms are still a tranquil oasis for small groups looking to recharge.

Ojai also boasts an AAA Five Diamond Resort, the iconic [Ojai Valley Inn & Spa](#). While it features 35,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting space and a 31,000 square-foot luxurious spa, the resort also cleaves to the eclectic Ojai spirit with group activities that include creating your own personal mandala- a kind of cosmic blueprint to life- or custom blending essential oils in the Apothecary. And, in the spirit of Ojai friendliness, the resort is giving away a \$25,000 corporate retreat to the company that submits the most compelling video or essay. (For more details about this Save Our Office contest, check out the [Facebook page](#).)



Ojai is an inspiring place to start my own journey with *California Meetings + Events*. In the months and years to come, I hope that I can offer some inspiration to you, too. For now-as we get ready to welcome in summer- I wish you many vibrantly alive pink moments!

[Shelley Levitt](#)
Editor
California Meetings + Events

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