250 GORGEOUS PLACES TO GET MARRIED

## CALIFORNIA



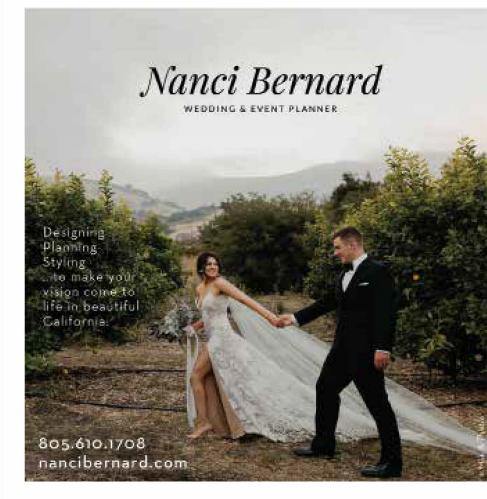
photo access to the staircases, beach views, and arches of the Plaza Del Sol and the nearby rose garden.

Autograph Collection's 11-story gleaming glass high-rise Hotel Nia (hotelnia.com) opened its doors last May and brought over 15,000 square feet of brand-new event space to Menlo Park. Most venue choices, including the ground-level Brilliance Ballroom (capacity: 516), have large or floor-to-ceiling windows, hip modernist design incorporating blues, grays, oranges, light wood and silvery metallic accents; and connected outdoor areas. The Clarity event space property boasts a courtyard with truck access, enabling couples to easily add photo booths or food trucks to the itinerary. As one would expect from a Silicon Valley property that's mere miles Facebook's headquarters, the tech—from speedy Wi-Fi to cutting-edge AV systems—is on point. The hotel has 250 pet-friendly rooms, so your best fur friend can be involved in the big day. Wine-blending or sushi-rolling classes can be set up as prewedding fun, as can a day of relaxation in a poolside cabana, next to one of the outdoor fireplaces or in one of the property's cozy hammocks. Definitely take menu inspiration from Porta Blu, the on-site Cali-Mediterranean eatery, which has a fantastic local beer and wine list.

Ojai Valley Inn (Ojaivalleyinn.com) is already one of the Golden State's best event venues, but come January the inn will open its 30,000-squarefoot indoor/outdoor culinary and event center, The Farmhouse. Designed by Napa Valley architect Howard Backen, the new event venue includes an 8,500-square-foot wood-and-glass "barn" ballroom, with a neutral forest brown and gray color scheme and featuring 25-foot ceilings, exposed trusses and redwood siding. Nestled among majestic oaks, lavender patches and olive trees and with views of the nearby Topa Topa Mountains, The Farmhouse is also a stone's throw from the golf course and the resort's apiary. The versatile grounds boast space for functions on the massive lawn or in landscaped courtyards with lounge areas and a towering fireplace. Cocktails















can be served among the herb and vegetable gardens, and there are cooking options galore in The Farmhouse Kitchen by Viking, as well as the Lynx outdoor kitchen.

An \$8 million renovation, featuring lots of steel and wood, has given the interiors of the Miramonte Indian Wells Resort and Spa (miramonteresort.com) an aesthetic blending California desert with retro modernism. Boasting 20,000 square feet of indoor event space, the Mesquite Ballroom (the resort's largest, accommodating 300) opens onto the Mesquite Lawn. Like most of Miramonte's outdoor options, the lawn has partial views of the Santa Rosa Mountains and features olive trees, boxwood hedges and bougainvillea. \*

