

The Daily Telegraph

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Travel | Destinations

By **Ellie Ross**, TRAVEL WRITER
August 2, 2016

Grande Colonial La Jolla, San Diego, United States

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8/10

Telegraph expert rating

"Close to La Jolla's pristine shores, beneath stalk-skinny palm trees, sits the Grande Colonial, a classic, European-style hotel dating back to 1913. The original wood-framed colonial apartments and hotel have been modernised into this luxurious 93-room property, which still manages to remain faithful to its past."



8/10

Location

The hotel enjoys a prime position in La Jolla, San Diego's answer to Beverly Hills, offering both shops and sea without the bustle of Downtown. It is half a block back from La Jolla Cove, which boasts its own microclimate that keeps temperatures between 10-32 degrees and is flanked by boutique shops and hip restaurants. The Museum of Contemporary Art is within walking distance, while both Torrey Pines Golf Course and Downtown are a 15-minute drive away.

8/10

Style & character

No trick has been missed in maintaining the hotel's historic feel and character; the grand entrance may not be the original lobby (this is found in the Sun Room, now an events space), but it is decked out in ornate chandeliers, a colonial fireplace with a marble hearth and sumptuous sofas. Black and white photos of La Jolla hang on corridor walls and you can still see some of the hooks once used by window cleaners in the yellow-washed stucco.

7/10

Service & facilities

Service is excellent; personal and professional, with friendly staff who use your name and think to offer water to guests returning from a morning jog. There is a heated outdoor pool, but no spa (although in-room massages can be booked) and also no gym, though guests have complimentary access to La Jolla Sports Club, which is within walking distance. Bike hire is available for \$4 (£3) per hour, and valet parking costs \$30 (£23) per day.

- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Parking
- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Wi-Fi
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Pool
- ✓ Room service

7/10

Rooms

Vast, pastel-coloured rooms exude comfort and elegance, blending vintage patterned bedspreads and contemporary-classic coffee tables with pops of orange and lime from the striped curtains and paintings. The white-tiled bathrooms are clean and modern, and there are walk-in wardrobes plus iPhone docking stations next to the comfortable beds. There are no balconies, but throw open the large windows for some fresh sea air and a view to the Pacific. Around half the rooms are suites, and half have sea views.

7/10

Food & drink

There's only one option, though it is a good one. Nine-Ten is a fine-dining restaurant and bar, housed inside what was a pharmacy until 1960. Under the helm of award-winning chef Jason Knibb, the menu focuses on farm-to-table dishes using organic, local produce, such as braised short ribs (\$33 [£25]) and seared tuna (\$35 [£26]). Breakfast is the most affordable meal served here - try the lemon ricotta pancakes (\$13 [£10]). Dine indoors or alfresco.

8/10

Value for money

Double rooms from \$269 (£203) in low season; and from \$312 (£236) in high. Breakfast excluded. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Yes. Wheelchair access, pool lift, braille markings and six adapted rooms.

Family-friendly?

Yes: the hotel allows children under 12 to stay in their parents' room at no extra charge.

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