



CONTACT:

Jessica Keener, Monterey County CVB
(831) 657-6413; cell: (917) 450-0210
jessica@seemonterey.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTEREY COUNTY PROPERTIES INVESTING MILLIONS INTO RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES
Hotel Upgrades Continue in 2017 for a Fresh New Look and Feel

MONTEREY, Calif., March 7, 2017 – With breathtaking scenery and landscapes as a backdrop, Monterey County draws millions of visitors and groups each year to stay at local hotels, dine at restaurants and visit attractions. As we countdown to the opening of the new \$60+ million renovated Monterey Conference Center, properties throughout the region have also invested tens of millions of dollars to undergo major renovations, remodeling and additions in hopes of giving visitors a fresh new experience in 2017.

“The investments that are happening here in Monterey County are not only investments into the individual properties, but also the community and destination,” says Tammy Blount, President and CEO of the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau. “The renovations and upgrades will give visitors new experiences that will inspire them to share their life-enriching stories with others.”

As the wave of projects and renovations continue this year, here is a brief list of hotel properties in Monterey County that have recently completed or are currently getting an upgrade:

- Located in downtown Monterey, **Casa Munras Garden Hotel & Spa** has undergone significant changes including extensive guest room and fitness center renovations completed in December 2016. Of 163 guest rooms, 154 rooms have been newly renovated along with the construction of 6 new Jr. Suites. At approximately 505 square feet each, the Jr. Suite features a king bed with alcove to sitting area with a queen sofa sleeper, a full bathroom with walk in shower and separate tub, double vanity, wet bar, three sided gas burning fireplace and two 49-inch flat screen TV’s. New features include stylish hardwoods, custom-made furnishings, new windows and more. The new decor and historic images reflect the area’s Spanish heritage.
- **Colton Inn** in downtown Monterey is currently in the process of updating and upgrading all guestrooms to be completed by April 2017.
- Located just two blocks from the beachfront in Seaside, **Embassy Suites by Hilton** is undergoing an \$11 million renovation. Currently, the ballrooms and guestrooms are being renovated and expected to be completed by April 1 and the end of May, respectively. The atrium will also undergo renovations including the lobby, restaurant and bar, which will begin in April.
- **Hotel 1110** in Monterey recently underwent more than \$75,000 in renovations. The property redesigned and updated several rooms on the 3rd floor as well as the rooftop bar and lounge. The lounge features a new bar under a covered area so guests can enjoy cocktails rain or shine.
- A quiet refuge in Monterey, **Hotel Abrego** is currently renovating the pool and hot tub area, including the addition of a fire pit.

- The **Hyatt Carmel Highlands** is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year with the completion of one of the most exciting renovations in its history! The new California Market at Pacific's Edge is the exciting fusion of the property's two award-winning restaurants, California Market and Pacific's Edge. Its expansive new 870-square-foot deck features louvered roof and glass-panel walls with dramatic views of the Pacific Ocean and the Big Sur coast. The multi-million dollar project also included a series of upscale enhancements to the guestrooms, hotel entrance and lobby area, inspired by the property's refined charm, classic seaside setting and rich history.
- In Pacific Grove, the **Monterey Peninsula Inn** has invested nearly \$3 million in upgrades. This past year, 8 new guestrooms were built, one of which is a handicap unit. The 7 new rooms have two queen-size beds, fully equipped kitchen, a gas fireplace and more. The property also has a new front office and lobby and is currently undergoing a complete remodel of the outdoor pool area as well as adding two new guestrooms.
- **Pebble Beach Resorts** has announced that the company will be introducing the new **Fairway One at The Lodge** in late summer 2017. Located along the first fairway of Pebble Beach Golf Links, Fairway One is a distinctive addition to The Lodge at Pebble Beach. Fairway One will include 30 oversized guest rooms in three two-story buildings, and two four-bedroom golf cottages each with a 1,000-square-foot living room. A 2,500-square-foot main meeting room with floor-to-ceiling views of the first fairway is part of a new meeting facility (6,500 total square feet) at Fairway One. Pebble Beach Resorts has also invested in a major, three-year renovation of all 454 guest rooms at The Lodge, The Inn at Spanish Bay and Casa Palmero. The phased project will be completed in early 2019.
- Next to the Monterey Conference Center, the **Portola Hotel & Spa** is undergoing a multi-million renovation, including the recently completed \$10 million full renovation of all 379 guestrooms and bathrooms. Additional renovations happening now include new front doors, front desk, hallway carpet for the entire hotel, full lobby renovation and a new lobby bar and restaurant concept. Improvements also include cutting-edge energy and water conservation fixtures, reinforcing the Portola's commitment to sustainability and LEED® Certified Status.
- Nestled on 19 acres in Marina, **Sanctuary Beach Resort Monterey Bay** is undergoing a \$4 million renovation of the restaurant and meeting space. The new Saltwood Restaurant will feature fresh cuisine made from sustainable and locally sourced ingredients and is expected to open May 1. In addition, the oceanfront resort will also be making improvements and furnishing updates to the rooms.
- **SpringHill Suites by Marriott The Dunes on Monterey Bay** will be debuting an all-suite hotel in Marina. The new property, opening in May 2017, will include 106 suites and 3 meeting rooms.
- In February 2017, **The Stevenson Monterey** completed its \$700,000 renovation project of rooms and bathrooms, including new carpeting and updates. The hotel also repainted the walls and surfaces, made ADA accessibility upgrades and added a new elevator.
- **The Vagabond's House** in Carmel-by-the-Sea is undergoing more than \$600,000 in renovations. The property recently refurnished and updated the lobby and is also remodeling a number of rooms in the boutique inn to create additional rooms and luxurious bathrooms, which will be completed by the end of March.

There were also a number of additional properties that completed renovations and additions in 2016 including **Hotel Carmel** and **The Hideaway** in Carmel-by-the-Sea; **Bernardus Lodge & Spa** in Carmel Valley; and the **Monterey Marriott**, **Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa** and **Monterey Tides** in Monterey.

For more information on lodging, restaurants, events and things to do in Monterey County, please visit SeeMonterey.com.

ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau (MCCVB) is a 501©6 organization that drives tourism for Monterey County and in recent years has led the destination to record levels of growth. Tourism is the largest industry on the Monterey Peninsula and the second largest in the County. The MCCVB is a partnership of the hospitality community and local governments that aims to drive

business growth through compelling marketing and sales initiatives that maximize the benefits of tourism to our guests, members and the community. Travel spending in Monterey County was more than \$2.7 billion in 2015, representing a 4.5 percent increase from 2014, and per person/per day spending rose to \$333. Visitors in 2015 also generated \$109 million in local tax receipts, a 7.4 percent increase and supported 24,390 jobs.

###