



INTO THE WOODS If you had to distill the essence of California down to one place, Big Sur might be it. Located between Carmel and San Simeon, where the mountains meet the sea, the ruggedly beautiful destination has been attracting serenity-seckers for decades. Since 1975, Ventana Big Sur has been there to welcome them, and, now, after an extensive renovation, the resort debuts a fresh look. "Though Ventana Big Sur is an iconic California resort, it was due for some enhancements that restored it to its original beauty," says General Manager Kristina Jetton. The multimillion-dollar upgrade by San Francisco-based BraytonHughes Design Studios includes a refreshed main house and guest rooms (streamlined yet warm with creative, handmade touches), a new outdoor dining terrace—with some of the area's most striking views—and 15 glamping tents equipped with everything you'll need for a cozy, stylish stay. Accessing the area from the south is still a challenge due to road closures on the 101, so fly into San Jose, San Francisco or Monterey, then drive from the north along Highway 1, one of country's most scenic roads. A stop in Monterey for lunch and the world-famous aquarium makes for a charming prelude to what's bound to be an unforgettable visit. Glamping from \$325 per night, rooms from \$675 per night, ventanabigsur.com—Laura Eckstein Jones