



Stay and Play at the Andaz San Diego Hotel

Posted: Jun. 3rd, 2010 | By [Merilee Kern](#)



Hotel Review: Centrally located in the eclectic and kinetic Gaslamp Quarter, Hyatt Hotel's newest [Andaz San Diego](#) location (formerly the Ivy Hotel), which opened this past February, is already making its mark. The newest Andaz hotel in the burgeoning brand's global family, now with properties in London, West Hollywood and New York City, Andaz San Diego's recipe for winning over the hearts, minds and reservations of those traveling to the region is brilliant simplicity: offer exceedingly warm, friendly and uncomplicated service amid a distinctive design aesthetic. From my vantage point having recently stayed and played at Andaz San Diego, it is well on its way.



Stay

The distinctive experience begins with a streamlined and refreshingly personable check in process. I actually opted to use the hotel's convenient Web check-in option, having received an email prompting me to do so the day I was to arrive. This process was extremely quick and easy, and I highly recommend it.

Upon arrival to the hotel, guests are greeted by a host (who interestingly serves as front office, concierge, and bell attendant) who, in the spirit of true hospitality, offers up a tasty herbed bread stick along with a complimentary cup of espresso or glass of wine - a choice of chardonnay or a petit syrah on my date. The host then uniquely uses a handheld device register guests and provide keys without delay. As you head to

the elevators, be sure to take in the lobby's ambiance - a melange of sophisticated neutral-colored fabrics and rustic leather textures punctuated with brilliantly colored pop art pieces - a whimsical design element carried throughout the property.

Andaz San Diego boasts 159 spacious rooms as well as 13 deluxe suites and 4 specialty suites - one of which providing direct access to a private poolside cabana. The room interiors have a contemporary, residential feel with a unisex decor and design sensibility.

The [sophisticated hotel rooms](#) feature double, queen, or king beds within approximately 315 square feet of space, each decorated with rich woods, tiles, and fine linens. My room, like all others at the property, featured a functional work space, in-room safe, hairdryer, make up mirror, terry bathrobe, large plasma/LCD television, iPod docking station, tea and coffee maker, a mini-bar stocked with non-alcoholic beverages and snacks (some complimentary), wireless Internet, and unlimited local phone calls.



As mentioned, there are also 17 spectacular suites available. The Andaz Cabana Suite offers fully 750 square feet of luxury where you can go from the rooftop pool and private cabana straight down the spiral staircase and onto the patio. The Andaz Sweet Suite is a one-bedroom suite that spans 800 square feet with an optional second bedroom that can be added as an adjoining room. This suite, which overlooks the downtown San Diego cityscape, offers a decadent living space filled with couture furnishings, contemporary designs, a lavish soaking tub, and a shower that can accommodate many. There is also a living area with sectional sofa, a table with seating for up to eight people, a fully stocked wet bar, functional workspace, and a 50" plasma television. At a whopping 1,275 square feet, the largest the Andaz Star Suite has, among other premium features, king-sized bunk beds and a fully stocked wet bar along with a separate living space, workspace area, fully stocked wet bar and a 50" plasma television.

Other hotel amenities include 10,000 square feet of flexible meeting and function space for events, wedding, and other special occasions. Other features include free laptop use in the lounge, a 24-hour fitness center offering state-of-the-art Life Fitness Equipment each with a small integrated LCD monitor, a retail shop, and Cadillac Escalade service. The hotel's 24-hour in-room dining came in quite handy for my "late night" cheeseburger craving, and I noted how well everything was cooked and presented even through the order was placed well past midnight.



Play

The Ivy Wine Bar at Andaz San Diego serves no less than 88 wines by-the-glass through its intelligent - wine dispensing technology conceptualized by Napa Technology. The dizzying array of [wines](#), which can be explored in taste, half, and full glasses, is sure to please even the most discerning oenophile, with "cult" wines to tried-and-true brands available amongst varietals of every other sort. Just purchase a "smart card" in a denomination of your choice, and patrons may then help themselves to whatever wines they desire - and in the volume desired. Some wine tastes on special each evening cost a mere \$1.00 each. The Wine Bar is open Sunday through Wednesday from 3pm to 9pm and Thursday through Saturday from 3pm to midnight.



With stunning views of San Diego's skyline and one of the largest rooftop entertaining spaces in the downtown district, the sultry Ivy Rooftop lounge, pool and sundeck is the ideal place to relax at Andaz San Diego - day or night. A sparkling pool at this urban escape is surrounded by plush cushioned beds and private cabanas, and a spacious bar offers top-shelf elixirs to each guest's content. This glamorous outdoor venue is where locals and travellers alike go to enjoy an exotic cocktail under the sun or stars, or indulge in exclusive cabana-side bottle service complete with premium liquor, mixers of your choice, and your own dedicated cocktail server. In the evening, the uber-popular Ivy Rooftop is jam-packed with party-goers looking to socialize, flirt, dance to the beat of an on-site DJ, and ogle at the beautiful LipStik, Inc. dancers that hop on the bar to entertain the crowd sporadically throughout the evening. The Ivy Rooftop experience is open Sunday until Wednesday from 12pm to midnight and Thursday through Saturday from 12pm to 1:30am.

The Ivy Nightclub at Andaz San Diego is a multi-level nightclub and lounge widely regarded in town as the ultimate adult playground. As one of three signature Ivy Nightclub experiences and a member of the exclusive "The World's Finest Clubs' group, I experienced this location first hand, and can assure you it's the perfect place to mix, mingle and dance the night away with friends. On hand to tantalize your senses are, again, the Ivy's signature LipStik, Inc. dancers, world-class DJs, premium cocktails and elite bottle

service. The nightclub is open from Thursday through Saturday nights from 9pm until 1:30am.

Coveted VIP nightclub access to all of these venues is a bonus that comes with all room reservations. With this kind of stellar nightlife on-site, there's absolutely no need to go off property for a fun-filled evening.



Dine

[Andaz San Diego](#) is also host to the Quarter Kitchen restaurant, which is open for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. The hotel's signature restaurant serves up unique American cuisine that uses fresh, locally harvested ingredients. Among other dishes of interest, diners can cook their own Kobe slices on a hot Ishiyaki stone placed in the center of the table. Other savory dishes include salmon and shishito pepper brochettes as well as the restaurant's signature caviar tacos. All dishes are made to share. Early diners can take advantage of the restaurant's "Fashionably Early" menu from 6-7pm daily, which offers three courses at an attractive price. For more intimate occasions on that weekend away with your special someone, inquire about "The Chef's Bed," which provides a more secluded and romantic dining area designed for two.

Sublime

Gracious service, impeccable rooms, prime location, sizzling nightlife and playful dining and drinking options converged in what proved to be an unforgettable stay for me and my guests. In all, Andaz San Diego is an impressive addition to the San Diego travel scene and a respite where the jet-set will undoubtedly strive to see and be seen.

Book

The Andaz Hotel is located at 600 F Street, San Diego, California 92101 in the vibrant Gaslamp Quarter near Petco Park, Horton Plaza, Seaport Village and Balboa Park. As part of the Hyatt Hotel family, this hotel participates in the Hyatt Gold Passport program so each stay earns points quickly toward free nights. For more information visit <http://sandiego.andaz.hyatt.com>.

- Merilee Kern

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