

WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS

Los Angeles and the Charlevoix/Bay Harbor area may not seem like destinations with much in common, but both have magical qualities that make a journey to either locale an ideal choice during the long, hot days of summer. From the glitz and glam of Tinsletown, where celeb sightings abound, to clear, quiet nights Up North, when a roaring fire and crashing waves against a dock bring contentment, there's something to be said about mingling with the stars.

LOS ANGELES

Or, so much to do, so little time

Dining

Reservations are imperative, especially for dinner. Make online reservations before beginning your getaway at [opentable.com](https://www.opentable.com).

Start your day at **BLD** (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, that is, 7450 Beverly Blvd., 323.930.9744, bldrestaurant.com), a causal neighborhood cafe, with an order of blueberry ricotta pancakes and a seat by the window. Or head to **Coral Tree Cafe**, (11645 San Vicente Blvd., 310.979.8733, coraltree-cafe.net), a delightful establishment with a smattering of organic coffees and breakfast panini, such as the Rustica with spinach, mushrooms, artichoke hearts and havarti cheese.

Take a break for lunch at **The Ivy** (113 N. Robertson Blvd., 310.274.8303), where dinner reservations are hard to come by. An odd sight for L.A. with a white picket fence, shabby chic surroundings and home-cooked dishes, it is nonetheless the place where A-listers flock. Don't miss their signature Bloody Mary, and for the A-list experience, request table 41. For pool-side dining, try **The Terrace at Sunset Tower** (8358 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, 323.654.7100, sunsettowerhotel.com) for seasonal small plates. The best seats are either overlooking the pool or under the canopy of trees.

For something more exotic, the London import **Mr. Chow** (344 N. Camden Dr., Beverly Hills, 310.278.9911, mrchow.com) is another famous spot where the likes of Heather Locklear and Forest Whitaker can be found indulging in authentic Chinese cuisine. One signature restaurant wasn't enough for Michael Chow, so in 1999 he launched **EUROCHOW** (1099 Westwood Blvd., Westwood, 310.209.0066, eurochow.com). Chow designed every detail of the white-on-white interior, creating a theatrical space where guests can focus on what really matters – the unique combi-



nation of authentic Italian and Chinese food on the menu. **Crustacean Beverly Hills** (9646 Little Santa Monica Blvd., 310.205.8990, anfamily.com), is a beautiful Euro-Vietnamese restaurant founded by Helene An, matriarch and executive chef of the An family restaurants, who is by title a Vietnamese princess. Don't miss the famous cracked crab as you relax at table 79, the upstairs VIP booth.

Trendsetters will like Randy Gerber's creation, **Simon LA** (8555 Beverly Blvd., 310.278.5444, sofitella.com), where outdoor dining is the rage, with lush foliage, water elements, a fire pit and plush seating. Taste the Iron Chef Burger (named for its winning chef on the American competition) – an appetizer on toasted brioche, complete with vanilla milkshake. Also try **Providence** (5955 Melrose Ave., 323.460.4170, providencela.com) – rated one of "America's Top 50 Restaurants by *Gourmet*" – for contemporary seafood. The menu changes daily depending on what looks good at the fish market, but the nine-course tasting menu is sure to please. For exclusivity, request the chef's table and special tasting menu. **Citizen Smith** (1600 N. Cahuenga Blvd., 323.461.5001, citizensmith.com), in all its dark and gothic glory, hits the spot with American comfort food like fried green



The Hollywood Roosevelt



Republic

tomatoes and southern fried chicken.

For foodies wanting something “a little less celeb,” try **Grace** (7360 Beverly Blvd., 323.934.4400, gracerestaurant.com), where *Iron Chef*-winner Neil Fraser makes specialties, including grilled tenderloin of wild boar. Wednesday nights are donut night, where creations such as a butterscotch donut with brown sugar icing and ginger caramel are a must. Ask for a table in the back room for a little privacy with your tasty treats. **Hatfield's** (7458 Beverly Blvd., 323.935.2977, hatfieldsrestaurant.com) may have only 50 seats (plus porch seating), but though it's short on space, it makes up for

it in flavor. Savor the charred Japanese octopus accompanied by a Spiced Ruby cocktail. In general, call at least three to four weeks in advance for reservations; if you're feeling more spontaneous, Mondays are the best for last minute requests.

Asian flavor can be found at **Koi** (730 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood, 310.659.9449, koirestaurant.com) where heavy hitters such as Scarlett Johansson, Leonardo DiCaprio and Justin Timberlake have frequented. Enjoy the Japanese-inspired cuisine, such as the miso bronzed cod or sesame encrusted lobster tail, at one of the horseshoe booths on the back patio. **Tengu** (1541 Ocean Ave., Suite 120, Santa Monica, 310.587.2222, tengu.com) features a sushi menu mixed with Asian-fusion dishes. Groove to the DJ while getting your taste on.

For something totally different, **Republic** (650 N. La Cienega Blvd., 310.360.7070, therepublicla.com) offers creative twists on classic favorites. Taste the lobster corn dogs in creole honey-mustard sauce or the ostrich fillet, and ask for a seat in the main dining room near the fire pit with a view of the wine fairy pulling bottles from the 20-foot-tall tower of wine. **Dolce** (8284 Melrose Ave., 323.852.7174, dolcegroup.com/dolce) is a modern Italian restaurant with contemporary design elements, including a bar backlit with a flaming wall of fire. Dine outdoors in a private cabana while sampling small plates. Owned by a group of celebs, including Ahston Kutcher and Dule Hill, you never know who you might see at the next table.

Shopping

Melrose is the street to be for hip fashion. Start at the legendary **Fred Segal** (8100 Melrose Ave., 323.651.4129, fredsegalbeauty.com), a labyrinth of boutiques-within-a-boutique where fashionistas find treasures from Chip and Pepper, C&C California and Blue Cult. **Ron Herman** (ronherman.com) is the first stop within the complex for the likes of Rebecca Taylor and Dries Van Noten. Shop the blowout sale in late September, and be sure to visit the iconic retailer's second location, **Fred Segal Fun** (500 Broadway, Suite G, Santa Monica, 310.394.9814, fredsegalfun.com). For vintage, try **Decades** (8214 1/2 Melrose Ave., 323.655.0223, decadesinc.com). Owned by Cameron Silver, who contributes to *Harpers Bazaar UK* and *Departures*, this boutique is filled with the best in upscale vintage designs.

Head to Sherman Oaks to shop at Lisa Rinna's **Belle Gray** (13812 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, 818.789.4021, bellegray.com) where labels worn by Eva Longoria, Carmen Electra and Reese Witherspoon include Twelfth Street by Cynthia Vincent, Juicy Couture and Paige Premium Denim.

For shopping in Santa Monica, visit **Il Primo Passo** (1624 Montana Ave., Santa Monica, 310.828.4149, ilprimopasso.com), where shoes rule. Owner Beth Whiffen, former fashion writer and staff editor at *Cosmopolitan*, stocks designers such as Celine, Bo'em and Christian Lacroix. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine while you browse. **Post26** (225 26th St., Santa Monica, 310.451.0950) is the newest addition to the Brentwood Country Mart, carrying designers such as Derek Lam and James Perse, along with a selection of vintage labels, including Vivienne Westwood.

Go where the stars shop at **Kitson** (116 N. Robertson Blvd., Suite C, 310.289.4975, shopkitson.com), the place for trendy jewelry, hats and Ts. Victoria Beckham's new eyewear and denim lines are also available, along with dozens of designers, including Kitson's own kitschy line.

Eco-friendly clothing abounds at **Undesigned** (1953.5 Hillhurst Ave., 323.663.0088, undesigned.com) with contrasting finds such as the Silk Flocked Dots halter top – the ultimate in feminine dressing – and the Audrey Raincoat, which looks tough enough to join a biker gang. Owner Carol Young created the beginnings of the line while on fellowship at Cornell University.

Mall worshipers can spend days at **South Coast Plaza** (3333 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, 800.782.8888, southcoastplaza.com), the largest mall on the West Coast. New stores Bloomingdale's, Marché Moderne and Movado join old favorites Burberry, Celine, CH Carolina Herrera, La Perla and dozens more.

Nightlife

The trendiest L.A. clubs and bars can be extremely difficult to get into, especially on the weekends. Dress to impress, and try visiting on a week-night to increase your chances of admission.

The paparazzi perch outside of **Area** (643 N. La Cienega Blvd., 310.652.2012), a crowded '60s-style club with low white leather couches, two sleek bars and a thumping dance floor. Lines are long on the weekends, but you can guarantee entrance by making bottle service reservations. **Hyde** (8029 W. Sunset Blvd., 323.655.8000) – a partnership between nightlife impresarios Sam Nazarian and Brent Bolthouse – is a favorite of TMZ's cameras because of the celebrity clientele. With a guest list or reservations only door policy, be sure to call ahead if you want to rub elbows with Lindsay Lohan. **Les Deux** (1638 N. Las Palmas Ave., Hollywood, 323.462.7674, dolcegroup.com/lesdeux), also great for star-spotting, boasts an amazing outdoor space with thick maroon couches, candelabras and ambient music among the trees. French films are projected on the wall to keep with the European theme.

The epitome of cool is **The Dresden Room** (1760 N. Vermont Ave., Hollywood, 323.665.4294, thedresden.com), where jazz musicians Marty and Elayne have been entertaining patrons since 1982. The duo made an appearance in the movie *Swingers*, which was filmed here. The Room was also used for Tom Hank's *That Thing You Do*. Slide into a white leather booth and order a glass of Blood and Sand – the house specialty. Now you're kicking it old school.

Wine lovers will appreciate **Vinoteca Farfalla** (1968 Hillhurst Ave., 323.661.8070, vinotecafarfalla.com) with 45 wines by the glass, as well as six European beers on tap. Enjoy small plates of Italian and Brazilian fare in this narrow space with dark wood and exposed brick. You'll find the wine selection to be as diverse as the people who frequent the establishment.

For a refined evening, try **Windows Lounge** (300 S. Doheny Dr., 310.273.2222, fourseasons.com), located on the first floor of the Four Sea-



Undesigned



Shade



Les Deux



Tracey Ross

sons Hotel, where Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow have been spotted. The outdoor patio has plush black and white-striped couches, perfect for lounging while sipping a martini as the band plays Thursdays-Saturdays.

One of the hotspots of the moment is **Facade** (6356 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, 323.465.4827, facadehollywood.com), a spacious club with 25-foot ceilings and four bars so glorious that *The West Wing* and *Nip/Tuck* have filmed here. Colored lighting in blues, oranges and yellows sets the mood in this ultra-modern space that also has an open-air patio. **Bar Marmont** (8221 W. Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, 323.656.1010, chateaumarmont.com), with its Bohemian decor, butterflies on the ceiling and A-listers lounging on banquettes, received a makeover last year



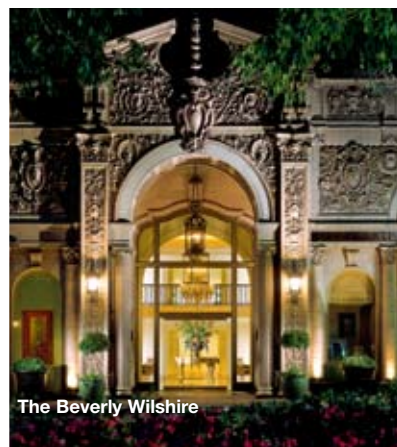
The W Hotel



Sunset Tower Hotel



il Primo Passo



The Beverly Wilshire

and has been hopping ever since. **Whiskey Blue** (930 Hilgard Ave., 310.208.8765, starwoodhotels.com) is another of Rande Gerber's hit creations, and part of the **W Los Angeles Westwood** hotel. The refined Polynesian decor is dark and moody with screen partitions, low couches, dark wood and lots of candlelight. Our cover star, George Clooney, among other top names, has been spotted here.

Accommodations

Chateau Marmont (8221 W. Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, 323.656.1010, chateaumarmont.com) is *the* Hollywood hotspot, modeled after a royal residence in France's Loire Valley. Everyone from Humphrey Bogart to Led Zeppelin has stayed here. If you can swing it, splurge on a poolside bungalow.

If true luxury is what you crave, check into the **Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills** (300 S. Doheny Dr., 310.273.2222,

fourseasons.com/losangeles). The pool terrace is lined with chic, rejuvenating cabanas, and don't miss the Swe-Thai massage – a heavenly mix of Swedish and Thai massage – a signature of the ultra-exclusive hotel spa. Also in Beverly Hills is the redesigned **Beverly Wilshire** (9500 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310.275.5200, fourseasons.com/beverlywilshire), which offers some of the best see-and-be-seen dining in the city, including **CUT**, where Wolfgang Puck's creative steak and seafood dishes are served in a Richard Meier-designed space.

For old Hollywood glamour, stay at the **Hollywood Roosevelt** (7000 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, 323.466.7000, hollywoodroosevelt.com), the birthplace of the Academy Awards. A multitude of stars have slept here, including Marilyn Monroe – it's rumored she haunts the establishment. Stay in her suite to up the stimulating stay-over experience.

Reside beachfront at **Shade** (1221 N. Valley Dr., Manhattan Beach, 310.546.4995, shadehotel.com), a zen-like luxury boutique hotel, where every comfort has been considered. Rooms feature Tempur-Pedic beds, Heat & Glo Cyclone Fireplaces, Lavazza espresso machines and a "Pillow Library" guaranteeing you the perfect cushioning for your sleepy head. For the best night's sleep, ask for the executive suite. **Shutters Hotel** (1 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, 310.458.0030, shuttersonthebeach.com) gives guests that cottage-on-the-beach feel with understated elegance. The gorgeous pool with ocean views has more pristine lounge chairs than could fit all the guests. At **Viceroy Santa Monica** (1819 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica, 310.260.7500, viceroyasantamonica.com), lay down on Mascioni linens in a suite with sweeping ocean views. The hotel's signature eatery, **Whist**, offers a spectacular Sunday brunch.

Surround yourself with swank at **Mondrian** (8440 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, 323.650.8999, mondrianhotel.com), designed by Philippe Starck. The impressive indoor/outdoor lobby fuses nature and glamour, and the serene pool with teak deck provides soothing underwater music. Nouveau Asian-Latin cuisine courtesy of renowned restaurateur Jeffrey Chodorow is on the menu at hotel restaurant **Asia De Cuba**, and the stars come out at night to take in the view from **Skybar. W Hotel Westwood** (930 Hilgard Ave., 310.208.8765, starwoodhotels.com) is undergoing a major renovation to its rooms, to be completed by August 31. Relax in a multi-striped cabana by the pool, where photo shoots frequently take place. **Raffles L'Ermitage** (9291 Burton Way, Beverly Hills, 310.278.3344, beverlyhills.affles.com) offers the largest rooms in L.A., ranging from 600-3,000 square feet. The understated rooftop pool offers stunning views of Bel Air.

With locations in Hollywood and Downtown LA, **The Standard** (550 S. Flower, 213.892.8080, and 8300 Sunset Blvd., 323.650.9090; standardhotel.com) offers a stay that is anything but typical. The "conversation pit" – a corner of the Hollywood location's lobby that is carpeted from floor to ceiling with white shag carpet – creates a nook perfect for loitering while hoping to catch a glimpse of celebrity investors Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz. Over at the Downtown location, ask for one of the Wow! rooms or, for a true A-List experience, the 1,000-square-foot Bigger Penthouse.

CHARLEVOIX/BAY HARBOR

Or, so little to do, so much time

Restaurants

Start the day at **Juilleret's** (1418 Bridge St., Charlevoix, 231.547.9212), a pleasant breakfast and lunch spot where the specialties are raspberry pancakes and grilled cinnamon raisin bread. Ask to be seated in spunky server Jan's section. **The Original Pancake House** (4165 Main St., Bay Harbor, 231.439.9989) is a family favorite with a dizzying menu that is a Northern Michigan Reader's Choice for "Best Breakfast" and "Best Waffles." Or, grab a latte and a slice of quiche at **Wooly Bugger** (204 Bridge St., Charlevoix, 231.237.0740, wbcoffee.com), an eccentric coffee shop with WIFI and cigars. The Mickey Finn – a caramel and hazelnut latte – is sure to perk you up.

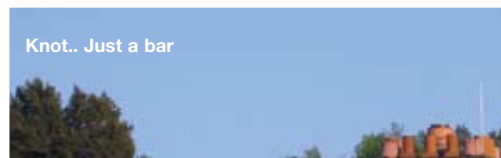
For lunchtime fare, visit **The Alcove Cafe** (103 Park Ave., Charlevoix, 231.547.7490, alcove-cafe.com), a relaxed spot with a menu inspired by the Mediterranean. Everything is made from scratch, and even the meats are smoked on-site. "The Bowl," a meal in a bowl made of the freshest ingredients, is a lunch specialty. **Galley Gourmet** (4181 Main St., Bay Harbor, 231.439.2665) offers portable meals for boaters and picnickers. A Best of Northern Michigan Reader's Choice for "Best Pizza," don't forget to try all the fresh samples available.

The chef at **Terry's Place** (101 W. Antrim, Charlevoix, 231.547.2799, terysofcharlevoix.com) takes pride in developing exquisite recipes complemented by just the right sauces. Whitefish is the specialty. Ask for artichokes added to the whitefish almondine for a little piece of heaven. If you prefer the open air, try **The Landing** (10231 Ferry Road, Charlevoix, 231.547.9036, ironthoncovelandings.com), where you can dock your boat and relax on the patio with a beer and an order of nachos.

Unwind with a drink while watching the ballgame at **Knot, Just a Bar** (820 Front St., Bay Harbor, 231.439.2770, knotjustabar.com), overlooking Bay Harbor Marina. It's a Best of Northern Michigan Reader's Choice for "Best Happy Hour" and "Best Place to Meet Singles."

For finer dining, visit **Grey Gables Inn Restaurant** (308 Belvedere Ave., Charlevoix, 231.547.9261) for fresh foods with unique presentations. Order a Stoli Startini and the Atlantic Blue Crab Cakes. Sushi is available on Wednesdays and Fridays. **Latitude** (795 Front St., Bay Harbor, 231.439.2750, latituderestaurant.com), owned by the Wisne family of Tribute and Forte fame, serves contemporary cuisine using regional ingredients and boasts 5,000 bottles of wine on-site, mussels to die for, and gorgeous patio views overlooking the yachts in the harbor. Just around the corner in Petosky, **Chandler's** (215 Howard St. #5, Petoskey, 231.347.2981), where fresh seafood is delivered daily, has a great vibe and not-to-be-missed sea scallops. Live entertainment on the patio starts every night at eight.

Desserts are low key Up North, with **The Taffy Barrel** (211 Bridge St., Charlevoix, 231.547.9288), which has more than 80 flavors of gourmet salt water taffy (try the lemon meringue); **Kilwin's** (233 Bridge St., Charlevoix, 231.547.5013, kilwins.com), where missing the "Charlevoix Mud" ice cream would be a crime; and **Dairy Queen** (1111 Bridge St., Charlevoix, 231.547.9771), where a Heath Bar Blizzard never fails to satisfy.





Inn at Grey Gables

Shopping

Be one with the outdoors by picking your own strawberries and raspberries at **Kiteley Farms** (03805 Brock Road, Charlevoix, 231.547.2318, kiteley-farms.com), where homegrown veggies, fresh herbs and jams and jellies are also available. The best time to arrive is first thing in the morning.

Find a new piece of art at **Cycling Salamander** (02217 US31 South, Charlevoix, 231.838.6460, cyclingsalamander.com) with representational to abstract work available by award-winning Michigan artists. At **Ed's Creations** (06900 US 31 South, Charlevoix, 231.547.506, ebeyond2000.com), find gates, furniture, sculptures and more, all made of steel.

Go for gourmet groceries at **Esperance** (12853 US 31 North, Charlevoix, 231.237.9300, esperancewine.com), a cheery shop also offering fine wines and home and kitchen accessories. A series of wine tasting events are held fall through spring at the Crooked Tree Art Center. Owners Pram and Suzanne Achyra, along with their son, Tim, will help you pick the perfect vintage to sip while watching the sunset. **Zaccaro's Market** (221 Bridge St., Charlevoix, 231.547.9230) has a large selection of imported cheeses, meats, rustic breads, an olive bar and wine.

For fashion, hit the **Village at Bay Harbor** (4000 Main St., Bay Harbor, 231.439.2000 bayharbor.com/shopping) for stores including **Northern Sole** (231.439.2636) for shoes from Puma, Via Spiga, Carlos Santana and more, and **Les Femmes** (231.439.2670) for fashionistas who love Citizens of Humanity and Adam+Eve.



Village at Bay Harbor

Accommodations

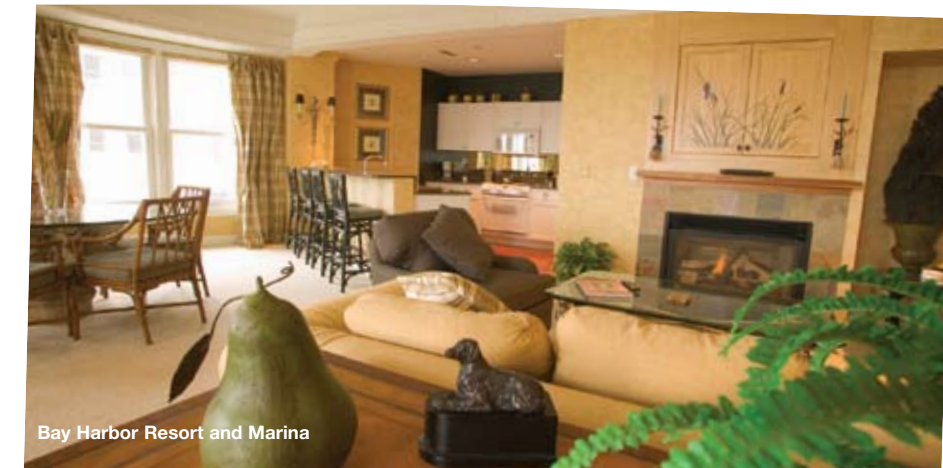
Sleep peacefully at **Pointes North Inn** (101 Michigan Ave., Charlevoix, 231.547.005, pointesnorthcharlevoix.com), an all-suite hotel with full kitchen, Jacuzzi tub and balcony plus an indoor/outdoor pool. **The Inn at Bay Harbor** (3600 Village Harbor Drive, Bay Harbor, 231.439.4000) is a spectacular turn-of-the-century style inn with cottage-style elegance plus 45 holes of championship golf and full-service spa.

The **Inn at Grey Gables** (306 Belvedere Ave., Charlevoix, 231.547.2251, innatgreygables.com) is a lovely B&B with seven rooms (the Jonathan Room is the most popular), each boasting a feather bed and private bath. Wine and cheese platters are served each evening plus homemade cookies are brought to your room before bedtime.

For a condominium hotel, try **Edgewater Inn** (100 Michigan Ave., Charlevoix, 231.547.6044, edgewater-charlevoix.com) nestled on Round Lake. The indoor/outdoor pool has a nicely appointed sundeck, and massage therapy is available. Ask for Tom Lalley to make sure all of your needs are taken care of.

The **Bay Harbor Resort & Marina** (4000 Main St., Bay Harbor, 231.439.2000, bayharbor.com) is an enormous complex with upscale hotel, conference center, marina, equestrian facility, fitness center, spa and golf. Home, townhouse and condominium rentals are also available.

👑 - Karen Buscemi



Bay Harbor Resort and Marina



Esperance