

TIME TO TAKE A STAYCATION



When I look for respite from the mundane of paying bills, carpooling and housekeeping duties, I think of this old proverb: “A change is as good as a rest”.

The thought of enduring restrictive luggage fees and time-consuming security measures inhibits my wanderlust, especially with kids and a spouse whose idea of “rest” is different from mine. That’s when a “staycation” (staying in town for a vacation) seems the perfect answer. Not to mention, it helps support local vendors, merchants and our city.

For this particular getaway, we chose the renowned Four Seasons resort in Aviara; the only 5-star resort in North County. The drive was short (even with traffic), and the approach to the property, with its lush palm trees and tropical plants, was the perfect beginning to a relaxing stay.

Everyone who worked there greeted us with direct eye contact and a friendly salutation. But that was only the beginning. A digital television said, “Welcome, Ms. Ferris!” Inside the room, our daughter’s name was inscribed in chocolate on a plate with a bed of sugar next to child-sized slippers, a matching robe and a small stuffed monkey. We found welcome cards in the bathrooms with each of our names; now that’s what I call a “signature” stamp.

Our standard room (more like a suite) was tastefully decorated with warm hues of peach, sage, taupe and ecru. Our veranda had a stellar view of the wildlife preserve also known as the Batiquitos Lagoon. It’s within walking distance and includes three different hiking trails that take you along the edge of the lagoon where blue heron and white

egret can be seen. This makes a simple nature walk something special.

If you’re feeling active, the resort offers Surf Concierge and complimentary Beach Butler service with daily trips to Ponto Beach for a two-hour surf or boogie board lesson for \$100 per person for the visitors from inland San Diego. There are six tennis courts (with a choice of clay or hard courts) that are complemented by personal instruction by Peter Burwash International. The adjoining Recreation Center offers complimentary croquet, badminton, lawn bowling, horseshoes, sand volleyball and a children’s playground. And don’t forget the award-winning Arnold Palmer championship golf course, complemented by Aviara Golf Academy, TaylorMade Performance Lab, practice facilities and clubhouse.

For some, “play” can mean doing nothing at all. If this is more your speed, enjoy the various pools replete with cabanas, poolside service and a palm tree sprinkler. The spa and fitness center has amenities which include 20 treatment rooms, steam, sauna and whirlpool, lounge areas and a full range of exercise equipment. The diverse menu of spa options would please even the most well-heeled, cosmopolitan traveler.

After a wonderful dinner at The California Bistro and a peaceful slumber, we left the resort feeling refreshed with the glow of having basked in the lap of luxury, even if for a few days. In the words of Founder, CEO & Chairman, Isadore Sharp: “So much of long-term success is based on intangibles. Beliefs and ideas. Invisible concepts.”

written by Jeanne Ferris