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FEATURED\*

TASTELOGIE

**Revisiting the Studio Garden at Montage Laguna Beach ~ The potatoes are overflowing their boxes, the fava beans, squashes, and strawberries are all getting ready to be picked... and the chefs are cooking the harvest just steps away in Studio's kitchen.**

We went back down to [Montage Laguna Beach](#) to see how their [Studio Garden](#) was doing. Still in its first growing season I was eager to see how this experiment in offering hyper local ingredients was unfolding. After some discoveries, lots of tours, and many great meals the resort's new addition is quickly maturing. With a fabulous [Studio Garden cocktail](#) in hand (and its delicious lavender sugar rim) I walked around and reacquainted myself.

#10885



In a little less than two months the garden has gone from this...



... to this. Plants have come and gone and the chefs have stayed busy adapting to the ever changing offerings of the garden.



The potatoes, one of our favorite plants from the visit before, have gone from barely peeking out from inside their boxes...



... to completely overflowing them. Soon once when the plant dies back, they'll be able to dig around inside the box to harvest.



The peas, so dominating on the last visit, are now gone.



Now is the time of the fava bean.



Chef Craig Strong has incorporated harvesting these into his chef-side dinners... playfully putting the diners to work in harvesting their own meal. They've enjoyed it immensely.



There are some other new guests at the Montage Laguna Beach as well.

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The strawberries are just beginning to come in.



The squash are looking great as well, especially their blossoms!



The garden also makes a great venue for cocktails and passed appetizers... gardens so close to kitchens certainly have their advantages. These little potato pillows were fresh from the kitchen topped with bacon dust. They were an abstract miniaturized potato filled with all the familiar tastes: golden brown fries, bacon, sour cream... all worked into crunchy little bites.



With all the changes going on in the garden, the view, however, remains same... spectacular. [Montage Laguna Beach](#) and Chef Strong's passion for gardening are literally bearing fruit, and berries, and beans, and edible flowers, and more.