



Montage

RESORT • SPA • RESIDENCES
Laguna Beach

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**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL NEWSLETTER *THE GALLIVANTER'S GUIDE* LAUDS
MONTAGE RESORT & SPA AS "BEST NEW HOTEL/RESORT DISCOVERY"**

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (February 20, 2004) -- Following a notable debut year marked by consistent critical acclaim, Montage Resort & Spa has garnered international recognition from *The Gollivanter's Guide*, a prestigious travel newsletter whose subscribers voted the celebrated beachfront property the "Best New Hotel/Resort Discovery" in the 2003 Gallivanter's Awards for Excellence.

Each October, the UK-based *Gollivanter's Guide* polls its subscribers in 38 countries, asking them to vote for their favorite hotels and resorts worldwide according to James Bermingham, general manager of Montage Resort & Spa. "This year's outcome was resoundingly positive for Montage, which was ranked number one in its category. We are honored by the results -- announced in the January issue of *The Gollivanter's Guide*-- which represent the views of some of the world's top travelers."

In a letter to readers, the editors of *The Gollivanter's Guide* noted that Montage is decidedly special saying, "countless California readers have written long and illustrious e-mails regarding its excellence, and even more US readers have voted for it."

--More--

Montage is joined by other celebrated new hotels in the "Best New Hotel/Resort Discovery" category including: Cowley Manor, Gloucestershire, UK; Four Seasons Resort, Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt; and Zannos Melathron, Santorini, Greece.

Established in 1991, *The Gallivanter's Guide* is an eight-page, privately published monthly newsletter with the aim of unearthing idyllic places for the dedicated traveler. With subscribers around the globe -- from North and South America to Europe to the Middle East and Asia -- the publication reviews only the best hotels and resorts in the world.

The 262-room Montage Resort & Spa features striking turn-of-the-century-style architecture, pristine white sand beaches and breathtaking ocean views. Among its myriad amenities and activities are a 20,000-square-foot beachfront spa; three sparkling swimming pools; distinctive, regional dining; and PaintBox, which features a kids club and activities. Centrally located, the resort is just two miles from the heart of Laguna Beach and its numerous shops, museums and galleries.

Paying tribute to Laguna Beach's rich cultural heritage, Montage also houses a museum quality collection of fine art and ceramics inspired by the Early California Arts and Crafts movement. Traditional touches such as classic wood and stone architecture, copper gutters, and shingle-style roofing -- combined with the Arts and Crafts-style artwork and décor -- masterfully capture this bygone era.

For information and reservations, please contact Montage Resort & Spa, toll-free, at 1-888-715-6700; or visit the website at www.montagelagunabeach.com.

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