VENICE GROWS UP Classic Architecture Making a Big Comeback as Stylish Vacation Rental

Venice Beach is known the world over for its unique brand of charm and energy. For more than fifty years, street performers, tattoo parlors, free-spirited artists, beach bums and bodybuilders have been the signature scenery of this historic community on the Pacific Ocean.

If you visited Venice Beach during the past thirty years, you might have recommended it to a friend looking for a memorable day of sight-seeing while visiting Los Angeles. But to stay there? No. Much better to find accommodations in the more upscale Santa Monica or even Westwood.

But Venice Beach is emerging from its adolescence and is becoming a sophisticated, cosmopolitan adult. She has learned to balance her gregarious charms and distinctive peccadilloes with an appreciation of the finer things: style, art, luxury and world-class cuisine.

This newly-evolved synthesis has made itself evident in a new collection of vacation suites right on the legendary Venice Boardwalk, the heart and soul of Venice Beach. Lambert Investments has renovated five classic Boardwalk-style buildings and converted them into stylish furnished vacation rentals known collectively as The Venice Suites. The newest Lambert property, The Venice Breeze Suites, opened in May.

"We wanted to create an experience for guests that allowed them to live like Venice locals," says Lambert Properties president Carl Lambert, who used to live on Venice Beach. "So, while the Venice Suites are all just steps from the Boardwalk, they provide a comfortable sanctuary, a quiet retreat from all that's going on in Venice. Our guests can spend all day taking in the excitement and the energy, then go home and make dinner, watch TV, rest before going out for cocktails-just like the locals do."

Abbot Kinney Blvd. (named for the tobacco magnate that founded the city) is a virtual Petrie dish of Venice's new, grown-up attitude. There are no chain stores on Abbot Kinney, but visitors can easily lose a day shopping in its chic boutiques, unique home furnishing galleries and eclectic bookstores. Restaurants on Abbot Kinney range from coffee bistros and bar & grill joints to trendy tapas restaurants and ultra-hip hangouts.

While high-end art galleries, fine dining and upscale shopping are now commonplace on Venice's streets, the city has not forgotten who she is. There is still plenty of room for Venice's notorious bohemian eccentricity. There are, of course, places to buy incense and candles, but there are also outlets for records (you know, music on vinyl), fresh flowers, unusual gifts and collectibles, used fashion and books, vintage toys and all things organic--including food, bath products and even clothing.

The Venice Suites are not just furnished, they are fully-equipped to make guests feel at home. Because they are completely private and you can spread out and keep your own schedule, the suites really provide a feeling that you are staying at a friend's place on the beach. But the suites are also provided with all of the luxury appointments you would expect from an upscale hotel. Contemporary furnishings, state-of-the art technology and stylish design details are the trademarks of The Venice Suites.

Amenities at the Venice Suites include fully equipped kitchens with coffee makers, dishwashers, all cookware and dinnerware; cable television with premium movie channels; flat-panel TVs; T1 internet access; hardwood floors and recessed lighting; roof top barbecues; and all towels and bed linens. A stay at The Venice Suites offers all the comforts of home in a resort location unlike anywhere on Earth.

The Venice Suites family of vacation accommodations includes The Venice Suites, The Venice Admiral Suites, The Venice Breeze Suites, The Venice Horizon Suites and The Venice Paloma Suites.

To find out more, visit www.VeniceSuitesProperties.com.