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5 PAGES OF
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QUICK GETAWAY

GRANADA HOTEL & BISTRO

written by Elyse Glickman

The Granada Hotel & Bistro is perfect for a romantic getaway any time of year. However, the 17-room property is the physical embodiment of a Central Coast autumn, with its exposed brick walls, hand-crafted steel windows, wrought iron balconies, Persian rugs, supple leather headboards, and original hardwood floors. The scene is set for romance and relaxation. It all makes sense, as former Hollywood screenwriter Kimberly Walker channeled her experience to become the visionary founder and managing partner of this and other hotels in the Nomada Hotel Group.

SAN LUIS OBISPO'S MODERN-BUT-COZY FALL HIDEAWAY



(LEFT) Dine-in at the bistro. Get a taste of history, with savory bites and nods from the past, including the building's original exposed brick walls.

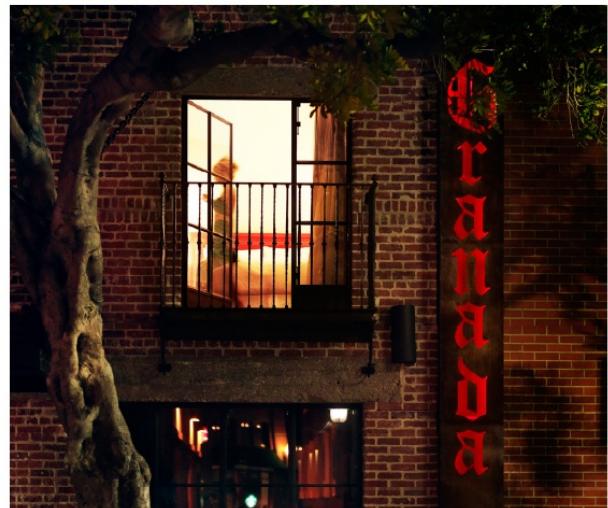
(RIGHT) A once-forgotten industrial building is transformed into the epitome of urban chic, evidence by the Granada Hotel's festive entry.



Like other Nomada properties, the Granada was brought back to life through a complete renovation and restoration of a once-utilitarian Central Coast building. At one point, Walker used some of the office space in this 1920s structure for her original Granada Bistro wine bar. Although her first foray into the hospitality world was successful, her landlord lost ownership of the building. The setback, however, was a catalyst for a bigger vision as she and several other entrepreneurs came together at Burning Man to form the “Lunacy Club” to take things to the next level. As she would with her future hotels, Walker found inspiration in her world travels, including

philanthropic work focused on women’s issues in Arusha, Tanzania.

Walker (also an inventor, creating ‘Wine Wipes’ to remove wine stains on teeth, and later, The Vanity Project, a collection of single-use amenities for modern travelers) managed the renovation, incorporating distinctive objects and furnishings she collected through the years. While the original structure would speak volumes if the walls could talk, so do the various spaces throughout the property. A private hotel guest lounge feels a lot like a private home (or one you wish you owned in San Luis Obispo) with its fireplace





PICTURED: The easy going San Luis Obispo nightlife thrives in the hotel's exclusive nightcap bar.

OPPOSITE: (TOP RIGHT) Window view perched on the main drag of downtown San Luis Obispo, Higuera Street.

(BOTTOM RIGHT) At the top of the staircase sits a bookshelf library embedded into the building's architecture as a main feature.



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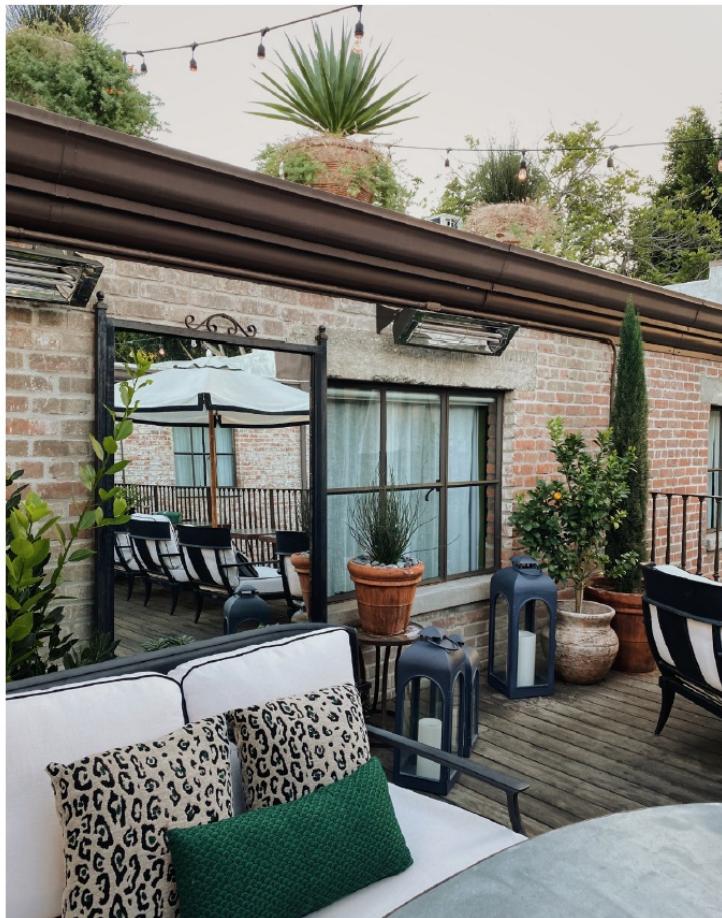
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overlooking a terrace, comfortable seating, artwork by photographer Barry Goyette, and an impressive selection of classy coffee table books.

All of the suites and guest rooms begin with a canvas of exposed brick walls, hand-crafted steel windows, Persian rugs and original hardwood floors. Finishing touches include opulent marble and tiled bathrooms, nickel-plated fixtures, towels and linen by Fili d'Oro, goose down duvet and pillows, signature

seersucker robes, a carefully curated in-room mini bar, and original art intended to set the mood. The hotel's heart and soul, meanwhile, The Granada Bistro, is conceptually expanded into a chic French bistro with infusions of Spanish flavors that showcase a collection of local wines and classic cocktails.

Granada Bistro, steered by Executive Chef Kenny Bigwood, is known for the way French bistro concepts are translated into exciting



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new creations with modern techniques and bold California flavors. The wine program touches on many growing regions around the world. Nightcap, the hotel's exclusive cocktail lounge, is noted for inventive crafted cocktails, bites, and sipping spirits. Hotel guests receive convenient access to the lounge throughout their entire stay.

(from Swedish massages to ayurvedic body treatments). Other luxe guest amenities include complimentary electric Linus bikes for guests to explore charming downtown San Luis Obispo, local wineries and miles of surrounding bike trails. The retail and wine shop features a distinctive selection of home and fashion items by local artisans and specialty finds from around the world.

If this wasn't festive enough, the hotel will be offering thoughtfully curated cocktail kits with top shelf ingredients for the more intimate festivities at the hotel or on the wine trails. There is also an events program (events@granadahotelandbistro.com) where one can book small private cocktail mixers, luncheons or dinners on the rooftop terrace or inside the Bistro. There is also a compact spa with a small but lovely spread of services

Signature lunch items are available to order Monday through Friday to enjoy at the hotel's patio or on a wine country sojourn.

Room rates begin at \$220. For reservations, call (805) 544-9100 or visit granadahotelandbistro.com.

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OPPOSITE: (TOP) Indulge in craft cocktails and delightful dishes

OPPOSITE: (BOTTOM) At the Granada, San Luis Obispo's hippest restaurants and shopping are steps away.