



Clockwise from top: Willows Spa patrons can lounge in hanging saucer chairs overlooking the spa's outdoor saltwater pool; the spa's sauna features a Himalayan salt wall; Willows suites provide guests with unexpected in-room amenities like a minibar stocked with complimentary soda and juices.

About 30 miles from San Diego, the new adults-only Willows Hotel & Spa is a luxurious and serene getaway tucked into the lush Cuyamaca Mountains of California. The resort draws inspiration from the area's natural beauty and features views of the towering and nearby Viejas Mountains.

Willows is a five-story tower that's part of Viejas Casino & Resort and features 159 suites. Each room includes floor-to-ceiling windows and lounge-style living rooms finished in rich woods, soft neutral tones and splashes of gold. Additional amenities include a pillow menu, an Alexa digital assistant and Whish Beauty products.

The soothing atmosphere of the suites spills into the 18,000-square-foot full-service spa that comes complete with clean, white stones and blue mosaics. The spa features a saltwater spa pool, a spa garden, a salt sauna, a steam room and two outdoor spa cabanas where spagoers also can receive treatments.

The spa's signature 80-minute Fire & Ice body treatment (\$175) starts with a chilled masque made out of moisturizing succulent stone crop, after which you are draped in a thermal blanket wrap and hot towels while a therapist administers a feet and scalp acupressure massage.

Adding to the wellness experience is the saltwater Allure pool, which is surrounded by striking mountain views and the hotel's tranquility garden. The farm-to-table Locale restaurant serves contemporary California cuisine with an emphasis on regional, locally sourced ingredients. Feast on local halibut ceviche, charcuterie and cheese, wood-fired flatbreads and pasta. *Suites from \$329, premium suites and villas available for VIP casino players only, price upon request, 619.445.5400, viejas.com*

Mountain MAJESTY

Willows Hotel & Spa brings luxury to a California mountain town.

By Teresa K. Traverse

