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10 TOP PLACES TO HOLD

A CORPORATE RETREAT



You want to team-build, develop strategic plans and strengthen relations with your colleagues—but it never seems to happen at the office. Here are 10 of the best places to combine work and pleasure at a corporate retreat.

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| <p>01</p> | <p>For eco-minded businesses, “deep green” luxury in Napa Valley.</p> |  <p>BARDESSONO Yountville, Calif. Bardessono’s client list includes many of the corporate giants of sustainability: eBay, Mercedes-Benz, Audi and Kiehl’s, for example. The LEED Platinum certified hotel offers numerous meeting and conference spaces, as well as the support of skilled audio-visual teams. When the sessions are finished for the day, hike, bike or Segway to downtown Yountville to sample local cabernets, or borrow the hotel’s Lexus hybrid to go hot air ballooning.</p> <p>Contact: Kristi Klein 707.204.6022 kristi.klein@bardessono.com bardessono.com</p> |
| <p>02</p> | <p>Small, beautiful, isolated and private.</p> | <p>CABIN BLUFF Woodbine, Ga. Located near Georgia’s Intracoastal Waterway and surrounded by pristine forests, tidal marshes and winding shoreline, Cabin Bluff is not easy to find; as its website points out, it is “accessible only with sufficient direction.” Nor is it for every business; Cabin Bluff can host a maximum of 40 guests (in 20 rooms). But for those fortunate few, it has a 1,700-square-foot conference center with oversized executive chairs, vaulted ceilings and windows facing the water.</p>  <p>Contact: Andy Ippensen 912.729.5960 andy.ippensen@cabinbluff.com cabinbluff.com</p> |
| <p>03</p> | <p>It’s not all about the golf—but close.</p> | <p>CASA PALMERO AT PEBBLE BEACH Pebble Beach, Calif. The smallest and most exclusive of the three Pebble Beach Resorts properties, Casa Palmero exudes Mediterranean charm. A two-hour drive from San Francisco and Silicon Valley, the resort is even closer to Monterey Peninsula Airport, making it easily accessible by private air. State-of-the-art boardroom and meeting facilities accommodate groups of two to 85. Naturally, golf is the signature activity—Casa Palmero overlooks the first two holes of Pebble Beach Golf Links. When you’re not teeing up, kayak among sea otters, sea lions and seals in the protected marine sanctuary.</p> <p>Contact: Ann McAuliffe 831.648.7832 mcaulifa@pebblebeach.com pebblebeach.com</p> |
| <p>04</p> | <p>A city hotel that feels like an escape.</p> |  <p>HOTEL BEL-AIR Los Angeles With its 12 acres of lush gardens, stylish accommodations and old Hollywood glamour, Hotel Bel-Air is an LA icon. Exclusive and private, it’s an ideal place for studio execs to take their teams away from the office without going far. Just re-opened after a two-year renovation, the Bel-Air also provides custom itineraries for its guests: a city tour from the backseat of a Jaguar followed by a Lakers game at the Staples Center, for example.</p> <p>Contact: Kari Troncatty 310.281.2590 ktroncatty@beverlyhillshotel.com hotelbelair.com</p> |

HOTEL BEL-AIR PHOTO COURTESY OF HOTEL BEL-AIR

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| <p>05</p> | <p>Getting down to work against an awesome natural backdrop.</p> |  <p>THE LODGE AND SPA AT BRUSH CREEK RANCH Saratoga, Wyo. A former cattle station turned luxury lodge, Brush Creek Ranch’s inspirational environment encourages creativity and freethinking. Boardrooms and meeting spaces, both indoor and out, abound. But the real star is the surrounding 13,000 acres of pristine Western wilderness in the heart of the Sierra Madre range. Fly-fish in crystalline waters, hunt for pheasant, round up cattle on horseback or plan market domination while stargazing.</p> <p>Contact: Kasey McNabney 303.568.9952 kasey.mcnabney@brushcreekranch.com brushcreekranch.com</p> |
| <p>06</p> | <p>New York style meets Hawaiian beauty.</p> | <p>THE MODERN HONOLULU Honolulu, Hawaii Until recently known as the Waikiki Edition, the Modern Honolulu brings hip, sophisticated luxury to Oahu. Corporate clients such as Bank of Hawaii and Lenovo appreciate its state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, smart boards, electronic flip charts, video conferencing facilities and 24-hour multilingual secretarial staff. The hotel’s Surf Body Boot Camp can help executives whittle down their vital stats with surf lessons, yoga, kayaking and organic cuisine.</p> <p>Contact: Beth Churchill 808.687.7107 echurchill@aquaresorts.com themodernhonolulu.com</p> |
| <p>07</p> | <p>For East Coast executives, a dramatic getaway.</p> | <p>OCEAN HOUSE Watch Hill, Rhode Island Sandwiched between Boston and New York City, Ocean House is the corporate getaway for the Northeast, hosting firms like East Rock Capital and LexisNexis. Working with 10,000 square feet of function space, the hotel’s staff will arrange every detail of a corporate retreat down to coordinating private air travel. Visitors can bond over croquet with pro Teddy Prentis or participate in Ocean House’s culinary education program.</p>  <p>Contact: Edward Villafane 401.584.7000 evillafane@oceanhouser.com oceanhouser.com</p> |
| <p>08</p> | <p>An island of calm in the Atlantic.</p> |  <p>SEA ISLAND RESORTS Sea Island, Ga. Located off the coast of Georgia, Sea Island boasts several different but connected lodgings, numerous private meeting rooms and five miles of private beaches. Most famous for hosting President George W. Bush and the G8 conference in 2004, Sea Island sees a steady flow of corporate guests from Atlanta, Texas and the Northeast.</p> <p>Contact: Linda Gordon 912.638.5812 lindagordon@seaisland.com seaisland.com</p> |
| <p>09</p> | <p>Anglophile chic for creative executives.</p> | <p>SOHO BEACH HOUSE MIAMI Soho Beach House Miami is the latest addition to founder Nick Jones’ Soho House empire. A combination of a private club, hotel and spa, the Brit-loving Soho House is also available for “private hire,” making it an intriguing place for hipster businesspeople in need of a chic spot to get some work done. Soho Beach House Miami offers a screening “snug,” a penthouse, a private dining room and a library. The House recently hosted Bravo executives, and retreats can include beach volleyball, jet skiing, Zumba classes and even a takeover of the House restaurant, Cecconi’s.</p> <p>Contact: Jamie Mark 786.507.7900 jamie@sohobeachhouse.com sohobeachhouse.com</p> |
| <p>10</p> | <p>Perfect for those who want to combine work and snow.</p> | <p>STEIN ERIKSEN LODGE Park City, Utah Named after the 1952 Oslo Olympics gold medalist Stein Eriksen, who is still host of the lodge, Stein Eriksen is a great place for work—if you can keep yourself off the slopes. The luxurious property includes a conference center with multiple boardrooms, secretarial and security services, and room for up to 440 people. Team-building activities include dogsledding, snowshoeing and snowmobile expeditions. But it’s the skiing that really beckons. Situated mid-mountain, the lodge is a short slalom from Deer Valley’s slopes.</p>  <p>Contact: Sarah Myers 435.645.6451 smyers@steinlodge.com steinlodge.com</p> |

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By Sarah Backhouse