

HEAD FOR THE HILLS

WITH THE OSCARS COMING UP, STAR-STUDED BEVERLY HILLS IS THE ONLY PLACE TO BE



Above: Take a dip in the Aqua Star pool at the Beverly Hilton. **Right:** Jennifer Lawrence has a home in Beverly Hills



might bump into – it could be anyone from The Rock to Rihanna, who has just bought a home in the area. Singer Adele owns a mansion in the same gated community as Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence, Cameron Diaz and Sir Rod Stewart. Other notable British residents include Simon Cowell, Gordon Ramsay and talk show host James Corden.

WHERE CAN I RELAX?

Stretch your limbs at Pilates Platinum, which is owned by Meghan Markle's former personal trainer Heather Dorak. Drop in to a mat class at their nearby Brentwood studio. For a gentle pampering, book into the Beverly Hilton's Aqua Star BABOR Beauty Spa. De-stress as you sip herbal tea and nibble on cookies in the relaxation lounge. *OK!* also enjoyed the signature Red Carpet Ready Facial, which uses aromatherapy, hot stones and an enzyme mask. Relax in nature by walking around the free-to-visit exquisitely-landscaped gardens at the Greystone Mansion, which is on the US National Register Of Historic Places. Built by an oil tycoon in 1928, it's appeared in many movies including the *Spider-Man* franchise, *Indecent Proposal* and *Austin Powers In Goldmember*.

WHERE CAN I EAT?

Dine in style at Porta Via on Canon Drive, in the heart of the shopping district. Run by Beverly Hills-born owner Peter Garland, it's as close to a neighbourhood restaurant as you'll find. Regulars include Mark Wahlberg and Jessica Alba and even President Clinton has dined here. We tucked into grilled sea bass, filet mignon and an outrageously good apple crumble, accompanied by cocktails featuring their own rye whiskey blend. Vegans will enjoy Cafe Gratitude, where every dish is named after an affirmation. *OK!* was both 'eclectic' and 'humble' thanks to their spicy fried cauliflower, red lentil dahl and roasted yams bowl. Enjoy an unfussy lunch at the Coral Tree Café by teaming their chicken caesar salad with an iced tea. A 15-minute drive away in Sherman Oaks is Casa Vega, a Mexican eatery that serves up steak burritos and margaritas. You might find yourself next to Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher, who enjoy date nights here.

With awards season in full swing, culminating in the Academy Awards on March 4, *OK!*'s Lisa Marks decided it was the perfect time to head to Beverly Hills for some A-list pampering, shopping and star spotting. The glamorous city, with its famous 90210 postcode, is not only America's film and entertainment industry epicentre, it's also where you'll find luxurious hotels, restaurants and bars catering to the showbiz crowd. Within its exclusive five square miles radius, you'll also find Rodeo Drive, a Sunday farmers' market (look out for Gwen Stefani and Ben Affleck) as well as beautiful gardens such as those at the Greystone Mansion, a popular film backdrop.

WHERE CAN I STAY?

The Beverly Hilton was built in 1955 by Conrad Hilton (Paris Hilton's great-grandfather) but it offers every modern convenience and luxury. Its star-studded history looms large – President John F Kennedy was said to have conducted his affair with Marilyn Monroe here, while Whitney Houston sadly passed away at the hotel in 2012.

Horseshoe-shaped, this iconic hotel offers guests 569 comfortable rooms, including 16 luxury penthouse suites in the Wilshire Tower, with stunning views over Los Angeles. Playing centre stage is the hotel's Aqua Star pool (Angelina Jolie reportedly jumped into it fully dressed after winning her second Golden Globe), while the pool-side Circa 55 serves modern Californian cuisine. The hotel also houses an impressive ballroom that has hosted the Golden Globes for the past 63 years. Ask to see the ladies' room, where Nicole Kidman and Margot Robbie retouched their lipstick last month, and which still features the original 360° mirrored cubicle.



Rub shoulders with the stars over dinner at Porta Via

As Sandy Murphy, the hotel's general manager, told *OK!*: 'We believe that every guest who comes here should be able to have a red-carpet experience.' Guests are also welcome to use the hotel's complimentary chauffeur service to nearby Rodeo Drive for their designer shopping fix.

WHICH STARS WILL I SEE?

There isn't enough room to list all the famous faces you



The Oscars take place at the Dolby Theatre on March 4



Shop till you drop on Rodeo Drive



For glitz and glamour this awards season, look no further than Beverly Hills and the bright lights of Los Angeles

WHERE CAN I SHOP?

You can't leave Beverly Hills without ticking off all your *Pretty Woman* shopping fantasies on Rodeo Drive. This is where the showbiz crowd stock up on bling (Harry Winston, Cartier, Bulgari), lingerie (Agent Provocateur, La Perla), shoes (Jimmy Choo, Prada), and red-carpet frocks (Valentino, Céline, Versace). Even if you don't step inside a shop, the gold-plated Lamborghinis and Bentleys are a sight to behold. Explore Two Rodeo Drive, a tiny walkway off Rodeo Drive, which features art galleries (we saw a Picasso in



one window) and cafés. For a more wallet-friendly shopping experience, visit nearby Westfield Century City mall. Eat

anything from Mexican at Pink Taco (a favourite of the Beckhams), peruse High Street brands such as Zara, H&M and Gap, or head to the cinema to watch the Oscar-nominated movies.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

A studio suite at the five-star Beverly Hilton (www.beverlyhilton.com) starts at £265 a night. Virgin Atlantic (www.virginatlantic.com; 0344 8747 747) flies three times a day from London Heathrow to Los Angeles with return fares starting from £416 per person, including tax. **OK!**

FOR MORE ON BEVERLY HILLS, VISIT WWW.LOVEBEVERLYHILLS.COM. FOR MORE ON LOS ANGELES, SEE WWW.DISCOVERLOSANGELES.COM.

FOR MORE ON THE RESTAURANTS MENTIONED, SEE WWW.PORTAVIABH.COM, WWW.CASAVEGA.COM, WWW.CAFEGRATITUDE.COM AND WWW.CORALTREECAFE.COM.

REPORT BY LISA MARKS EDITED BY ANNABEL MACKIE, OK! TRAVEL EDITOR 5 OF THE BEST AND TRAVELLER'S TALES BY NANCY BROWN PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALAMY, GETTY IMAGES

5 OF THE BEST POOL PURCHASES



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- 1 **BLACK EYEWEAR NANCY SUNGLASSES, £187**, www.blackeyewear.com. Throw some serious shade in these glasses.
- 2 **KINDLE OASIS, £229.99**, www.amazon.co.uk. Sit back, relax and dive into your favourite novel on this waterproof e-reader.
- 3 **MELISSA ODABASH DELILAH V-NECK DRESS, £280**, www.odabash.com. Live life to the maxi with this cover-up – perfect for throwing on over a bikini at lunch.
- 4 **PHASE EIGHT JESSICA SWIMSUIT, £59**, www.phase-eight.com. With secret support, subtle ruching and padded cups, you'll be the belle of the pool.
- 5 **PILI & KIKI LAAMU SWIMSUIT, £180**, www.piliandkiki.com. Show off your tan in this mesh one-piece. The back zip means it pulls on easily and fits like a dream.

TRAVELLER'S TALES

CHEMMY ALCOTT

THE FORMER OLYMPIAN ON FAMILY TRIPS AND SKIING WITH HER SON...

healer came and got rid of the disease for him!

What's been your most memorable holiday?

It has to be my honeymoon. I've been quite indulgent with travel in my life but the one thing I saved was safari, because I really wanted to do something special with my future husband – and this was before

As a former skier, do you prefer winter sports or sunshine holidays?

We always go skiing at the end of our winter. We're thinking of going over Easter this year and I'd love to teach Locki to ski, but he'll only be 16 months so maybe it'll be a bit too early.

I even met Dougie

[Crawford, her husband]. We only had six days so it was mental, but we went on a lion safari in Tanzania and helped turtles hatch and make their way into the sea.

What's been your best family holiday?

We took our son Locki to Fiji for a wedding and it was amazing. We stayed on a little heart-shaped island. The only thing was, my husband caught hand, foot and mouth disease so he was quarantined – a

Who's your perfect holiday partner in crime?

My husband. He's a former athlete so we have the same attention span when it comes to reading a book! I think I'm really annoying to go on holiday with – I don't think any of my friends would pick me to go away with, they'd be like: 'We can't keep up, we'd need another holiday afterwards!'



CHEMMY IS PART OF THE BBC COMMENTARY TEAM FOR THE WINTER OLYMPICS IN SOUTH KOREA, WHICH RUN TILL FEBRUARY 25. FOR MORE ON CHEMMY, SEE WWW.CHEMMYALCOTT.COM.