

They livin' it up at this Hotel California

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San Francisco boasts historic hotels attracting tourists from around the world, but when tech's elite look for luxury accommodations, they drive to nearby Sausalito, California.

It's there, just minutes from the Golden Gate Bridge, where start-up founders, venture capitalists and established tech giants meet at Casa Madrona.

The hotel, which underwent a \$25 million renovation, offers guest rooms and cottages, but it's the property's master residence that attracts tech's superstars.



Source: Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa
Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa, Sausalito, California

The so-called Alexandrite suite is a 5,000-square-foot, two-bedroom suite with gourmet kitchen, nine-panel Samsung media wall, private gym and office. Outside, there's a 1,500-square-foot patio with a barbecue area and fire pit.

Guests can be treated to their own private chef, private driver and dedicated concierge.

The cost? \$10,000 per night.

In the past year, more than 75 tech companies have reserved the Alexandrite suite, or other meeting spaces at the hotel, including Ebay, Dropbox and Uber.

In fact, demand is so strong that the hotel recently had to double its sales team. (Ebay, Dropbox and Uber did not respond to requests for comment).

"We positioned this property to cater to that [tech] clientele," said Michael Mohr, a principal at MetWest Terra Hospitality, which owns Casa Madrona," adding, "We essentially have followed our clients' lead in breaking down barriers and innovating in their industries, and we've done the same with this space."

Mohr said an unnamed tech heavyweight booked the suite for two weeks. Others, he said, want to reserve not just the suite, but a separate private mansion at the hotel that sleeps up to 24 people.

The mansion, if rented for a month, costs a cool \$500,000.

Mohr said no request is too extravagant at Casa Madrona. In true Silicon Valley fashion, for instance, drones used to deliver Champagne to guests. (The FAA shut down that service).

To reserve a room at the hotel, guests don't need the title or bank account of a start-up millionaire or tech titan. More basic rooms start at \$509 per night.