

SANTA BARBARA STEPS FROM EVERYTHING



Santa Barbara's best hotels are usually hidden away up in the hills or down the road in tony Montecito. But the new **Inn of the Spanish Garden** puts 23 top-notch rooms right smack downtown. A short stroll leads to the pedestrian parade along the main drag of State Street, where sushi joints, Danish pastry shops, grand movie palaces, and bookstores trail down to the ocean. One of the dozen theater companies in town backs up to the hotel's pool, and the English pub the Press Room around the corner has pool tables and damn fine draft beer. Rent bikes at the beach if you want to get around a little faster or pedal along the shoreline, but you could easily stay busy for a week without ever getting in your car. In keeping with Santa Barbara's obsessive devotion to Spanish Mission architecture, the inn is all terra-cotta tile, adobe, and rounded doorways. Spacious rooms have a flip-on fireplace, an oval tub lit by skylight, and a French press for when you're having a hard time leaving your Frette-clad bed in the morning. (866) 564-4700, WWW.SPANISHGARDENINN.COM, \$159-\$395.