

SLEEPER

HOSPITALITY EXPERIENCE & DESIGN



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CHECK-IN

Nicola and Brett Watkins

As they embark on setting up their own design studio, the founders of **By Watkins** take a fantasy break at a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed resort by Lake Tahoe.

Where are you?

Incline Village in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, a secluded resort overlooking a private cobalt-blue bay just north of Sand Harbour.

How did you get there?

We flew via recommissioned Concorde from London to the San Francisco Bay Area, where we picked up our dark red metallic 1967 Porsche 911R. The vintage 911 was superlative on the winding roads through the Santa Cruz Mountains. We then took our Supermarine S6.B seaplane from the local harbour over the valley and through the Sierra Mountains. We touch down steps away from the resort and wander up the pine-lined pier.

Who is there to greet you on arrival?

The Pomeranc family. Michael, Jason and Larry are true visionaries, each of their endeavours are outstanding and we can't wait to see what they do next.

And who's at the concierge desk?

The entire team from Sixty SoHo in Downtown Manhattan are here.

Who are you sharing your room with?

Our son, Howard.

Is there anything you would like waiting for you in your room?

A bottle of Louis Roederer Cristal Brut, a Loewe juniper berry candle and a chest full of Lego.

Describe the hotel, your room and the view...

Pine trees and granite stone stretch to the sky, bolstering the resort's privacy. Dotted along the landscape are a series of small villas, custom-designed to fit the naturally occurring ledges. Each villa is unique, but they share a common language; vast windows invite the sunlight and capture the deep blue water, while granite, glass and pine bring shape and texture. Pierre Frey Pueblos Botanica fabrics envelop Christopher Gentner Corliss chairs for a pop of colour, complemented by a Kevin Walz sofa draped in Mark Alexander Veranda natural fabric.

Who designed it?

The building was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and the interior refurbishment was recently completed by JW Anderson.

What's the restaurant and bar like?

The sun is setting, the air is crisp and a light haze has settled on the lake. This Starr Restaurants gem is casual and understated, with candlelit tables spilling out onto the terrace, meeting the sand just before the shore. From lounge chairs around the fire pit, we watch boats undulate gently on the water as Linda Ronstadt sings Blue Bayou in the background.

Who are you dining with this evening?

Ray and Charles Eames, record label owner Tony Wilson, Sir Terence Conran, Ralph Lauren and our fictional friend Howard Roark.

Who's manning the stoves?

Justin Smillie, chef and partner of Upland NYC, who brings his Californian simple pleasures-style menu.

And what's on the menu?

Penne all'arrabbiata to start, followed by Kobe beef steak served with scalloped potatoes. For dessert we feast on cannoli made with Sicilian lemons, accompanied by Muscat de Beaumes de Venise dessert wine.

Would you like something to drink with that?

An Old Fashioned and a Bellini followed by a glass of Alentejo with our main.

What's in the mini-bar for a night cap?

There is no mini-bar. Instead, there's an app for a private butler, on call 24-7. We can order anything and everything.

Early morning alarm call or late check-out?

Late check-out.

Bath or power shower?

Power shower.

And for breakfast?

We tuck-in to banana pancakes, strawberry and banana smoothies, a coconut milk cappuccino and English breakfast tea.



NOTABLE HOTEL PROJECTS

Sixty SoHo, New York; Four Seasons Hotel Fort Lauderdale, Thompson Hollywood
www.bywatkins.com