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Los Angeles Times

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San Francisco Bay Area: Cavallo Point achieves LEED Gold certification



Since making a grand entrance in July 2008, luxury hotel [Cavallo Point](#), the 21st century's [first new national park lodge](#), has earned many awards and accolades in its still-short life. And now it can boast about its LEED Gold. The resort at Fort Baker in Golden Gate National Recreation Area said last week it achieved the status for its environmentally sustainable design and construction.

With the achievement of a LEED Gold standard, Cavallo Point joins the ranks of California hotels such as [Montage Beverly Hills](#) and [Gaia Napa Valley Hotel](#).

The Gold certification applies to the entire lodge project, including its historic and new buildings and the overall site. The project's green elements, a hotel statement said, include its use of solar panels in its metal roofing; low-VOC glues, paints and carpets, and materials such as bamboo and recycled wood.

The site's open spaces near the endangered Mission Blue Butterfly habitat "were restored with more than 58,000 native plants, all raised from seeds collected from the surrounding parklands," the statement said.

The [U.S. Green Building Council](#) developed the LEED rating system, which stands for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design." Gold is the second-highest level of certification, after platinum. The point-based ratings system consider features such as water efficiency, energy use, materials, indoor environmental quality and innovation in design.

"The number of points the project earns determines the level of LEED Certification the project receives," said Ashley Katz, communications manager of U.S. Green Building Council.

In the U.S., there are 16 Gold hotels and one Platinum hotel (the [Proximity Hotel](#) in North Carolina), according to Katz. Besides the Montage Beverly Hills and Gaia Napa Valley, the [Hotel Carlton](#) in San Francisco is among the Gold-achieving hotels in California.

— Susan Derby, Special to the Los Angeles Times

Photo: Cavallo Point, the Lodge at the Golden Gate. Credit: Peter DaSilva / For the Los Angeles Times

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