



## Visiting the Martine Inn, a perfect coastal retreat

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PACIFIC GROVE • Breakfast couldn't get any better here at the Martine Inn on California's Monterey Coast.

The tables in the big room are laid out with fine china, crystal and lace.

Warm entrees differ from day to day and may include Castroville Eggs, Ginger-Apple Crepes, or Salsa Herb-Crusted Potato Pie.

And along with the entrée, there are fresh-baked items like muffins, freshly-squeezed orange or apple juice, seasonal fresh fruit, and of

course, coffee, tea or milk.

Then there's the pièce de résistance that comes with breakfast — spectacular views of the crashing waves out in the Pacific, which you can see across the street through the windows.

### WATCH SAILBOATS AND BIRDS RIDING THE WINDS

And if you like, just get up from your table and use a pair of nearby binoculars to watch the sailboats or sea birds riding the winds.

Innkeeper Don Martine will usually make the rounds to chat with guests, too.

The Martine Inn is an old Victorian built in the late 1800s and previously owned by the Parke family of Parke Davis Pharmaceuticals. In fact, a photo of the Parke family sits above the fireplace in the cozy sitting room-game room.

Pacific Grove is also known as Butterfly Town, USA, because every October, thousands of Monarch butterflies arrive here on their way to warmer climates.

You can visit the Pacific Grove eucalyptus grove to catch a glimpse of the colorful butterflies clustering on eucalyptus branches. The winged visitors stay in Pacific Grove until February.

The sanctuary is free, and you are welcome to take photos or videos of the butterflies, but touching is not allowed.

### VICTORIAN AND ART DECO ROOMS

Guest rooms are done in Victorian period style as well as Art Deco. When we visited, we stayed in a room containing furniture originally owned by famed costume designer Edith Head.

In addition to the home's history, the views, the breakfasts, and, of course, the butterflies, there is one other very special draw about the Martine Inn. It's the innkeeper's collection of vintage MG racing cars.

Martine owns about 15 of them, a few of which he has raced. Some of the MG's are fully restored and in

prime condition. The oldest one is a 1933, but Martine has yet to restore it.

“My oldest was a 1929 1880 Mark I speed model, which I sold to someone in Australia,” Martine said. Martine raced this one in competitions and also owns a 1936, which he still races.

#### A ‘QUICK CAR’

The 1936 is “a very fast car in a straight line,” he noted. “It used to be raced extensively in the 1950s. It is set up so that it could do 140 miles per hour in fourth gear. It’s a quick car.”

Martine will gladly show visitors his cars, and if you ask him, he may even put on his vintage raccoon coat, too!

Martine got started with the MGs when his father bought a 1949 MG TC, and the younger Martine drove it while in high school. In 1950, this car won the first Pebble Beach road race.

Martine is also proud to show visitors a window in the game room which comes from the former MG factory in England.

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