

BLACK TIE

ECO-PANDA

These days, if it isn't green it's living in the past. Eco-Panda's fashion-forward, eco-friendly line of swimwear is making tidal waves in the name of sustainable fashion. "[Our] collective mission was to help sustain the environment we live in while providing swimwear that didn't compromise the overall fit and design," says Ian West, lead designer of Eco-Panda. "Eco-fashion doesn't have to be lacking in style, and is dedicated to fulfilling the Eco-Diva in all of us." Launched in May, the Los Angeles-based company uses recycled nylon and Xtra Life Lycra to create its line of bikinis and monokinis that are also supposed to last three times longer than the average swimsuits. The recycled nylon also uses 27 percent less natural petroleum resources and emits 28 percent less greenhouse gases. Taking inspiration from fashion havens around the world, Eco-Panda has a multitude of prints and shapes, with the current design collections — including Montego Bay, Tokyo Station and Marrakech — inspired by their namesake. For those who prefer a runway-worthy look, Eco-Panda revealed a couture line at its launch party last month at the Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego. As a forerunner of innovation and conservation, Eco-Panda has plans to introduce a recycled denim line in the fall, as well as expand internationally in the future.

www.eco-panda.com

by **SAMANTHA WONG**



WHY WE LOVE

SÉ SAN DIEGO HOTEL

Organic meets orgasmic in the iconic Sé San Diego Hotel. The sleek monolith in downtown's Gaslamp District pushes the envelope on luxury. The hotel infuses earthy tones with splashes of color, and provides the perfect stay-cation for the urban traveler.

1 AQUATIC LIFE

Try the urban-scene piscine, Sé's answer to being bronze and beautiful. Private cabanas and built-in grottoes surround the rooftop pool. Prefer a life aquatic? Enjoy the built-in "seating pods" or submerge in some underwater surround sound.

2 GOD'S NECTAR

Blow off some steam in the Sé Spa where a veritable smörgåsbord of treatments await. Upon entrance, sample some Blooming Flower tea. Alternatively, for a taste of the gods' nectar, take the edge off by throwing back a Soma — an organic vodka shot mixed with pomegranate and honey.

3 THE MOROCCAN RASUL

For a spa treatment that will trounce all others, try the Moroccan Rasul, an Arabic cleansing ritual that's the only one of its kind in the U.S.

4 A SUITE DEAL

For a unique gastronomic experience try the Suite & Tender Bar, Lounge & Restaurant. At this traditional steak house with a twist, James Beard Award-winning Executive Chef Christopher Lee indulges dinner guests with mouth-watering meals that not only redefine the classic surf and turf but are sure to leave patrons completely Sé-tified.

5 GRAND PENTHOUSE SUITE

The combined three-story, luxury 8,400-square-foot penthouse is the most exclusive and largest in a hotel on the West Coast, with floor-to-ceiling nana doors and 360-degree views spanning Mexico, Coronado, San Diego and its harbor, as well as the Pacific Ocean.

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by **APARNA ASSOMULL**