



## LANGHAM HUNTINGTON PASADENA

Before hotels were built like airplane seats, to squeeze the most people in as possible, there was the Huntington Pasadena. Set on 23 acres at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains in the center of an old world residential neighborhood, this historical landmark is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in style. Formerly the Ritz-Carlton, Langham Hospitality Group purchased the property in 2008 and commenced an aggressive renovation, opening new restaurants and bars (The Royce, The Tap Room), remodeling the cottages, and launching a 11,000-square-foot, multimillion-dollar Chuan Spa and Salon just last August. While I have stayed there over a dozen times, I had never even seen the cottages until recently, which were large enough for a family, with terrace and a rose garden views, yet with the privacy of your own residence.

Alex Kratena, the Langham head mixologist and winner of accolades all over the world, literally popped in for 18 hours from the Artesian Bar in the Langham London for a visit and to share his new creations. Kratena has created signature cocktails for each of the Langham resorts, all based on the freshest mixers he and his staff hand make. The Social Club (Pasadena's signature libation) is a vodka- and Lillet-based cocktail, infused with citrus, vetiver and naturally, blooming rose. Intoxicating!

On a more sober note, the Langham brand has been serving high tea since 1865 and a few times a year, that tea is open for young children and parents to

**FOOT TO THE PEDAL** » 47 miles



partake in a magical dress-up experience, games and a tea service fit for a king or queen. My daughter and I dressed up as brides, drank tea from rose-decorated porcelain cups with our pinkies up and savored salty then sweet petit fours until our stomachs could hold no more.

The next morning, it was time for relaxation and more tea. Chuan spa is based on the principles of traditional Chinese medicine and the five elements of wood, fire, earth, metal and water, and all the details of the spa are geared toward your balance and well-being. Reception greets you with a short questionnaire about your sleep, hunger and energy patterns, and the greeter selects a tea and essential oils prepared to harmonize your body and spirit. After a Mistral Light Heat Energy "mini" laser and a heated stone massage, I floated into the dream room for a nap. If you are with a partner,

engage the VIP room for the day and spend it lounging with Champagne and strawberries in your private suite.

Perhaps when there, you might consider the Langham Huntington \$100,000 Proposal of the Century. The ultimate luxury experience includes a private proposal in the Rose Bowl Stadium, a bespoke performance by the 40-piece Pasadena Symphony Orchestra, a \$35,000 custom diamond ring and two nights in the Tournament of Roses Presidential Suite, as well as other romantic offerings through December 29, 2014. Here, everything's coming up roses. — SUZETTE LIPSCOMB

**TWO FOR TEA?** ■ The next Imagine Tea is set for September 7. :: [pasadena.langhamhotels.com](http://pasadena.langhamhotels.com) :: [chuanspa.com](http://chuanspa.com)