

## 3 Tech-Saavy Hotels Offering Great 21st Century Amenities

By Vicki Arkoff



*The Stanford Court*

While many hotels struggle to move into the 21st century—some still withholding complimentary Wi-Fi service and others furnishing rooms with outdated digital capabilities—smart hoteliers are bravely leaping into the future with their tech offerings. Here's a look at three particularly innovative luxury hotels with high-tech amenities and services.

### **The Stanford Court, San Francisco**

Northern California is at the center of the technology boom, so it's no shock that San Francisco is at the forefront of US hotel innovations. What is surprising, is that it's not happening in Silicon Valley, but rather at the top of traditional Nob Hill (aka Snob Hill), which was established by the Big Four railway barons at the turn of the century, and has more recently been ruled by the city's wealthiest widows and socialites.

Now shaking things up is the 100-year-old **Stanford Court** which has been drawing a young demographic of business and leisure travelers to The City by the Bay thanks to its contemporary redesign and forward-thinking tech capabilities. Arriving guests can recharge their Tesla at the plug-in "Juice Bar" in the auto court's prime parking spots, then enter the tech-friendly lobby to be greeted at check-in by

iPads silently introducing the smiling staffers behind the desk. A huge screen at the concierge desk shows live-cam images of the street scene outside, including cable cars clanging up and down California Street. The open lobby features free Autobahn internet service and technology everywhere, such as the complimentary bank of MacBooks, iPads and iPad minis (those still exist?) available 24/7, and the Google Glass Explorer program. Over at Aurea Café, the restaurant features convenient touch screen menus and discrete electrical outlets in the base of the dining tables at every seat for guest laptops and smartphones.

Rooms have the usual tech-friendly amenities plus a unique touch: a notecard from the manager inviting you to text him directly at any hour, for anything, during the course of your stay. I couldn't resist testing it out at 10 p.m. when I couldn't find the TV remote control. Almost immediately he replied with "Good evening! Housekeeping usually places it on the TV swivel base after cleaning it each day." He was right. All the above is a welcome sign of what's to come at Stanford Court. In terms of what's to come, the property hinted that along with 2015 room renovations it will be introducing even more tech amenities such as a tablet or smartphone check-in process via a keyless entry app.



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