

Grab some sunshine on the Cali coast!

On location with **Big Little Lies!**

Take a pop culture pilgrimage with *Woman's Day's* PHILLIP KOCH to the show's beautiful Californian coastline setting

The cafe is actually Italian restaurant Paluca Trattoria.

The Monterey area is a playground for the rich.

Phil visited all the ladies' haunts.

MORE INFO

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Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf is packed with charm.

Big Little Lies fans are rejoicing now their favourite show is back on screens for a drama-packed season two, and what better way to celebrate than touring all the hottest places on the show?

Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey, a two hour drive from San Francisco, was calling out for a pit stop to check out all the hotspots Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon made famous when *BLL* became a worldwide hit. And it's just like the show

– a wharf filled with colourful restaurants, overlooking a marina where luxury boats vie with fishing vessels for a mooring – and where better to enjoy the view than Paluca Trattoria.

It was the inspiration behind Blue Blues Cafe, where Nicole, Reese and Shailene Woodley's characters often meet. Owner Sal Tedesco says business is booming on the back of the show – he's even had to put up a polite sign requesting fans not use the toilets unless they're dining in.

It's worth it for the traditional Italian seafood and the ever-changing view of the marina.

OTTERS & WINE

Another key backdrop to the show is the nearby Monterey Bay Aquarium, with an incredible array of marine life.

Don't miss the otters, who are the cutest things as they dive and surface, and seem to almost line up to pose for selfies. Other sea creatures of every size and hue also make it a must-see.

Cannery Row on the waterfront is a great place to get the *BLL* vibe, too, with cafes, restaurants, bars and boutiques. The entire region is bursting with vineyards, so it would be a crime not to sample some of the liquid gold! A Taste of Monterey bistro is a great place to try some of the wines the characters enjoy!

SPECTACULAR SCENERY

To see how the other half live, cruise down 17 Mile Drive for sunset and check out some

of the stunning homes on the waterfront. Then stop and enjoy the sheer beauty of Carmel-by-the-Sea. The small town is stuffed with multimillion-dollar homes, and art galleries groaning with the sort of paintings that are hung in national galleries. It's a delight down to its complete absence of street lights, which make the bars and restaurants look like beacons of light.

There are secret laneways and quirky stores, and boutiques

where you can drop a bundle on the latest collections. This is a town where money speaks volumes, tastefully, of course!

STAY & PLAY

For a movie star experience, splash out for a room at hotel La Playa, which was built in 1905 and is nicknamed the Grand Dame of Carmel. Set in beautiful gardens overlooking the beach, it exudes old-Hollywood glamour, and is the perfect location to stay to check

out the rest of the town.

Finish off your *BLL* experience by heading to one of the hottest restaurants in town, steakhouse Seventh & Dolores, where the food and service are amazing, and it's easy to imagine Madeline, Celeste or Jane plotting and scheming over one of the signature cocktails.

Monterey and Carmel-by-the-Sea may not have been on the top of your bucket list before

BLL, but if you're a fan, you won't be disappointed! Even if you haven't watched the show, you can't help but fall in love with this ridiculously picturesque piece of California.

And just down the road and over the Bixby Bridge, which is such a key feature in *BLL* is Big Sur, California's amazing natural paradise of forests and mountains, which meet the coast in spectacular style.