

# BEVERLY HILLS CULTURE



Height 4' 8"



Height 4' 3"

# Classy, Cultured & Cool: Beverly Hills



Karaori with Snow-laden Camellias and Genji Clouds, Edo period, 18th century. Multicolored silk and gold-leaf paper supplementary weft patterning on silk twill. On display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

T'ang Sancai-Glazed and Painted Lokapala dated ca. 618-906 A.D.

A Chinese government system supported by a large class of Confucian literati selected through civil service examinations was perfected under T'ang rule as a competitive procedure designed to draw the best talents into government. Stored in tombs for thousands of years is now on display and for sale at the Barakat Gallery in Beverly Hills.

*Beverly Hills is inextricably linked with images of suntanned Ferrari drivers, fur-clad poodle-walkers and outrageously priced consumer goods...But there's more to Beverly Hills than just the elite boutiques of Rodeo Drive.*

—The Rough Guide to Los Angeles

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In the heart of Beverly Hills called "the Golden Triangle," flawless blondes one after the other "do" Rodeo Drive in style. A limousine is the shopping cart of choice; a table at Spago or the Polo Lounge is booked for lunch; and so these glamour girls who worship at the windows of Prada or Escada or Armani appear to tell the story, the whole story.

Turn the page.

To believe that zip code 90210, from its beautifully baroque City Hall to its wide, palm-lined boulevards, is synonymous only with movies, moguls, millionaires – and shopping – is an idea as dated as last year's Manolo

Blahniks. This admittedly well-heeled and impeccably manicured town is admired for far more than her flawless good looks. Beverly Hills has got *depth*. Beverly Hills has *intelligence*. In fact, when it comes to an understanding of art and culture most profound, Beverly Hills is this: a worldly sophisticate.

Ah, beauty and brains, the irresistible mix.

Not only is a stroll down any city street an encounter with "a wealth of art, antiques and every possible object of beauty and worth," in the words of one complimentary admirer, but beyond the polished marble shops and sleek restaurant facades lies a heart devoted to the world's great arts. High-powered museums and world-class galleries, where exhibitions of permanent or internationally traveled exhibitions can be exclusive to this town among all other Los Angeles contenders, offer the sort of *objets* seen in the Louvre, the Prado, the Hermitage. Beverly Hills, you can believe, takes its culture seriously.

And you thought she just likes to shop.

Better bone-up on your art history, boys, if you hope to hold your own in a conversation with the beautiful B.H. Study this: At Galerie Michael on Rodeo Drive ([www.galeriemichael.com](http://www.galeriemichael.com)) you'll catch Lautrec and Picasso. At Timothy Yarger Fine Arts, also on Rodeo ([www.yargerfineart.com](http://www.yargerfineart.com)), you'll find Miró and Hockney. At Rodeo's Martin Lawrence Galleries, ([www.martinlawrence.com](http://www.martinlawrence.com)), you might see the genius of Chagall – including his renowned *Circus Suite* – in an exhibit of Chagall works so rare, says its curator, that it's likely the first time in decades that collectors are offered a full set, matched and numbered. And at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art & Cultural Center (just adjacent to town at UCLA; [www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu)), you'll find 19<sup>th</sup> c. French masters like van Gogh and Monet. Beverly Hills indeed knows her famous painters.

And you gotta love her.

For this is a city that will support whatever extraordinary efforts it takes to acquire the world's most important historical artifacts, much to the



T'ang Pair of  
Painted and Gilt Warriors  
Dated ca. 618-906 A.D.  
Height 3'

According to one Chinese tradition explaining the origin of guardian sculptures, Emperor Taizong, when ill, was threatened by ghosts screeching and throwing bricks and tiles outside his room. When his general Jin Shubao (chin Shu-pao) and a fellow officer came to stand guard the activity of the ghosts ceased. The grateful emperor had portraits of the two men hung on either side of his palace gates, and thereafter their images became widespread as door-gods.



enduring delight of her visitors. For instance the Museum of Tolerance ([www.museumoftolerance.com](http://www.museumoftolerance.com)) on West Pico Blvd. for a crash course in fascination: "Friedl Dicker-Brandeis & The Children of Terezin, an Exhibition of Art & Hope" (through September 2003) is the story of courage, defiance, hope and rage told in letters, poems and drawings of 15,000 children sent to Auschwitz during the Holocaust. Through the grace of their gifted art teacher, Bauhaus graduate Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, these children were able to cope with their horror, express and affirm their existence, and leave a legacy of emotionally stirring artistic treasures for all to share.

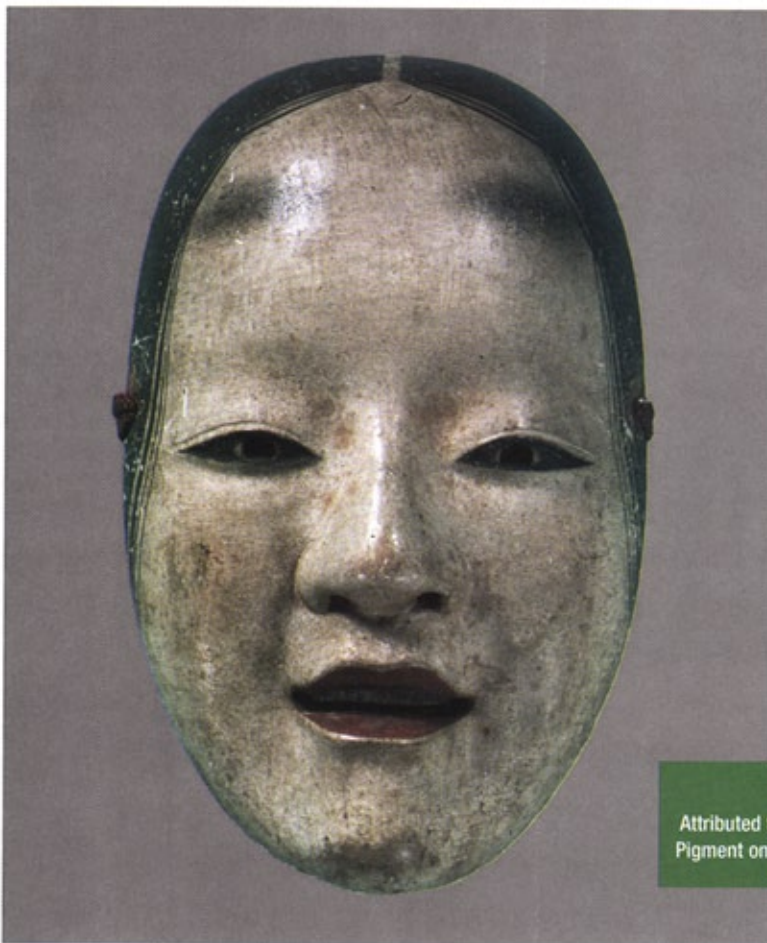
Now that you know that to impress Miss Museum-Savvy Sophisticate you're going to need your cultural wits about you when enjoying Beverly Hills's company, take a tip, guys: make sure you're up on ancient China. At the Barakat Gallery on Rodeo Drive ([www.barakatgallery.com](http://www.barakatgallery.com)) there is an excellent study guide, not just to help but to wow. The "Treasures of Ancient China" exhibition (through February) is a jaw-dropping delight of 5,000 years of China's artistic legacy. Here they are: giant Lokapala sculptures, fierce-faced warriors of the T'ang Dynasty (618-906 AD), that stood menacingly outside the tomb of a deceased noble to frighten away robbers and evil spirits. A complete tomb excavation of an entire army of 130 carved warriors of the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD). Sculpted effigies, Neolithic water vessels, Ming Dynasty funerary sculptures, and works in gold, silver and bronze that testify to the wealth of ancient China made possible by the Silk Road... Why, with just one visit to these visually and sensually exhilarating works, you'll have something to talk about.

And with Beverly Hills, it's best always if you come off as interesting as she.

Here's an idea: Hie yourself at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art ([www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)), found on the Miracle Mile, here is a collection of treasures so rare, so fragile, so...precious, that it took equally

T'ang Large Camel with  
a Removable Saddle  
Dated ca. 618-906 A.D.  
Height 2' 11"





Omi-onna Mask  
 Attributed to Zoami, Momoyama period, sixteenth century  
 Pigment on Japanese cypress wood (hinoki), 8.25" x 5.25"

delicate negotiations to release them from their various homes in Japan, among them the Itsukushima Shrine: the costumes and masks of the 600-year-old Noh Theater. Colorful kimonos of dyed hemp, used before Chinese silks of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) and masks of the Heian period (794-1185), so light-sensitive they're never displayed for more than one month at a time – these absolute awes of the Noh and Kyogen theater arts surely do.

Boned-up yet? If not, view 100,000 episodes of life's greatest TV shows are at the Museum of Television and Radio ([www.mtr.org](http://www.mtr.org)). Yes, as classic Americana, it counts. Listen guys, if you thought you could love and admire Beverly Hills for her beauty and wealth alone, don't be surprised: This gal's got *mind*.

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT (SMO)

AIRPORT DATA

Elevation:	175'
Runways:	3/21 - 4,987'
Approaches:	GPS RNAV, VOR
ATIS	310.450.4620

FIXED BASE OPERATIONS / FUEL / SERVICES

1. American Flyers	310.390.4571
2. Supermarine	310.396.6770

TRANSPORTATION

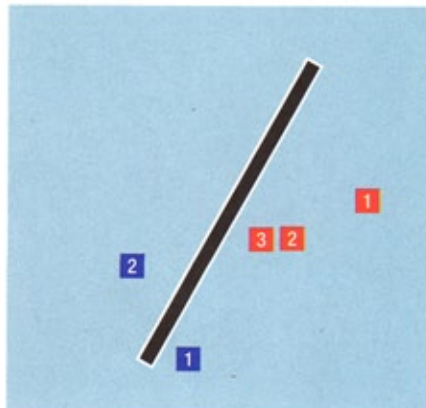
Budget Rental Car (See Page 49)	800.729.7350
Enterprise	310.396.6770

AIRPORT RESTAURANTS

1. Spittfire (Coffee Shop)	310.397.3455
2. The Hump (Sushi)	310.313.0977
3. Typhoons (Pen Asian)	310.390.6565

AIRPORT LODGING

The Argyle Hotel (12 miles)	800.225.2637
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Weather or Not

Always Check Whether