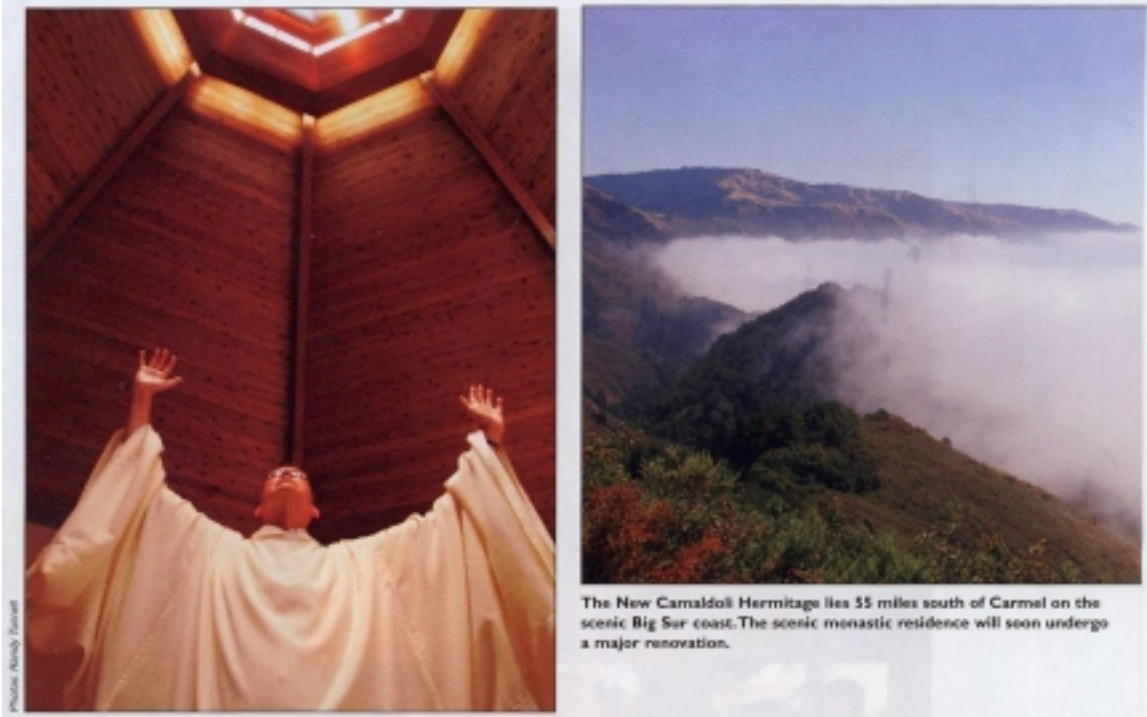


A Chance to Rest in Peace
by Randy Tunnell



Should you have enough gas to drive 55 miles south of Carmel on Highway 1, you will find the perfect place to do such a thing. Before an extended version of Rest in Peace, one must pay a visit to the New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur for the opportunity to enjoy deep contemplation. Mediate to a chorus of blue jays. Hike the mountain trails, write the poetry you never knew you had in you, or simply stare into the limitless sky overhead. The guarantee is this: you will chill out.

The New Camaldoli Hermitage is permanent residence to 25 monks. Through contemplative living and prayers; they contemplate the meaning of life and support oblates, retreat guests, and daily visitors.

This uniquely situated little paradise is located on an 800 acre sanctuary in the rugged Santa Lucia Mountains of Big Sur. It enjoys a setting of sun-drenched hills and oak-lined meadows that team with wildlife. Towering redwood trees shade the deep canyons. From creatively placed benches you can see . . . well, forever.

Camaldolise monks trace their heritage to the sixth century monastic traditions of St. Benedict, and a hermitage in Camaldoli, Italy, serves as motherhouse for the order. The opening words of St. Romuald's Brief Rule for Camaldolese monks reads, "Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it." In 1958, the Camaldolese established New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur.

There's just one problem: the New Camaldoli isn't new anymore. The original buildings in Big Sur were erected quickly on the site of a former dude ranch. With their 50 year anniversary approaching, the buildings are approaching the end of their life-cycle. A \$27 million rebuilding project will commence within the year, with an emphasis on sustainable construction.

For more information, visit www.Contemplation.com.