



## **Torrey Pines Collision Center Earns Mercedes-Benz Elite Certification**

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Torrey Pines Collision Center has been awarded Mercedes-Benz Elite certification at its Sorrento Valley shop, adding the marque to the list of manufacturers whose repair programs the shop is approved to carry out, and reports that vehicles from the marque have begun arriving in greater numbers since the approval was granted.

Torrey Pines Collision Center provides Collision Repair for Mercedes-Benz vehicles in Sorrento Valley, working to the manufacturer's own repair procedures rather than to generic industry practice. Certification of this kind is not a marketing label. It means the shop has access to the manufacturer's documented repair methods for each model, that its technicians are trained to them, and that the tooling and equipment on site meet what the manufacturer specifies for its vehicles.

The distinction matters because a modern Mercedes-Benz is built from a mix of materials, with aluminum-intensive panels and structures alongside high-strength steel, and the two cannot be repaired the same way. Aluminum does not respond to heat and pulling as steel does, it must be kept separate from steel during repair to prevent galvanic corrosion, and welding it calls for dedicated equipment and a dedicated

area. The shop's aluminum welding is certified by I-CAR and is carried out in a separate aluminum repair area within its 14,500 square foot facility.

Mercedes-Benz Elite joins nine other manufacturer programs the shop currently holds, bringing the total to ten, including Tesla, for which the shop is a Tesla Preferred repair center, along with Acura, Ford, General Motors, Genesis, Honda, Hyundai, Kia and Subaru. Each program is maintained separately, with its own training requirements and its own procedures, and the shop treats keeping them current as part of its ordinary workload rather than as an occasional exercise.

Patrick Mead, Owner Operator, said the change in the shop's intake had been noticeable. "We started seeing more Mercedes-Benz work come through the door not long after the certification came in, and it's kept coming," Patrick Mead said. "Owners of these cars want to know that the shop repairing them is following the factory procedures, not working from experience with other brands and hoping it transfers. That's what the certification tells them, and it's what we've set the shop up to deliver."

The certification sits on top of a repair process that already leaned on manufacturer data. Before work begins, the vehicle is scanned to identify faults across its electronic systems, and it is scanned again on completion to confirm that every system has been restored and recalibrated. Between those two points, computerized frame measurement compares the structure against factory specification, and squeeze-type resistance spot welding reproduces the factory joins where panels are replaced.

The shop employs sixteen people, including technicians, administrative staff and the owner, and its technicians are I-CAR trained under the I-CAR Gold Class standard. It is a member of the Certified Collision Group and works with all insurance companies. Paint and repair work carries a lifetime warranty, which applies to these repairs in the same way as to every other vehicle the shop handles.

Torrey Pines Collision Center is a second-generation family business, established in San Marcos in 1981 and based in Sorrento Valley since 2006. The approval is the latest in a series of certifications the shop has pursued over that period as the vehicles on the road have changed, and the family ownership means those decisions are made by the person who also answers for the finished repair.

The shop's location near The Merge, where Interstate 5 and Interstate 805 come together, places it within reach of owners of the marque across La Jolla, Del Mar, Carmel Valley and Rancho Santa Fe as well as Sorrento Valley itself. Customers leaving a vehicle for several days can use the Sorrento Valley Coaster station, which is under a mile from the shop, and parking on site is free. Further information about the certification and the shop's other programs is posted to its Facebook page.

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For more information about Torrey Pines Collision Center LLC, contact the company here: Torrey Pines Collision Center Patrick Mead (858) 350-0397 [tpcollisioncenter@gmail.com](mailto:tpcollisioncenter@gmail.com) 11633 Sorrento Valley Rd, Ste 102 San Diego, CA 92121

## **Torrey Pines Collision Center LLC**

*Torrey Pines Collision Center: manufacturer-certified auto body repair, paint, and Tesla collision repair in La Jolla and Del Mar.*

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